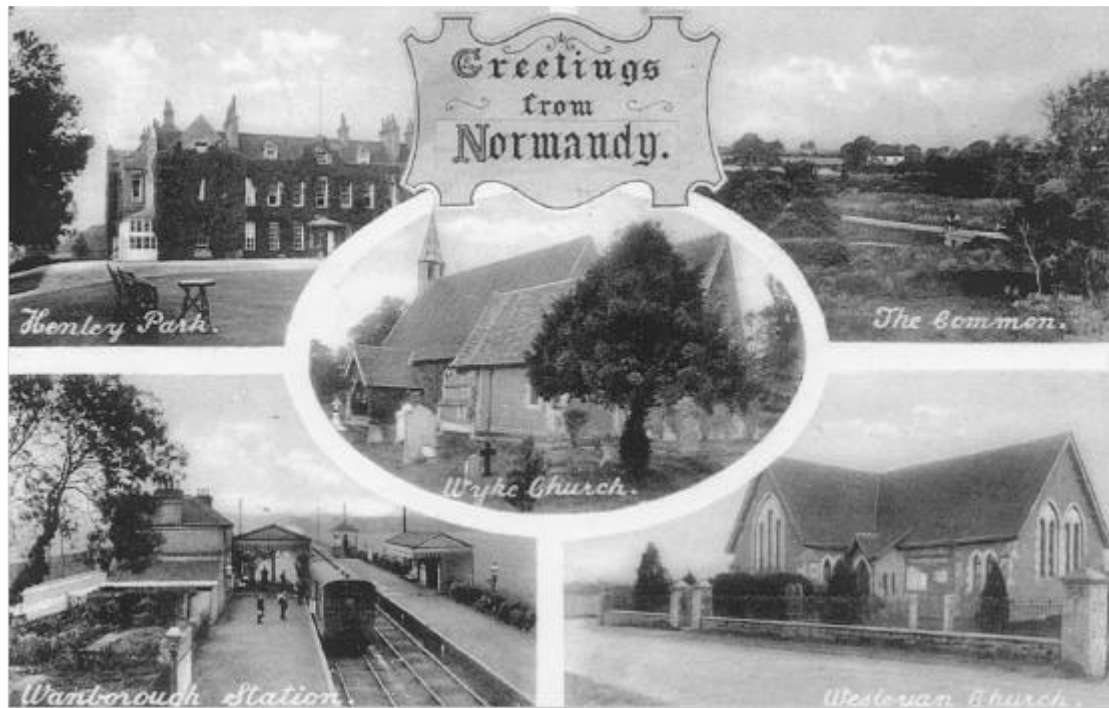


A CENTURY OF NORMANDY



IN SURREY



Surrey Best Kept Village Competition Presentation 1985

L-R Godfrey A M Geddes DL, Chairman Surrey Voluntary Services Council 1982-1990, Captain Tony McSweeney, Normandy BKVC Coordinator, Derek J Lambert, Chairman Normandy Parish Council

A CENTURY OF
NORMANDY
IN SURREY

BY NORMANDY HISTORIANS

Published 2000
By
Normandy Historians

Hon Secretary Mrs Diana Marchant

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Front: Old postcard showing views of Normandy
Back: “Norman”, the adopted logo of Normandy Historians

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PREFACE

I am delighted that the Parish Council has been associated with Normandy Historians since their foundation and it is a great pleasure to be Chairman of the Council when their major publication is launched to mark the start of the new millennium.

Many readers will rediscover old friends and recall treasured memories of them. To others, new to the community, I extend a warm welcome, trusting that you will find something of personal interest within its pages and that your stay here will be a long and pleasant one.

To all readers, I commend this book as a chance to savour some of the history of our village and perhaps, having done so, you will willingly help this Council to achieve what is best for you and yours in Normandy.

Albert J Cunningham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work could not have been produced without the help of a host of people connected and unconnected with our Society. We would like to thank in particular all those people who submitted themselves to interview and gave us their reminiscences of past times in the village.

Our researches have taken us to various sources of reference and we have been greatly assisted by the staffs of the former Surrey Local Studies Library, Guildford Muniment Room and the Surrey Record Office at Kingston-upon-Thames. This co-operation has continued with the amalgamation of these bodies into the new Surrey History Centre at Woking. We would also like to thank the staffs of the Public Record Office at Kew, Hampshire County Record Office at Winchester, Guildford Borough Council, Normandy Parish Council, Ash Parish Council and the Head Teacher and staff of Wyke Primary School for their help; also Worplesdon Memorial Hall, the Ministry of Defence, the John Rylands Library of the University of Manchester, the University of Reading, the Church of England Record Centre, the Methodist Church Property Division, the United Reformed Church History Society, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Aldershot and District Bus Interest Group, the Normandy Motorcycle Club, Vokes Ltd., the Royal National Rose Society and the Royal British Legion, Normandy. Especial thanks go to Guildford Borough Council, Normandy Parish Council and "The Millennium Festival Awards for All" from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the generous Grant Aids.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped the project in various ways to fruition. These include all members, past and present, of Normandy Historians who are listed at the end of this work and the following people. Our profound apologies to anyone whom we have inadvertently omitted.

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EDITORS' NOTES

There can be few things more satisfying than to fulfil the terms of a challenge. In September 1998, members of Normandy Historians were challenged to produce and publish a book covering the last hundred years in the life of Normandy, for sale in the July of this Millennium Year. The response was both instantaneous and gratifying.

The task of the Editorial Team was to translate and develop that enthusiasm into a cohesive story of the community which would reflect its parochial identity and independence, gained as late as 1955, against the general background.

Memories of Normandy, recounted by past and present long-term residents of the village and used, either in part or as a whole, have been verified where possible. Although details may vary from person to person, the stories have been reproduced in good faith since "a good tale is worth the telling". The information has been collected and the chapters written by a number of people. Readers will notice differences in style as the editors have made no attempt to impose uniformity believing that this approach adds variety and interest to the book.

Because of uncertainties in some cases, we have omitted mention of decorations and awards after people's names but the occasions of awards have been cited and titles assigned.

Although a great deal of effort has gone into trying to ensure the correctness of detail in this book, there is a strong possibility that readers will detect errors. We do not claim that it is a definitive history of the village. The contents represent the extent of our knowledge at the time of writing and no doubt further research will reveal new facts. Corrections and additions will always be welcome since the continuing role of Normandy Historians is to expand detailed research into individual topics. These will be presented for discussion at future meetings of the Society. The Society also welcomes the opportunity to copy documents and photographs for the benefit of its archives but we stress the importance of the donation of valuable documents to the Surrey History Centre at Woking where they can be properly preserved and made available to the general public.

Measurements

The measurements quoted in this book are largely in Imperial Measure. For those who are unfamiliar with this system the following conversions are offered:

1 inch	= 25.4 mm
1 foot	= 30.48 cms
1 yard	= 0.91 metres
1 pint	= 0.57 litres
1 gallon	= 4.55 litres
1 acre	= 0.4 hectares

Money

Decimal currency was introduced in this country in 1971. Previous to this there were 12 pence to the shilling, 20 shillings to the pound and therefore 240 pence to the pound.

1 old penny	(d) = 0.42 p
1 shilling	(s) = 5 p

Note: d = denarius, a Roman coin translated in the New Testament as a penny.

s = solidus, a medieval silver coin of 12 denarii : £ = libra, a Roman pound.

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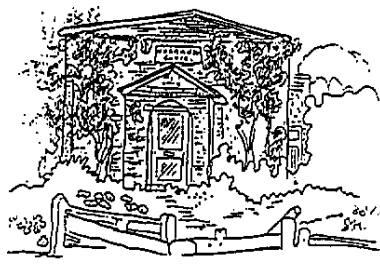
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Joyce Davis for 30
Kitty Fooks for 52
Wendy Gardiner for 27
Mary Gray for 36
June Grove for 39
Bob Hammond for 49
Rev Graham Hawkett for 2 from a portrait by the late Louise Hawkett.
Sally Helm for 57
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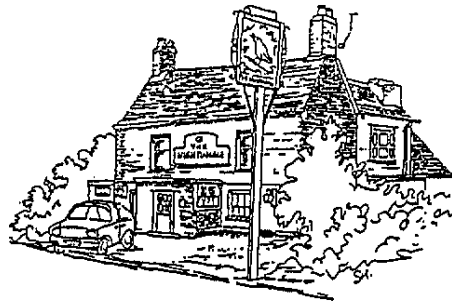
Normandy Chapel, Willey Green



St. Mark's Church, Wyke



East Wyke Farm



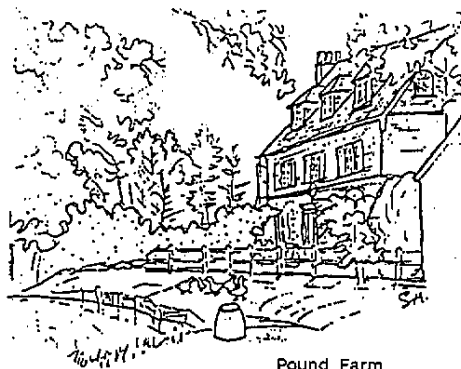
The Nightingale, Pinewoods



The Gospel Hall, Pinewood Road
(demolished in 1986)



Longerend Cottage



Pound Farm

Figure 1. Corners in Normandy

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

*The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;
Yea, I have a goodly heritage.*

Psalms xvi. 6

What and where is Normandy

Normandy lies in the shallow valley between the Hog's Back on the south and the Fox Hills to the north and is almost equidistant between the towns of Guildford on the east and Farnham and Aldershot to the west. For Local Government purposes it is a Ward of Guildford Borough and for Central Government is in the Parliamentary Constituency of Woking and the South East Region of England for the European Parliament. It covers some 3,899 acres. Two main roads, the A323 Guildford to Aldershot and the more northerly A324 Pirbright to Aldershot roads cross it approximately east to west. Most of the area south of the Guildford Road is agricultural land whilst north of the Pirbright Road the heathland is mainly military land owned by the Ministry of Defence. There is no natural centre and there are essentially six hamlets, Willey Green, Normandy, Wyke, Pinewoods, Flexford and Christmaspie together with outlying settlements united under the banner of Normandy Parish.

Normandy may be approached by road from four directions. From Aldershot the road enters the parish at the Nightingale Inn in the outlying hamlet of Pinewoods. From there the road runs to Elm Hill where it divides, the A324 branching off to the left with a clump of houses at the intersection. The A323 carries on downhill past open fields until the main settlement is reached at St.Mark's Church. Approaching from Guildford, the parish is entered at the junction of Aldershot Road with Cobbett Hill Road. There is first a long straight stretch of tree-lined road running along by the lands of the former Henley Park Estate. There is then a sharp right angle bend at Willey Green followed by a line of houses on the south side of the road dominated by the Duke of Normandy public house. Once over the almost undiscernible Tickner's Bridge and round another bend, the main settlement continues along another straight stretch of road. From Pirbright, the A324 enters the parish at Cobbett Hill crossroads. The fourth access is from the Hog's Back A31 road at the Wanborough underpass. The road drops steeply down Wanborough Hill and becomes Westwood Lane at the turning to Wanborough Church. Continuing round two bends past coppices the road enters the parish and the built-up area at Christmaspie crossroads. Westwood Lane continues to Wyke whilst a turn to the right goes to Flexford.

The boundary of the civil parish partly coincides with the ecclesiastical parish of St.Mark's, Wyke, but has taken in additional areas from time to time to regulate the number of voters consistent with other parishes. Normandy was once a tithing of St.Peter's, Ash that was part of the Hundred of Woking, that is, Old Woking. In the Saxon period a tithing was an area in which law and order was maintained by a group of ten men but by the 19th century the term had come to mean a sub-division of a parish.

The hamlet and tithing of Wyke was, however, a detached portion of the parish of St.Mary's, Worplesdon. In days gone by it was customary to beat the bounds at intervals in order to avoid or settle disagreements about the boundaries between parishes. In spite of this, disputes sometimes reached the Courts and documents relating to the boundary between Worplesdon and Ash parishes have been discovered in the Surrey History Centre.

The first document is dated 1562 and states: *"Beginning at Cleygate Hill northwards by the hedge of lands called French Inghams...Pytridge Lane....comes unto Tickners bridge and so northward into Henley Park as ye brook or stream doth lead upon the north part until it cometh unto Cobetts bridge and so eastward as ye brook doth lead into a mead called Dawbournes Mead sometimes called Meadwash mead in tenure of Thomas Oackley.....(copyhold 4 acres)....bounds go eastward with the stream to Rickford bridge..."*

Another document dating from the second half of the 17th century relates John Kerr's oath at Serjants Inn London before Judge Thurland that: *"56 years since he went the bounds of Worplesdon parish and that they always went along the south side of the brook in Henley Park from Tickners bridge to Cobetts bridge with the ministers and parishioners of Worplesdon and Ashe inhabitants used to go the other side of the brook."* William Maybank and Anthony Bryam gave similar testimonies. Richard Kene who was a servant to Mr Squib a former owner of Henley Park could cast his mind back more than 40 years.

These two accounts refer to the former boundary in the east of what is now Normandy Parish. Cleygate Hill is now called Pond Hill, Pytridge Lane is represented by Bailes Lane and Cobetts Bridge has become Clasford Bridge in Cobbetts Hill Road. It would seem that Ash and Normandy have been nibbling bits out of Worplesdon for many years starting with land south of the stream through Henley Park then Wyke in the 1800s and Willey Green in the 1900s. In 1847 the church of St.Mark was built in Wyke and on 30 October of the same year an Order in Council constituted the Consolidated Chapelry of Wyke and its ecclesiastical parish was formed out of the original tithing with the addition of parts of the ecclesiastical parishes of Ash and Wanborough.

Geology

The whole of the parish of Normandy lies on the London Clay, most of it overlaid by other deposits. These deposits were laid down during the Eocene Epoch which began about 54 million years ago and lasted about 16 million years. During the period, the area formed part of a great river delta or estuary. Because of the tilting of the strata and the action of erosion the deposits appear as comparatively narrow bands running roughly east to west. The heathland to the north of the Pirbright Road consists chiefly of the Bracklesham Beds overlying Bagshot Sand. The higher parts, including Henley Park, Cobbett Hill and the Fox Hills are overlaid by Barton Sand and the Fox Hills are topped with Plateau Gravels consisting of more or less rounded pebbles of flint with fragments of lignite. The Bracklesham Beds extend south-east of Pirbright Road for a short distance but south of this the Bagshot Sand is exposed. All this soil is highly acidic and the natural growth consists of heather, bracken and furze with birch and coniferous trees, although the deep-rooted oak does well. There are strips of alluvium bordering the courses of existing streams running in a northeasterly direction from Westwood to Clasford Common. Beyond the exposed Bagshot Sand, about a quarter of a mile south of the Guildford Road, the London Clay comes to the surface and this continues south in a band running east to west until it meets the Reading Beds at the base of the Hog's Back, south of which is the Upper Chalk of the ridge. There are other random deposits included in the ridge on which is the line of Green Lane and Flexford Road.

The Bracklesham, Bagshot and Barton Beds and the London Clay are divisions of Eocene rocks. The Bracklesham and Barton Beds consist of clays and sand rich in Glauconite, a greenish iron mineral that forms only in a marine environment. The Bagshot Beds consist of variegated fine-grained sands and pans composed of flint and lignite pebbles. The London Clay contains brown, bluish or grey clay. The Reading Beds are a division of the Upper Paleocene rocks and consist of reddish and mottled clays as well as silts and sand. These beds actually underlie the London Clay but outcrop due to a tilt in the stratum at the foot

of the Upper Chalk of the Hog's Back ridge. Alluvium is material deposited by rivers and consists of silt, clay and gravel and often organic material. This mix makes it more fertile and favourable for settlement.

In addition to these deposits are erratics in the form of Moor or Heath Stone which is a hard sandstone known in its larger forms as Sarsen. The foundations of St.Mark's Church are built of this stone. The rest of the church is constructed of Bargate Stone rubble from the Godalming area with dressings of Bath Stone. There are also small deposits of Puddingstone on the Westwood Estate. This is natural concrete formed of flint pebbles set in a siliceous sandy matrix mixed with iron oxide that gives it a chocolate brown colour. This material is used in the walls of St.Mary's Church at Worplesdon. The presence of brick earth as a constituent of the clay led to early use for the making of bricks at first confined to small quantities as shown by the title of more than one field as Kiln Field where bricks were produced as and when required. It was not until 1898 that Wanborough Brickworks was established and produced bricks on a commercial scale.

The strata gives rise to numerous springs and streams mostly issuing from the lower slopes of the Fox Hills to the north and of the Hog's Back to the south. This well-watered environment was conducive to early settlement especially on the more easily worked soil of the Bagshot Sands. It also made feasible shallow wells, of which numerous traces remain. The highest point in the parish is Lookout Hill, 381 feet above sea level; the lowest point is at 129 feet near Whipleigh Farm.

Origins

We may ask ourselves why Normandy is situated where it is. There is usually a very good reason why settlements were established where they are. An example of this is Guildford, which is at a strategic river crossing on an ancient route along the North Downs. The position of Normandy has no such obvious advantages. It was not originally even on a main road. The answer probably lies in the Saxon "nose" for a promising site at which to settle. The main requirements for a subsistence economy were a good supply of running water and easily worked and fertile soil for crops. A bonus would have been an abundance of wild animals to hunt. The Saxon settlers were skilled in recognising types of natural vegetation, which would indicate good soil conditions.

The site of the Saxon settlement, in the region west of Tickners Bridge, met these requirements. There are several sources of good running water from the streams rising on the heath and the lower slopes of the Hog's Back and the alluvium found in the area is excellent for agriculture. The early settlers would avoid, at least initially, the barren heath to the north and the heavy clay on the south. There would also have been sufficient timber for building as the deep-rooted oak thrived and it is still the most common broad-leaved tree in the district. The site may not have been heavily timbered at that time and would need little clearance. The largest woods with Saxon associations were Catherine Frith at Wyke and in the vicinity of Henley, which means "the high clearing". The rest was probably thinly covered with hazel, hawthorn and the like.

From the study of old documents, notably those relating to the Manor of Cleygate, we know that the name given to the settlement was Frimsworth or Frymlesworth signifying the enclosure of a man probably named Frem. We can imagine Frem and his merry band arriving and seeing that the portents were good, deciding to stay and set up home. Perhaps there was a settlement of sorts here already. Certainly, Roman relics have been found in the district including the Romano-British temple in Green Lane, an indication of an established community. If so there may have been initial tension between the two groups, but the Saxons were unlikely to have been a warrior band bent on plunder but rather settlers looking for somewhere to live

and they would soon settle down and intermarry with the original inhabitants. Some of the other hamlets that go to make up the present-day Normandy have names with Saxon origins. Wyke is Wucha in Domesday Book, the name probably meaning an outlying farm. Flexford is derived from flax weir or verd meaning flax meadows by a stream. Willey is possibly the clearing in the willow trees. This was a particularly damp spot where these trees would flourish.

We can only speculate on the origin of the name of Normandy, as we have been unable to uncover firm evidence. The root derivation may be from a form of "No Man's Land" which was applied to parts on the borders of parishes. The name Normandy appears to have applied originally to the area in the vicinity of what is now Normandy Common. The earliest reference to Normandy that we have found so far is in the records of the Manorial Court of Cleygate and is dated 22 October 1604. It relates to the tenancy of a cottage with a garden "lying and being in Normandy abutting upon More Meade in Asshe". It is perhaps significant that there is no reference to Normandy in a survey of the Manor of Cleygate which was carried out in 1551-53 although Frymlesworth is mentioned several times. The names Frymlesworth or Frimsworth and Normandy existed side by side as late as 1790 but gradually Normandy came to be applied to the whole area and the earlier title went out of use. The main settlement continued to be around the area of the former public house, called The Anchor, that was on the sharp bend in the road. It was not until after Wanborough Station was built in 1891 that the centre of gravity began to shift to the present area around the crossroads. The building of the village hall, chapel and shop there encouraged this trend.

Population

The census of 1891 has enabled us to form some idea of what the parish was like a hundred years ago. There were 198 domestic properties in Normandy of which nine were empty. Almost 10% of the dwellings had at least one resident servant. The total population was 897 and of these only 18% had been born in the parish although a further 34% were born in adjacent parishes. The youngest person in the village was one day old Baby Collier, son of George and Emma at Junction Cottages. The youngest "retired" person was former farmer David Wright, aged 37 of No.2, The Oaks, Pirbright Road. The oldest person and the only one over 80 years of age was William Lipscombe of Willey Green, a farm labourer who was 86 years old. References to earlier census returns suggest that there was a net migration into Normandy in the late 19th century.

The occupations show that almost everyone of working age who lived in the village also worked there and a large proportion were engaged in agriculture and associated trades. There were no less than 24 retired army officers, a reflection, no doubt, of the proximity of Normandy to Aldershot. There was also a rather unusual occupation given, that of "Electric Light Engine Driver". This was James Marshall who lived on Dolleys Hill and was employed at Henley Park, the home of Lord Pirbright, to tend the steam engine that drove a dynamo charging batteries to power the lights in the house. Finally, one person with a rather appropriate name - a domestic servant called Annie Drudge! The latest reliable figure for the population, taken at the 1991 census, is 2,939 and the working element mainly travels to work outside the village. Normandy seems to be a healthy place in which to live as the figure includes 100 people of 80 years or above. The population of the parish appears to be declining. A high point was reached in 1970 when the number was 3,899. Since then there has been a gradual fall which, however, now seems to have levelled out. We can only speculate on the reasons for this decline. It may be that the generally falling birthrate in the country has something to do with it. The population is much more mobile than even a few years ago and few present residents over the age of 55 were born in the village.

Normandy in the Landscape

If you view the valley from the vantage point of the Hog's Back ridge, looking northward towards the Fox Hills, you may well ask, "where is Normandy?" In the foreground is the compact hamlet of Wanborough but further north signs of habitation are not much in evidence, with the exceptions of the tall chimney of the former "Wanborough" brick works and the line of houses along Flexford Road. Also prominent on the skyline is a line of Lombardy Poplars which is a relic of the Manor Fruit Farm. The predominant impression is of a green landscape. The district is probably more heavily wooded than it was a hundred years ago. The planting of conifers has until recently been actively encouraged and subsidised and this type of tree is dominant on the heathland. On the clay to the south, however, the oak is king and there are broad expanses of woodland the largest being Catherine Frith.

In the 1870s, much of the heathland in the north of the parish was purchased by the War Department for firing ranges for the Army. Although at times the noise of firing is intrusive, the lack of development has preserved the rugged terrain. At the time of writing, the Ministry of Defence is conducting an experiment using goats to keep down unwanted rank vegetation. After extensive fires in 1992 the MOD established reserve water supplies in the form of ponds and these are now places of scientific interest. Wild life has flourished and there are large numbers of deer, mainly the native Roedeer but Fallow and more exotic species such as Muntjac are also present. The rabbit population waxes and wanes and grey squirrels, although attractive to look at, can be a pest. Badgers are seen on occasion. The Fox Hills are well named, as Reynard is happy to establish dens in the sandy soil and thrive as local chicken keepers can testify.

The varied habitat gives rise to abundant bird life. All the common birds are in evidence although there has been a noticeable decline in the number of thrushes and nightingales that were once common around Henley Park woods. Even the cuckoo appears less numerous than formerly. Stretches of water, such as Henley Park Lake, encourage waterfowl including the ubiquitous Canada Geese. In hard weather, birds not normally seen come to the bird table in search of scraps. These include long-tailed tits, nuthatches and pied and grey wagtails. In the spring, curlews are seen in courting flight over the heath. A summer visitor is the nightjar whose weird churring song can be heard at dusk. Among the reptilia are lizards, frogs, toads and snakes. The adder is common on the heath but the snake most often found in gardens is the grass snake which, although harmless, can grow to a considerable size.

In summer butterflies and bees abound. Some people take advantage of the heather honey to be produced by siting their hives near the heath. Enormous dragonflies are to be seen particularly near water where they catch their prey. For those willing and active enough to forsake their cars there is a good network of footpaths and ancient ways with a riot of wild flowers in season including snowdrops, violets, bluebells, primroses and flowering shrubs such as elderberry and wild clematis - "Old Man's Beard". These provide food for a multitude of insects and in turn support small mammals such as hedgehogs and shrews. In 1987 in the European Year of the Environment, a group was formed in the village to rescue the pond, which had fallen into obscurity. As a result of the hard work put into it, the project was awarded one of the first of Guildford Borough Council's Heritage Awards and also won the Community Pond of the Year in the "Pond Watch Awards 1990" competition. A plaque was commissioned by the Normandy Parish Council and the Normandy Village Pond Restoration Committee and erected in the village car park in 1991 to record the achievement. The pond, which is north of Guildford Road and just east of the War Memorial, is again a pleasant feature of the village scene.

There are several interesting old houses in the parish including Westwood Place, dating in part from the 14th century, and Henley Park House which was extensively altered in the 18th century by the then owner, Solomon Dayrolles. In recent years it had been allowed to fall into dereliction but, happily, it has now been restored to something of its former glory. There is also the magnificent, restored half-timbered farmhouse now known as "Great Westwood". Among the more modest buildings are Longerend Cottage, Halsey Cottage and Pritchells, all half-timbered.

People

A few famous people have made their homes in the village for brief periods. Few people have not heard of William Cobbett, the politician, social reformer, journalist and farmer. He was a tenant of Normandy Farm, the house is now the Manor House, and he died there in 1835. Other celebrities include Una Stubbs the actress famous for her roles in the TV comedies "Till Death Us Do Part" and "Wurzell Gummage", John Virgo the snooker champion and TV personality and Douglas Squires the choreographer of the TV dance troupe "The Young Generation". A longer-standing resident was Lord Pirbright who lived at Henley Park. He was the first Privy Councillor of Jewish birth and his ornate tomb can be seen in St. Mark's churchyard. The side panels of the chest tomb are inscribed with a eulogistic account of his achievements. The novelist, Warwick Deeping, was a regular visitor to Westwood and used the house as the inspiration for his novel "Laughing House". The artist, John Baker, whose work appeared regularly in the Surrey Advertiser under "The Seeing Eye" and other titles, lived in Beech Lane for a while and "Paddy" Johnston the racing motorcyclist and victor in pre-war TT races lived at "The Oaks" in Pirbright Road. Our latest celebrity is Roger Black, the Olympic athlete and TV personality who lives at Westwood Place. There have been notable innovators like Albert Norman, the amateur rosegrower who raised the famous "Frensham" and "Ena Harkness" varieties and Mr. Fletcher who invented a unique "inside-out" two-stroke engine which he fitted to a pushbike.

There are always houses advertised for sale in the local press and prices seem always to be on the increase. Although recent development has taken place, particularly in the Flexford area, the parish has preserved its rural character. It has been able to do this largely because of stricter post-war regulations. In common with many other villages, Normandy has seen the demise of many of the local shops that have been unable to compete with larger stores in the towns and the supermarkets built outside. We are fortunate in having retained our railway station and a comprehensive bus service but these are in competition with the ever-increasing volume of road transport as periods of gridlock bear witness. The amenities of the village, which include a modern medical centre, are good and will be enhanced when the facilities at the Manor Fruit Farm complex are ready. This will include a new "Village Green" which will further emphasise this area as being the nearest to a centre that this type of settlement can achieve. There are many active clubs and societies and although lacking in the picturesque features of a more compact village it is nonetheless a pleasant place in which to live.

Finally, no account of village happenings would be complete without a ghost story or two. Here are some about Normandy. The first account is about an apparition which takes the form of a figure in a long coat with capes like that of an old-time coachman or highwayman. The figure appears at a house in Pirbright Road and a medium who is a friend of the householder, after being told of the manifestation, described to her an experience as if he were the figure riding down Elm Hill from the direction of Aldershot and coming to the junction of the Pirbright and Guildford roads which were overarched with trees.

He then galloped down Pirbright Road. Perhaps he was heading for Bagshot Heath, a notorious haunt of highwaymen!

Desmond Lipscombe remembers a ghostly experience when he was about three years old in 1926. He was in a pushchair accompanied by his mother and sister going along a path through a field near Normandy Hill Farm where they lived. He suddenly let out a shriek and all three of them saw the figure of a woman "drifting" across the field towards a patch of brambles where she vanished. All this was in broad daylight. He found out later that there had been a woman living in an old shack that had once stood where the brambles were.

The last story concerns a house in Hunts Hill Road once owned by Captain Lionel Johnson, a well-known member of the community, who was Chief ARP Warden in Normandy during World War II. Soon after he died the house was bought by John and Jean Russell-Stracey who had two small children at the time. One night their younger son, aged three, awoke crying and he asked his parents to tell the gentleman who was standing at the foot of his bed to go away. There was no one there but they asked him what the figure looked like. He said it was very tall and wore glasses. Now, Captain Johnson was indeed a tall man but although he wore glasses at home only his immediate family knew of this. The Russell-Straceys subsequently noticed strange noises including the clanking of a non-existent manhole cover that had been removed when the main drainage was installed. One night John passed a figure on the stairs and, without thinking, wished it goodnight. Their dog also sensed a presence in the house. The family considered calling in psychic research investigators but one day Jean was talking about the manifestation to Martin Barlow who managed the butchers' shop in the village. Martin offered to help and said he would "talk" to Captain Johnson. He found that Captain Johnson had some favourite trees that had been cut down by the new owners because the trees were decayed and past saving. Evidently the ghost was unhappy about this but Martin was able to pacify him by assuring him that the new owners were nice people who meant no harm by their actions. The apparition was never seen again!

No events of earth-shaking importance have happened within the boundaries of our parish. Our book attempts to portray the everyday events in the lives of ordinary folk. We hope that as you read these pages you will find the story as interesting as we have found its compilation. As in any book of this kind, there are unanswered questions. We would welcome any information that would help us to resolve them.

CHAPTER 2

THE CHANGING USE OF THE LAND

*Happy the man who,
Far from business schemes,
Like the early race of mortals,
Ploughs and reploughs his ancestral land,
With round his neck, oxen of his own breeding and no slavish yoke.*

*Horace
Epodes II.I*

Introduction

For centuries the basic way of life in this area remained unchanged, but the influence of certain happenings in the 19th and 20th centuries brought about some extraordinary changes to that way of life. As a result the Normandy of today would be virtually unrecognisable to those of yesteryear. For the greater part of those earlier centuries our village, as we now know it, was composed of settlements at Wyke, Willey Green, Flexford, Christmaspie and Normandy Common together with the scattered farms of the Westwood, Henley Park, Wanborough and Poyle estates. Although these four estates between them occupied a huge area, the Tithe maps of 1841 and 1844 show small pockets of land owned by individuals such as Joseph Freakes and Thomas Chandler, all of whom held little more than a cottage and a large garden.

Until the arrival of the railway the economy of the area was entirely agricultural, confirmed perhaps by the census of 1841. A sample from the occupations listed includes Thomas Goodchild - agricultural labourer, William Deedman - sawyer, John Stedman - blacksmith and William Dolley - mole catcher.

The early part of the 19th century saw the beginning of the decline of these large estates. The repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, labourers moving to the towns to find more highly paid work in the new factories and emigration to the colonies were factors in the decline. It was not until the 1870s, however, that the large estates were in serious trouble owing to home grain prices plummeting in order to compete with the cheaper imports from the Americas. Later came further competition with refrigerated meat from the colonies and Argentina. The imposition of death duties in 1894 caused great financial distress to many of the landed families of this district.

The estates

The first estate in this area to go under the hammer was the Poyle estate in 1818, one that had been in the ownership of the same family, the Woodroffes, since the end of the 16th century. The main seat of the estate was at Tongham and at that time included the Manors of Foremans, Squeers, Wyke and Cleygate. The Normandy part of the estate was extensive, comprising much of the land to the west of Westwood Lane, excluding that around Westwood Place and Parwood, practically all the south-eastern quarter roughly bounded by Glaziers Lane, the Guildford Road and Tickners Bridge, near Wells Lane, to the east. The main farms of the estate were the Wyke group of farms, Christmaspie Farm, Normandy Farm, Cleygate Barn Farm and Jones Roughs' farm. The sale was perhaps due in part to the somewhat extravagant life style of William Woodroffe when Sheriff of the County in 1792.

Mary Mangles eventually bought Christmaspie Farm but little else actually appears to have been sold in Normandy.

The Manor of Henley is one of the oldest recorded settlements in the area and at the time of Domesday was in the hands of Chertsey Abbey. In 1349 it was Crown property and became part of the Royal Forest of Windsor, retaining the hunting rights until 1641. During the 17th and 18th centuries Henley was sold several times but had a period of relatively steady ownership from 1784 when Henry Halsey bought it from Solomon Dayrolles. By 1841 the lands of Henley covered the north-east corner of Normandy and extended into Pirbright and Bisley. The house was regularly occupied by tenants such as Charles Burnett, distiller.

The Coussmaker family came originally from Flanders to settle in England in about 1680. In 1720, the family purchased the Westwood estate of about 232 acres from The Reverend Charles Moore, Rector of Worplesdon. Other land was purchased in 1802 and 1829. By 1856, when further land was purchased, the estate was at its largest extent of 450 acres mainly centred on what is now Westwood Place.

In 1813 the Wanborough Estate of some 1,600 acres was one of the largest in the county, extending into the southern part of Normandy. In 1828 it was sold by the Earl of Onslow to Captain Charles Mangles and his brothers who also possessed land to the east of Normandy and small parcels of land in Normandy. The brothers were among local landowners who sold land for the building of the railway. In 1870 the estate was sold to Alexander McKibbin, who followed the then common practice and let the house to tenants, one of whom, from 1880, was Sir Algernon West, Parliamentary Secretary to W E Gladstone. In 1912 the trustees for the late Alexander McKibbin put the estate up for sale but were obliged to withdraw it and it was finally sold to the Perkins family in 1919.

John Parrott, father of William and John Peter in 1862 purchased Normandy Manor Farm, then part of the Poyle Estate. William inherited the estate in 1877 and on the death of John Peter in 1895, William sold the estate of 225 acres in lots. The house was split from the general land holding and became a private residence, now known as the Manor House and Cleygate Barn Farm became a separate entity. Manor nurseries went to J B Cooper and the lower nursery at The Elms now called The White House, to William Field. In 1900 William Field expanded his nursery operation buying out Cooper for £3800 and by 1912 he was renting a further 50 acres, including what became known as Vaglefield Farm, centred on The Elms. In 1919 Arthur W Milton, formerly of Denmark Hill, London, and Francis N Palmer jointly bought Manor Fruit Farm from William Field, but Francis Palmer soon relinquished his interest to his partner and instead ran a wholesale vegetable business from his home Briar Patch, Glaziers Lane. William Field continued to run the lower nurseries. In 1933, Alexander P Bevan came to The Elms to grow a wide variety of vegetables, bulbs and flowers on part of the lower nursery, later known as Elms Gardens. Lots 9 and 15 of the sale brochure were advertised as “*freehold residential building estate*” and “*freehold residential building site suitable for bijou residence*”, the latter being sold for £45. New houses were built on plots fronting the Guildford Road and Glaziers Lane, thus providing an early indication of the move away from agriculture. The trend continued, following the sale of other outlying areas of the Poyle Estate in 1924 and the Westwood Estate sale of 1935.

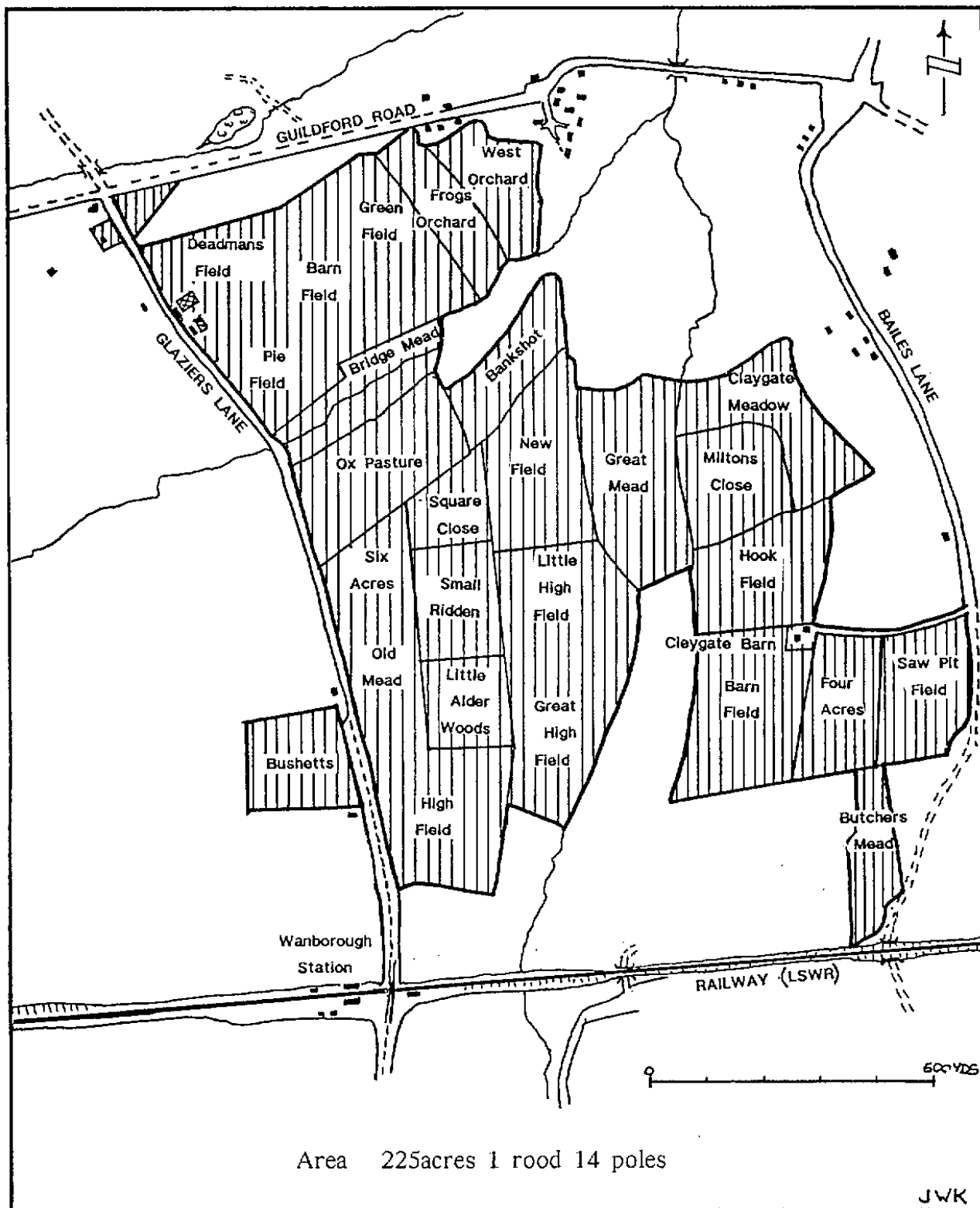


Figure 2. Normandy Manor Estate 1895

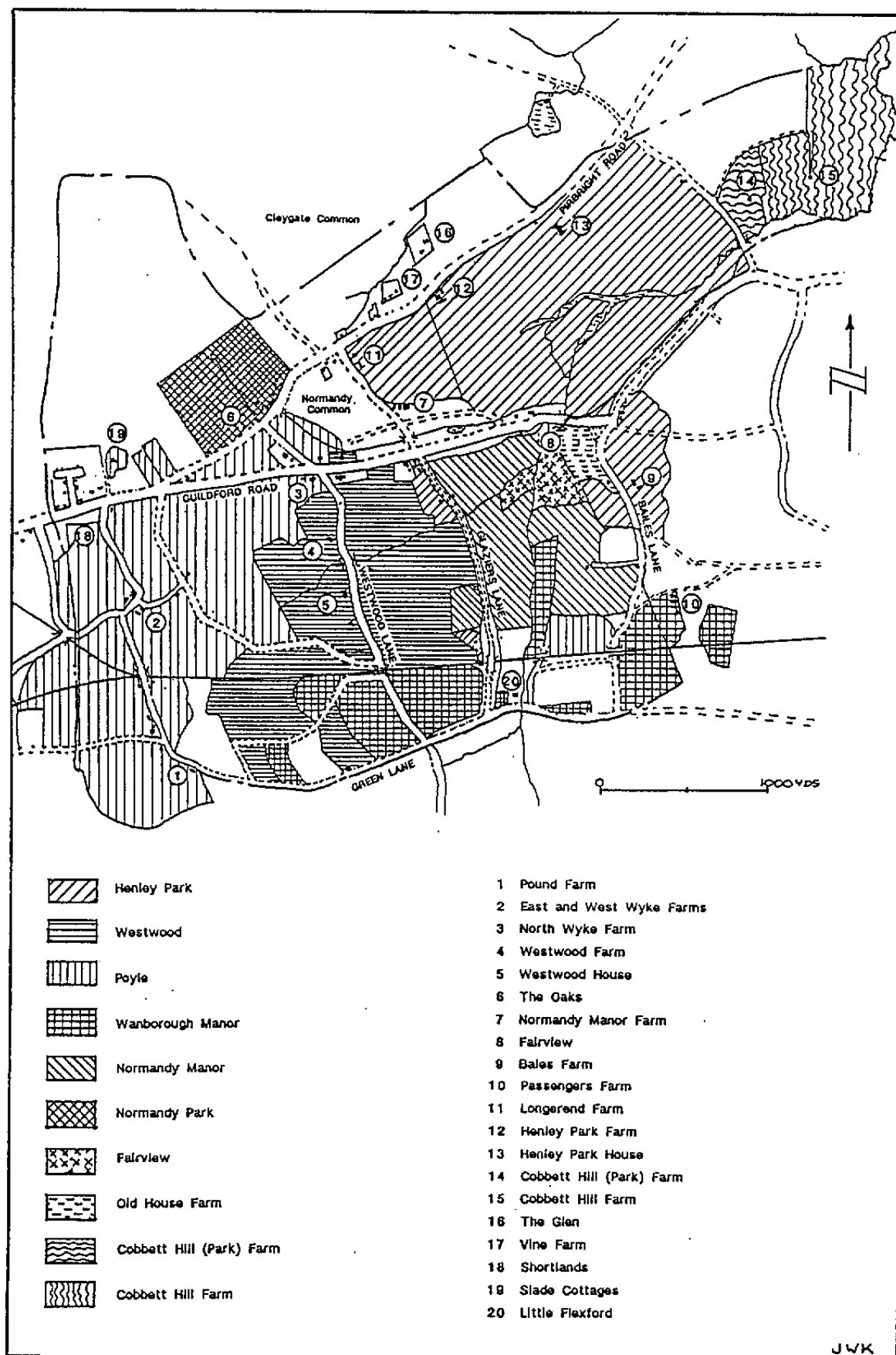


Figure 3 Normandy in 1891. The Estates and Farms

The railway – all change

In general the soil of Normandy is not of the highest agricultural quality, consequently a wide variety of farming enterprises have been tried over the years. In 1878 a variety of crops was grown on the 280 acres of Westwood Farm including tares, mangold, wheat, oats, broad beans, barley and swede grazed mainly by shorthorn cattle. A copy of Bell's Weekly Messenger of 1878 mentions that Mr Coussmaker was reputed to be one of the neatest farmers in Surrey. Another article in the Messenger for Normandy Manor gives detailed ploughing methods, the fifty head of dairy cattle from which 25-30 gallons of milk were sent daily to London, 250 sheep fattened annually and an unusual crop of sugarcane grown as cattle feed. There was no mention of orchards or greenhouses. To counteract falling returns on the traditional crops, the Parrotts of Normandy Manor Farm had by 1887 diversified and had planted 40 acres of fruit trees and built 16 greenhouses in which were grown grapes, peaches and nectarines.

Before the construction of the railway line from Guildford to Farnham and to Reading in 1849, the traditional markets for Normandy produce were at Guildford, Farnham and Godalming. Cattle were herded along the ancient drove roads and the green lanes. The horse and cart was the principal form of transport for other produce taken along the same routes. The setting up of the army camps at Aldershot in 1870 provided a new market. Although nationally in decline, agriculture still retained a prominent position in Normandy. The newly constructed railway, and that of the private siding in Beech Lane for the Westwood Estate, enabled the estate produce of poultry and fruit to be sent to markets as far afield as London and to bring in cattle feed and fertilisers. Before the opening of Wanborough station in 1891, produce was taken by traditional methods to Ash station. Wanborough station provided the opportunity for all local producers to send their goods to London and elsewhere. The speed and ease of transporting goods rapidly improved and access to the village from the nearby towns encouraged an influx of new residents. Slowly the character of Normandy changed from the deeply rural village of a century ago, then totally reliant on the land, to a dormitory one in which residents now endeavour to protect those rural roots.

The 1891 census for Normandy and Wyke lists 14 farmers, four market gardeners and a nurseryman as well as many agricultural labourers.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Wyke	North Wyke Farm The Oaks	George Harris	Farmer
		Thomas Dennis	Nurseryman
		Daniel Deedman	Farmer
		John Callingham	Market Gardener
	Pinewood Road	Henry Sharp	Market Gardener
	Pinewood Road	Alfred Gower	Market Gardener, Oil merchant
		Edward Barton	Market Gardener
	Pound Farm	Walter Tice	Farmer
		William Drewitt	Farm Bailiff
	Wyke Farmhouse	unoccupied.	
Normandy	Little Flexford	James Ridges	Farmer
	Fairview	William Deedman	Farmer
	Henley Park Farm	William Harding	Farmer
		Stephen Head	Farmer
		John Tame	Farmer

		Hugh Hunt	Farmer
	Normandy Farm	William Parrott	Farmer
Wiley Green	Bales Farm	James Collins	Farmer
	Passengers Farm	James Crooke & Sons	Farmers

The census shows that the livelihood of three-quarters of the population was connected with agriculture, the other major employer being the railway. Market gardening was in its infancy and the gardens were relatively small. Most farmers were tenants of the estates and farming was a mix of dairy and beef cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry and crops of cereals and vegetables. At The Oaks, part of Normandy Park Estate, a recent addition to the larger properties in Normandy, Thomas Dennis had 3 acres of glass houses. Normandy Park belonged to the Henriques family from 1905 by which time William Hubbard had replaced Thomas Dennis at the Oaks and he continued to grow fruit there until the mid 1930s. His speciality was strawberries at Easter time for the Royal Family when they came to the Royal Pavilion at Aldershot to review the troops. William Deedman had bought Fairview Farm comprising 33 acres in 1884 and after his death in the 1920s his three daughters Bessie May, Emily Jane and Nellie continued to run the farm keeping cows and poultry.

Mechanisation in farming began in the 18th century with Jethro Tull's seed drill. However, improvements were slow to percolate through to the farms in Normandy since many tasks still had to be done by hand even at the start of the 20th century. Out of 190 heads of households in the 1891 census, about 70 were agricultural or general labourers. Large gangs of labourers were used for weeding and harvesting and apart from some steam threshing the main source of power remained the horse. Steam engines were occasionally used for ploughing. Charles Crooke remembered seeing a field south of Passengers Farm being cultivated in this way with a four-share reversible anti-balance plough.

Division of the estates

The Valuation and Field books for implementing the 1910 Finance Act completed between 1911 and 1915, list every plot of land and building and show a more comprehensive picture of life than that of the 1891 census. There were 17 owners of plots of more than one acre. Most were let to at least 55 different tenants of which one third had five acres or less. More often than not the plot was little more than a meadow or an extra large garden with a few fruit trees and some poultry but probably would not have provided the main income for the family. About 30 rented land between 10 and 50 acres. Many were smallholdings like Stephen Marshall's 38 acres near Wyke Cross or market gardens like J Harwood's 10 acres off Folly Hatch Lane. Others such as the Misses Morgan at Wyke House had 22 acres devoted to poultry. The larger farms were those of Leonard Morris, renting 233 acres at Westwood, Osman Crismas, the tenant of Henley Park Farm, Mrs Hugh Hunt at Longer End Farm, having taken over her late husband's tenancy of 90 acres and Alfred Clarke's 88 acres at Cobbett Hill. William Field had about 120 acres of which about 60 acres was in fruit cultivation at his Manor Nurseries. Large areas of woodland remained with the Poyle and Henley Estates but much of this was for shooting. Several farms were vacant or had made no returns. Only the names of William Deedman, the Hunt family and Alfred Gower from the 1891 census appear in the field books of the 1911 – 1915 survey.

For many years the mansion and parkland at Henley had been let to a series of tenants as had Henley Park Farm. At the start of the 20th century it was with William Harding. Henry Deacon Hagger briefly succeeded him before Osman Crismas took over in 1906/7, followed by Thomas Harding in 1914.

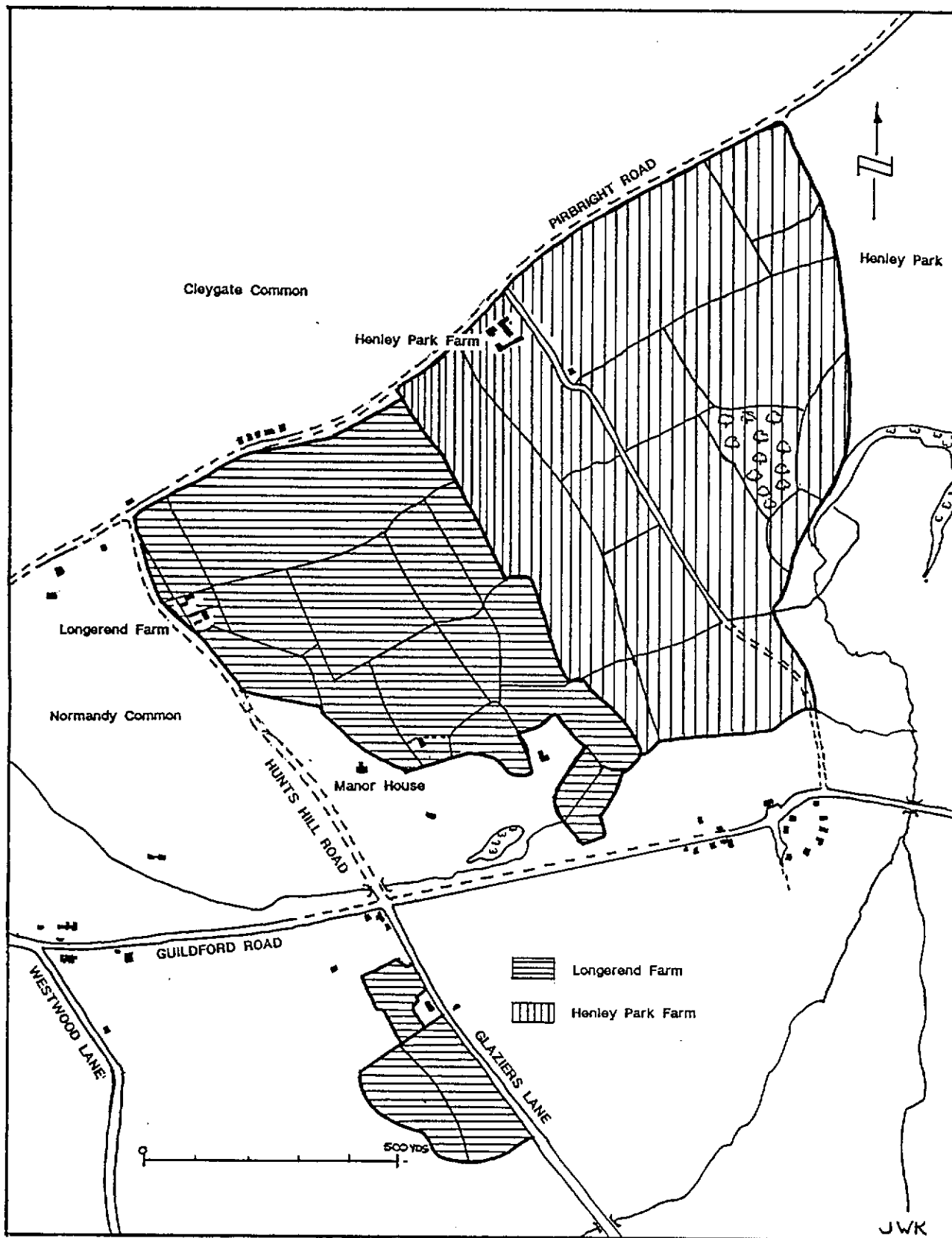


Figure 4 Longerend Farm and Henley Park Farm 1924

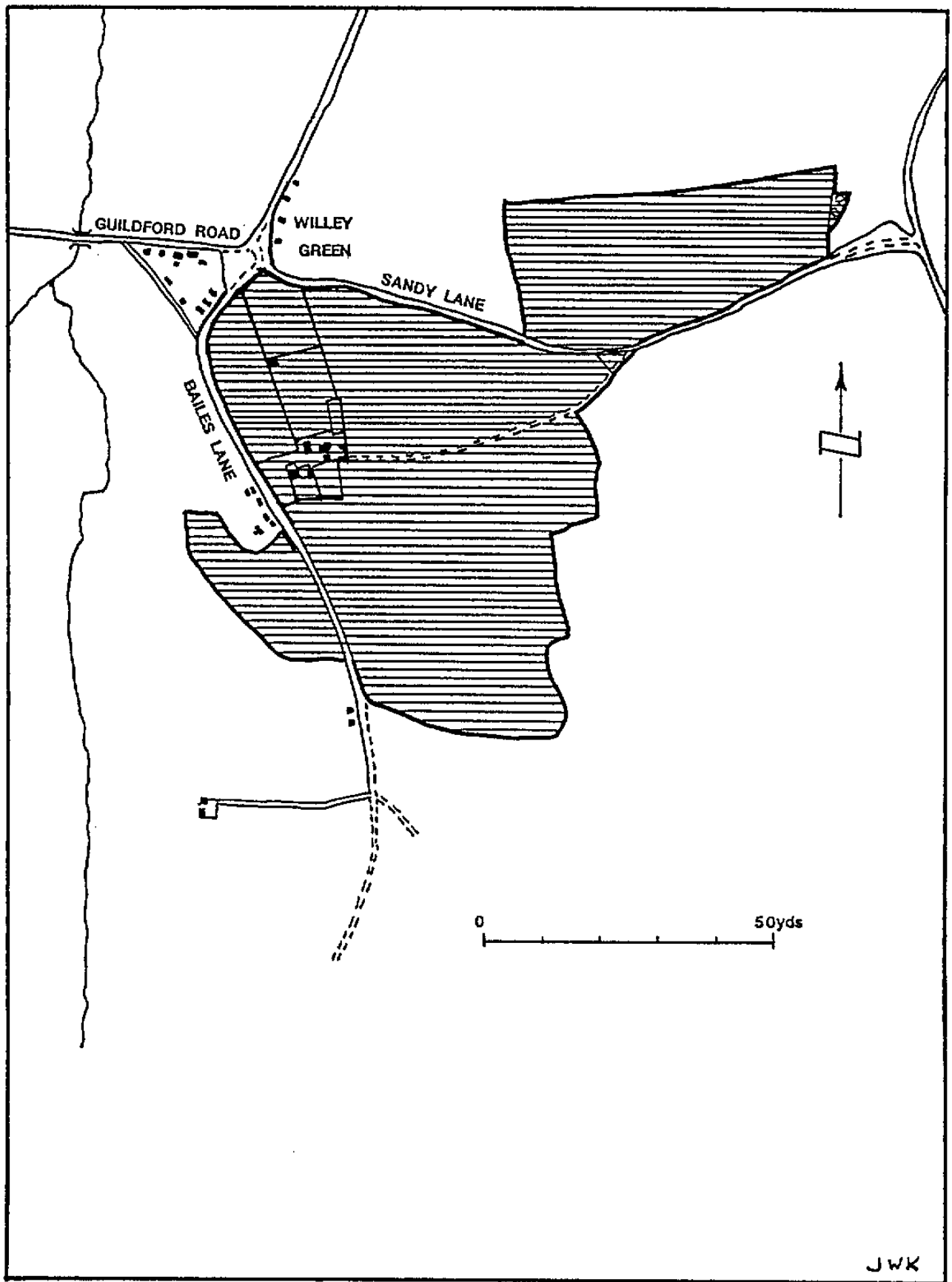


Figure 5 Bales Farm 1920

Longer End Farm of 92 acres adjoined Henley Park Farm and comprised much of the land north of Normandy Manor House and a few fields west of Glaziers Lane. The Hunt family remained in residence until 1918 when the tenancy was taken over by E North.

The smallholding of Normandy Hill Farm had several changes of ownership during the 19th century, the first by The Reverend William Parsons, then the Parrotts who sold it to the Halseys of Henley Park in 1895. The Lipscombes were the resident tenants until 1934. Henry Lipscombe also worked with H Bowyer, a woodsman, coppicing on a seven-year rotation system. They held a shilling permit with the War Department to collect wood from the army land with which to make brooms, hurdles, bean and pea sticks and firewood for fuel, then a very important commodity to the home.

Bales Farm, also part of Henley Park Estate, was let to the Collins family from about 1850 until the death in 1917 of James Collins when Ewan Maclacklan purchased the farm of 103 acres. Until the boundary change of 1962 the farm and farmhouse were in Worplesdon Parish. Although Henry J T Halsey put the whole of the Henley Park estate up for sale in 1922, prior to him leaving for America, it was not until 1926 that it was eventually sold to Edwin Ramsay Moodie.

Passenger's Farm, previously known as Bush Ingham Farm, (the name of Passenger may have originated from the old name for a nearby field) adjoins the Parish boundary with Worplesdon. Although the greater part of the farmland is in Worplesdon, some is in Normandy. The farm and farmhouse, including another dwelling known later as Fir Cottage but now demolished, was part of the Wanborough Estate. About 1850 Edward Chitty purchased the farm and in his hands it reached its fullest extent of 193 acres. The Crookes were tenants of the farm from 1887 until 1919 when they successfully purchased the farmhouse and about 50 acres, remaining there until it was sold in 1963 to Harry and Margaret Sharp. The present owner is Jane Shaughnessy. Also included in the Wanborough estate was Christmaspie Farm, tenanted in about 1840 by Henry Ede. When he gave up the tenancy the farmland became part of West Flexford Farm and the old farmhouse was split and converted into a gamekeeper's cottage and a lodging-house for farm workers.

The field books of the 1912 survey for the 1910 Finance Act, referred to earlier, show that Thomas and Maria Mason of Pirbright owned the smaller of the Cobbett Hill farms. The tenant was Moses Cooke farming 28 acres. Alfred Clarke leased the larger from 1902 until sold by Hewett and Lee of Guildford in 1912 to Harold Arbuthnot of Merrist Wood. By 1927 the smaller of the two farms, known by then as Park Farm, had passed to Surrey County Council.

About 1900, and contrary to the general trend to divide estates into small tenancies, Westwood Estate was let to George Brown Ewing until 1906 when Leonard Morris rented 250 acres, the Coussmaker family retaining approximately 100 acres. By comparison the Poyle estate was already let to many small tenants. James and Arthur Mullard had 11 acres at Wyke Roughs, Mr A Ager was using eight acres as a market garden between the Guildford and Pirbright Roads and Luke and Henry Hogsflesh were farming ten acres of Goldmoor and Sunnyfield off the Guildford Road. In 1907 Harold Breton, at Slade Cottages, firstly kept poultry but later changed to market gardening and sold his vegetables from a donkey cart taken around the village. Thomas Standing had a smallholding of 24 acres at Sandpit Cottage. The Bide family, who farmed at Moor Park, Farnham also took on the lease of Alma Nursery at Shortlands, Pinewoods in the 1920s for hardy nursery stock. Following the death in 1924 of H M Chester, parts of the Poyle Estate were sold. Bushy Lees Dairy Farm of about 28 acres was sold to the tenants, the Annells family, for £675.

In 1919 the Sherwood brothers Ronald, the eldest only 21 years of age, Hamilton, Edgar and Russell, took over the tenancy of the neglected East Wyke Farm of the Poyle Estate and later persuaded their sister Mabel to keep house. Very short of cash, Hamilton bought two carthorses, one was blind, and an old horse plough all for £9. The brothers planned for market gardening on a scale larger than had been seen before in Normandy. The first crop was radish, protected from frosts with a layer of straw in readiness for an early market. Other vegetables followed this success. During the very severe drought of 1920, when no rain fell between February and late August, water was hand pumped from the only functioning well and carted to the fields to ensure survival of their first crop of cabbages.

More division and diversification

By 1930 Ronald and Russell Sherwood had left the original partnership at East Wyke Farm. Their brothers Edgar and Hamilton had in the meantime expanded their holding at the farm to take over the lease of White Lane Farm, Tongham. Like so many farm enterprises of the time, theirs was a mix of livestock and crops. A survey of the farm in 1930 shows the dairy herd consisted of 23 cows, a bull, 10 heifers and that about 100 poultry were kept. The crops grown were leeks, cauliflower, turnips, a variety of lettuces, 36 acres of savoys, rhubarb, sprouts, beetroot, 18 acres of spring cabbage, parsnips, mint and onions. There were two stacks of straw and two of hay amounting to about 22 tons, 280 tons of mangolds and 10 tons of King Edward potatoes. There was also a new 30 - Hundredweight Chevrolet lorry and an Oxford Six car.

At this time few farms in the village had more than 12 cows, which was about all that one person could hand-milk in a day. Bulls were hired out to neighbours. Milk, surplus to local needs, was sold and picked up by the Guildford Co-op or Cow & Gate. Of the many small milk rounds in the village, several also sold eggs but each had their individual way of operating their business. The Gilberts kept cows and sold their milk from Hazeldene, Westwood Lane. The Browns ran Copse End Dairy near Wanborough Station obtaining their milk from Henley Park and Wanborough estates. Gayler F Chambers at North Wyke Farm sold his milk from a horse drawn float. Although locally produced milk was non-pasteurised, it was nevertheless sold in sterilised bottles. An example of a bottle from North Wyke Farm Dairy has survived. On the death of Gayler Chambers in 1943, Mrs Tomlinson acquired the tenancy of North Wyke Farm and presumably the milk business. George Coomber at Weekwood Holding, Green Lane, firstly sold his milk from an open churn but when he changed over to bottled milk he delivered it from a tradesman's bicycle. The Souths of Bushy Lees Farm had their dairy at the western end of the village and A Crighton at the other end of the village kept his Finavon Dairy at Cobbett Hill. Herbert Minty at Park Farm also at Cobbett Hill had his wholesale milk distribution business. In the 1950s new hygiene laws to eliminate tuberculosis forced many out of milk production including Weekwood Holding, Henley Park and East Wyke Farm. Mrs Tomlinson then moved to the smaller Wyke Heath Farm, Pirbright Road.

Charles Hellard at Chapel Farm, Willey Green had a smallholding of 5 acres but left in the late 1930s when the Baylisses moved in to keep pigs. This continued until swine fever wiped them out.

During the 1920s the tenant at Westwood Farm was Andrew Barr but in 1930 Captain Arthur Peters took over on a yearly tenancy. In 1935 the whole of the estate was put up for sale but only a few lots were sold. In 1937 F J Cooper of Spinney Cottage, Guildford Road bought 35 acres to the west of Westwood Lane, including the Westwood farmhouse where his brother George Cooper later lived.

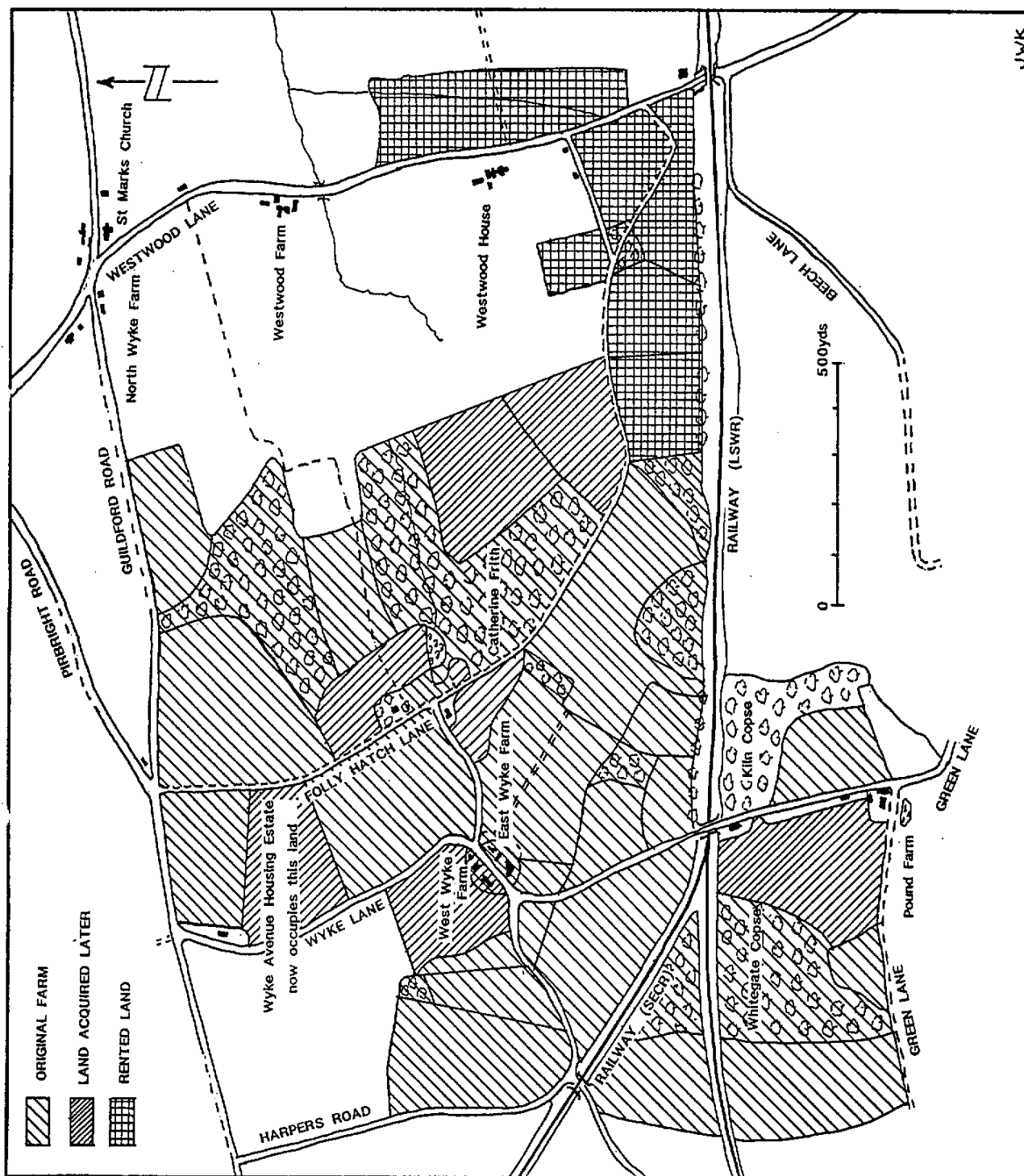


Figure 6. The development of East Wyke Farm Land in Normandy

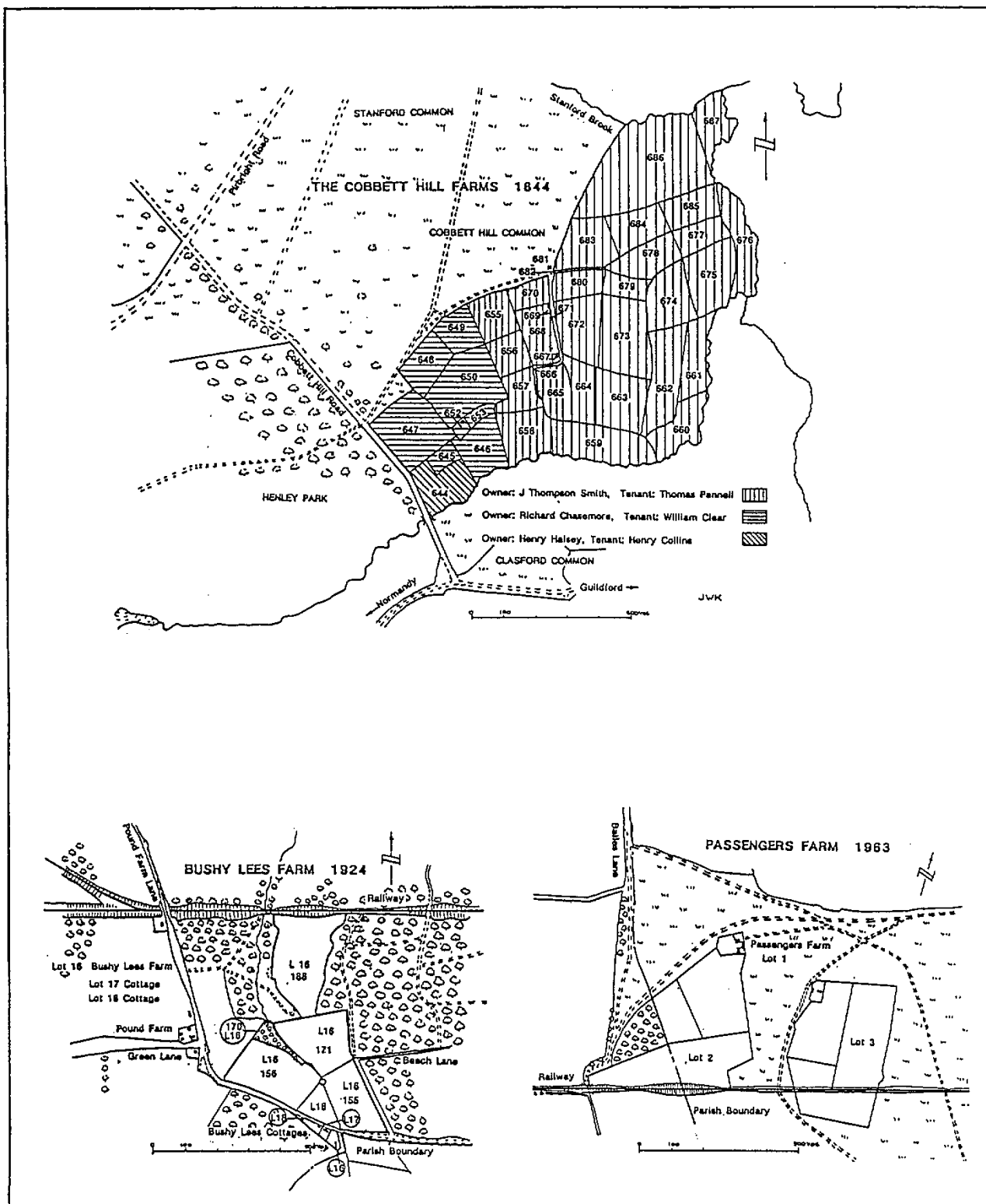


Figure 7. Farms in Normandy

The Baldreys bought 92 acres between Westwood Lane and Glaziers Lane that broadly remains at present with the family, but is let to David Pride of Elstead who mainly grows cereals. Mr Wright of 1 Westwood Lane acquired six acres for a poultry farm and Mr Vick bought the large field opposite Westwood farmhouse for a market garden but in 1942 it was sold on to the Marshalls. However, the Coussmaker family continued with their poultry farm for a few years, managed by George Kirsch with Joe Duffy, assisted by Bob Hammond, in charge of the chicken fattening plant. The eggs were packed in what is now South Lodge. When the poultry farm ceased in about 1938 the land was leased to the Sherwood brothers for grazing.

In 1937 F Attfield took J R Bennett's place at Pound Farm. He grew mangold and kale for cattle, oats and potatoes as well as keeping poultry and pigs. At nearby Bushy Lees farm the Annells had let the farm to Walter South, themselves moving to a new bungalow at Brambles Holding, Glaziers Lane.

It was during the 1930s that attitudes to farming began to change. People saw it as an inferior occupation, preferring the amenities and the lighter indoor work that the towns could offer. Farm work, as opposed to that of the towns, was often in cold and wet, miserable weather with back breaking tasks such as cutting cabbages and picking sprouts on freezing mornings. Much of the harvesting was done by gangs of women and groups of children who were given time-off from school to help with potato picking during the first two weeks in October before the clay soil that abounds in the village, was too heavy and wet with the autumn rains. Cynthia Pettett remembers the potatoes being dug with the help of a small hand plough with the children following on behind picking them up, all for a wage of two shillings and sixpence a week. She also recalls gleaning the fields for leftover ears of corn for chicken feed after the binder had finished. Those were hired from Jim Langford of Wood Street Village. The arrival of the first tractors during the late 1920s did little to change the working conditions. Even by 1941 there were only four tractors distributed between the larger farms in the village.

The storm clouds of war gather.

Since 1926, when Edwin Ramsay Moodie acquired the Henley Park estate, there had been a succession of tenants at Henley Park Farm but that changed when Robert Turner arrived just before the start of World War II. The early years of the war produced few changes in the village, but everyone was encouraged to make the most use of their land for growing food. In 1940 the Government commissioned a National Land Survey for farms over 5 acres. A preliminary survey was performed in 1940-41, and the full survey took place in 1941-43. A preliminary survey was performed in 1940-41, and the full survey took place in 1941-43. The survey was very detailed, not just to list crops, livestock and acreage but also the condition of the land, houses, drainage, fences, availability of public services and the ability of the farmer to manage the farm. It became apparent that the quality of farming at that time left a lot to be desired. Of the 26 farms listed, only four were given the highest classification, Henley Park Farm (Robert Turner), East Wyke Farm (Sherwood brothers), R & J Marshall at Glaziers Lane and Vaglefield Farm (Fred Ward).

Thirteen farms were put into the lowest category and the most frequent reasons given for this lower classification were lack of knowledge and experience on the part of the farmer and the perennial lack of capital. No less than seven farms were run on a part-time basis. In one case the main occupation of the farmer was a bus driver and in another, an engineer. The survey had an early effect on certain farms in the village. Several were required to plough up some of their grass for cereals or vegetables, although not all had the equipment for heavy ploughing and others were advised on how to get the best out of their fields. The Ministry, concerned that Bales Farm could be better used, asked the Baldreys at nearby Whipleigh Farm to take over the running of the farm.

Land girls were drafted into the village. Some worked regularly for one farmer only, whilst others helped on various farms either as individuals or in a group as the work dictated.

The Wards left Vaglefield in 1942 after the death of their daughter and Isaac Grossman of London bought it. He kept chickens for the Kosher Trade but as owner was absent for much of the time leaving Oscar Fogwill of Bramble Cottage, Glaziers Lane in charge. On the death of Isaac Grossman in the 1950s, his son Albert inherited the farm but owing to legal difficulties involving the Dyne Property Investment Company, was unable to take possession of the farm. In 1977 a controversial attempt was made to sell 42 acres of the farm in small lots, some as small as 1/4 acre without apparent rights of access or planning permission. Some plots were bought by bordering house owners. Guildford Borough Council, concerned at probable development problems issued an emergency directive that the land could only be used for agricultural purposes.

Transfers of Land accelerate

In 1943 Albert Goodman bought Westwood Farm from the Coopers. John Wallace who was farming at Dolleys Hill took over Sandpit Farm and Wyke Rough Holding.

With the end of World War II some smallholdings, orchards and the smaller market gardens disappeared to be replaced mainly by housing projects. A somewhat unusual change occurred at The Vine Farm smallholding and The Glen cottage, Pirbright Road where in 1946 David (Jim) Richards kept pigs on the smallholding. For the offence of moving his pigs through an infected area without a licence, Farnham Magistrates fined David £5.1s.0d. At that time this was a large sum of money compared to its value today. Although what followed had nothing to do with the offence, the Ministry of Defence in later years bought both the smallholding and the cottage and demolished the buildings as part of their plan to improve security of access to the ranges.

The Wiltshires of Lynthorne, Guildford Road moved in 1946 from their nursery holding and over the next few years the land changed hands several times. In 1947 the Ellerys took over the tenancy of Cleygate Farm from the Emerys who had leased it since 1930 from Surrey County Council. Paddy Johnston moved from Wyke Heath Farm to 2 The Oaks, Pirbright Road which then ceased as a nursery and the land was converted by him for equestrian use. In 1950 Newman and Judith Turner bought Little Flexford, although the farm was considerably reduced from its 53 acres at the turn of the 20th century. In its time it had been known as Gray's Farm and for the previous few years as the Stud Farm when run by Wentworth Gray.

The Gardiners came to 1 Westwood Farm Cottages and in 1947 bought Westwood Farm from Albert Goodman who kept and continued to live in the farmhouse until 1961 when the family eventually managed to buy the now run-down farmhouse from him. The mother, Kathleen Gardiner was the farmer, keeping pigs, cows and growing kale, hay and barley. Interestingly in the 1950s the Gardiners were amongst the first farmers in the country to use silage pits. In 1968 they sold to Peter Parsons of nearby Buckhurst, Westwood Lane who restored the farmhouse with a grant from the Local Authority and created an equestrian centre calling it Parwood. In 1972 he sold out to Stan and Jean Ennor. They continued with the centre for a while but by the time it was sold to Harry Goold in 1986, they had concentrated on keeping cattle. Today, Harry Goold resides at Great Westwood, as the farmhouse is now called, Parwood is again an equestrian centre and most of the land is down to grass.

The 1950s saw the final break-up of the Poyle Estate. A number of tenants bought their farms as the leases ran out but quickly sold them on again, as for example, did the Attfields at Pound Farm. They sold Pound Farm House, as it is now known, to a Mr Snape, much of the land went to the Gowers, whilst the farm buildings and the large field opposite went eventually to Mr W Southgate, who later built a new bungalow there for himself. The Bides at Shortlands gave up when their lease ran out and Henry Ayres eventually bought the land.

By 1955 Alexander Bevan and his wife Marguerite of Elms Gardens, eager to retire, sold most of the nursery business to Colin Davidson but he retained a few fields abutting the gardens of Dardon and Orchard House, Glaziers Lane. Robin Furlonger who joined Colin Davidson at Elms Gardens as a sweeper and tea-boy had by 1974 progressed through the business to become a director of the company. The nursery was sold in 1975 to J & E Page of Covent Garden and then to Norman Duncan in 1979. Robin purchased the business for himself in 1981. One of his special contracts was producing the flower displays each year for "Wimbledon" the renowned venue for the annual Lawn Tennis Championships. Robin sold the business in December 1987 to two London businessmen and retired with his wife Eileen to Devon. The Marshalls, who had their market gardening business close to Elms Gardens, gave up their holding following the death in June 1966 of one of the brothers, Thomas William of Kamptee, Glaziers Lane. The present owners of the land are also named Marshall but are unrelated.

The larger disposals continue

The entry of the Nation into the European Economic Community and its Common Agricultural Policy has influenced further decline in agriculture. The "Set Aside" Policy has accelerated that trend but even before these events, farming was in decline owing to falling prices for produce, the increasing costs for machinery, fertilisers and wages. Those crops that could not be harvested mechanically or required intensive tending had disappeared. As a result no commercial market garden or nursery remained in Normandy. The last vegetables to be grown commercially on a large scale were cabbages and leeks at East Wyke Farm. Today cereals are the main crops to be found growing in Normandy. The industry is probably at an all-time low.

East Wyke Farm was sold in 1996. Patrick Giles bought the farmhouse and the surrounding land and most of the remainder went to Tim Hunt and Harry Goold. Following the sale, the two brothers John and Brian Sherwood retired. John and his family remained at East Wyke Cottages now reverted to the earlier name of West Wyke Farm, retaining the adjoining fields. Brian and his wife Janet retired to West Clandon.

Manor Fruit Farm ceased production in 1970 and was bought in 1979 by the Guildford Borough Council and tenanted until 1989 for agricultural use to protect the land from development. A part of the site, fronting Glaziers Lane, has been developed for the Normandy Surgery, a branch surgery of the Fairlands Practice, and a part retained by the Borough Council for future housing needs. The greater portion of the site now has planning approval for leisure and recreational development by the Parish Council.

On the death in 1989 of Robert Turner, Henley Park Farm and its 220 acres passed to his daughter, Elizabeth Atkins of Hunts Hill House. The farmhouse and barns have since been sold and are currently being converted for residential use.

Very few people living in Normandy today actually rely on the land to provide them with a living. Equally only a few live and work here, since the majority commute, mainly by car, to their workplace, be it in London, the nearby towns of Guildford, Woking, Aldershot and Farnborough or elsewhere. As a result, the car is seen everywhere and ever larger lorries use the lanes of the village. Although this description may be too general it serves to show how different Normandy is today from that of a century ago.

From time to time, however, characters emerge to lighten our everyday lives. One such person was Gus Krawczyk, a once familiar sight around Ash, Normandy even as far afield as Guildford, on his dilapidated tractor with his collie dog riding in the trailer. He and his wife lived at The Lodge, Normandy Park where he had a smallholding and kept a variety of livestock.

The presence of the horse in the fields and on the roads is possibly a more common sight than at the start of the 20th century. A few cattle and sheep can still be seen here and there. The rural crafts have all but disappeared, and the village no longer has its resident smithy although farriers ply their trade to horse owners from mobile vans. Hedge laying in the traditional way can be seen occasionally, such as in Beech Lane where John Milne is restoring ancient hedges bordering his woods at Highfield Copse.

In the space of a century Normandy has changed from a village totally dependent on agriculture, to a dormitory village with a small amount of land still devoted to agricultural use, some leisure orientated business and numerous fields used as paddocks. Large areas of woodland still remain.

CHAPTER 3

HOW THE PARISH HAS DEVELOPED

*Be it ever so humble
There's no place like home.*

*Clari, the Maid of Milan
John Howard Payne*

A Tour of the Village in 1900

Perhaps the most obvious sign of change in the village is the way in which housing has developed. At the time when our survey begins the hamlets that go to make up the parish of Normandy appeared to be even more widely separated than they are today because of the large gaps between them.

If you had approached Normandy from the Guildford direction the first buildings you would have seen would have been the two old half-timbered cottages at Willey Green now called respectively Chapel Farm and The Old Homestead. The little Congregational chapel had been there since 1825 and there was also a single-storied dwelling known as Wren's Nest that has since been demolished and a modern bungalow built on the site. At the sharp bend in the road there was, as is now, a small triangular green but in those days there was a pond there. In the triangle formed by Guildford Road, the beginning of Bailes Lane and the track joining the two were the Duke of Normandy public house, a knot of eight pairs of semi-detached cottages and a shop. Further down Bailes Lane opposite Bales Farm was a piece of land known as New Cut. Strictly speaking this term referred to the extension of the lane southwards from Bales Farm to make it more suitable for the passage of carts but had also been applied to the plot of land. This plot was part of Old House Farm also known as Tickners referred to in a will of 1877 that linked it with the land to the north known as Watersfield. On it were several buildings including eight dwellings, two pairs of semi-detached cottages near the road and a group of four laying further back and which was probably the old farmhouse divided into tenements. Only one pair of semi-detached cottages remains today as New Cut Cottages. Watersfield, which amounted to just over eleven acres and formed part of the estate of Henry Collins of Whitley Farm, would later play a part in the development of the area. Near the end of Bailes Lane was Ashfield Lodge and at the end of the track looking westwards was Cleygate Barn Farm.

Returning to Guildford Road and journeying westwards, there was a gap with fields on each side and a stream running under the road and into Henley Park. It was spanned at this point by Tickners Bridge. The road was little more than a rutted track, prone to flooding in wet weather and when it dried out in the summer any traffic would raise clouds of dust. After Tickners Bridge was Fairview Farm and its cottages and then the road makes a sharp 'S' bend and on the right hand side was the old Anchor inn which stood on the site of the present building. On the same side were two detached houses and opposite was a knot of five pairs of semi-detached cottages of various ages and the half-timbered cottage of Pritchells then divided into two dwellings and called Deedmans Cottages. Another old cottage now appropriately called Old Cottage, and the row of Stedman's Cottages dating from the 17th century standing back from the road. A little further along on the same side were two substantial villas called Wyke House and Glenmore which is now known as Deanlands. Next to it was the village general store, now Normandy Motorcycles, and behind was a cottage.

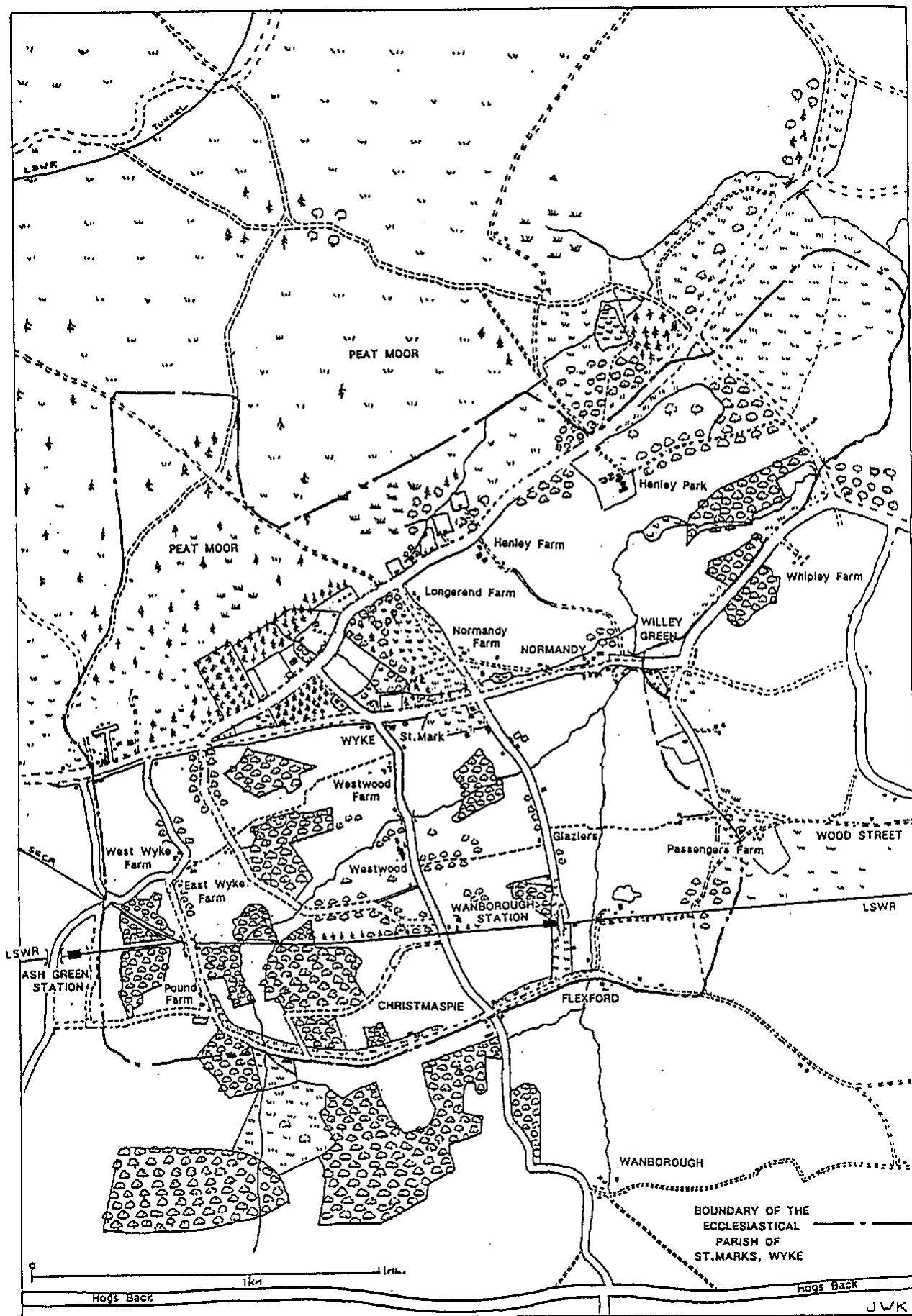


Figure 8 Normandy 1900

On the opposite side of the road there were a Blacksmith's premises and off the road a house called Tatters, dating from 1741, approached off the present track to Henley Park Farm.

There was then another gap with the grounds of Manor Nursery on the south and common land on the north until reaching the crossroads. Here, Normandy Pond was in full view of the road and not screened by trees as it is now. To the north and running roughly parallel with the main road was the backwater of Normandy Common Road that had once been the alternative route of the Guildford Road. Scattered along it was the 17th century Normandy Hill Farm with its cottage, then a cottage which has since disappeared, leaving no trace of its existence and the half-timbered Longerend Cottage, at that time divided into two dwellings. Just off to the south was Normandy Hill Cottage, also divided into two tenements, and its smallholding. Further on, the Manor House, then called Manor Farm, had assumed more or less the appearance the house bears today, but having been greatly altered from William Cobbett's time.

Contemporary postcards show that this area was much less wooded than it is today. Continuing over Hunts Hill Road, a track, once the continuation of the alternative Guildford Road route, ran to two cottages on the common, Fernhill and Fernhill Cottage. Returning to Hunts Hill Road and turning north you would come to Longerend Farm then still a working establishment. There was a horse pond by the road in front of the house. Retracing back to the crossroads, the Methodist chapel stood on the corner having superseded a smaller building further along Glaziers Lane. A little further along Guildford Road, a large house called Como, now called Mariners, lay back off the road and reached by a driveway. There was then another gap until St. Mark's Church was reached with Wyke Lodge, then called Wyke Cottage, on the other side of the road. Just before the church was a small pond by the road. The vicarage would be built just west of here in 1903. On the corner of Westwood Lane was Wyke Cross House with North Wyke Farm adjacent. Just up School Lane was Wyke C of E School and its schoolhouse.

There was a break of about half a mile with fields on either side until you reached Elm Hill. In the fork formed by the Guildford and Pirbright Roads were three pairs of newly built semi-detached houses. At the top of Elm Hill on the north side was Slades Lane with Slade Cottages at the end. The lane ran up past the grounds of The Firs, now called Fox Lodge. Next to it was another large house in its own grounds called Elstowe now known as Victoria House. The hamlet of Pinewoods, which has always been geographically separated from the rest of the built-up parts of the village, appears to have developed earlier than the rest of Normandy. At the turn of the 20th century there were proportionately more people at that end of the parish than there are today. This may explain the early opening of several shops in that area. Pinewoods had undergone rapid development during the last quarter of the 19th century. Only twenty years before the beginning of our survey there was only the Nightingale inn and eight houses shown on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map. The subsequent development has been almost entirely on the north side of the Guildford Road. In 1897 the Nightingale inn was at the western boundary of what was then Wyke. Opposite it were four cottages. Running up on to the common by the side of the inn was a rough track said to have been the bed of a stream, which marked the actual boundary. A little way up the track was a pair of semi-detached cottages. Going east from the Nightingale was a post office and general store and a short row of houses. An old photograph shows them neat behind their railings and white picket fences. Pinewood Road, which had been a rough track to a gravel-pit, had several houses and bungalows along its length. There was a brickyard at the top and Upper Pinewood Road crossed the 'T' with a row of four cottages and a bungalow on the south and six detached and a pair of semi-detached on the north.

On the corner of Guildford Road was a pair of old cottages dating from the 18th century called Stone Cottages. There was a large gap and then a row of three cottages next to the grounds of Elstowe.

Taking the left hand road at Elm Hill and proceeding down Pirbright Road which on this stretch was known as Normandy Park Road, the first building before Rands Plantation was a bungalow on a former brickfield. On the western edge of Rands Plantation was Capel Cottage, an old brick building approached by a track off the road. Next, on the eastern side of the plantation was a pair of semi-detached cottages called The Firs, which had been built by George Bean of Normandy Park. The north side of the road beyond this point had been largely cleared of the firs of Newlands Plantation. On the other side were open fields until a patch of woodland just before School Lane. Opposite the woodland, George Bean had also built another pair of semi-detached cottages called The Oaks. One of these was occupied by Thomas Dennis the proprietor of Normandy Park Nurseries, which filled the gap between the cottages and the gates of Normandy Park. Just inside the gates was the lodge beside the main drive that led to Normandy Park mansion. At the foot of Dolleys Hill was the back drive to the house and on the slope of the hill was a single-storied cottage used as a beer house and called The Swealed Cat. A modern bungalow now stands on the site. Up the hill was a pair of semi-detached 18th century cottages that had been converted from a single-storey forester's dwelling. On the Dolley smallholding were three cottages. Further along on the south side of the road was another smallholding with a cottage now called Old Thatch. Next came the WD warden's quarters which, now enlarged and in private hands, is Springhill. Next to it was a further smallholding with a cottage where now is a bungalow built in 1929 and called Mount Pleasant.

Opposite the junction with Hunts Hill Road there had been, prior to 1896, still another smallholding with a cottage. The cottage had been demolished and a row of three cottages built by Lord Pirbright for his employees. Further along the road on the same side had been yet another smallholding with a house standing back and a pair of bungalows nearer the road. Lord Pirbright built a further pair of cottages there in 1896 and followed these with three more pairs in 1900. The original house was knocked down but the bungalows were taken over. Plaques bearing the letter 'P', surmounted by a baronial coronet, distinguish the cottages built by Lord Pirbright.

Two more smallholdings lay out on Cleygate Common. The smaller of the two, Vine Farm, had a farmhouse and a single-storey cottage divided into two. The other smallholding had a house called The Glen and stabling. None of these buildings is still in existence but a modern bungalow is built on the site of Vine farmhouse. On the other side of the road was the substantial farmhouse of Henley Park Farm dating from about 1650 with its cottage down a track off the road. In a further quarter of a mile the gates of Henley Park were reached with the mansion and its attendant buildings laying back unseen from the road. By the gates was a lodge but this was not the principal entrance to the estate. Passing on to Cobbett's crossroads and turning right down Cobbett Hill Road there was little sign of habitation apart from two farms on the east side of the road. Halfway along on the west side of the road, the main gates of Henley Park were reached, again with their attendant lodge. The main drive ran through an avenue of trees to the front of the house. At this time the grounds were beautifully landscaped and with formal gardens nearer the house. There was an extensive walled kitchen garden on the south-facing slope. Features of the grounds were the lake, formed by damming the stream that runs under Tickners Bridge, and Tumbling Bay that was a cascade with rocks. A little further down the hill was a track running off eastwards, at the end of which was a pair of old cottages. At the bottom of the hill was Clasford Bridge that had replaced an earlier structure in 1826 and was where the stream emerged from the park. On reaching the main road we

could then have turned right and come back to our starting point. However, we would still have some parts of the parish to cover.

If we then returned to the village crossroads and turned left into Glaziers Lane, or Station Road as it was then, we should have seen on the right the old chapel which had been replaced by the larger one on the corner and a pair of semi-detached cottages. There was then a space with the grounds of the Manor Nurseries on the left and fields on the right. In due course there was a group of glasshouses and storage buildings connected with the nursery and a row of cottages for the employees. Opposite was the old farmhouse now called Halsey Cottage that dates from the 16th century. Further down on the left was the large Victorian house called The Elms, which is now The White House. Next on the right was the old half-timbered farmhouse of Glaziers, then two dwellings. Until the road was made up a few years previously, this was as far as it went. The way forward was over a stretch of common whose relics are in the wide verges to the present-day road. There was a cottage at the north east portion of Pusseys Copse, which stretched down to the railway and fields on the opposite side. The group of buildings around the station included a post office and a pair of railway cottages, now replaced by modern houses on the other side of the bridge. A little further along on the left-hand side was a pair of cottages and at Flexford Green there was a farmhouse and a few more cottages. Wanborough Brickworks had recently commenced operations a little further east and there was a row of cottages for the workers.

Along Flexford Road there were no buildings until Christmaspie crossroads where there was Christmaspie farmhouse with a barn on the opposite side of the road. Just south of the crossroads and over the boundary were another smithy and a brick kiln. Continuing into Green Lane, then called Christmaspie Road, the first building you would reach was the newly built pair of cottages at the Weekwood smallholding on the Westwood Estate. A little way past the cottages the present-day surfaced road ends and the continuation gives a good impression of what the majority of roads in Normandy were like at the end of the 19th century. After about half a mile were Bushy Leas Cottages and finally the imposing Victorian Pound Farmhouse. Just up Pound Farm Lane was a pair of farm cottages and further on by the railway-bridge was another pair of cottages for railway workers called Junction Cottages. It must be remembered that at this time the Farnham Branch of the LSW railway that ran through Ash Green was still in existence. It was the original main line of the South Eastern Railway line to Reading, which branched off just past the bridge. Beyond the bridge and into Wyke Lane, at the top of the hill were the farmhouses of East and West Wyke Farms with their associated barns and outhouses. Down a track off Wyke Lane was a pair of farm cottages. This track led down to the ancient way of Folly Hatch Lane where there was another pair of cottages known at that time as Wyke Lane Cottages and later as Folly Hatch Cottages. These have now disappeared. If we had turned north along the lane it would have brought us out to Elm Hill.

Returning to Wyke crossroads and proceeding down Westwood Lane the first building was the pair of newly built cottages for the Westwood Estate appropriately named New Cottages. Round the bend on the right hand side was Westwood Farm with its imposing farmhouse, then divided into three tenements, with the great barn in front and sundry lesser farm buildings scattered around. Further along by the bridge known as High Bridge was a pair of cottages on the site of the former Highbridge smallholding acquired by Lannoy Richard Coussmaker in 1789 as the first extension of his estate, replaced after World War II by two bungalows. Then came the mansion house of Westwood with a croquet lawn and cedar trees in front guarded by a ha-ha or sunken wall. The Georgian stable block now converted into a house called Buckhurst and other buildings lay to the north. Stretching south from the mansion was a long avenue of conifers at the end of which was the kitchen garden and the gardener's cottage. There was a further stretch

with fields on either side and then immediately before the railway embankment was George West's Cottage named after the Coussmaker family's coachman who lived there with his family for several years. It is now called Purse Ryde Cottage after the strip of land by the railway. Just past the railway arch on the right was the entrance to Beech Lane that was originally a continuation of Folly Hatch Lane but had been severed by the railway. At this time there appear to have been no houses in Beech Lane except for a platelayer's cottage on the south embankment but this was soon to change as was the stretch to Christmaspie crossroads which was then also innocent of houses. The majority of the buildings mentioned are still in existence although some of them have been altered almost beyond recognition. Most of the houses built for their employees by the landowners were "tied cottages" which were rent-free but had to be vacated as soon as the employee ceased to work for the owner. This was especially hard if the wage earner fell ill for any length of time and the family was evicted. Happily, there is no evidence of this happening in Normandy and the landowners seem to have been generally benevolent.

Changes in the Early Twentieth Century

This picture of Normandy remained virtually unchanged with a few exceptions until just after World War I. Land belonging to the Normandy Park Estate and bordering Pirbright Road had been gradually sold off during the first decade of the twentieth century. The substantial houses of Orchardene and Woodlands as well as two pairs of semi-detached villas between Rands Plantation and the gates of Normandy Park had been built. A little later two more houses were erected on the land of the former Normandy Park Nursery filling the remaining gap. A few more houses were built in Glaziers Lane prior to World War I. These were on the eastern side of the road towards the railway and included two detached houses and three pairs of semis.

The sale of parts of Manor Nursery released a considerable amount of land around what is now the centre of the village. In 1921 land on the corner of Guildford Road and Glaziers Lane was conveyed to the trustees for Normandy Village Hall and the first hall, adapted from a Warrant Officers' mess, erected on the site. This building stood on brick pillars and there was enough room underneath for children to play there.

In 1924 land adjoining the plot occupied by the village hall and having a frontage of 220 feet on the Guildford Road was sold to Theophilus Arthur Allen and William John Henry. Soon after a further piece of the Manor Nursery land next to the village hall and fronting on to Glaziers Lane was conveyed for the erection of a dwelling house. It would be reasonable to assume that these conveyances marked the beginning of the build up of housing along Guildford Road and to some extent in Glaziers Lane as before long the stretch of the former between the old village general store and the crossroads was lined by substantial houses. More houses were being built at the north end of Glaziers Lane and St.Mary's RC Church, converted from an army building, was erected. A few more houses and bungalows had been built south of the railway and two shops, the Corner Stores and Wanborough Stores, had appeared.

At Pinewoods the gaps along the north side of Guildford Road were gradually being filled with new houses and more bungalows were appearing in Pinewood Road and Upper Pinewood Road. At Elm Hill, in the mid 1920s, more houses were built along the north sides of Guildford Road and Pirbright Road. Later, Elm Hill Bungalows were built along Guildford Road, east of the junction with Pirbright Road.

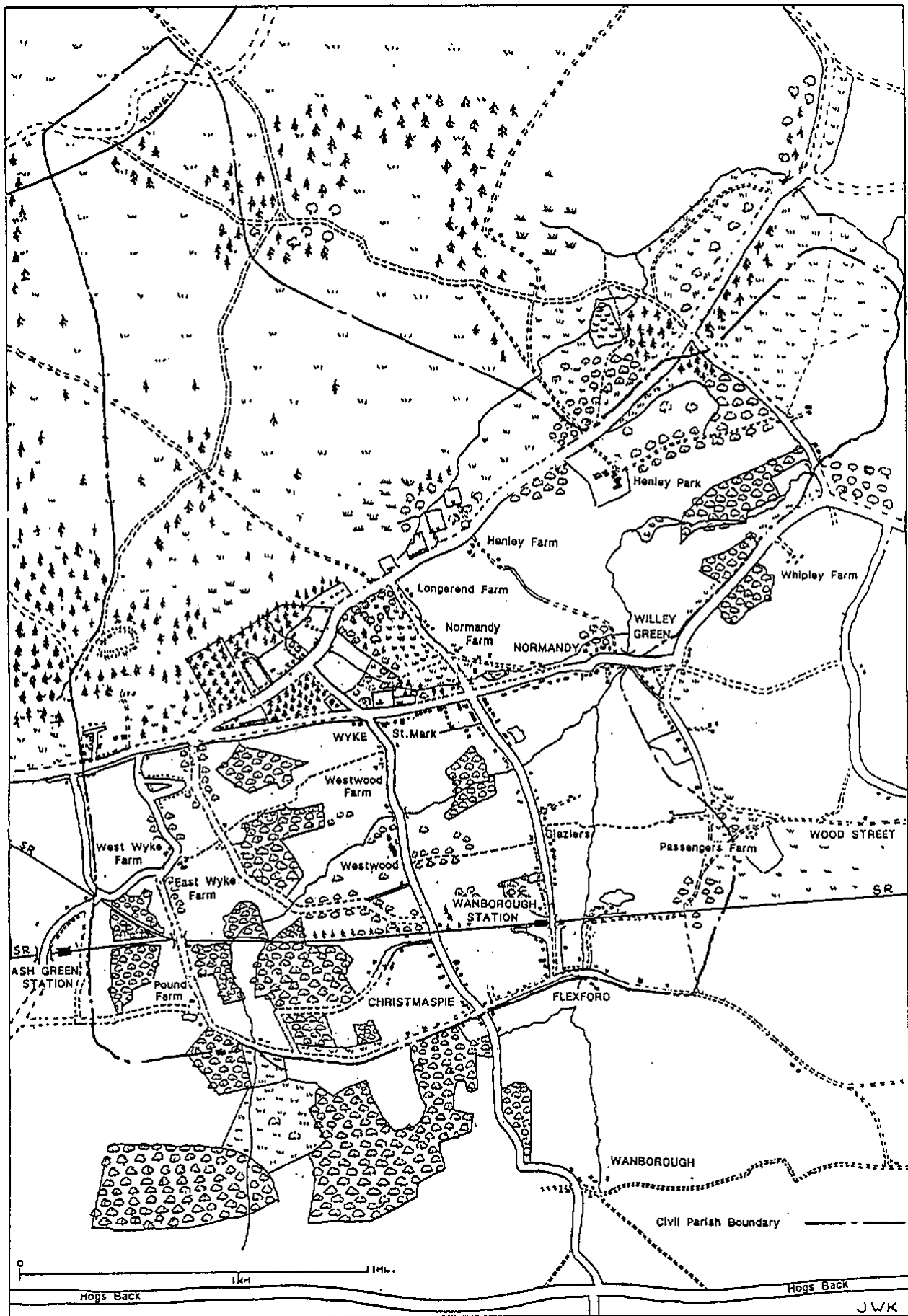


Figure 9 Normandy in about 1935

The break-up of the Wanborough and Poyle estates was to have their effect. Christmaspie was rapidly becoming a shantytown with a proliferation of ex-army buildings and wooden and corrugated iron bungalows outnumbering the more substantial houses. Two ex-army buildings were erected in Hunts Hill Road. One was called Stratton Doric and the modern bungalow that replaced it perpetuates the name. The other was Foxwell that still exists as Foxwell Cottage, the former name being taken over by the modern house further up the hill.

The original Foxwell was lived in by an ex-army officer who ran a pig farm, which got into difficulties, as did so many similar enterprises in the 1930s.

An example of the relaxed attitude of local authorities to building between the wars is the case recalled by Lionel Brown. In the early 1930s he, his brother and a friend, Eric Crouch, rented, for 1s-6d a week, a meadow at Westwood Farm then tenanted by Captain Peters. Throughout one winter and extending over nine months they built a wooden bungalow in the meadow and fenced it to keep the cows out. It was built as a holiday home and they dug out and concreted a swimming pool in the same meadow. It even had a water chute. Their occupancy was terminated when Captain Peters moved to a farm in the Lewes area.

The 1930s saw further bursts of building activity in all parts of the village. In 1928 Watersfield at Willey Green was sold to James Garman, a Guildford builder and in 1930 he sold the southern part with a frontage to Bailes Lane to Arthur Neane, Alec James Colborne and Alfred Harry Patrick Colborne. Soon after, the Colborne brothers started to build houses on the land. It was divided into half acre plots and the prospective purchasers were given the choices of buying the whole plot or just a quarter of an acre on which the house would be built and a bungalow would be built on the other half of the plot. Several purchasers opted to retain their half acre plots, later selling for infilling until the 1960s or even later, the last house New Cottage being built in 1984/5. In 1953, Alice Mary Collins, a descendant of Henry Collins and owner of the remainder of his estate, sold the southern part of New Cut to Jack Purser. Later, the six cottages on this part were demolished and seven new houses were built. The northern part of Watersfield bordering the Guildford Road was earmarked for the new Normandy telephone exchange during the 1960-70 period but in the event subscribers were transferred to the Guildford, Puttenham and Worplesdon exchanges. To some extent the process of infilling also occurred in Glaziers Lane where the land of Orchard House and Dardoni on the east and Hillbrow and Ledsham on the west had bungalows interposed. Three identical houses were built by Ward and Ward of Ash between Halsey Cottage and The Croft in Glaziers Lane. A curious provision, which is said to apply to these houses, and probably others along the road, is that the Army has the right to graze their horses in the front gardens. This is probably a relic of the time when the lane was a rough narrow track running between wide grass verges.

Colonel Lannoy John Coussmaker of Westwood, who was an architect by profession, designed several houses in the village in the 1930s. These include the two houses at Henley Park called Orchard House and Orchard Cottage, three houses in Guildford Road east of the old vicarage called Spinney Cottage, Tabeel and Freemoor and Wyke Cottage on the opposite side of the road and Alloway in Westwood Lane. In 1934 after Colonel Coussmaker had failed to sell some of his land in Glaziers Lane to the council for a sewage farm, he went ahead with a plan to develop a housing estate on the site. This scheme got as far as the erection of the two pairs of semi-detached houses set at an angle to the road and intended to form the entrance to the estate but for various reasons the project failed to progress and the rest of the site remained as farming land. During the late 1930s, Charles Cull had bought land at Christmas Pie and Flexford that had been occupied by chicken farms and he began to build a housing estate. Being close to Wanborough Station, the estate would be attractive to people, who travelled to work by train but the development was halted by the outbreak of war.

Post War Development

As soon as restrictions were lifted after World War II, building resumed and when Mr. Cull died in 1958, his successors, the building firm of Robertsons, built Culls Road and named it after him. Cull had also built several bungalows along the eastern side of Westwood Lane and these are said to be the last houses he built before he died. Robertsons also built Orchard Close and Orchard Way. Another building contractor who was involved in the development of the Christmaspie area was the Farnborough firm of Ulander who took over the yard from Robertsons. Ulanders built several chalet houses in Christmaspie Avenue. At the end of this road is Szabo Crescent named after the World War II heroine Violette Szabo who was trained at Wanborough Manor. Ulanders bought and demolished Christmaspie Cottage, which was the old farmhouse of Christmaspie Farm and thought to be 300 years old. They built several bungalows on the land and went on to build more houses in Westwood Lane. Soon the between-the-wars shacks and army huts were swept away and replaced by modern buildings. Today the only relics of the pre-war era are a garage and a few elderly bungalows including Roseville on the corner of Orchard Close, lived in by Major Todd, who ran a rose nursery there.

Flexford Road and its continuation into Green Lane East was developed but here the houses were built only on the north side of the road except for the large houses west of the crossroads which fall outside the parish boundary. Lord Taylor of Taylor Woodrow who had built the house named Long Common in 1961, bought the black barn that stood on the south side of Flexford Road opposite Christmaspie Cottage. In July 1966 the barn suddenly collapsed and Lord Taylor tried to get permission to build houses along the south side of Flexford Road but this was refused.

In 1964 seven people who owned land on the western side of Westwood Lane entered into an agreement with Flatfurn Ltd, a property company, to obtain permission to develop the land which was said to be agriculturally uneconomic. It was planned to build 200 houses on the site, bounded by Westwood Lane and Beech Lane. Permission was refused for the development on the grounds that it would be detrimental to the rural character of the area, that it fell in the Green Belt and there was no main drainage in the district.

More houses were built in Glaziers Lane until there was hardly any break in the development along the entire length. The Methodist chapel after a spell as a drawing office was demolished and houses built on the site. Preston House where the butchers shop had been was knocked down and replaced by the row of Heritage Cottages. The Manor Bungalow at the nursery was demolished and three houses built on the site. During World War II the Army requisitioned land belonging to the Glaziers smallholding to build a searchlight station. The members of the unit were housed in a line of huts that were retained after the war and converted into six bungalows called Glaziers Bungalows. Eventually the council tenants occupying the bungalows were rehoused and the huts were removed. Two new bungalows now occupy the site and perpetuate the name as Nos. 1 and 2 Glaziers Bungalows. On the opposite side of the road Red Leys, the children's home was demolished and four houses built there, of which one is named Red Leys.

South of the railway the platelayers' cottages were demolished and houses built on the site. A small service road was constructed and more houses erected along it. The gaps, on either side of the old pair of semi-detached cottages, on the eastern side of the road were filled with houses. One of these named Glenmore was The House of the Year at the Ideal Home Exhibition of 1965. A few years earlier, a bungalow that received a similar accolade was won in a newspaper competition and erected in Culls Road. On the other

side of the road, the Corner Stores was converted into a dwelling and Wanborough Stores was demolished and three detached houses built on the site. Round the corner in Flexford Road a new avenue of houses was built at Willow Drive, followed by Laureldene built on land previously occupied by a house called Elmerdene. These developments have effectively infilled any gaps left from the operations of Messrs Cull and Robertson.

At Pinewoods there is now only a very small undeveloped gap between the boundary of the parish and the Aldershot/Ash conurbation. Houses and bungalows have been built along the entire length of Nightingale Road, which however, remains a rough track. An attempt was made to make up Pinewood Road but owing to disagreements and misunderstanding the surfaced part extends only about a yard off Guildford Road.

The first council houses to be built in Normandy were those of the Wyke Avenue Estate. They were built between 1927 and 1935 on a former strawberry field. Improvements were carried out in 1986 and some old people's bungalows were built at the western end of the green. A start was made on another council estate, that of Walden Cottages, immediately before the war but building was brought to a halt by the hostilities and the estate was only completed after the war. These houses were built on a field that had belonged to the Westwood Estate. They were called Walden Cottages because Westwood Farm was known as Walden's Farm during a period in the 19th century. Some of the houses contain upstairs and downstairs flats.

The provision of council housing has done much to improve the living standards of people on low incomes and the damp and insanitary cottages that so bedevilled the average agricultural worker have become a thing of the past. Successive governments have encouraged home ownership and councils were given the power to sell off some of their housing stock. Many tenants took advantage of the generous terms offered and became homeowners.

The emphasis has been on private housing in recent years but the Planning Authorities have imposed conditions. An example is in the case of Laureldene which was only built as an infill consisting of four bungalows after a great deal of bargaining with Guildford Council who objected to an earlier scheme to build thirteen houses on the site. When Taylor Woodrow acquired land at Flexford in the 1970s, Lord Taylor offered to hand over some of the land to the National Housing Association for them to build six bungalows for rent to retired people. This was a bargaining ploy to enable him to develop the Paddocks Estate. He was allowed to build 34 houses and bungalows but was prevented from extending the estate further by the imposition of a Conservation Order on the adjacent land. An original condition attached to the six bungalows built by the Housing Association was that the tenant should have worked on the land. This stipulation was later dropped as it was realised that the number of ex-farm workers was rapidly diminishing and the regulations now allow anyone who has a son or daughter living in the village to rent a bungalow. The Puttenham Housing Association, as a branch of the National body, runs such a scheme.

A post-war phenomenon has been the introduction of the so-called Mobile Home. The modern mobile home is only mobile in the sense that it can be taken to and from a site, often in sections, on a transporter. The site provides all the necessary services and once set up the unit has all the amenities of a permanent home. There are two areas in Normandy where Mobile Home Parks have been established, at Willey Green and at Dolleys Hill. Most of the parks appear to have started life as sites for conventional caravans but the first "Mobile Home" was a converted London tramcar. In the 1950s Mr and Mrs Enoch Aliston gave their bungalow in London to their newly married son.

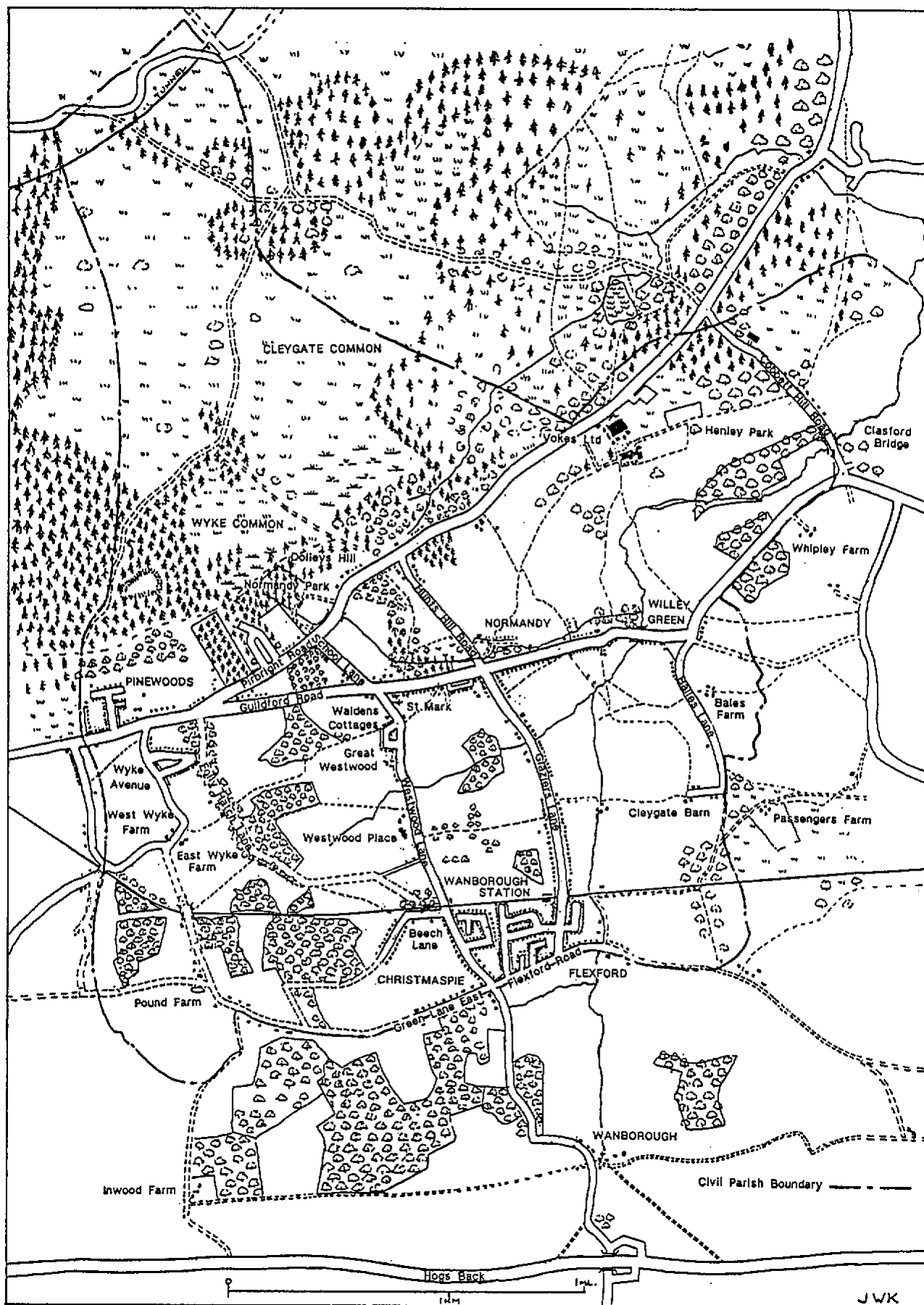


Figure 10 Normandy in the year 2000

Having bought the tram they had it towed to the Chapel Farm site. They called their new home "Dammit Trammit" although it was later officially named Windy Ridge. By 1964 the mobile home fashion had taken off and both the Chapel Farm and Homestead sites at Willey Green began to receive units. The adjacent Willows and Middle View sites soon followed. The mobile home units are ranged on the flat land at the base and on the lower slopes of the hill rising above Guildford Road.

The Dolleys Hill Caravan Park appears to have started in much the same way as the Willey Green establishments. The land, previously a chicken farm, was developed by the adoptive son, Mr. Sanderson-Dolley, of the last of the Dolley family to live on the hill. Their antecedents on this site go back to the 18th century. Sanderson-Dolley built Dolleys Hill House using a novel type of hollow concrete block invented by Sylvia Kellerman's father, Edwin Hayward, and made in his garden in Byfleet. This house has recently been demolished and a new and larger house erected in its place. The beautifully landscaped site of the mobile homes is ranged on the steep hillside and a feature is the view south extending to the Hogs Back.

Although the majority of houses in Normandy have been built using traditional materials and techniques, there have been a few cases where innovative or novel methods have been used. We have already mentioned Dolleys Hill House and this appears to have remained the sole example of its type. Some of the Walden Cottage houses described as "Airey Homes" were built using the "No Fines" technique. This used concrete from which the fine aggregate had been omitted and was cast in situ using simple shuttering. Although of comparatively low strength, it was claimed that it had little capillary attraction and low moisture movement. It could be rendered and plastered readily owing to its texture. The technique lost favour after faults, mainly due to poor workmanship, developed on other estates and the rest of the Walden Cottages estate was completed using traditional materials. There have been many wooden buildings of various types in the parish from time to time but a rather up-market example is Red Pines in Hunts Hill Road which was built using a Canadian method of construction. One of the latest practices is the so-called "Inside-out" construction. With this method prefabricated wooden sections forming the inside skin are erected and then the roof is put on. Finally, the outside cladding is constructed. The advantages are that the house can be built very much more quickly than by using traditional methods and it is reasonably weatherproof at an early stage, which enables inside work to proceed. Several houses in the village have been built using this method, including the three houses that stand on the site of Wanborough Stores in Glaziers Lane.

Most of the old half-timbered cottages have been modernised and converted into "desirable residences of character". They would hardly be recognised by their former tenants. The village presents a very different picture to that of a hundred years ago but the development has been uneven. The largest concentration of houses is in the Flexford/Christmaspie area where much infilling has taken place. Elsewhere the story is chiefly of ribbon development along the principal roads of the parish. An aerial view would show something like a series of ganglia linked by tenuous strings of housing.

Although the village can offer a wide range of different types and quality of housing, the greatest lack is homes to meet the needs of both ends of the age spectrum. The need is for affordable accommodation for both the young and the elderly. Hopes in this direction have been raised by the decision of Guildford Council to reserve part of the Manor Fruit Farm site for four pairs of semi-detached houses. The rest of the complex will provide the village with much needed facilities. The proposed new Church Hall, which will be built to an attractive and innovative design, will enhance that part of the village near the church. Let us now take a closer look at some of the more interesting houses in the village.

Henley Park

The Manor of Henley was of very ancient foundation and at the time of Domesday Book incorporated the whole of the parish of Normandy as well as much of Ash. The Manor is mentioned in Domesday Book when it was held by the Abbey of Chertsey to whom it had been bequeathed by Azor, a Saxon landowner who had evidently made his peace with the Conqueror. We do not know whether Azor actually lived in Henley but Saxon coins have been recovered in the area. Chertsey Abbey sublet it to a succession of tenants. In 1349 Henley became a Royal Park and remained Crown property for upwards of three centuries. There must have been a dwelling of some sort from the earliest times but the first house that we have record of is that where the Duke of Roxburgh resided during his tenancy between 1723 and 1725. A house is shown on the Senex map of 1729. Fourteen years after the Duke left Henley the then owner, the Earl of Tilney, sold the estate to Solomon Dayrolles who was secretary to Lord Chesterfield, the politician and opponent of Walpole. In 1751, Dayrolles married and decided to carry out extensive renovations to the house. These amounted almost to a complete rebuild and the date is shown on drainpipe fittings on the south wall.

The house stands back from the Pirbright Road about a mile and a half from its junction with Guildford Road at Elm Hill. It is built of red brick and the workmanship is first class particularly in the execution of the window heads, which are of rubbed brick with extremely fine mortar joints. The house is basically in the form of a squat H in plan having short wings at the ends of a long central portion. The style is a mixture of Tudor and Georgian. The end gables of the wings having prominent kneelers while the windows are in Georgian style and proportion. For good measure the central dormer of the east front and the north and south extensions of the main roof have pediments of distinctly Dutch appearance. The pillared and canopied porch on the east front may be a later addition.

In 1784 Solomon Dayrolles conveyed the estate to Henry Halsey whose family retained the estate for nearly a century and a half. The family did not permanently reside there and for long periods it was let to a series of tenants. The most notable of these was Lord Pirbright formerly known as the Baron de Worms in the aristocracy of Austria. As such he succeeded Mr Gladstone as Member of Parliament for Greenwich and he became the first Privy Councillor of Jewish birth. He was a great friend of the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VII, who often visited Henley. Lord Pirbright made various alterations to the house including the addition of a wing to the south-west, which, it is alleged, was specially built to accommodate the Royal visitor. The house in Lord Pirbright's day was surrounded by fine gardens and the remains of some of these, although heavily overgrown, can still be distinguished. The grounds contain the remains of a lake fed from a stream rising on the lower slopes of the Hogs Back and flowing under Tickners Bridge in the village. A later feature is the Chinese Bridge spanning this stream in the grounds.

Lord Pirbright died in 1903 and left no male heir. The next tenants were Sir Owen and Lady Roberts. They were the great-grandparents of Lord Snowdon whose father, Ronald Armstrong-Jones lived at Stream House, Stanford Common for a time. Sir Owen was a barrister and served on numerous boards and committees relating to educational matters. He and his wife are remembered in the village for the work they did on behalf of the welfare of the community. From 1915 to 1919 the house was used as an auxiliary military hospital and Lady Roberts moved out to Fox Lodge in Pinewoods, Sir Owen having died in 1913. After World War I, Lady Roberts returned to Henley but left in 1926. She was the last tenant and soon after the estate was purchased by Edwin Ramsay Moodie.

In 1940, during World War II, the firm of Vokes who made industrial filters was bombed out of their factory in Putney. They purchased the estate and the factory was built in the grounds. The house was used for offices and to accommodate Mr Vokes' collection of weapons. After the war the house fell into disrepair and was abandoned by Vokes. The Edwardian wing was demolished and the rest of the house became a shell. There was every indication that although it was a listed building it would be allowed to fall down, but in 1997 it was bought by a development company and they completely restored the house. It is now divided into four high-class apartments. Six detached houses and five mews houses and cottages have been built in the grounds.

Westwood

The origins of the Westwood Estate are lost in the mists of time. The earliest reference that we have been able to find is that quoted in the English Place Names Society volume for Surrey which cites a mention of "*Westwude*" in a document dating from the reign of Henry III. (1216-72). The estate passed through various hands until in 1720 the Reverend Charles Moore, the Rector of Worplesdon, sold it to John de Coussmaker whose family retained it for over 200 years.

The house stands about half a mile south of St.Mark's Church in Westwood Lane. The earliest portion is the northern part called The Tudor Cottage. This is thought to date from before 1400 and was originally T-shaped and much bigger than it is now. It is of half-timbered construction with the timbers underbuilt and infilled with brick and tile hanging. Until it was converted it was a farmhouse occupied by a tenant farmer. When John de Coussmaker purchased the property he soon set about converting it to his requirements. He demolished part of the farmhouse and built a brick block in the southwestern angle in the contemporary Queen Anne style. This, however, consisted only of a semi-basement, one room on the first floor and two bedrooms so we think it must have been merely a hunting box for occasional visits and John de Coussmaker continued to occupy his main residence in Weybridge.

The next alteration to the house was in about 1780 when Lannoy Richard Coussmaker, John's grandson, demolished a further part of the old farmhouse and built the central part of the present house in Georgian style. It is constructed of brick covered in stucco and has canted bays at the front and rear. The tiled roofs are partially hidden by a parapet. A little later the imposing entrance tower was added to the east elevation. This is a two-storied structure in "Strawberry Hill Gothic" style having windows and doors with delicate Y tracery.

The last addition made to the house was in 1863 when Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker, Lannoy Richard's son, put the money he obtained from the sale of land on Normandy Common to the War Department towards building the southern extension. This is in matching style to the central portion and has a canopied balcony that originally extended around three sides. The principal room in this part was on the first floor and was a magnificent ballroom. There were cellars below and two bedrooms above. The Coussmaker family retained the house until 1961 when they sold it to a property developer, Windlesham Park Ltd., who converted it into the present five apartments and named it Westwood Place. The names of the apartments reflect the styles of the various parts of the house being in order of period The Tudor Cottage, Queen Anne House, First Georgian, Second Georgian and Regency House.

Buckhurst

After Westwood House was sold in 1961, the remaining members of the Coussmaker family moved to the former stable block which stands just to the north of the house and which had been converted to the designs of Philip Hepworth, the eminent Neo-Georgian architect, into an elegant family home.

It is believed that Lannoy Richard Coussmaker built the former building in the late 18th century as part of his programme of alterations. It was in the Georgian style and consisted of a two-storied central block flanked by single-storied wings. Philip Hepworth's design retained the centre block but added an upper storey to each wing. He was careful to preserve the Georgian character of the building. The house was named Buckhurst after the name for Westwood Farm on Willock's map of 1778. After Irene Coussmaker died in 1965, Peter Parsons bought the house and carried out extensive alterations to give the building its present appearance. The house has changed ownership twice since Peter Parsons moved to Great Westwood in the 1960s.

Westwood Farm (Great Westwood)

Great Westwood, acquired by the Coussmaker family in 1802, is in Westwood Lane between St.Mark's Church and Westwood Place. Westwood farmhouse, now Great Westwood, is believed to date from the mid-15th century. It is of half-timbered construction with close studding more typical of Wealden than local construction and is of a type that is rare in Surrey.

During the 18th century the house was underbuilt with brick and the exterior tile-hung thus completely disguising the half-timbered construction. By the time that Peter Parsons bought it in the 1960s, the farmhouse had fallen into disrepair and in 1968 he carried out an extensive restoration which included the stripping of the tile cladding. The large barn in front may have been built in the 16th century and the smaller one in the 18th century.

Wyke Lodge

The house stands almost opposite St.Mark's Church in Guildford Road. Like Westwood, Wyke Lodge has been altered and extended over a considerable period of time. The earliest part probably dates from the 17th century and is of half-timbered construction although the south front is disguised by later brickwork. At the back the timbering is exposed. The wooden schoolroom which forms the westernmost part was built at some time prior to 1839 as it is shown on the tithe map for Wyke surveyed in that year.

The section of the house east of the earliest part is shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1871. It is built of clunch blocks with brick quoins. William Henry Coussmaker, who inherited the Westwood estate from his father in 1882, was an architect. He appears to have made some alterations to this part of the house when he took it over, as there is a window with his characteristically designed arched head on the ground floor at both the front and rear. William Henry did not live at Westwood, which in his time was tenanted. We believe he came to live at Wyke Lodge when he inherited the Westwood estate and it is probable that he was also responsible for the last extension to the house to which was added the gabled portions to the east. This part is built of brick in a conventional Victorian style.

Originally, the glass canopy, now only on the south, extended round on the east forming a conservatory at that end. This part was removed some time after the house was sold in 1934 and a glazed porch built over

the doorway. The house was purchased in 1847 by Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker for the accommodation of the vicar of the newly constituted St.Mark's parish but in 1903 a new vicarage was built across the road. The house was then leased to a succession of tenants, one of whom was Colonel Llewellyn Wavell, believed to have been the uncle of Lord Wavell the World War II commander in the Middle East.

Normandy Park

The house is in Pirbright Road just east of the junction with School Lane. On 10 June 1867 the property then known as Newlands was sold by auction. It was stated to be about 53 acres in area and extended from the foot of Dolleys Hill to Rands Plantation having a frontage of nearly 2,000 feet to the road. The property was acquired by George Bean, an architect to the Surveyor General of Prisons, who soon after commenced the building of the mansion. Certain features of this part of the house, which constitutes the present West Wing, particularly the style of the window heads, suggest that William Henry Coussmaker had a hand in the design if he was not wholly responsible. The building is in stock brick with slate roofs. The style, which was probably influenced by that of the nearby Henley Park, is Tudor having gables with prominent kneelers. This part of the house also had a range of buildings to the east but separated from the main block. They were probably stables. The middle portion of the present house projects about six feet in front of the western part. It is obviously not part of the original structure and must have been added later, probably in the early 1890s.

In 1898 parts of the estate began to be sold off and the frontage with Pirbright Road began to be built on. In about 1910 the eastern range of buildings at the house was demolished and the present East Wing was built on to the middle portion. This wing was clearly intended to balance the West Wing as it is in a similar style but the windows are of different design. Various small additions have been made since that time. At its greatest extent the house contained about 30 reception rooms and bedrooms distributed over three floors. There is also a large cellar underneath the house. As was usual in a house of this type the family rooms were on the south side while the servants quarters were at the back. Normandy Park has had several interesting occupiers. In 1879 John R Riddell was the tenant. He had been a County Deputy Lieutenant in Scotland and his household included a Belgian butler, Louis Demain and a jockey, William Hankin. The next occupant was Major General Frederic Arthur Willis who was there for less than a year. Lt.General Sir Robert Onesiphorus Bright followed him. Sir Robert was a veteran of the Crimean War and had also fought in the Afghan War of 1879. He and his wife were active in the village and they and their daughters were in regular attendance at St.Mark's Church. The General died in 1896 and he and his wife are buried in St.Mark's churchyard. The next occupant was J R Arthur who lived there from 1899 until 1904.

In 1905 the estate was bought by Mr. (Later Sir) Philip Gutierrez Henriques. He was a rising lawyer and practised Common Law and Parliamentary Bar. He was knighted in 1918 in recognition for his services as Assistant Financial Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions. His only son, Philip Brydges Henriques, was killed in action at Ypres in 1915. Sir Philip was a JP and one of HM Lieutenants for the City of London. He was chairman of Surrey County Council between 1937 and 1940 and during World War II he was chairman of East Surrey Civil Defence. Sir Philip was a tall thin man in direct contrast to his wife, Lady Bea, as she was known, who was short and plump. She was a niece of Lord Pirbright. He died in 1950.

We know something of the servants who worked at the house. In 1926 Sir Philip's butler was John Dowdall. During 1941/42 the butler was William James Kinder who lived with his family in one half of the lodge. In the other half lived Sydney Fisher the chauffeur and his wife. The housekeeper was Lilian Watkins and her sister Marian was the cook.

Sir Philip was a governor of Botleys Park Mental Hospital at Chertsey and he employed a succession of patients at Normandy Park on various menial duties. Most of them stayed only a short time but one "trusty" known only as Bishop appeared to be a more or less permanent fixture. He was said to be a bigamist.

In 1953, after the death of Lady Henriques, the house was converted into three apartments that correspond almost exactly with the three stages of building. The conversion was carried out by Percy Woods a local builder who as part of the deal acquired the old cottage once known as The Swealed Cat and its grounds on the slope of Dolleys Hill. He handed it over to his daughter when she married and her husband, Peter Long, designed and had built the modern bungalow on the site.

The Manor House

The house faces Normandy Green and Normandy Common Road runs past it. The house consists of two blocks joined at right angles. The oldest part is to the rear and faces west. It was probably built in the late 17th century and is a well-built structure of red brick set in Flemish bond. The window and door heads are composed of fine rubbed brick. The tiled roof has a north gable.

The larger and slightly higher block to the south has a rendered white finish with rusticated quoins. The tiled hipped roof stops abruptly against the older part of the house. There is a doorway in the centre of the south facade covered by a windowed porch. On either side of this is a sash window. On the upper floor there are three similar windows, two of them in line with the lower windows and the third above the porch. There are further windows in the east and west ends and a doorway and more windows on the north where the block embraces the older part.

The date of the building of the later part of the house is more conjectural. In 1818, part of the Poyle Estate of which Normandy Farm, the former name of the property, formed a part was offered for sale. Lot 11 in the sales catalogue described the farmhouse on the north side of Normandy Green as "*new*". This could not have referred to the rear part of the house, which is undoubtedly much earlier.

An undated print of a drawing in early 19th century style by W Panormo and published by John Saunders of Newgate Street, London has the caption "Normandy Farm". The drawing shows a view of a farmhouse with a hipped roof and a chimneystack at each end. There is a doorway in the centre with a shuttered window on either side. On the upper floor there are two similar windows in line with the lower ones. Apart from the presence of chimneystacks and one less window on the upper floor the drawing bears a remarkable resemblance to the south facade of the present house.

A postcard of the present house of about 1910 shows the chimney stacks at the ends still in place and investigations in the house since have shown the interior rafters cut back for the stacks now removed. The postcard shows a verandah, which extends round on the west to form a conservatory. The facade has the rendered finish, the rusticated quoins and the extra window on the upper floor. From this evidence it seems probable that the south facing part of the house was newly built in 1818 but subsequently underwent several alterations.

The earliest of these must have been the replacement of the earlier windows by sash type and the addition of the third window on the upper floor. Perhaps it was then that the rendering was applied and the rusticated quoins were formed for decoration. The verandah was built and extended to form the conservatory. At some time after 1910, a drastic reworking removed the end chimneystacks and altered the

internal fireplaces and flue arrangements. The verandah and conservatory were removed and a windowed porch built over the doorway. Larger sash windows replaced the windows of the south facade. More windows were inserted in the end walls where the chimneystacks had been.

The most famous occupant of the house was William Cobbett, journalist, soldier, farmer and political reformer. He held the tenancy of Normandy Farm from 1831/32 until his death there in 1835. He is said to have built the south block of the house but because of the evidence outlined above, his short tenure and his financial circumstances at the time this story can almost certainly be discounted. The Panormo print was reproduced in George Spater's book on William Cobbett published in 1982. It bore the caption "*Cobbett's House at Normandy Farm, Ash*". Normandy was part of the Parish of Ash in Cobbett's day and this caption is almost certainly justified, as it seems that the house that Cobbett occupied had the same ground plan as that of the present house, which has retained a similar form.

East Wyke Farm

The farmhouse is on the summit of a hill near where Pound Farm Lane joins Wyke Lane. It is thought to be on an ancient foundation and may even be the site of the hall mentioned in Domesday Book as it is in an excellent defensive position with distant views in nearly a full circle.

The present house appears to be a typical farmhouse of the Victorian period but the interior reveals much older features. It is built on an undercroft, there are heavy oak beams and traces of blocked windows including one with a pointed head. One of the blocked apertures is very wide and this and other features lead us to speculate whether the house was at some time a form of hostelry as it is not far from the ancient route of Green Lane. The house has undergone several phases of alteration and extension and there are traces of several wells. At some time in the 19th century it was partly encased in rendered brick and took on its present appearance.

Across the road is the farmhouse of West Wyke Farm. This is of half-timbered construction with an infilling of brick and dates from about 1500. The house has an internal jetty over its central hall. It was known previously as East Wyke Farm Cottages and was presumably occupied at that time by farm workers.

Other Houses

There are several houses that are listed as buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. These include several half-timbered buildings, all of the same general construction in the Surrey tradition. They are Longerend Cottage (16c), Glaziers (16c), Chapel Farm, The Homestead (formerly Chandlers Cottage 17c), Halsey Cottage (16c) and Pritchells (15c). Other listed buildings are Old Cottage (formerly No.9 Guildford Road), Stedmans Cottage (17c), Normandy Hill Farm (17c), Normandy Hill Cottage (formerly Osbourne Cottages 1773), Hunts Hill House (formerly Lavender Cottage 17c), Henley Park Farmhouse (17c), Bales Farm (parts 17c and 18c) and New Cut Cottages, Bailes Lane.

CHAPTER 4

HOW THE PARISH IS RUN

Fiat justitia, ruat coelum
Let justice be done, though heaven fall.

Anon

Legislation

Before the reforms in the 19th century, local government in rural areas was in the hands of the parish vestries but the Manorial courts still had some jurisdiction. However, their powers and influence had been waning since the 17th century. Three manors had land in Normandy, the ancient manors of Wyke and Wanborough and the more recent Manor of Cleygate. Much of the land was held of the Lord of the Manor as either freehold or copyhold property. The Lord of the Manor could claim a fine in kind or in money whenever a property changed hands and we have a copy of a document which shows that as late as 1880 a fine of £109-11-6 had to be paid to Frederick Chester as Lord of the Manor of Wyke by William Henry Coussmaker when he inherited the Westwood Estate on the death of his father, Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker. It was not until the passing of the Law of Property Act in 1925 that the remaining powers of the manors were abolished and they now exist in name only.

The first reform in local government had been the transfer of Poor Law functions from the parish vestries to the Poor Law Unions. The recognition that the vestries were not capable of the efficient administration of other services led to a series of national reforms and the establishment of new authorities in the 1860s and 1870s. The Highways Act divided Surrey into Highway Districts, which took over responsibility for road upkeep. In 1872, the Public Health Act set up Rural Sanitary Authorities (RSAs) which were to administer sewerage, drainage, lighting, building regulations and public health. Normandy was placed under Farnham RSA. However, RSAs did not last long and in 1894 the Local Government Act abolished most of the existing authorities, including the parish vestries, and replaced them by a uniform system of councils for civil parishes, rural districts and urban districts. The civil parish of Ash was created on 4 December 1894. This, as well as being composed of the ecclesiastical parishes of St.Peter's, Ash and St.Mark's, Wyke took in parts of the former Worplesdon and Wanborough ecclesiastical parishes. It was divided into two wards, Ash Church Ward with six members and Wyke and Normandy Ward with three members. The first meeting was on New Year's Day 1895 and the first parish councillors for the new civil parish were F G C Britten, James McLaren, J J Miles, W Deedman, J Hoskins, T Deedman, M Bateman, F Morling and J Emmins.

The civil parish formed the bottom tier of a three-tier system of local government with the County as the top tier having a general supervisory role over the civil parishes. Ash Parish was placed under Farnham Rural District Council. From time to time Normandy councillors sought to become independent of Ash but this move was always defeated on the ground that the Normandy population was too small for separate representation. This may have produced certain fridity between the two communities. The social structures were probably incompatible as the same differences failed to appear between the similar communities of Normandy and Worplesdon possibly because of the strong historic and ecclesiastical links between Worplesdon and Wyke and the Willey Green chapel. In 1945 following representations to Guildford Rural District Council, "Normandy" was included in the title of the Parish Council, which became "Ash and Normandy".

Further reform was initiated by the Local Government Act of 1929, which instructed each County Council to prepare a scheme for rationalising local government areas by amalgamating units, extending boundaries and breaking up certain rural districts. Aldershot Town Council had, the year before, put forward a scheme for a "Greater Aldershot" which would have swallowed up Ash and Normandy.

The Surrey Advertiser for 7 July 1928 carried an account of the Council's proposals as follows, "*The scope of Aldershot's extension proposals is revealed by the following resolutions passed at a meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday.*

That the Council do seek powers to incorporate within their boundaries that portion of the areas of the Farnham Rural District Council north of the Hogs Back, being the parishes of Ash and Normandy and that part of the parish of Seale known as Tongham, also that part of Wanborough situate in the Guildford Rural District Council and lying between the Hogs Back on the south, the Rural District Council's boundary on the north, White Lane on the west and the Parliamentary and County boundary on the east.

That this Council do also adopt that portion of the Borough Surveyor's report relating to the drainage of Aldershot, Aldershot Command, Ash Vale, Wyke and Normandy and therein described as scheme four and do take the necessary steps for the provision of a Bill to carry through such scheme, subject to the inclusion of the outside districts within the limits of the borough. The Farnham Rural District Council be notified that the Aldershot Borough Council are not prepared to proceed with a scheme for the treatment of sewage from their areas north of the Hogs Back except on the definite understanding that the portion of the Farnham Rural District Council be incorporated within the borough boundaries."

It was also decided to invite the Farnborough Urban District Council to meet representatives of the Council to discuss the practicability and utility of amalgamation.

As will be seen in the chapter on Trades and Utilities, the subject of sewage disposal and treatment caused a great deal of friction between the respective councils and here was Aldershot Borough Council using it as a bargaining counter for expansion and takeover. However, these ideas all went into the melting pot. The proposals and counter proposals flew back and forth until 1933 when the schemes were finally agreed. Guildford Rural District was extended to take in, inter alia, Ash and Normandy and they became part of Farnham Division of Guildford Rural District.

Early in 1946, Aldershot Borough Council renewed its bid for a "Greater Aldershot" to take in parts of Surrey on the border with Hampshire which were under Guildford Rural District and which included Ash and Normandy. Aldershot Council organised a ballot of residents in Ash and Normandy to gauge the degree of support for the scheme. On Monday 15 April 1946 there was a packed meeting in Normandy Village Hall to hear the Town Clerk of Aldershot, D Llewellyn Griffiths, claim that analysis of the ballot showed that there was a majority in favour of the scheme. This statement caused an uproar. Various members of the audience declared that Normandy was practically unanimous in its opposition to the proposal. Several Aldershot councillors who also attended the meeting were bombarded with questions and there were allegations of irregularities in the conducting of the ballot.

In May of that year (1946), Farnborough Urban Council proposed an even more ambitious scheme for consideration by Hampshire County Council and the Boundary Commission. This proposal was for a County Borough to include Aldershot, Farnborough and Fleet as well as large parts of Surrey taking in Camberley, Frimley, Ash and Normandy. There was a conference between representatives of Surrey County Council, Guildford Rural District Council and Farnham Urban Council to discuss the proposals.

In November, Surrey County Council decided to oppose the scheme and received the backing of the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede. In December, Guildford RDC made a statement strongly opposing the scheme and in March 1947 put forward an alternative urban plan for Ash.

In the previous December, there had been opposition from the Fleet area and in May 1947 Hampshire County Council also opposed it. The discussions still rumbled on and in July 1947 Aldershot and Farnborough approved a joint scheme which, although whittled down, would still include Ash and Normandy. By the end of the year it had become obvious that there was overwhelming opposition to the inclusion of portions of Surrey and the only part of the scheme to survive was the later creation of the Borough of Rushmoor by the amalgamation of Aldershot Borough and Farnborough Urban Councils. However, in May 1947, Aldershot had proposed the compulsory purchase of land between the Aldershot Road and Shawfield Road in Ash on which to build a housing estate for Aldershot's needs and this was allowed. This created the anomaly of an Aldershot Council Estate on Guildford Rural District land. The outcome of this has been the gradual infilling of the area between the original estate and the county border so that now the built-up area is continuous and to the uninitiated Ash seems to be merely a suburb of Aldershot, a fate which, so far, Normandy has escaped.

The next change to come about was in 1955 when Ash and Normandy split peacefully into two separate parishes. The first meeting of the Normandy Parish Council took place in Normandy Village Hall at 7.15pm on Friday April 1 1955. It was convened by the Clerk of the Guildford RDC. Present were Miss E E Booty, A A Cook, A J Instone and W R Owen. E W Sellings, the Clerk of the Guildford RDC attended in an advisory capacity and opened the meeting by stating that the four members representing Normandy on the former Ash and Normandy Parish Council would now constitute the new Normandy Parish Council in a caretaker capacity until after the elections for Parish Councillors which would be held on 23 April. On the proposal of Mr Owen and seconded by Miss Booty, A A Cook was unanimously elected as Chairman. Albert Abram Cook having served as Chairman of Ash and Normandy Parish Council from 1951 until 1955 continued as Chairman of Normandy Parish Council during the period 1955 to 1968. He became Chairman of Guildford Rural District Council and was elected Mayor of Guildford Borough Council when it was first formed in 1974. Afterwards he served a further term as Normandy Parish Council Chairman from 1975 until 1979.

There have been minor changes to the boundary of the parish from time to time. It is worth mentioning here that one of the difficulties in researching the parish is that Normandy has been formed out of civil and ecclesiastical parishes and the boundaries have been affected by other factors. This fragmentation and reconcentration manifests itself in the different boundaries involved with hospitalisation and some utilities.

In 1972 there was a further Local Government Act. This abolished the three types of authority created by the 1894 Act, the County Borough, Urban District and Rural District. The whole of England and Wales, outside of Greater London and the Metropolitan Counties, was divided into Districts with uniform powers. The number of second tier Councils was greatly reduced but the third tier of local government, the rural civil parish, was retained. Under the new arrangements Surrey retained the three-tier system with the County Council at the top. However, the whole of the Guildford jurisdiction was combined under the heading of Guildford Borough, which formed the middle tier. The parish of Normandy continued unchanged. Since 1955, there have been healthy political differences between Normandy and Ash but without serious prejudice to good community and social relationships. We have been fortunate in Normandy in that the

Parish Council has been largely free from political wrangling and in recent years there has been no need for a poll, the immediate benefit being a saving in election expenses.

Parliamentary representation for Normandy has been under various aegises. The 1832 Reform Act was the first significant change to parliamentary boundaries and extent of franchise since the Middle Ages. It widened the qualifications to vote and completely changed the electoral map. Surrey was divided into several borough constituencies and two county constituencies - East Surrey and West Surrey. There were two seats for each constituency and the elections remained open.

The 1867 Reform Act extended the county and borough franchises and divided the East Surrey constituency into East Surrey and Mid Surrey. In 1872 the Ballot Act brought in secret voting for the first time. The 1884 Reform Act extended the franchise yet again and the Redistribution of Seats Act of 1885 brought about near equality of constituency sizes. North Eastern Surrey was divided into sixteen borough constituencies and the remainder of Surrey into six county constituencies. The Borough of Guildford was disenfranchised and each of the constituencies elected a single MP. Ash and Normandy were placed in the North West or Chertsey constituency. The six county constituencies elected Conservative MPs throughout the period 1884-1918 except in the Liberal landslide of 1906 when Chertsey, Reigate and Guildford went Liberal.

The MPs to serve the Chertsey constituency during this period were as follows: Frederick Hankey of Silverlands who was a partner in his family's banking firm was followed by Charles Henry Combe of Cobham Park. He was a brewer and when he resigned in 1897 Henry Leigh-Bennett of Thorpe Place succeeded him. When he died in 1903, John Fyler of Windlesham, a barrister, took over. He resigned in 1904 and was succeeded by Lord Bingham of the Rifle Brigade. The Liberal landslide of 1906 brought in Francis Marnham of Addlestone, a member of the Stock Exchange, but in 1910 Donald McMaster, a Canadian lawyer who served until 1918, ousted him.

The Representation of the People Act in 1918 brought in universal suffrage for men over 18 and for women over 30, subject to certain conditions, but disqualified criminals, those in mental institutions and Peers of the Realm. The Farnham constituency was created and Ash and Normandy were placed within it. A further Act in 1928 gave equal voting rights to men and women.

Arthur Samuel served Farnham constituency until he was created Baron Mancroft in 1937. Godfrey Nicholson succeeded him. In 1949 the Woking constituency was created and Normandy was transferred to this area. The first MP was Harold Watkinson who became Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation and then Minister of Defence in the Macmillan Government. He was created Viscount Watkinson in 1964. Cranley Onslow who served the Heath Government as Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office followed him. He was chairman of the 1922 Committee from 1984 until 1992. He was created Baron Onslow of Woking in 1997. The present MP for Woking is Humfrey Malins. All these seats, with the exception of the Liberal member Francis Marnham mentioned above, have been held for the Conservative Party. It has been a different story in local government. In recent years, the Liberals, reborn as Liberal Democrats, have enjoyed resurgence at the expense of both Labour and Conservative parties.

When Great Britain joined the European Community in 1973, the country was divided into European Constituencies on broadly county lines and Surrey received one seat in the Strasburg European Parliament.

In 1999 this system was changed to introduce a form of proportional representation. The country was divided up into larger regions each represented by several MEPs. Surrey was placed in the South East Region, which returns eleven MEPs. Each voter has one vote and seats are awarded in the proportion of the number of votes cast for the various political parties. The results for the South East Region in 1999 were: Conservatives five seats, Labour two seats, Liberal Democrats two seats, UK Independence Party one seat, Green Party one seat.

Law and Order

Under the County and Borough Police Act of 1856, counties were required to set up a police force whose authority would extend to all parishes outside boroughs with their own police force. The office of Constable, who was an official appointed by the parish vestry, was perpetuated by the Parish Constables Act of 1872 and appointments were later taken over by parish councils although they could apply for exemptions. This anachronism persisted in some places until as late as 1949 but there is no evidence to show that this happened in Normandy after the appointment of the first village policeman.

In 1888 county forces were made responsible to a standing joint committee of quarter sessions and the county council. The changes in the administrative structure were comparatively small until the 1960s when the number of forces was reduced by amalgamation. The standing joint committees disappeared with the abolition of quarter sessions under the Courts Act of 1971 leaving committees of county councils or joint committees where amalgamation had crossed boundaries.

The village policeman was a familiar figure in the life of the village for many years. He was found accommodation in the village and provided with a bicycle. He was expected to cover the whole of the parish and to meet up with his colleagues in adjacent parishes at regular intervals. They were supervised from a local police station, the one for Normandy being in Ash Street. The census of 1891 shows the Normandy policeman as Thomas Matthews living with his family near the Anchor. Other known police officers were Constables Gallagher, Povey and Hatchwell. In the 1930s, a Police House was built in Guildford Road and continued to be the home of the village constable until the 1960s amalgamations and the house was sold off. During the war and in the post-war period, PC Fred Collins was a well-known and respected guardian of law and order in Normandy. The most recent officer has been Janet Vile. Now there is no resident police officer in the village and the station in Ash is manned only occasionally. Usually, the only sight of the police is when they dash past in cars with lights flashing and sirens blaring. Against this is the probable quicker response to calls for help. This is exemplified in the previous term of "Community Constable" being replaced by "Response Officer".

Normandy is fortunate in that the incidence of crime is low compared to that in urban areas. The most serious incidents in recent years have been the armed raids on the post office (now closed) in Glaziers Lane. The long-serving assistant, Dorothy Applebee, received bravery awards for her actions during these raids. The last raid was the subject of an item in a Crimewatch TV programme. There have also been robberies at the Westwood Lane post office. An illicit drug-making factory was discovered in a house in Glaziers Lane in July 1983. There are the usual crops of petty thefts and spates of robberies from domestic residences and a few suicides but the most common and senseless misdemeanour is vandalism. There is an active Crime Watch organisation, which covers many areas in the village.

Financing Local Government

The raising of revenue for local purposes has always been a source of friction between those taxed and the authorities. Rates were originally introduced to finance poor relief under the Poor Law of 1601. All property both real and personal was taxable but this proved impossible to enforce and personal property was exempted by the Poor Law Exemption Act of 1840. Subsequent Acts further modified the system and rates were effectively based on the theoretical or actual yearly rental value of the property.

It gradually came to be recognised that some aspects of the rating system were anachronistic and anomalous and bore unfairly on some ratepayers. In 1987 a new form of local tax was proposed and after much debate a pilot scheme of the new levy called the "Community Charge" was introduced in Scotland in 1989. The apparent success of the scheme led to it being introduced for the whole of the United Kingdom in 1990. The Community Charge system required each adult over the age of 18 to pay a fixed amount to the government. It was intended to cover part of the cost of local government services and replace the rating system. In theory, this charge was a fairer system because everyone who used the services would pay their share instead of the burden falling on householders only but there were serious flaws. The flat rate disregarded ability to pay, the costs per individual at £278 per person during the first year which would have been about the same as the average domestic rates bill per person during 1989-90 were an underestimation and in the event turned out to be £363. Income from business rates and government grants were fixed. The identification of persons eligible to pay the charge depended upon the voter lists and it was found that some were prepared to disenfranchise themselves to avoid paying the rate.

Agitators seized upon these failings and the Media dubbed the charge "*The Poll Tax*". This title had sinister historical connotations and such was the furore that demonstrations against the charge were staged all over the country. In London one such demonstration degenerated into a serious riot. Guildford Borough Council like most local authorities fought hard through the Courts to recover bad debts from evaders. Litigation was cumbersome and the bad debt element of accounting reached unacceptable levels.

In 1991, the new Major administration sought to alleviate the situation. In the March of that year, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, announced that the Community Charge would be abolished and would be replaced by a new Council Tax based on the capital value of the dwelling and size of household. It was to be introduced in April 1993 and in the mean time there would be an across the board reduction of £140 per head in the Community Charge. This was financed by a 2.5 point increase in Value Added Tax from 15 to 17.5%. Concern remained about high-spending councils and a system of "capping" their expenditure was introduced and is still in operation.

The new system is a little fairer than the old rating system as a concession has been made in the case of single households who pay 75% of the going rate. Other concessions are made for disabilities and for people on low incomes. The value of the dwelling is based on its estimated sale price on 1 April 1991 to establish its value relative to other properties. It is then assigned to a band in a system ranging from A to H. Although the assessment is open to appeal, revaluation is very seldom granted and appears to take no account of lack of amenities such as main drainage and street lighting in rural areas. Another cause for complaint has been the Uniform Business Rate, which has borne unfairly on small traders. A rate relief scheme for village shops was introduced in 1998 and this helps with the rate burden for small businesses. There is also a discretionary Hardship Relief Scheme operated by the Borough Council.

About 23% of the income for local expenditure comes from the Government Revenue Support Grant. Just over 35% comes from the Uniform Business Rate and the rest is met from the Council Tax. In addition, the parishes levy a separate rate called the Parish Precept for purely parish purposes. The lion's share of money raised from all sources, about 76%, goes to the Surrey County Council which is responsible for Education (which takes the largest part), Community Services including libraries and adult education, Social Services, Environment, Highways which includes footpaths and bridlepaths and Public protection which covers fire and rescue services. The Surrey Police Authority takes about 10%. Guildford Borough Council receives only 14% and is responsible for planning and building control, welfare, environmental health, street cleaning, refuse collection, housing, parks and car parks, recreational services and the collection of the Council Tax. The use of the Parish Precept is very flexible and can be used for almost anything that the parish council deems would be of benefit to the village. However, every year the accounts are audited by an independent auditor and the projects must be stipulated although funds may be carried over to following years.

Seven members are elected for Normandy Parish Council one of whom serves as chairman. In addition there is an unelected but salaried Parish Clerk. Normandy is allowed one seat on Guildford Borough Council. For Surrey County Council, elections are for the one seat for Worplesdon Electoral Division of which Normandy is a part. The poll for all these seats is by those electors listed on the current Register of Electors for Normandy (or in the case of County Council elections, for Normandy and Worplesdon). The elected candidate serves for a term of four years. All elected representatives stand down at the end of the period. A candidate elected during an electoral period serves only for the outstanding period. The polling station in Normandy is Wyke School. This naturally causes disruption to the school functions and representations have been made to transfer the venue to Normandy Village Hall but for various reasons this has so far been turned down.

The Census

Another measure that affects everyone in the village is the National Census, which is taken every ten years. Although there had been censuses taken nation-wide and locally before, in 1841 the census was conducted for the first time by the Registrar General whose officials supervised a far more detailed enumeration of the population. In each sub-district a number of enumerators were appointed who issued a form to each household asking for the names of all occupants who were present on the night of the census date, their approximate age, marital status, occupation and whether or not they had been born in the county in which they were being enumerated. The forms were collected on the following day and copied into books, checked and a statistical summary tabulated before the books were handed back to the Registrar. The success of the 1841 Census led to the same procedure being adopted at subsequent ten yearly intervals but improvements to the forms were introduced to produce more accurate reporting of age and birthplace. However, it is still difficult to establish precise locations of houses.

There was no major change until 1911 when for the first time data was analysed directly from the householder schedules using punched cards. Because of the personal information they contain, enumeration books are closed for one hundred years and so for the present only those for 1841-91 are available.

These returns have proved of inestimable value to historians both local and general and in the case of Normandy have enabled us to trace the growth of the community, the pattern of occupations and professions and the distribution of age groups. It also enables us to obtain an overall picture of the make-up of the community and movement of the population.

The Census has continued to be taken at ten-year intervals except during World War II. In 1851 two supplementary surveys were undertaken. One was a census of educational provision and the other was a religious census of accommodation and attendance in which returns were made of every place of worship.

Development

The cost of the provision and maintenance of housing now forms a large part of Guildford Borough Council's budget but at the beginning of the period of our survey this lay in the future. As early as 1868, the Artizans and Labourers Dwellings Act enabled local authorities to require owners of houses to do necessary repairs and, if they refused, the authority might demolish the house or do the repairs themselves and recover the cost from the owner. The Public Health Act of 1875 extended these powers and the Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890 not only confirmed them but empowered the authorities to build new houses to let to working class tenants. Further Acts followed including that of 1919 which was intended to provide for the building of 500,000 "houses fit for heroes", but until the 1930s Council housing remained mainly an urban phenomenon.

The Town and Country Planning Acts of 1947 and 1968 and the General Development Order of 1963 required local government planning authorities to prepare development plans and to control development. A further Act of 1990 reinforced the previous powers and defined conservation areas. Buildings of architectural and historic interest are listed and may not be altered or demolished without permission from the council. Local authorities may also issue tree preservation orders. There have been no recent cases in Normandy but in the past orders have been issued to preserve a particularly fine specimen of a maple tree in Westwood Lane and several trees in the Laureldene development.

One of the results of the Planning Acts was the introduction of the Green Belt Policy. The idea of this policy had its origin at the turn of the twentieth century in Ebenezer Howard's plans for garden cities and recognised the need to introduce physical curbs to restrict, in particular, the outward growth of London. It was originally referred to as the Metropolitan Green Belt but the policy was extended to other conurbations and in all local plans it is referred to as Green Belt Policy. Normandy is in a Green Belt area.

There have been debatable judgements about development in the village. Henley Park was threatened by the decision to allow a controversially modernistic building, nicknamed "The Glass Cube", to be erected next to the old mansion house. Fortunately, this project failed to materialise and more appropriate housing has now been built on the site. Settlement boundaries, although clearly defined, usually as an inset in a Local Plan, have attracted criticism that the boundaries are drawn too tight. This has affected the plans for the development of the Manor Fruit Farm site. Although there has been tremendous pressure on the authorities to relax restrictions, the Green Belt Policy has so far gone a long way towards preserving the rural character of Normandy village.

CHAPTER 5

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

*This is the grave of Timothy Bray
Who died maintaining his right of way
His right was clear, his will was strong
But he's just as dead as if he'd been wrong*

Anon

Roads

Most of the roads in Normandy probably started life as means of communication between farms and their markets although there are a few exceptions. During the Middle Ages and beyond the term "Road" or "Highway" simply meant a right of way free from physical obstructions rather than a made way. The upkeep of roads has always been a source of friction between the people and those in authority over them. The first piece of legislation for the upkeep of roads was enacted in the reign of Mary Tudor in 1555. It was passed as a temporary measure and attempted to define the duties of the highway surveyors. As it placed on the Justice of the Peace an obligation to reinforce the surveyor's authority by imposing defined penalties, it did mark an extension of the control of the central authorities. This feeble and ineffective measure remained the basic legislation until well into the 18th century. Although this Act was supplemented by further legislation, none of it altered the fact that the system rested on the Parish.

Waywardens or Surveyors of the Highway were chosen from among the eligible landowners to take charge of the maintenance of the parish roads. The surveyor had to arrange for all the men in the parish to do six days work on the roads each year although by the end of the 18th century most paid a fee instead. Farmers had to lend their carts and horses. In the 18th century, Turnpike Trusts were set up to improve roads in return for charges levied on the users. There is little evidence that any turnpike was actually constructed in Normandy, the nearest being the one along the top of the Hogs Back between Farnham and Guildford. However, on 28 October 1767, a meeting was held at the Kings Head Inn in Chertsey to consider an application to Parliament for the making of a turnpike road from Chertsey to Guildford, Farnham and so on. Among those present were Solomon Dayrolles of Henley Park and Lannoy Richard Coussmaker of Westwood. It was proposed to run the road from Chertsey to Dunford Bridge, over Heswell (Horsell) Heath, Hook Hill, through Pirbright by Bakers Gate, on to Ash Street and Badshot Lea and thence to Bourne Mill just outside Farnham where the two turnpike roads leading from Farnham to Guildford (along the Hogs Back) and to Bagshot met. The present main road does indeed follow this line from Chertsey to the outskirts of Woking and is characterised by long straight stretches but from then on the route becomes more tortuous until Stanford Common is reached. From then on the Pirbright Road assumes a suspiciously straight and level aspect as far as Cobbett Cross. There is a further straight stretch as far as Vokes' factory and then it deteriorates into a series of bends and undulations. Could it be that certain sections of the proposed turnpike, presumably built as a through route, were abandoned?

In the 19th century the unemployed dug gravel and attempted to repair the worst places in the roads in return for support from the parish. The General Highways Act of 1835 relieved individuals of the task of actually working on the roads for a set period each year. In Normandy the situation of poorly surfaced lanes and tracks persisted almost up to the beginning of the 20th century but by the late 19th century the more important roads were being surfaced with road metal bound with water.

This gave rise to great clouds of dust in dry weather and mud in wet. By the 1920s this was giving way to tar-bound surfaces and in the 1930s even byroads were being improved in this way. In 1919 the Ministry of Transport was given the power to classify roads and from that date primary roads have been classified 'A' and secondary roads 'B'. There was also for a time a 'C' classification but this was soon abandoned.

As mentioned previously, although the majority of roads in Normandy originated as farm tracks there were a few exceptions. The oldest route, which may even pre-date the Roman Occupation, is the line of Green Lane/Flexford Road and which has acted as a boundary for much of its existence. The existence of an agger or slight elevation above the general level of the ground, which is a characteristic feature of Roman road construction, has been detected on this line. The route formerly extended to Stoke-by-Guildford via Wood Street. In the early 19th century a Roman villa was unearthed just off the line of the road as it ran over Broadstreet Common. Farnham-type pottery was found at this site. During 1984-87 a Romano-British temple was excavated just off the line of Green Lane. In the Middle Ages the route was part of the Kings Way from Farnham to Guildford and was later used as a drove road. Until the coming of the railway it was still the main route between Normandy and Guildford and as late as the beginning of this century it was preferred by people walking to Guildford.

Another important way was the present Pirbright Road. It was almost certainly the "*Queen's Way from Pirbright towards Farnham*" mentioned in a survey of Edward VI's time. Westwood Lane and its extension over Normandy Common was part of another main route between Farnborough and Godalming where there were tanneries. As late as 1789 it is called "*the King's Way between Farnborough and Godalming*" in a transfer of land to the Westwood estate. Westwood Lane originally met Guildford Road at a point slightly east of the present junction. From there it continued over the common to meet Hunts Hill Road and the old road over the heath to Ash Vale and Farnborough. After declining in importance during the 19th century Westwood Lane has again become a busy route stimulated by the opening of the Hogs Back underpass in 1967.

With a few exceptions early maps do not show roads. The earliest map we have which does is that of Senex dated 1729. These early maps were poorly surveyed and their accuracy is very suspect. However, this map shows that the present day pattern of main roads in Normandy was well established. One exception was the Guildford Road. Although it is shown, it was not at that time a main route. Some of its course was indeterminate, particularly where it ran over Normandy Common. It seems to have had two main branches, one on the line of the present road and the other running north of the village pond and thence south of the Manor House. The track past the football ground probably represents the line of the continuation of this branch. According to a History of Normandy Farm published in the 1840s, William Cobbett, who occupied Normandy Farm, later called Manor Farm, had a section of this branch made up. He was also responsible for the building of the bridge over the stream in Hunts Hill Road. Guildford Road was called "Tickners Bridge Road" on the Tithe Award map of 1842, an indication of its relative unimportance at that time. Several maps of the period show the road extending only as far as Willey Green.

Many ways, including Glaziers Lane and Guildford Road were subject to flooding in bad weather. Guildford Road was not made up until 1895 and there was a deep ditch on one side, dug in an attempt to alleviate the problem of flooding. The ditch was not filled in until the houses on the south side of the road were built in the 1920s. The Pirbright Road was not so subject to flooding as it runs for the most part on a ridge above the low-lying marshy bottoms of the common. Glaziers Lane remained a poorly surfaced and deeply rutted track which ran only as far as the old Glaziers farmhouse.

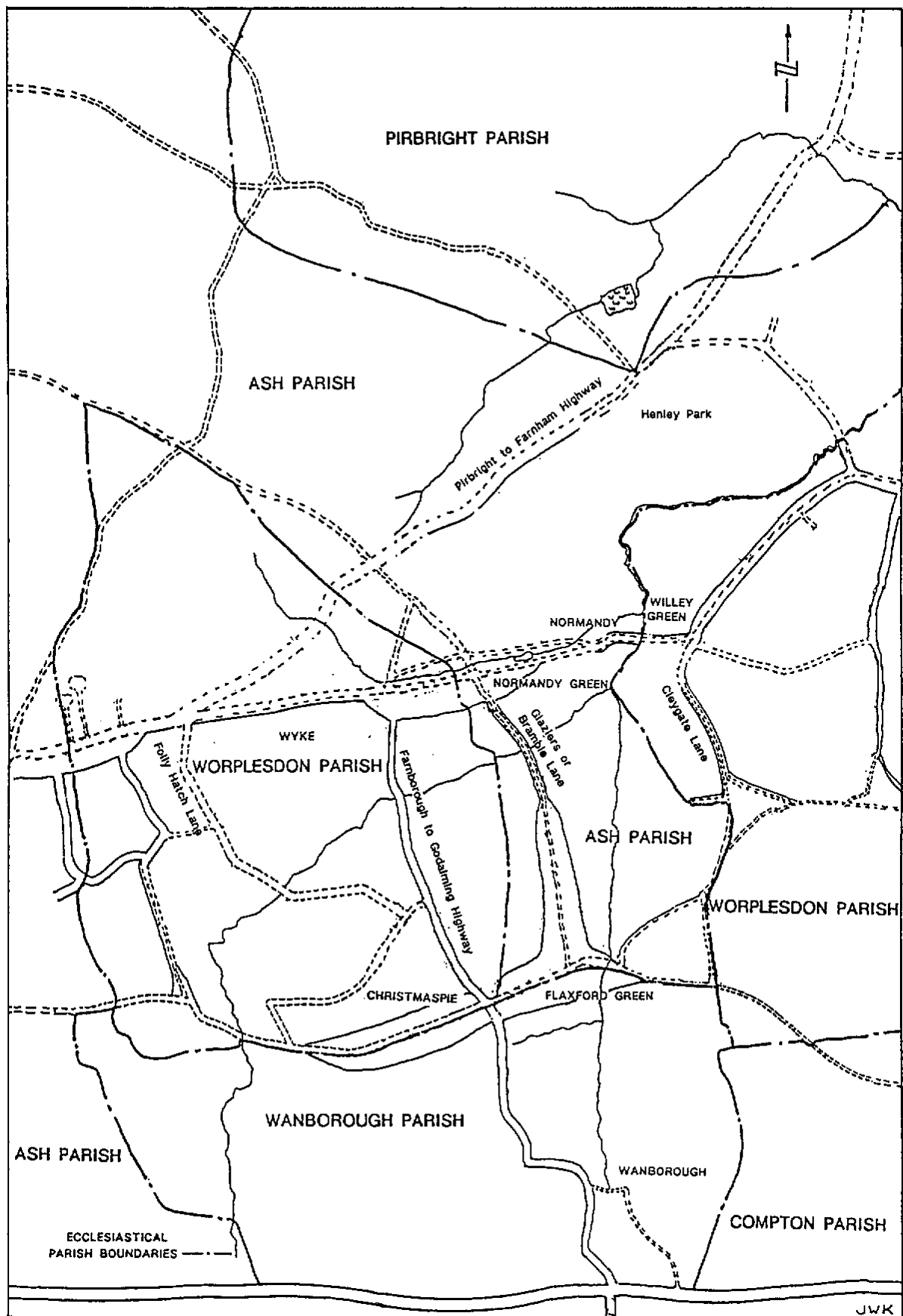


Figure 11 Normandy in About 1760

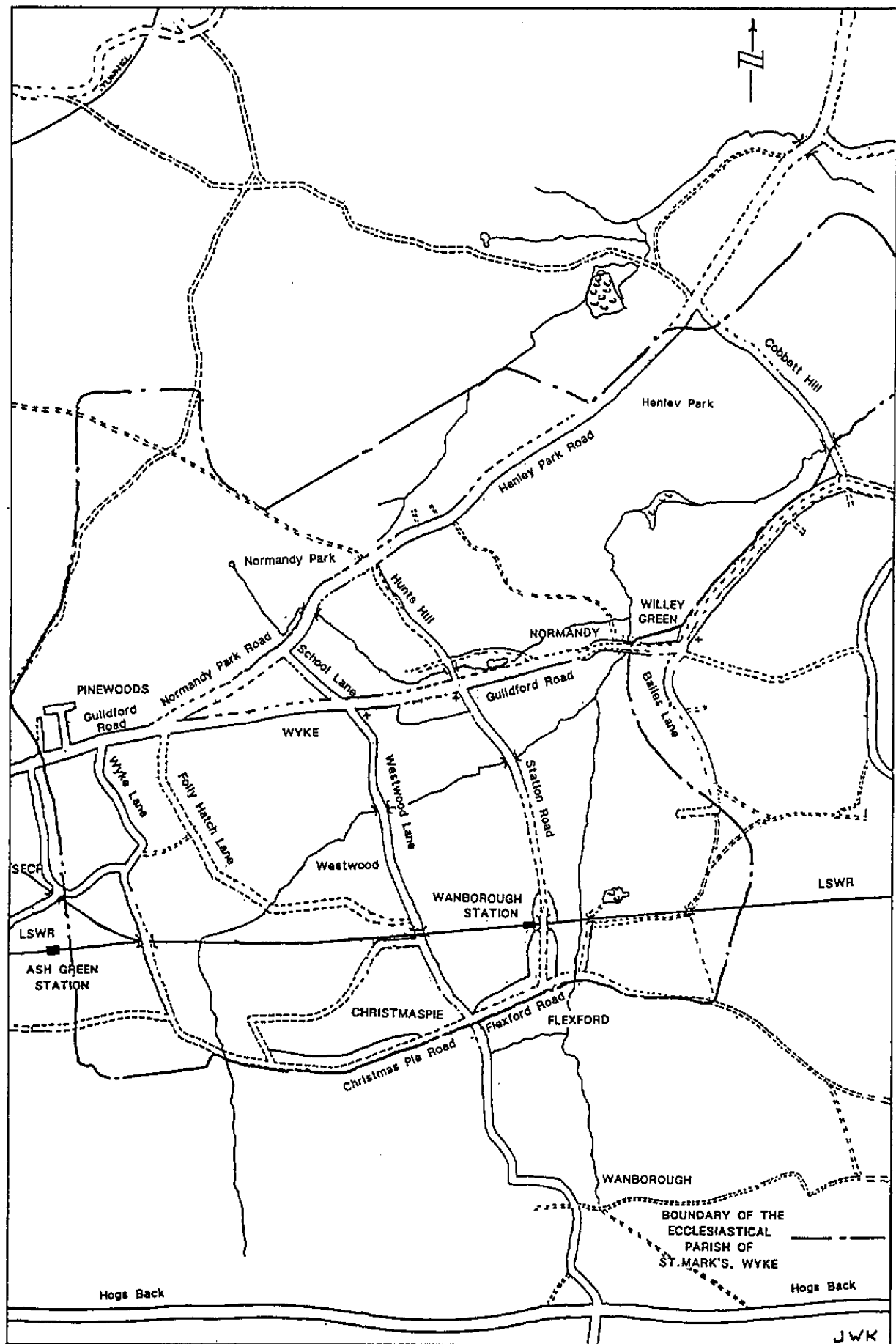


Figure 12 Roads in Normandy in 1900

The route thence to Flexford was over a common that has its legacy in the present-day wide verges to the road. When Wanborough Station was built in 1891 the road was made up by the Railway Company as far as the station and renamed Station Road. It reverted to its original name in the 1950s. In its earlier days it was also known as Bramble Lane. Bailes Lane whose present name is from Bales Farm was formerly Cleygate Lane and connected at its southern end with Flexford Lane. Its made-up surface now peters out at the turn to the west leading to Cleygate Barn. A predecessor of the present barn was mentioned in an Assize Roll of 1255.

Cobbett Hill Road, named after Walter de Cobet who held land there in the 13th century, was part of a main road between Guildford and Frimley. Clasford Bridge, which spans the stream running through Henley Park, was built in 1826 replacing an earlier one called Cobetts Bridge mentioned in a document dated 1562. The parapets, which are far enough apart for a thoroughfare of some importance, are built of Bargate stone and brick with very patched and rendered half-round copings. There are brick abutments with capping stones at each end. Set in the East parapet of the bridge is a stone bearing the inscription "*P A, July 1826, H Stevens*". In the West parapet is set a shield, surmounted by a coronet, the detail of which has been largely obliterated by weathering. There are three rendered round brick culverts but no cutwaters. The line of the road extending as a track from the end of Henley Park Lake Road can still be followed across the common towards Frimley where it again becomes a metalled road as Old Guildford Road. In the early 19th century the road was the subject of a lawsuit brought against Henry Halsey of Henley Park who was accused of making the road impassable by his enlargement of Henley Park Lake. He was forced to build a new section around the head of the lake. This road, like the old route to Ash Vale from Pirbright Road, described below, was probably abandoned when the War Department took over the common in the 1870s.

Hunts Hill Road was previously known as Long Acred or Longerley Road from the same root as Longerend Farm. Another name for this farm was Hunts Farm but the road appears to have been known as Hunts Hill before a farmer by the name of Hunt took over the farm. As late as the 1920s this road had no official name. Parish Council minutes refer to it as "*the road between Guildford Road and Henley Park Road*". Pirbright Road at that time was Normandy Park Road as far as the foot of Dolleys Hill and from then on Henley Park Road. Hunts Hill Road originally came out to the Pirbright Road at a point west of its present junction. There was an alternative route across the common marked by a gap in the bank by the road and which crossed what is now the cricket ground. Opposite the old junction a road struck off over the heath to Ash Vale. The track of this road, although initially indistinct, can be followed as far as the ancient track along the top of the Fox Hills. There are faint signs of the continuation to Ash Vale. Another route abandoned to traffic is Folly Hatch Lane, which commences at Elm Hill. It originally connected to Beech Lane at its southern end but was cut off and diverted when the railway was built. Whereas previously the track running north from Wyke crossroads had joined Hunts Hill Road, the Ordnance Survey map of 1816 shows it re-established on the line of the present School Lane. The reason for this was probably the taking in of some of the common for cultivation, which pushed the line further westwards. This lane remained anonymous until the school was built in 1879. Nightingale Road and Pinewood Road were originally tracks leading to gravel pits on the common and they have never been surfaced. Upper Pinewood Road was established at the top of Pinewood Road about 1900 and Kirriemuir Gardens was laid out on the ground of the former Kirriemuir Poultry Farm in the 1960s.

It was not until the late 1920s that additions were made to the old pattern of roads in Normandy. The Council estate of Wyke Avenue was laid out between 1927 and 1935 on what had been a strawberry field. Walden Cottages were built on a field that had belonged to Westwood Farm, and known at one time as

Waldens Farm followed that of Wyke Avenue. A few of the houses were built before World War II and the remainder were completed afterwards when building restrictions were eased.

In the late 1930s, Charles Cull began to build houses at Christmaspie at what was initially called Flexford Close. The war brought a halt to civilian building before the road was complete. It was finished after the war as Christmaspie Avenue. Charles Cull died in 1958 and the road built by Robertsons leading off the avenue was named Culls Road in his honour. Szabo Crescent, which is named after the SOE heroine Violette Szabo who trained at Wanborough Manor nearby, was built on the site of a small sewage works that serviced Cull's new estate. The whole estate is built on ground previously occupied by three poultry farms called Cable's, Barnett's and Hudson's, which extended right down to the railway line. Willow Drive was built in the 1960s where there was a copse with willow trees. In the copse was a hut, the home of a Canadian recluse named Dr. Pepin. Pat Hunt's father, Russell Barber, and his neighbour Fred Nunn had orchards, which stretched from Westwood Lane as far as the station-yard. In March 1959 Russell Barber purchased The Willows in Guildford Road and he and Fred Nunn sold their orchards to Robertsons who built Orchard Close and Orchard Way on the land including that of the rose nursery that had been run by Major Todd. In 1970, Taylor Woodrow constructed The Paddocks estate on a field, once part of Little Flexford Farm. The latest residential road is Laureldene, built as an infill site after a great deal of bargaining with the Guildford Council who objected to an earlier scheme to include more houses on the site.

In 1985, Pound Farm Lane on the extreme western edge of the parish was the scene of great activity when the oil company, Conoco UK Ltd., started their exploration for oil in Highfield Copse. In spite of a great deal of opposition led by the Pound Farm Lane Action Group (PFLAG) the operation was allowed to go ahead. All the equipment including the massive plant in sections had to be transported down the narrow winding roads of Wyke Lane and Pound Farm Lane. The disruption lasted until on 2 March 1986 the company announced its decision to pull out as no significant signs of oil or gas had been found. The company reinstated the road and copse and rural calm again descended upon the area.

Our village possesses a wealth of well-used Definitive Public Rights of Way, some of which are ancient, their origins possibly in greenways for the traveller or drove roads for herding livestock between the markets of Farnham, Godalming and Guildford. Others connect the local estate houses of Westwood and Henley Park with the church, outlying farms and pubs. The ancient greenway system of "roads" from Ash Green via Pound Farm to Green Lane East is routed on a mainly east to west alignment as is Sandy Lane, thus linking the Parish of Ash to that of Worplesdon through Wyke, Flexford and Willey Green. They are shown on several early maps, including Rocque's map of 1762, Ash and Normandy Tithe map of 1844 and the first edition of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, dated 1872.

As a consequence of the habitual use of these ways, they were adopted and registered as Rights of Way under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. The rights of use were classified into three categories. Footpath: provides right of way on foot only. Bridleway: provides right of way on foot and on horseback. Road used as Public Path (RUPP): provides right of way on foot, horseback and in or on a motor vehicle. The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 required all County Councils to reclassify RUPPs as "Byways Open to All Traffic" (BOAT). If a track was used in the past only as a wagon or farm road and today may be unsuitable for motorised traffic, it must now be recorded as a BOAT. It was not until 1992 that Surrey began the task of reclassification.

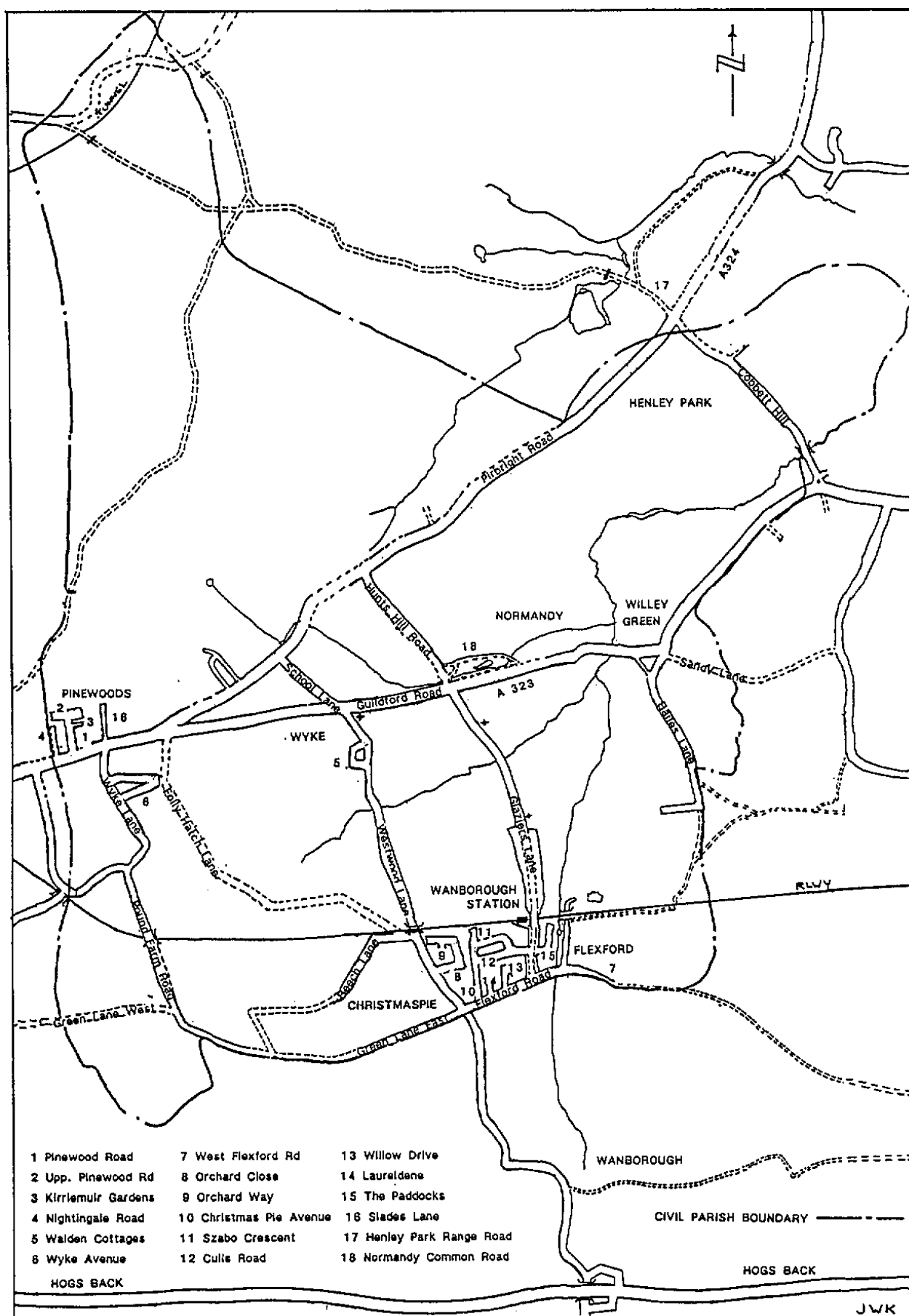


Figure 13 Roads in Normandy Today

The use of these ancient tracks by so-called "sporting" and "off-road" vehicle owners has done much to spoil the pleasant woodland walks and rides throughout our village.

The Railway

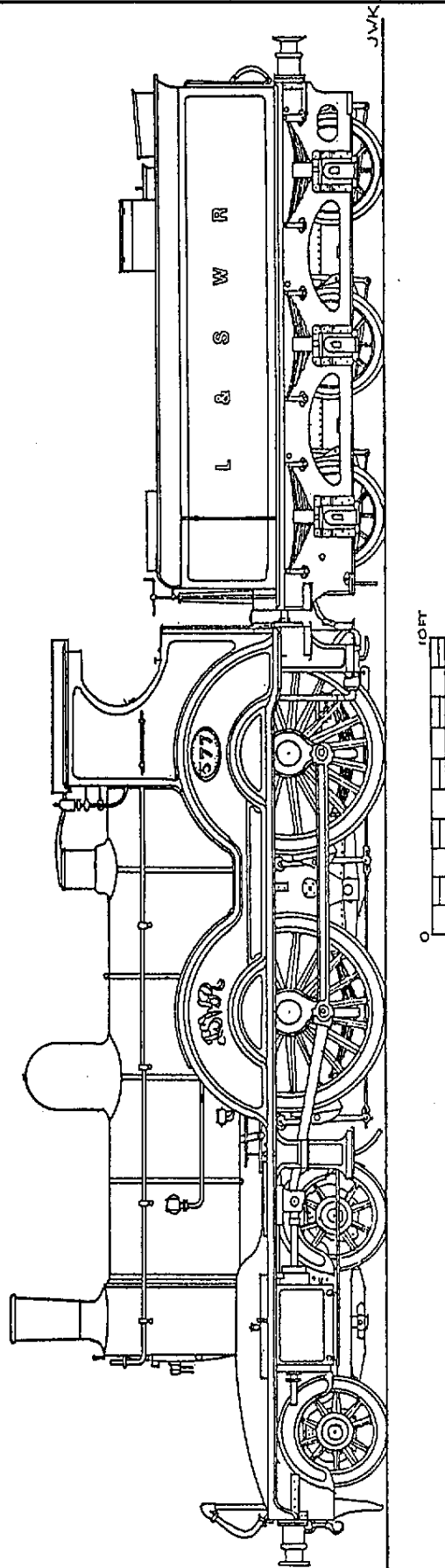
The railway has been briefly mentioned in the first part of this chapter but its initial effect on the life of the community came in 1848 when land was purchased from various landowners for the construction of the Farnham to Guildford branch of the London and South Western Railway Company (LSWR). The landowners included Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker of Westwood and the Mangles family who were Lords of the Manor of Wanborough. One of the members of this family was Captain Charles Edward Mangles, Chairman of the LSWR from 1859 until 1872. Certain inhabitants had to be compensated for the extinction of their Commoners' Rights to land that was taken for the railway. A meeting was held at a local hostelry to settle this claim.

The building of the line entailed the construction of an embankment throughout almost the entire dead straight course through the parish. Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker did rather well out of the deal he struck with the railway company. As well as being compensated for the loss of the land and the disruption the building caused, he arranged to have a siding on the embankment above Westwood Lane to facilitate the carriage of goods and produce to and from the Westwood estate. He also obtained a cattle-creep to connect with the land that had been separated from the rest of the estate. The line also cut off some fields on the north from the Mangles' Christmaspie Farm and Lannoy Arthur was able to purchase these to add to his estate.

The construction of the line had other consequences for the area. The route to Guildford via Cleygate Lane necessitated the building of an arch under the embankment, which at this point is so low that in order to provide sufficient clearance the road had to be lowered. It was then prone to flooding and it seems that this route to Guildford declined in importance from then on. Another arch was constructed further to the west but this was never large enough for loaded wagons and when Wanborough Brickworks was established on the north side of the embankment there in 1896, a siding was provided for it.

The hamlet of Flexford would have been cut off from the rest of Normandy by the railway, but at the time of the construction of the line a bridge was built over the railway in an enclosure, described as "Waste" and forming part of the common at the southern end of Glaziers Lane. This bridge with its approach ramps remained in splendid isolation with no made up road on either side until the station was built in 1891 and the road was made up by the Railway Company.

The line was opened on 8 October 1849. The Reading, Guildford and Reigate Railway Company (RGRR) had obtained running powers over the line as far as Ash Junction from where its own line ran to Reading. An extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the RGRR, which later became the South Eastern Railway Company (SER), which was held on 11 September at the Royal Exchange Buildings in London reads "*Captain Mangles reported that he had seen Mr. Locke who approved of the station (Ash) being made at that point where the Reading-Guildford-Reigate railway leaves the Farnham and Alton branch at a place called Wycke and promises to report his opinions to the authorities of the South Western Railway*". Joseph Locke was the Engineer for the London and Southampton Railway, later to become the London and South Western Railway, and was instrumental in getting the initial main line between London and Southampton completed after it had run into grave difficulties.



ADAMS X2 CLASS LOCOMOTIVE NO.577

This locomotive drew the first train to stop at the newly built Wanborough Station on 1 September 1891. The locomotive was almost new having been outshopped from the Nine Elms Works of the London and South Western Railway in June 1890. The coupled wheels were 7 feet 1 inch in diameter and the cylinders were 19 inches x 26 inches. The engine cost £2,490. Number 577 was coupled to a 3000 gallon tender but some of the class had 3300 gallon tenders.

The locomotives of this class had a good reputation for ease of working, reliability and good coal consumption. At the Grouping the entire class entered Southern Railway stock. No. 577 was withdrawn in February 1933 having run a total of 1,280,804 miles.

The livery in 1891 was Pea Green lined out in black and white.

Figure 14 Adams X2 Class Locomotive No 577

Joseph Locke dismissed the small contractors who had failed to complete the line on schedule and engaged Thomas Brassey who was to become one of the greatest of railway constructors. However, the RGRR were annoyed to learn in March 1849 that the LSWR Ash Station would not be at the junction but at Ash Green. This would force them to build their own station at Ash.

In 1870, the Mangles family sold the Wanborough estate to Alexander McKibbin and in 1880 he let Wanborough Manor to Sir Algernon West, W E Gladstone's private secretary. Gladstone often visited Sir Algernon at Wanborough Manor and it became a meeting place for him and his political colleagues. In order to make the journey from London easier, Sir Algernon and others successfully petitioned the LSWR to build a station at Flexford that would be within easy reach of Wanborough Manor. The land necessary to build the station was purchased from the trustees of the McKibbin estate, the Conservators and Gubernators of Christs Hospital at Winchester, J F Nugent and others. About £1,000 was raised by local subscription. A condition of the transaction was that the station, although situated in the Normandy part of Ash Parish, should be known as "Wanborough" but later, local residents were successful in having "for Normandy" added to the title (although my colleague thinks that it ought to have been named "*Wanborough for Gladstone*"!) and this lasted until the late 1960s. Unfortunately two men were killed during the construction of the station. It was opened on 1 September 1891 and the Surrey Advertiser described it as a "*handsome and commodious structure*". The first train to halt there was drawn by an Adams Class X2 4-4-0 locomotive No.577 that had been built at Nine Elms in the previous year. It was sent on its way by Miss Elizabeth Wicks ringing a handbell.

The opening of the station had a profound effect on the life of the community. The markets at Aldershot, Guildford, Farnham and even London became more accessible and people were enabled to travel afield much more easily. There was a large station yard with a siding known as Bosley's Siding after a local coal merchant. Other users of the siding included the Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society (SCATS) and Bosley's successors, Barry James and Alfred Luck and Son. As well as passenger traffic the station handled the community's commercial, agricultural and horticultural produce including milk, tomatoes and strawberries. Easier mobility encouraged new residents to the village. Many of these did not earn their living in the village but travelled to towns for employment. With land released for building as a result of the breakup of the old estates, rapid growth in housing took place.

In late 1896, John Gillett a farmer from Pilling near Fleetwood in Lancashire, hired a special train to move his family, retainers and stock from there to West Flexford Farm which he had purchased. One can imagine the dislocation and uproar caused by herd of cattle, and poultry to say nothing of farm implements and machinery. We are told that the train was stopped at Crewe so that the cows could be milked and a heifer calf named Piljo was born on the journey. The farmer was assisted by his three eldest sons, Tom, Dave and Ted and also by Aunt Agnes Gillett who looked after the younger children and made bread for all the family. Sandie Sell's great aunt Jane told her that she was the only one to travel in comfort as she was born at West Flexford on 16 February 1897. Eventually there were eleven children including twins, James and Peter. Four of the children are known to have attended Wanborough School and Nellie was awarded a scholarship place at the County School for Girls at Guildford. The Gilletts sold up in September 1910 and the whole family is believed to have left the district. By a strange twist of circumstance, when Robert Walton, the grandson of John Gillett, was moving house in 1998 the surveyor for the buyer recognised the West Flexford Farmhouse embroidered on a sampler belonging to Mr Walton. The surveyor said that he had assisted in the survey of the property for Taylor Woodrow, the property developers, in the early 1960s.

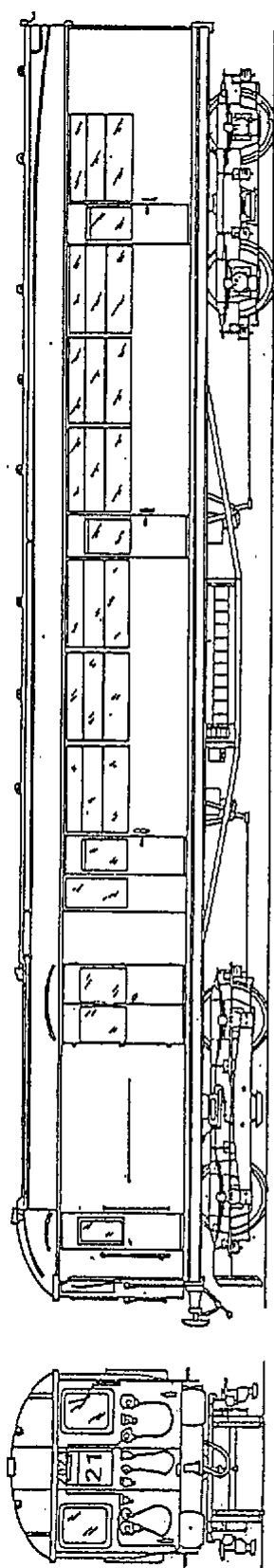
The South Eastern Railway trains between Redhill and Reading commenced stopping at Wanborough in October 1891. Stirling Class F1 4-4-0 locomotives worked the Reading line and were known as "Reading Rattlers" because of the noise produced by the large working clearances in the running gear. In 1899 a working union was formed between the SER and the London, Chatham and Dover Railway. The combination was from then on known as the South Eastern and Chatham Railway (SECR). In January 1923 the railways of this country were gathered into four groupings and the LSWR and SECR became constituents of the new Southern Railway. For some time no significant changes in operations were discernable but in 1938 a decision was made to electrify the section of line between Guildford and Aldershot. A sub-station was built on the north side of the line east of the road bridge. It was on the site of the allotment belonging to Jack Sands, the stationmaster, and he was given another plot beyond the station yard. A concrete footbridge and a waiting room on the up platform were erected. The first electric train to Aldershot stopped at Wanborough on 1 January 1939 and a large part of the village turned out to greet it. It was reported to consist of a "BIL" motor coach and a "HAL" trailer but this is unlikely as the first HALs did not come into service until early in 1939, the BILs having appeared in 1935. It was unusual to mix components of different types although the BILs seemed to have more than their fair share of accidents and damage and there were cases where the units were made up of BIL and HAL components but this seems to have been largely a wartime expedient. It is therefore more likely that the first electric train at Wanborough Station consisted of a BIL motor coach and a BIL trailer.

The Southern Electric Multiple Units (EMUs) were made up of close-coupled cars. The BIL and HAL units each consisted of a motor coach and a trailer, hence the official designations of 2-BIL and 2-HAL. BIL signified "Built-in Lavatory" and both coaches of the unit had side corridors linking the compartments with an end lavatory. HAL meant "Half Lavatory" and only the trailer had a corridor and lavatory. There was no gangway between the coaches of the units. The 2-BIL and 2-HAL EMUs had the same dimensions of 129ft 6ins length overall of the two-car unit and a width of 9ft 2ins and were intended for semi-fast main line routes.

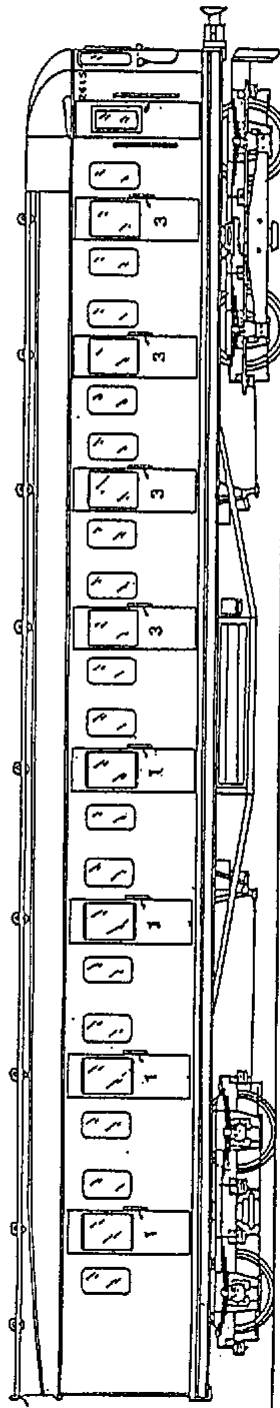
The 2-BIL unit was designed by R E L Maunsell and each unit consisted of a Motor Brake Third and a Driving Trailer Composite. The underframes of the cars were of steel sections while the bodies were constructed of steel panelling on a hardwood frame. Seating was provided for 24 first and 88 third class passengers. The unit was powered by two 275hp traction motors with electro-magnetic (later replaced by electro-pneumatic) control gear. Most of the 2-BIL EMUs were withdrawn during 1969-70.

The 2-HAL unit was designed by Maunsell's successor, O V Bulleid. Each unit was made up of a Driving Motor Third and a Driving Trailer Composite. The cars were of all-steel construction and seating was provided for 32 first and 102 third class passengers. Power was by two 275hp traction motors with electro-pneumatic control gear.

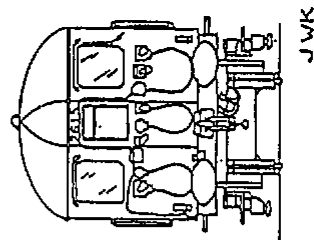
The external appearance of the HALs differed considerably from the BILs. The rounded front end of the BILs gave way to an angular cab of welded steel sheets. The roof was of a cleaner uncluttered design and the windows were flush-fitting with large-radius corners. The two types of EMU were compatible and were often run together in their respective pairs. Most of the 2-HALs were withdrawn from passenger service at the same time as the 2-BILs but some lingered on for a short time as parcel units.



MOTOR BRAKE THIRD OF 2-BIL EMU

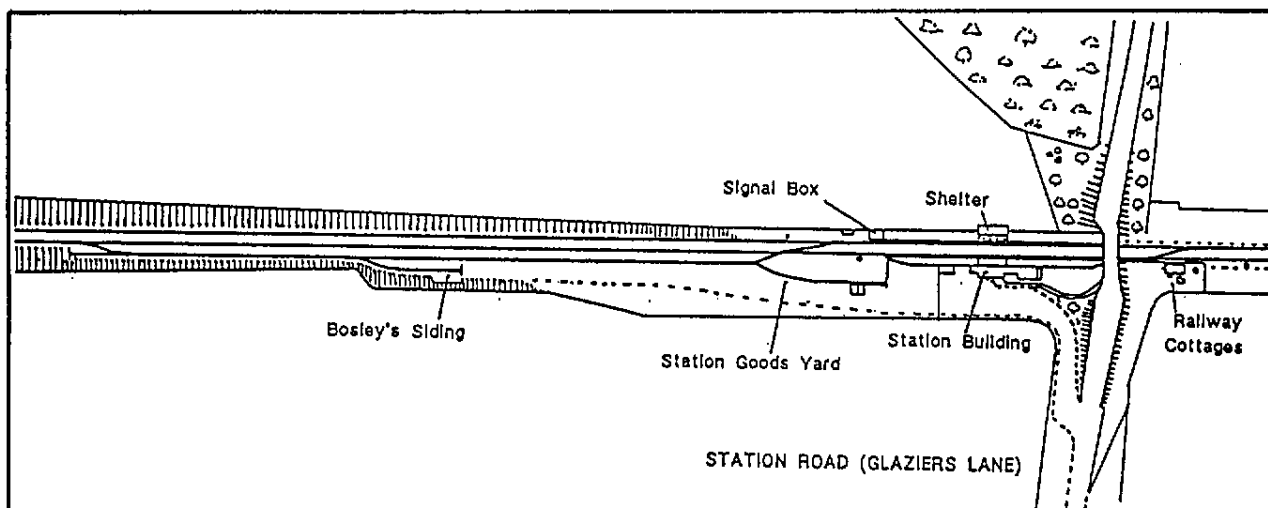


TRAILER COMPOSITE OF 2-HAL EMU

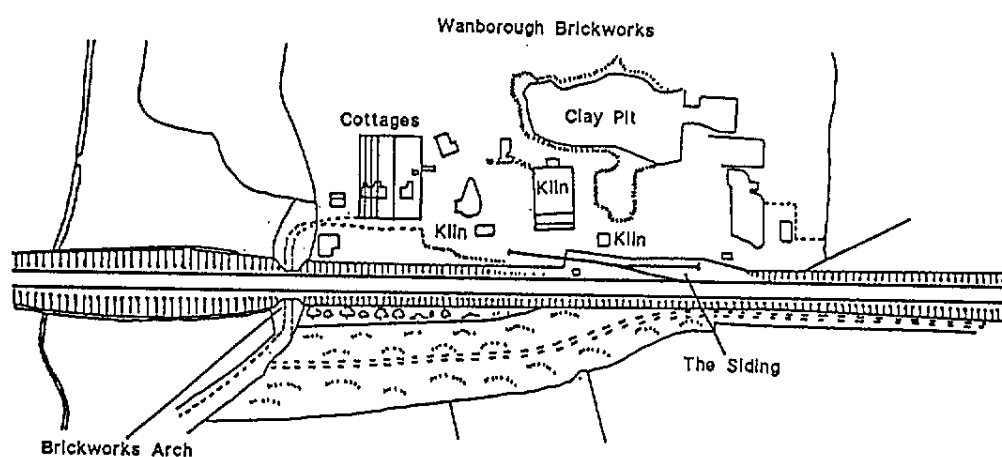


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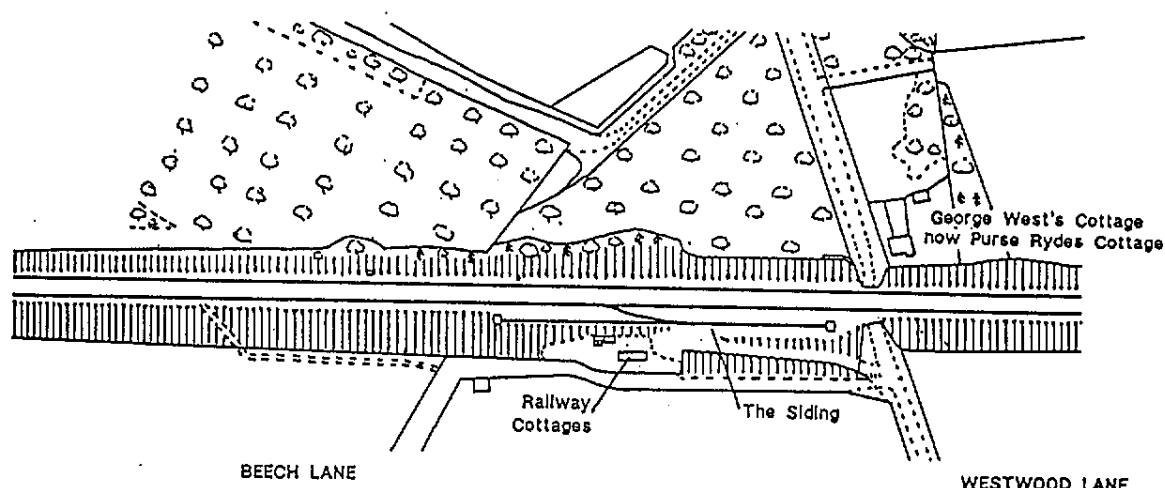
Figure 15 Southern Railway EMUs



WANBOROUGH STATION ABOUT 1913



THE BRICKWORKS SIDING ABOUT 1916



COUSSMAKER'S SIDING ABOUT 1913

JWK

Figure 16 Wanborough Station and Sidings

The highlight of the railway day was the passage of the Dover to Birkenhead Express, known to railwaymen as "the Conti", short for Continental. This was drawn usually by a gleaming Southern locomotive, but with an occasional treat for the train spotter, in the form of an equally immaculate GWR King or Castle class engine. It was always dead on time at 12.20pm and my co-writer remembers when she was working in the fields by the line and saw it go by she would drop her hoe or pitchfork and dash into the house to cook the lunch. The driver between Redhill and Reading from 1922 until 1947 was Johnny Goodwright, who sadly died on Boxing Day 1987. The operation was started in 1863 but the full service was withdrawn in 1866. However, it continued to run in one form or another until 1962.

There are still many residents in the village who remember the trainloads of hungry and battle-weary troops, after the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940, being moved in and out of the sidings including the Brickworks and Coussmaker sidings, while the local housewives plied them with refreshments. One soldier asked a young girl "Where are we?" When told "Normandy" he exclaimed that that was where they had just come from! As far as the railways were concerned, this was a masterpiece of organisation that managed to maintain essential services whilst coping with the enormous influx of extra trains and passengers. On the night of 22 August 1940 the Germans bombed an ammunition train at Tongham causing great damage and casualties. The previous day, William Joyce, known as Lord Haw-Haw, had broadcast on German radio saying, "*We are going to bomb Wanborough Junction tonight*".

After the war the even tenor of the operations at Wanborough Station was restored. The station was well-maintained and attractive with flowerbeds and several times won the prize for the Best-Kept Station. But change was on the way. In 1948 the railway companies were nationalised and the Southern Railway became the Southern Region of British Railways. The Beeching Report recommended the withdrawal of local trains between Reading and Redhill and the closure of the stations on the route but happily the proposal was not adopted. The end of steam haulage came in 1965 when the Redhill to Reading trains were taken over by diesel traction. However, with more and more competition from road transport, operations at the station were gradually run down. The station siding went out of use in 1962 and that at the brickworks in 1964. From having a stationmaster and several porters the staff was reduced until in 1979 on the last occasion that Wanborough captured the Best-Kept Station prize, Leading Railwayman Peter Hayes was running it single-handed. Up till then the waiting room on the east bound side had a polished wooden table with vases of fresh flowers. On cold days there was a coal fire in a shining Courtier stove. In 1987 the station ceased to be manned on a regular basis. Now it is totally unmanned. The decision was also made to cease having trains stop at the station on Sundays in spite of a vigorous campaign to retain the service. Network South East was launched on 10 June 1986 and now the trains are run by two private companies, Stagecoach who use the name "South West Trains" and Thames Trains.

The permanent way was not without its troubles over the years. The Coussmaker siding, which had fallen into disuse, had to be dismantled because of subsidence. The railway cottages at this point were also demolished. At almost the same spot, during an engineers' possession on Sunday 19 January 1986, a bank of clay gave way beneath the embankment leaving the down line (westbound track) suspended in mid-air. Disruption to services continued for three weeks. In 1998 there were further signs of subsidence in this area and an access track running off Westwood Lane north of the arch was constructed. The road bridge at the station was rebuilt in 1967. A temporary footbridge was erected but traffic had to be diverted until the job was completed. In 1988 the station house was taken over and renovated for offices for McShane Construction Ltd.

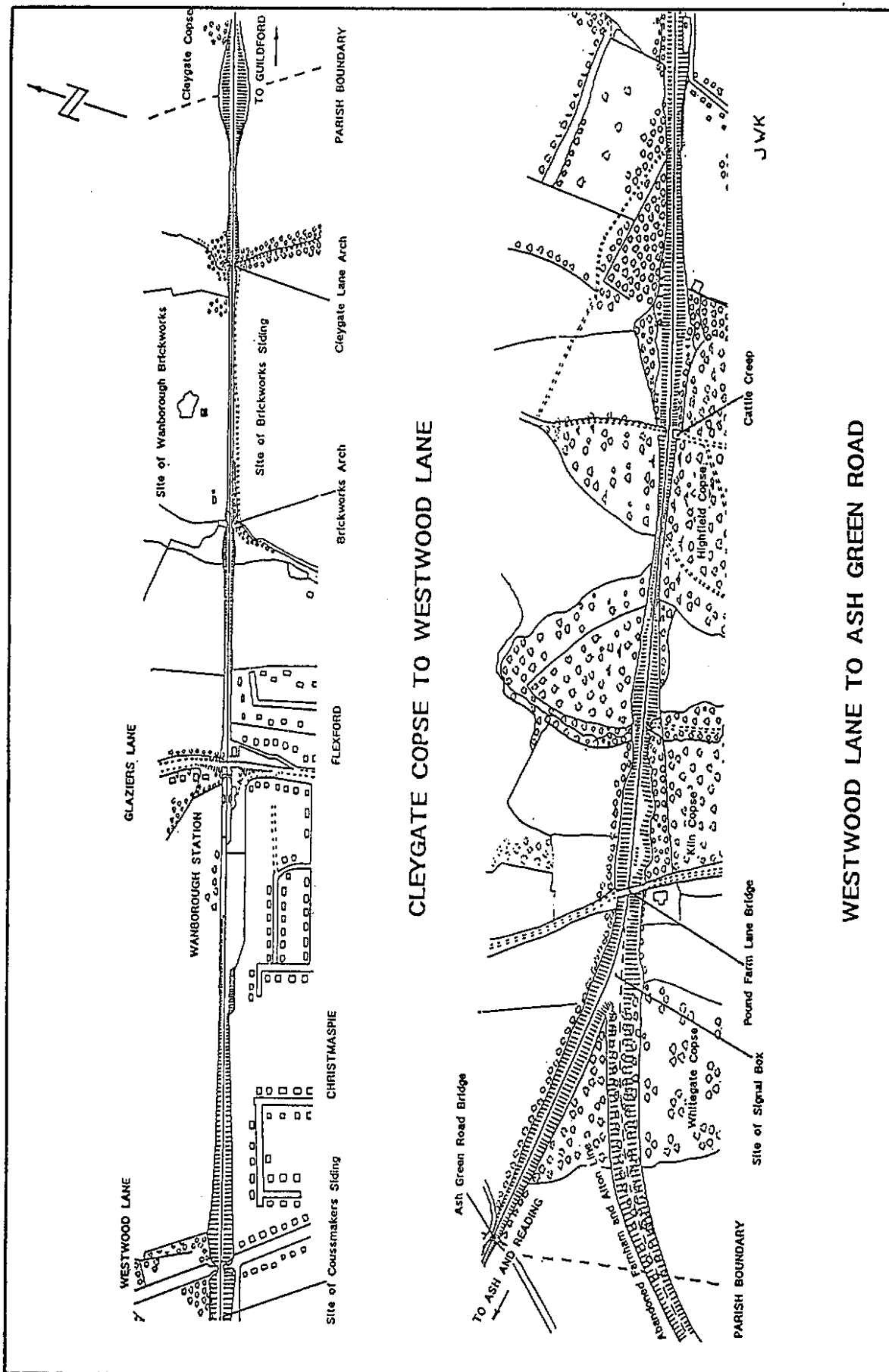
Several of the railway employees served for long periods. Albert Russell was signalman from 1924 until he retired in 1953. In 1905 the stationmaster was Charles Dyson who was also the sub-postmaster at Wanborough. From 1915 until 1927 the stationmaster was Alfred Clark. The last stationmaster was William J Woodcock who served from 1943 until 1967. His son David masterminded the reconstruction of Guildford Station in the 1990s. This was accomplished without major disruption to normal services through the station. Other personnel were more transient in their service. Alfred Vince had served on the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway (B&ALR) and after service on that line ceased when the rails were taken up and shipped to France for use at the Front he came to Wanborough in 1917. He returned to the B&ALR in 1920 to look after Herriard Station when the line was relaid.

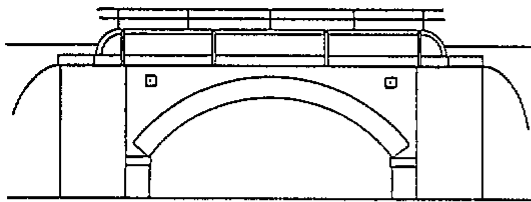
The railway cottage on the south side of the track east of the road bridge was for many years occupied by the Andrews family. Their lodger, Dusty Miller, who worked at the RAE at Farnborough and who managed the garden which ran alongside the track, boasted that he had the longest garden in the County! This cottage was demolished in the early 1980s and the present bungalow built in its place.

In 1991 a Pageant was organised by Normandy Historians and Normandy Amateur Dramatic Society to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the station. The theme was the arrival at the station of W E Gladstone and his subsequent departure for Wanborough Manor with Sir Algernon and Lady West. The pageant was supported by a host of helpers and there was an interesting exhibition including old photographs and a video recording was made of the proceedings. Although it was a Sunday when trains did not halt, an Ascot train stopped at the station as part of the celebrations. Since then there have been several occasions when steam has reappeared on the line including a circular tour by a Watercress Line excursion in 1997. Today although the glory has departed we are fortunate in still having a working railway station when so many others have been closed.

Let us now take an imaginary trip on the railway through the Parish. The line is level from the parish boundary to Wanborough station and then climbs at 1 in 100 to Ash Junction. From then on the gradient decreases to 1 in 448 to Ash station. Approaching from the east (Guildford) direction, the railway enters the parish through a shallow cutting at Cleygate Copse. It passes through a thin belt of woodland before the first feature is reached. This is Cleygate Lane arch. The trackbed at this point is about twelve feet above the lane surface which itself is depressed in order to pass under the arch, which has only nine foot clearance. The line continues on an embankment, which varies in height above the undulating terrain. On the south side are fields stretching to the Hogs Back and on the north a belt of trees and the site of Wanborough Brickworks where there was once a siding. Here there is another archway giving access to the site from Flexford. The lane is sunken where it passes under the arch. The arch has a clearance of ten feet and the trackbed is about 14 feet above the level of the lane. The ground level drops away to a stream that passes through a pond, formerly used for retting flax, and is then piped under the steep embankment. The ground level then rises until the embankment is just above the level of the fields on the north and the new housing estate of The Paddocks on the south.

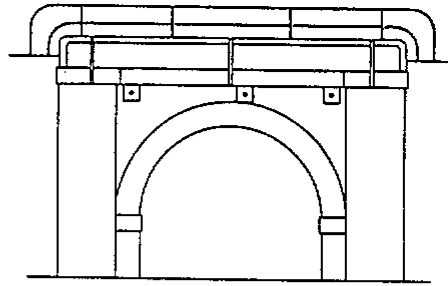
Next comes the bridge carrying Glaziers Lane over the railway and immediately to the west of it is Wanborough station. To the west the site of the sidings can still be traced on the low embankment. The Christmaspie housing estates are on the south but there are still open fields on the north with copses and clumps of trees. The height of the embankment above the general level gradually increases until Westwood Lane is reached. Here the road has to make a sudden deviation to pass under the arch which has a clearance of 14ft 3ins. The trackbed is about 18 feet above the level of the road. Just west of the arch on the south side is the site of Coussmaker's siding which was used in conjunction with the Westwood estate.





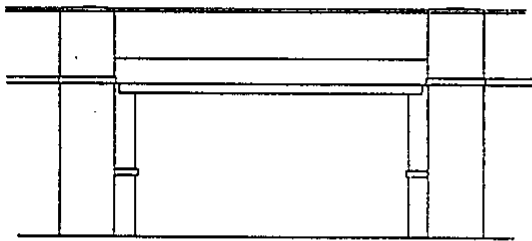
CLEYGATE LANE ARCH

Stock brick. Segmental round arch of 5 courses of brick-on-edge. Width of roadway 21ft 6ins. Clearance of arch 9ft.



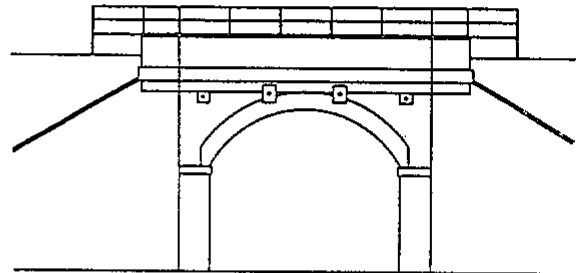
BRICKWORKS ARCH

Stock brick. Semicircular arch of 4 courses of brick-on-edge. Width of roadway 12ft. Clearance of arch 10ft.



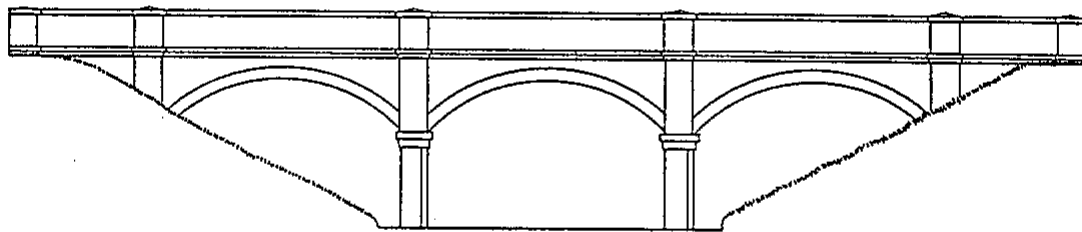
GLAZIERS LANE BRIDGE

Brick, steel and concrete. Box girder. Width between piers 24ft. Clearance above tracks 13ft.



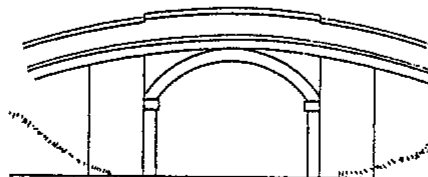
WESTWOOD LANE ARCH

Stock brick. Segmental round arch of 4 courses of brick-on-edge. Width of roadway 17ft. Clearance of arch 14ft 3ins. The arch is not a skew arch but the course of the roadway is diverted about 30° to pass through arch.



POUND FARM LANE BRIDGE

Stock brick. Three segmental round arches of 4 courses of brick-on-edge. Width of centre arch 30ft. Clearance above tracks 18ft. The arches are carried on skew piers and the rails pass through the centre arch at an angle of about 20°



ASH GREEN ROAD BRIDGE

Stock brick. Segmental round arch of 4 courses of brick-on-edge. Width of arch 20ft. Clearance above tracks 15ft.

Figure 18 Bridges and Arches

To the south the embankment looks down on Beech Lane and its scatter of houses but beyond this the land on both sides is thickly wooded. A little further on is a cattle creep under the embankment that connects parts of the former Westwood estate cut off by the railway. The terrain is increasingly undulating and thickly wooded on both sides of the line which soon enters a cutting which becomes about 20 feet deep at the maximum point.

We have now arrived at the most spectacular bridge structure on this stretch of railway. This is the three-arched Pound Farm Lane Bridge, which paradoxically carries one of the most insignificant roads in the parish over the railway. The arches are in line with the road but are carried on skew piers to afford clearance for the tracks that pass through the centre arch at an angle of about 20 degrees. Quite why it was necessary to adopt this elaboration in construction is unclear when it would have been obviously simpler to divert the course of the road as was done at Westwood Lane. Just beyond the bridge is the site of Ash Junction where the South Eastern Railway's tracks branched off to the north of the LSWR's Farnham line. This was taken up in 1961 but the cutting through which it ran, now choked with scrub, can just be discerned. After the initial curve off the former main line the track then proceeds dead straight to Ash station with the cutting gradually getting shallower until it finally peters out just beyond Ash Green Road Bridge. The bridge is a decidedly hump-backed structure to provide clearance for the road over the shallow cutting. It is at this point that the line passes out of Normandy parish.

Road Transport

In terms of road transport, Normandy one hundred years ago was very different to what it is today. Mention has been made about the generally bad state of the roads. Vehicles were horse-drawn and the local smiths did a good trade in maintaining both animals and the vehicles they drew.

There have been commercial carriers in Normandy since the earliest times. In 1881, William Marshall was a carter in Normandy village and James Alderton of Wyke Cottage was a "Farmers Carter". By 1909 commercial carriage was also offered by Alfred Matthews who went to Farnborough, Aldershot and Farnham on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8.30am and to Guildford on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8am. His wife Sarah sold cakes from her cafe at their home at Petworth Villa near the Nightingale inn. The Friary Brewery used a steam wagon to deliver to the Duke of Normandy. In about 1930 Albert Chant established his haulage contracting business in Guildford Road. He would put wooden seats in his van and transport people to the races and on works outings. He would also carry worshippers to the Roman Catholic Church on Sundays. Before long he also became a coach proprietor and from then on his passengers could travel in more comfort. As his sons grew up they joined the firm and assisted their father. Frank Chant drove the coach when his father became ill. Albert Chant died in 1939 and the brothers took over the firm. Sister Edie, having learnt to drive, went back to assist her brothers and helped to keep the business going when they were called up for military service. As the brothers grew older the business gradually wound down but Jim Chant, although officially retired, is still driving on occasions. Charabancs were popular in the 1920s and 1930s and passengers brought trade to the Village, particularly when the Aldershot Tattoos were held at Rushmoor Arena.

Since the Aldershot and District Traction Company (A&D), familiarly known as the "Tracco", played such an important part in the life of the village it is worth going into a little more detail of its workings. The A&D started operating a bus service between Aldershot and Godalming via Normandy and Guildford on 31 January 1914. This route also took in the Fox Inn at Pirbright, Worplesdon and Stoughton. To start with, there were three buses a day in each direction on weekdays and two on Sundays.

The journey time from Aldershot, Queen Hotel to Wyke Church was scheduled at 25 minutes. The company started the service with Dennis buses and there were also AEC "B" types, which were marketed by Daimler, and Belsize vehicles. The buses were first identified only by the destination. Subsequently, letters of the alphabet were used and finally the routes were numbered. Later, Dennis buses would take over almost completely and the A&D stayed loyal to this make for almost the whole of the rest of its existence.

In 1915 the route was changed from via the Fox Inn and Worplesdon to run along the A323 past the turning to Wood Street. It also ran through to Witley and Haslemere for a few months. In 1916 and 1917 several services were suspended for the duration of the war but the Aldershot/Guildford route was one of the few to continue and by August 1916 the number of buses per day had increased to five on weekdays and three on Sundays. By the end of 1919 all the suspended services had been restored and the service to Normandy had again been increased to eight a day on weekdays and six on Sundays. The route had been extended to Dorking and was identified by the letter H. Further changes continued to be made in the schedules and in 1924 the frequency was up to 30 minutes intervals. The running time from Aldershot Queen Hotel to Wyke Church had been reduced to 22 minutes. By this time the service between Aldershot and Guildford was numbered 20 and the extended service to Dorking which also passed through the village was numbered 25. The 1926 General Strike had little effect on the A&D as all their employees remained at work and normal services were run. Tuesday 1 August 1933 was the last day of operation east of Guildford, this service having been taken over by the London Passenger Transport Board.

World War II had little effect on the operation of the route through Normandy although, especially on Saturdays, it could prove difficult to get on the very full buses. This situation was even worse when Aldershot Football Club was playing at home. In 1942 a letter from the Ministry of War Transport, exhibiting a typical piece of wartime bureaucracy, agreed that unclaimed rationed foodstuffs left in public service vehicles could be consumed in the operator's canteens providing that food coupons to the relative value of the foodstuffs were surrendered. One wonders how such a scheme could have been monitored. In 1943 the position of bus stopping points in Normandy was formalised and with two exceptions these have remained as agreed at that time. When the slip road into Pirbright Road from Elm Hill was constructed the bus stop was moved there from the previous position to the east of the junction. In 1997 Wyke crossroads was reconstructed to provide waiting bays for traffic turning right out of Guildford Road. The bus stop opposite Wyke Church was moved to a layby slightly to the west of the junction. In 1943 the A&D announced that it was introducing a minimum fare of 3d (1.25p) single on all outward journeys from Aldershot to Guildford. This was to discourage short distance passengers from travelling on the 20 service.

After the war the service frequencies were maintained and in 1949 service 20 was converted to double-decker operation using brand new Dennis Lance K3s. In 1960 the service 20c between Farnborough and Ash Street was revised and linked with service 20. The combined service was increased to form a 15 minutes frequency between Aldershot and Guildford. Most buses started at Wellington Avenue in Aldershot, some coming through from Farnborough, and terminated at the Guildford Bus Station in Farnham Road. Until May 1950 they had terminated at the Technical Institute in Park Street. In 1958 the Dennis "Loline" chassis, built under licence and a version of the Bristol "Lodekka", (previously only available to nationalised bus operators of the Tilling Group) was produced. The A & D took thirty four examples and Service 20 was so equipped. The offsetting of the transmission shaft enabled a low level gangway downstairs and a central upper deck gangway in place of the former bench seating with a sunken

offside gangway. East Lancashire Coachbuilders of Blackburn built the body, incorporating a platform-door.

In 1972, the A & D took over the assets of the Thames Valley Traction Company Ltd. and the company became Alder Valley. The familiar green and cream livery gradually disappeared to be replaced by a less attractive overall red scheme later reverting to a green and ochre livery. The service 20 was renumbered 220 and the 239 service to Camberley was rearranged so that it was rerouted via Normandy and the existing frequencies through the village were maintained. The journey time between Aldershot and Wyke Church had been reduced again to 17 minutes.

On 26 October 1992 Alder Valley passed into history having been taken over by the ubiquitous Stagecoach Group. At first, Stagecoach transfers were stuck over the Alder Valley insignia retaining the previous livery but soon this was replaced by the new owner's distinctive striped finish.

In 1922 when A & D were running buses from Aldershot to Guildford eleven times daily, F Barton "*passed through*" from Frimley to Guildford on Tuesdays and Thursdays. His bus service continued up to the outbreak of World War II. Of lesser importance than the A & D but nonetheless significant in the life of the community was the Yellow Bus Service, founded by Frank Hutchins and Sydney Hayter. In 1928 they started to operate a route from Guildford to Camberley via Wood Street and Normandy using Dennis 30cwt chassis fitted with Strachan and Brown 18 seater bodies. As trade picked up these were replaced by Dennis Lancet 32 seaters. In November 1928 the A & D applied for a licence to operate from Guildford to Normandy and Christmaspie via Wood Street which would have competed with the Yellow buses but the application was refused. In 1949 the Yellow Bus Company offered the Camberley route together with three new Dennis Lancet buses to the A&D but were turned down. However, in 1954 with business falling off A&D finally took the route over but only the Guildford - Wood Street (Frog Grove Lane) and Ash (Dover Arms) - Camberley sections.

On Wednesday, 3 May 1995, the Tillingbourne Bus Company started a weekly bus service, No.548, to Woking on Wednesdays. Starting from Farnham, the bus picks up passengers from various points in the village and takes them to Woking where they are allowed two hours for shopping and other activities before the bus returns them to their respective starting points. This service has proved very useful for people living in outlying parts of the parish and, happily it still continues. Recently, the Tillingbourne Company has introduced further services to Farnham and Guildford. All these services are dependent upon the support of the Surrey County Council and if not adequately utilised may be withdrawn.

One hundred years ago, personal transport was almost entirely the prerogative of the "well-to-do". One mode of transport that was an exception was the bicycle, which enjoyed a boom in popularity in the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. Anyone who was fit and could afford it, considered purchasing a machine to broaden their horizons and cycling clubs were very popular. Certain inns became recognised meeting places for cyclists, the Anchor at Ripley being a particularly well-known example. The bicycle hire business was also in full swing for those less well-off. For the more affluent and adventurous, motorcycles became practical in the early years of the 20th century. However, the roads remained poor and punctures were frequent.

It is a matter of debate as to who owned the first private car in the village. Certainly, Lady Roberts of Henley Park was an early owner and the Field family who lived at "The White House" in Glaziers Lane had an open Model 'T' Ford. The first car through the

village is said to have ended up in a ditch near the Guildford Road crossroads. In the 1930s cars were still few and far between.

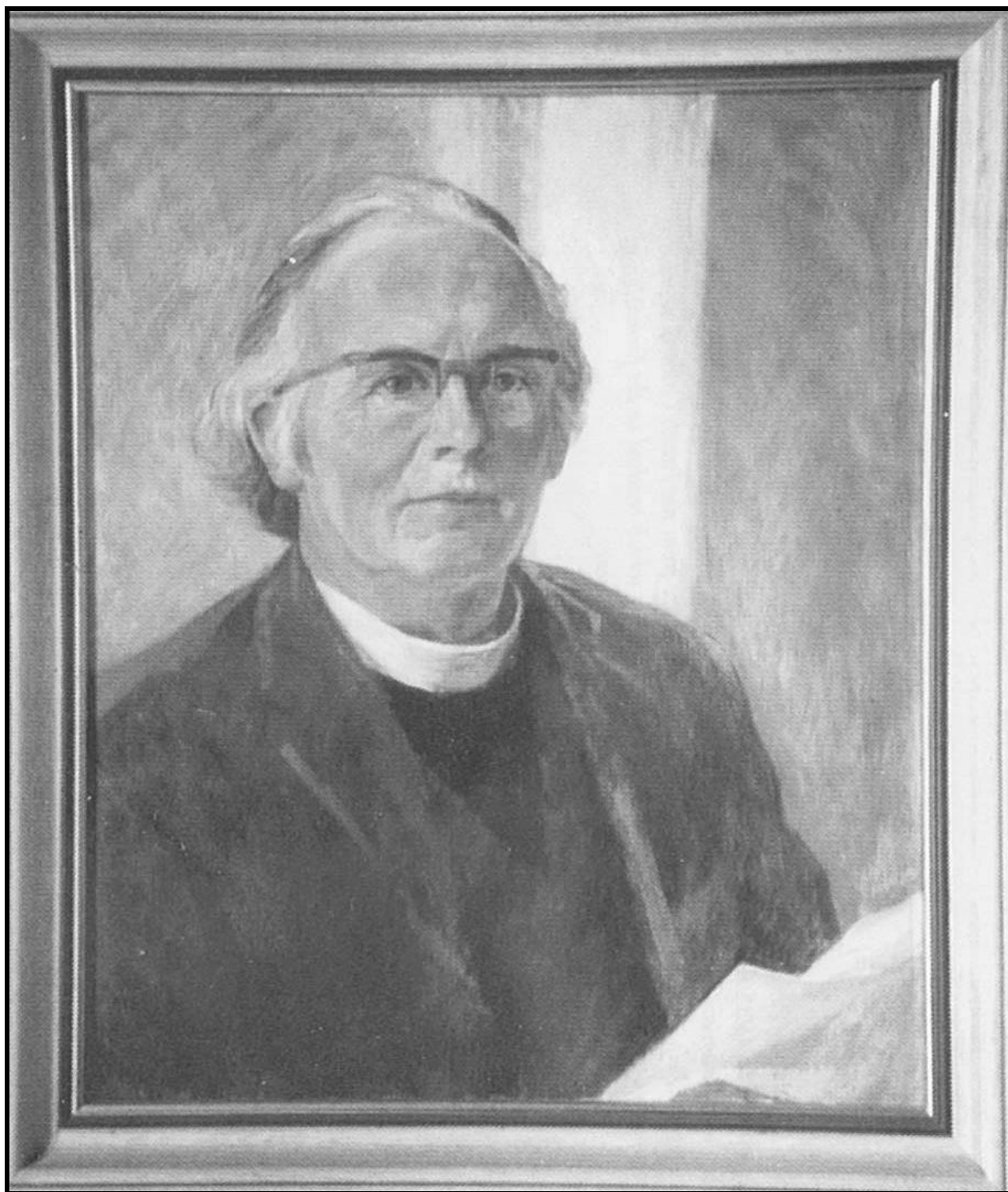
Barnett the poultry farmer, Mr Cull and Sir Philip Henriques of Normandy Park were among the few owners and William Olley had a car provided for his work as a representative for Skeet and Jeffes. By 1938 John Horne, who had retired from his grocery shop to become a market gardener on his holding at Coorabelle, now called High Gables in Glaziers Lane, was offering cars for hire (phone Normandy 42). Tommy James ran a taxi service at Normandy Garage.

During the war many servicemen learnt to drive and with the coming of peace and full employment more and more were able to afford to buy a vehicle. However, the immediate post-war period was one of austerity and most vehicles produced in this country went for export to support the balance of payments. By the 1950s the situation had eased and the number of cars and motor cycles proliferated until the present time when driving has become somewhat of a nightmare because of the sheer volume of traffic. Thus while road surfaces have improved out of all recognition and mobility for most people has increased, fierce competition from road transport threatens the existence of the railway and public transport tends to be an expensive option.



1. The picture That Started It All

In this picture of Normandy Pond and Quinta Cottage, Gladys Marshall is sitting on the left side of the bench in the foreground with her sister Lilian, about 1916. In 1985 Gladys showed the picture to Ann Adey who discovered that the pond had become completely overgrown and had virtually disappeared. She formed the Normandy Pond Restoration Committee who, with the help of many volunteers and financial assistance from the Parish Council, renovated it in 1987. This sparked a wave of interest in the history of Normandy which resulted in the formation of Normandy Historians society in the same year.



2. The Reverend Graham K Hawket

From his induction in 1967 until his retirement in 1985 Graham was a much respected and well-loved Vicar of St. Mark's Church, Wyke. After a full life in business he entered Bishops' College, Cheshunt in 1961 to train as a priest, was ordained in 1963 when he was appointed Curate to St. John's Church, Farncombe. Louise, his wife for 52 years who sadly died in January 2000, was born in the USA and like her mother was a talented professional portrait painter. One of Louise's commissions was a portrait of the Principal of Bishops' College which hangs in the College dining hall.



3. Albert Norman

Albert Norman, a diamond cutter by profession, lived at Wistaria, Glaziers Lane. He raised hundreds of roses in his garden and originated the world-famous roses Frensham and Ena Harkness. He was elected President of the Royal National Rose Society in 1957 and 1958.



4. Little Flexford Farm
This farm was also known as the Stud Farm and Grays Farm.



5. Great Westwood
This was the farmhouse of Westwood Farm. It was restored in the 1960s after falling derelict.



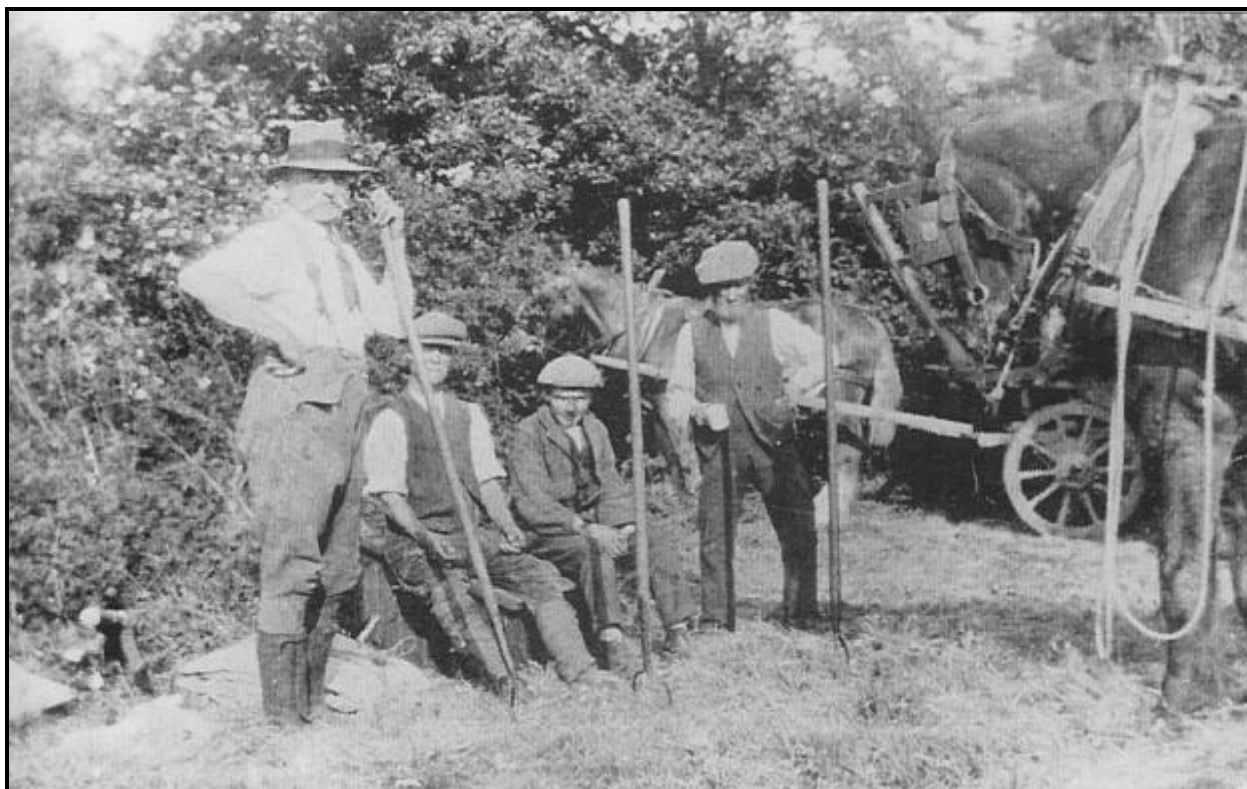
6. Mid-day Rest

This is a view of the rear of Westwood farmhouse with the horses cooling their feet in a pond which has now disappeared. Compare with Plate 5.



7. Passengers Farm

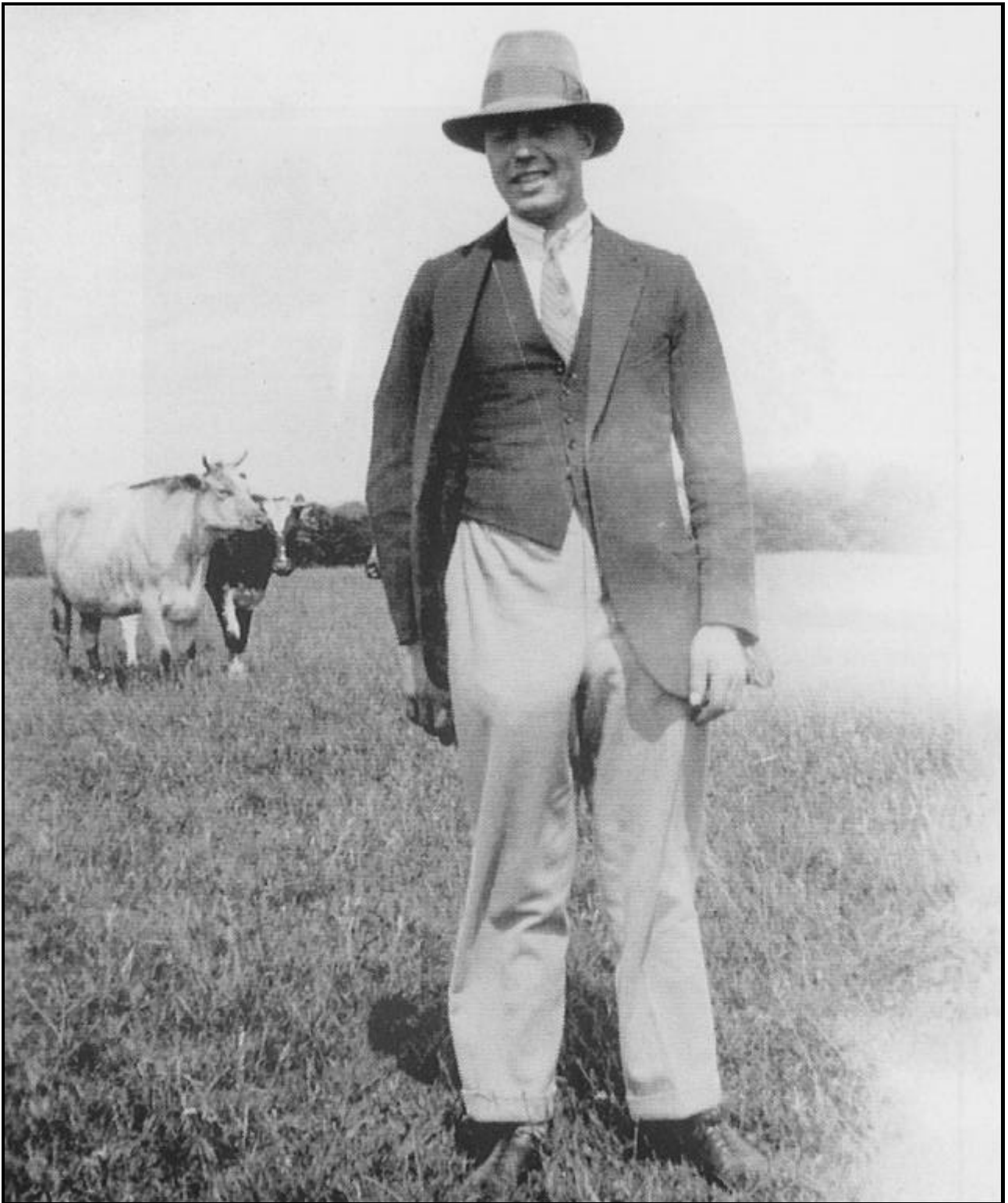
The name of the farm was previously Bush Ingham Farm and Passengers comes from the name of a meadow possibly referring to a former owner. The house was originally a half-timbered hall house of four bays dating from the 16th century. Brick additions were made in the 18th century.



8. Haymaking in 1923
L-R James Rice, Buckle, John Freaks, Turp Horton.



9. The First Baler at East Wyke Farm in the 1950s
Hamilton Jr (Boy) Sherwood is driving the tractor. Brian Sherwood is third from the right.



*10. Edgar Sherwood
With shorthorn cattle about 1930.*



11. Hamilton Sherwood
In a field of oats in 1948.



12. Henley Park House in about 1925

This view is of the front of the house facing east. The wing at the rear and the conservatory to the left have been removed but apart from this and the elimination of the ivy the house has been restored to very much the appearance it presents here.



13. China Bridge

This is the "China" or "Chinese" Bridge in Henley Park. It is believed to have been built during Lord Pirbright's tenure of the estate in the early 1900s. The figures on the bridge are Russell Newman and Michael John Mullard (both Youth Leaders of the Ash Youth Club) and Michael's daughter Joanne Amy. The occasion was a plastic duck race in aid of the Ash Youth Centre in 1996. A variation of "Pooh Sticks"?



14. Westwood House about 1910

This view is of the rear of the house facing west. The earliest part is to the left and is believed to date from the 14th century. The last part to be added in 1863 is the wing to the right.



15. The Manor House about 1910

William Cobbett lived in the house from 1831 until his death in 1835. the house has been considerably altered and is no longer part of a working farm as it was in Cobbett's time.



16. Normandy Park about 1911
The house was built in about 1868 by George Bean but has been considerably altered and added to over the years. It is now divided into three apartments.



17. Walden Cottages
The estate was started by Guildford Council in 1939 and was completed after World War II. This picture shows the two forms of construction of the houses, the Airey Homes on the right and traditional brick-built on the left. Note the beautifully kept hedges. The gardens behind are equally immaculate.



18. Ash Parish Council 1911-12

At this time Normandy formed Normandy Ward of Ash Parish with three Councillors. The Normandy representatives were T Osgood, T Deedman and W Deedman.

Back Row L-R T Osgood, W Wren (Clerk), H Murrell, T Deedman, L Hogsflesh.

Front Row L-R J H Beeton, Edward Bull (Chairman), W Deedman, M P Ward.



19. Wanborough Station about 1908

This picture was taken before the concrete interplatform bridge was built in 1938. A somewhat curious feature is the apparently wide spacing of the track sleepers. The scene emphasises the very rural setting of the station at that time. Today housing estates hem it in except on the north which is to the right of the picture.



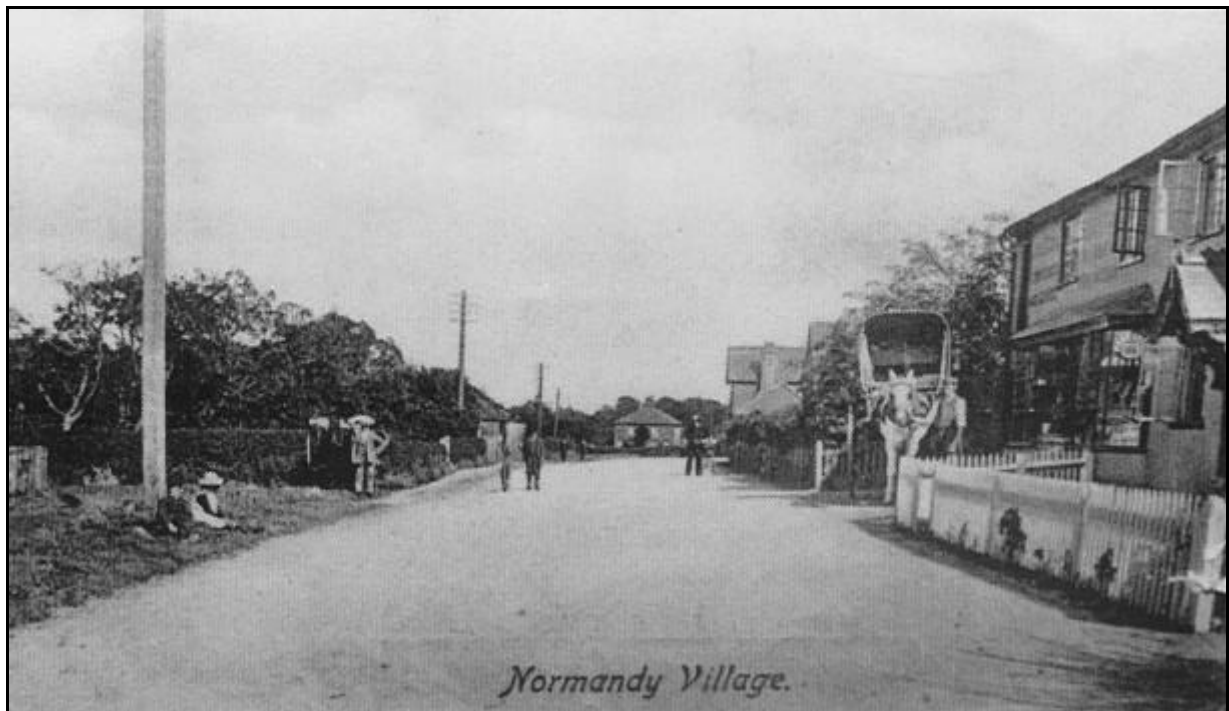
20. The Staff at Wanborough Station

This picture was taken at some time prior to 1915 and contrasts with the present day situation of the station being entirely unmanned. The members of staff are unidentified but the man standing on the left is holding a shunting pole and the two on the right are each holding a flag, one probably red the other green while the man in the middle is probably the Station Master, Charles Dyson.



21. Bus at Wyke Church

The bus pictured on Friday 31 May 1968 leaving Wyke Church bus stop, originally sited nearer the Westwood Lane junction with Guildford Road, is a "Loline" as mentioned in the text and was ten years old at the time. Judging by the church clock the bus is not on time and it displays an incorrect destination as it is heading towards Aldershot. Note that the brick pillar box and the large electrical junction box in Westwood Lane are not there today.



22. Normandy's Original Shop about 1906

It still survives as the Motorcycle Shop. It is recorded as being a grocery and baker's shop as early as 1841. It remained as such until the 1950s but during this time sold many other items including newspapers and hardware and until about 1900 it was also the village post office. It was occupied by a succession of shop keepers some of whose names are recalled today - James Dolley from the 1840s to the 1860s, William Deedman in the 1880s and Horace Holland who was also postmaster in the 1890s. In the early 1900s came J W Bentley and then R J Harvey. During the 1920s and 1930s, when the shop became known as "The Crib", there were Dicky Durbridge and his wife Rosa, Arthur Page and finally Mrs Carpenter who traded there for nearly 20 years. After standing empty for a while, the Motorcycle Shop was established in 1959 by Mike and Brian Garbutt.



23. Billy and Alice Wakeford and daughter Prudence outside The Homestead about 1932

In the 1920s Billy Wakeford sold fish from Guildford market from his barrow. Later he sold fresh fruit. He also sold rabbits and rabbit skins as far afield as Aldershot.



24. Rolph's Store at Willey Green about 1918

This shop was built between 1841 and 1871 and served the Willey Green community at various times as a butchers, general store, bakery and grocery, draper and hosier and sweet shop until the 1970s when it became an antique and bric-a-brac shop, in the 1980s an autoglass shop and most recently a builders' merchant. In another photograph taken before World War I the shop has a flat roof but by the time this picture was taken it had been converted to a pitched roof. Walter Rolph and his wife Ruth, probably seen here standing in the doorway, occupied the shop, which was owned by Bowyers flour merchants of Stoke Mill, from 1910 until Walter's death in 1954. Around 1930 Palmolive had a sales promotion where they gave away 100 sticks of shaving soap, 100 shaving brushes and 100 tablets of soap to the longest established business between Aldershot and Guildford and Rolph's shop won it!



25. The Anchor Old Building about 1900

By this time the ownership of the Anchor had passed from John Henry Knight to Farnham United Breweries and the landlord was James Hutchins, who occupied it until the mid 1930s. Although it was described as being "in fair order considering its age" this building was pulled down in 1916 and replaced by the present building on the same site.



26. Pinewoods Post Office soon after it was opened in about 1906

Shown on a postcard published by J P Pryor but reproduced from an original Frith postcard. This shop has had a remarkably consistent history. It was a grocery, post office and drapery run by J P Pryor and his sister for nearly 30 years. In the mid 1930s it was taken over by Arthur Bennett, "newsagent and bookseller" and, although no longer a post office it was a newsagents until it closed in 1996.



27. Normandy Butchers in 1987 just before demolition

First established as a butchers shop in the early 1920s in premises previously occupied by the post office, it continued to flourish and was a well-known feature of Normandy for over 60 years. It was run in succession by Frederick Hawkins, Martin Barlow with, in turn, his son by the same name, then Thomas Kirtley and finally Michael Jones. Regretably it was forced to close down in 1988 and Preston House and the adjoining house were converted into four terraced residences. The people are taking part in a Fun Run.



28. The Corner Shop before it was modernised in the 1960s

A small grocery, it was started in the 1920s by P A Pepin and his sister Muriel, who ran the tea shop in its early days. They were followed by George Astlet who also sold paraffin and stamps. In the 1930s it was taken over by Mr Little and Alfred Paice. Mr Little left very soon afterwards and Alfred Paice then ran it for nearly 20 years with his sister who was responsible for the off-licence - then the only one in the village. Tom Turner, who had worked for Mr Paice as a boy, took it over with his sister Ethel in the 1950s and they had it until they moved to the Westwood Lane Stores in the mid 1960s. Several other proprietors had it after them. It became a Wavy Line Grocer but eventually closed in about 1983.



Normandy, "The Village Smithy".

29. Normandy Smithy about 1906

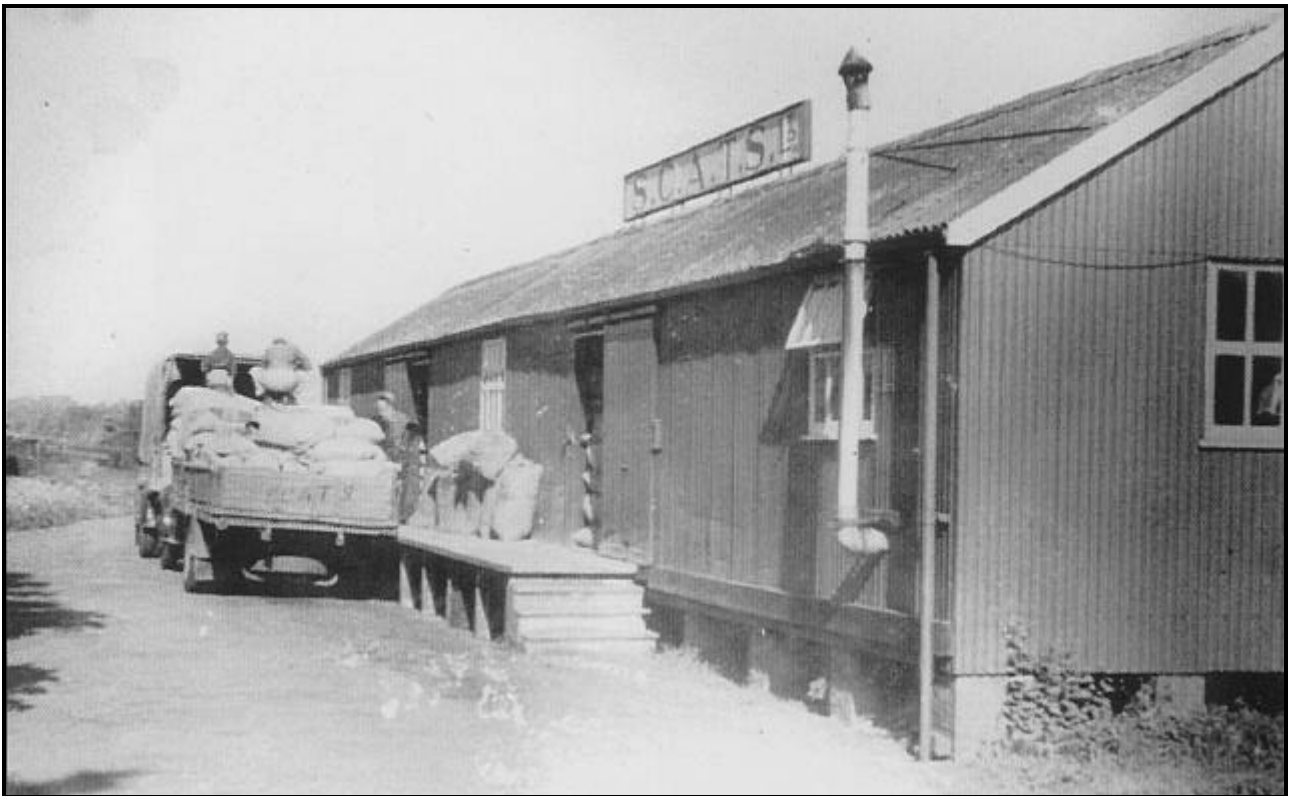
The smithy was on the north side of Guildford Road to the west of the Anchor and had been there since at least 1825. It was subsequently a builder's workshop and a coachbuilder's paint shop until World War II.

The young man on the right with the sledgehammer is Albert Bowyer who lived to be 98 and was Hilda Noldart's uncle. The young man on the left holding the horse is Herbert Coleman. The older man on the right with the small hammer is Bill Bridger who owned the smithy at the time. The other man is unidentified.



30. A group of 15 Workmen at Wanborough Brickworks, possibly in the 1920s

Stephen Moore is seated on the right and the man sitting on the left may be George Turner, grandfather of Ethel and Tom Turner. Note the decorative bricks in the barrow.



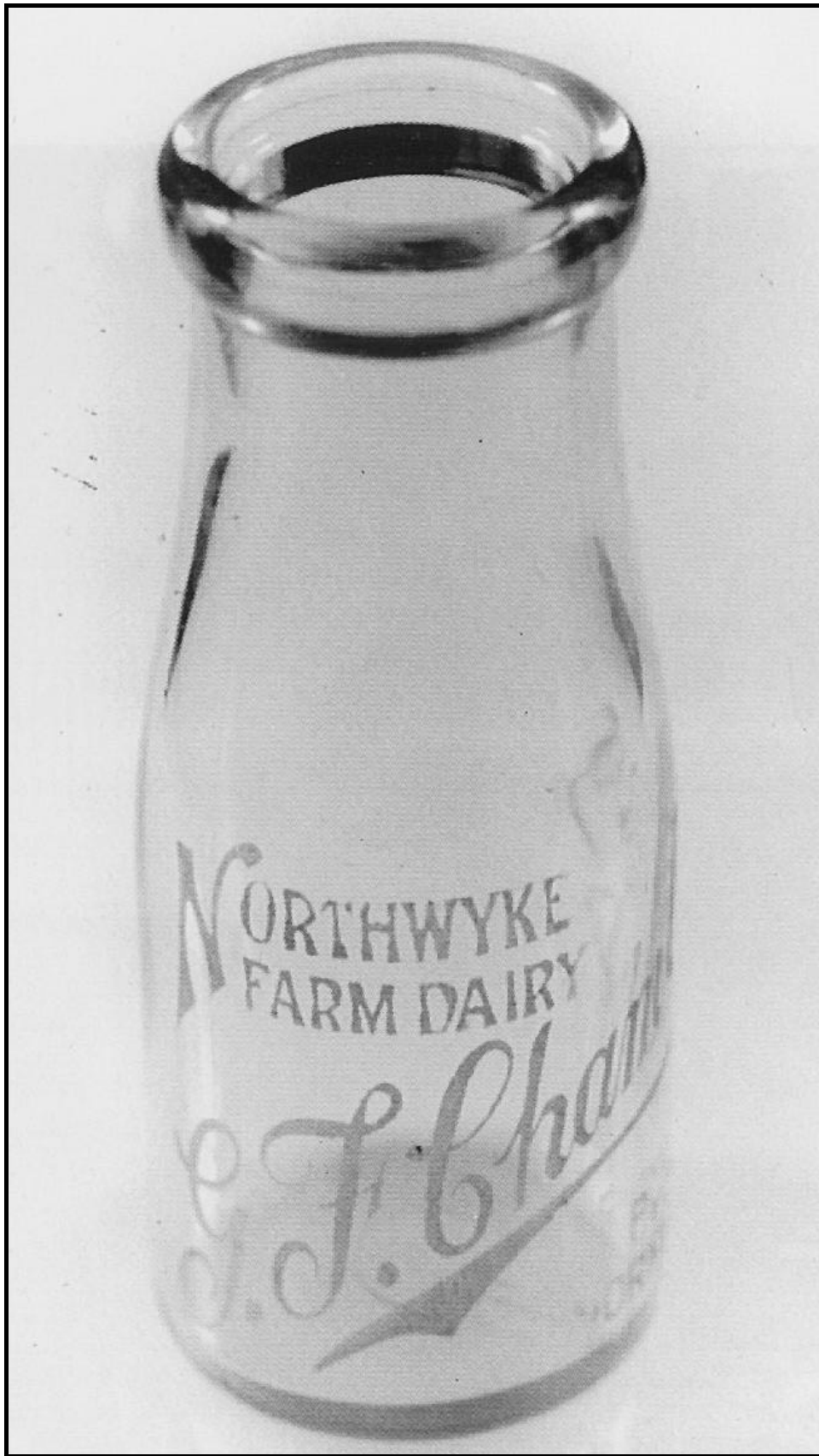
31. SCATS Store in Wanborough Station Yard about 1950

The Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society established its premises in Normandy before World War II when the manager was Don Bishop. The next manager was Harold Church, up to the mid-1950s.



32. Machinists at Vokes at Henley Park making filters out of gauze and steel mesh in the early 1950s.

They are part of the sewing machine section of the Filter Element Manufacturing Department, in one of the old factory sheds which was called Multi-V. The woman at the front is called Frankie and the fourth woman is Ellen Warby. Ellen worked at Vokes for 32 years but only worked on that particular job for about a week, when the photo happened to be taken.



33. One of Chambers' Milk Bottles
Gayler Frederick Chambers delivered milk from North Wyke Farm with a horse-drawn float. This bottle has survived and bears the telephone number Normandy 3. We have not yet established who had Normandy 1 and 2.



33. George Coomber
George Coomber kept cows at Weekwood Holding in Green Lane and sold the milk fro an open churn. He later changed to bottles and delivered them with a tradesman's bicycle.



35. Normandy Football Club 1925-26

The team is pictured at their ground on the corner of Pirbright Road and School Lane. Normandy Park Lodge can be seen in the background.

Back Row L-R Wilfred Sewry, unknown, Bert Goodchild, Les Lance, Les Harrison, Bill Wiltshire, Benjamin Boyer.

Middle Row L-R Len Summers, ? Summers, Sid Packham.

Front Row L-R William (Bill) Beer, unknown, Doug Roberts, Pat Goodchild, unknown.



36. Maypole Dancing at Normandy Village Hall 1929

Most of the children are unidentified but the small girl marked with an + is Betty Quest and the sitting boy with the striped tie is Walter Quest. The boy on the extreme left is Gerry Avenall. The boy front left with white shorts is Frank Chant. The boy front right of the Maypole with white shoes is Ray Tyrell.



37. Normandy Table Tennis Club 1951

Back Row L-R Alex Droupin, Dennis Hunt, John Gunner, Mousie Boyd, Cyril Stiff

Middle Row L-R Cedric Fletcher, Michael Gaines, Dennis Moore, Shirley Kitchen, Ann Kitchen, Bob Stiff, Valya Korrie, John Moore.

Front Row L-R Ron Rees, Frank Hazlewood (Captain), Major Hugh Kitchen (Chairman), Rex Hamilton (President), George Korrie (Secretary/Treasurer), John Hunt, Bernard Hobbs.



38. Normandy Youth Club Football Team 1968/69

This picture was taken when the team were competing in the Aldershot Junior League, Division 3, at Aldershot Park.

Back Row L-R Peter Jolliffe, Bobby Heath, Roy Hebburn, Barry Woodford, Mike Cheeseman, Tom Todd.

Front Row L-R Jeff Chandler, Jerry Kerrigan, John Gaines, Colin Sweet, Peter Kerins.



39. Womens' Institute Market at the 1973 Village Festival

Back L-R Peg Mitchell, May Chalk, Phoebe Balchin, Lucy Richards, Edith Atkins, Dorothy Walton, Joan Robinson, May Saward, Gwen Scott, Phyllis Liford.

Front L-R Sylvia Langston, June Grove, Stella Woodcock



40. The 1st Normandy Brownie Guides

The Brownies are pictured during their first Pack Holiday at Littleton Youth House in August 1968. The Brownies were under the Leadership of their Guider, Doris Page (back row 4th from left) who was assisted by Miss J Cooper, Wood Street Guider, Mrs H Sinden and Mrs F Allin, Park Barn Guider. Brownies Pamela and Sally Kirtley are sitting in front of Doris Page, Debbie Chattaway is kneeling to their right, Jane Baunsey is kneeling to the left of Doris. Brownie Sarah Turner is standing receiving tuition and Jeanette is kneeling in front of her. Brownie Vivien Van't Riet is kneeling far right with Pat Boumphrey reclining in front of her.



41. The Opening of Normandy's New Cricket Pavilion

Surrey County Cricket Club President Micky Stewart performed the opening ceremony on Bank Holiday Monday 31 May 1999 assisted by veteran Normandy Club President Doug Roberts in his 100th year on the left and Chairman Bob Jones on the right.



42. Wyke School in the early 1900s

The class is Standard IV as indicated by the boy with the slate. The children and mistress are unidentified but the master is James Blaber, the Headteacher.



43. Wyke School about 1906

The master on the right is James Blaber the Headteacher and the mistress on the left is Jessie Bluck who was a teacher at the school from 24 October 1905 until 16 September 1907. Her father was Head Gardener at Henley Park and a school manager.

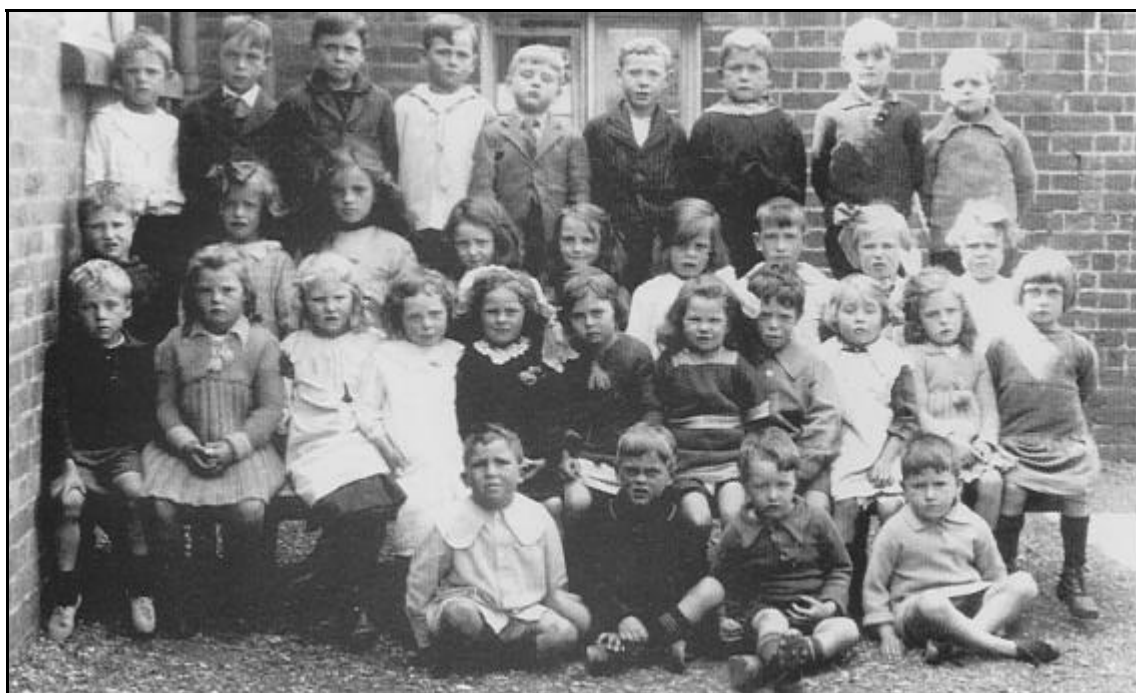
Back Row L-R Roy Roberts, unknown, Vic Boseley, Nobby Hobbs, Frank Hutchins, Tom Mullard, Pye Lambert

Second Row L-R Hilda Butler, Lilian Horn, Mary Godard, Hilda Lockyer, Edith Bridger, Mary Turner, George Turner, Grace Cranston, Nellie Fooks.

Third Row L-R Amos Gower, Fred Lipscombe, John Mullard, Doug Roberts, Ted Ham, Bert Goodchild, Percy Stag, Fred Gower, unknown.

Fourth Row L-R Audry Bailey, Isabel Morris, Eva Deedman, Annie Godard, Laura Stag, Ada Elkins, Kathleen Hammond, Edith Bridger, Lily Sewry.

Front Row L-R Edna Shorter, ? Lockyer, Lily Lipscombe, unknown.



44. Wyke School about 1924

In the back row, fifth from left is Tommy Barr. In the second row third from left is Tilly Moore, second right is Ethel Rolph and on her left is Doris Shorter. In the third row second from left is Joan Hellard and fourth from right is Jack Oliver. In the front row second from right is Dick Rolph. The other children are unidentified.



45. Wyke School 1936

Back Row L-R Peter Smith, Dicky Durbridge, Willie Smith, Jerry Carter, Joyce Harwood, Jean Coles, Roy Hammond, Myrtle Small, Maisie Watts, Doris Moody, Bessie Beckett.
Second Row L-R Elvi Roberts, Nancy Mansell, Joan Smith, Joyce King, Marjory Butler, Doreen Marshall, Jim Hoskiss, Alfie Cox, Allen Fletcher, Jim Stephenson, Mary Norman.
Third Row L-R Rosie Rogers, Sheila Quinell, Gladys Lambert, Kitty Williams, Joan Wheeler, Rosemary Marshall, June Green, Rosie Pearce.
Front Row L-R Peter Lyddall, Harold Stocker, Joe Pine, Harold Brewer, Frank Kercher, Jim Haines, Fred Larbey, George Coles, Harry Small, Bill Rickwood, George Cottrell.



46. Wyke School 1936

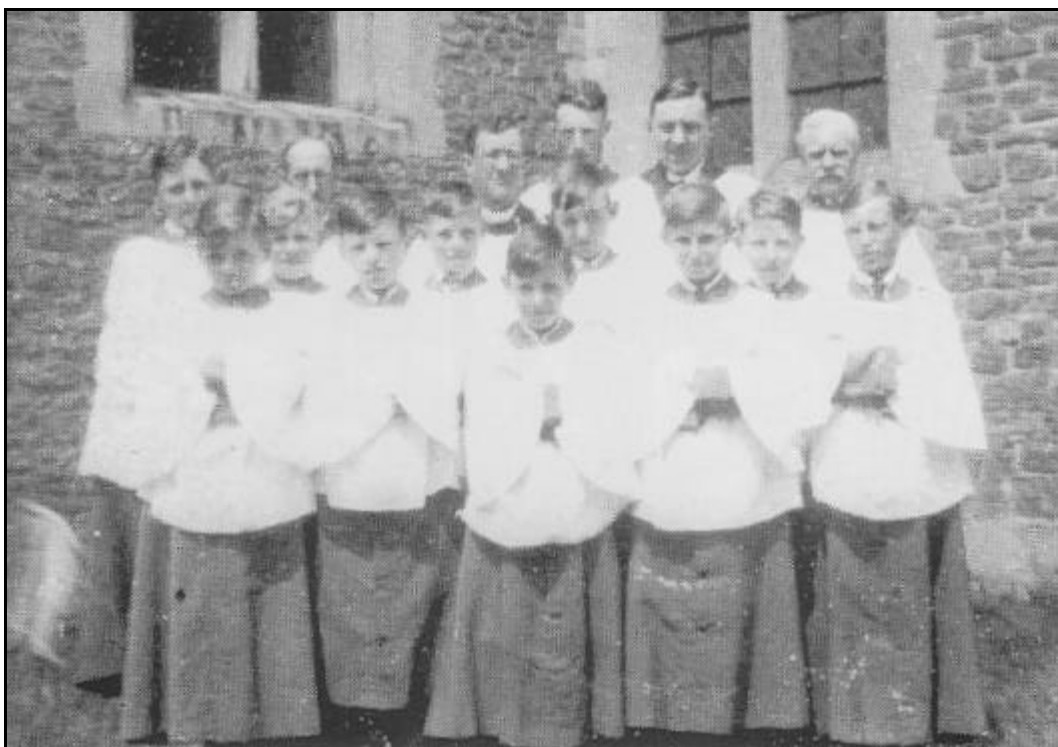
Back Row L-R Unknown, Teddy Durbridge, Hoskins, unknown, Ginger Smith, Johnny Marshall, unknown, Rickwood, Brewer, unknown, unknown, Pearce.
Middle Row L-R Unknown, Kenny Lynch, unknown, Eric Mullard, Joan McMillan, Paddy James, Bert Crook, unknown, John Somerville, David Williams, John Mullard, unknown, unknown.
Front Row L-R Cyril Rickwood, unknown, Boyd, Carter, Dora Small, unknown, Tommy Rogers, Peter Lipscombe
In front L-R June Woods, Tony Tyrell, Isabel Petrie.



47. Staff of Ash Wyke Junior School July 1954
*Back Row L-R Mrs S Liddell, Mrs Payne, Mr J Weston, Mrs A Weston, Mrs Leahy, Mrs L Rigby.
 Middle Row L-R Mrs Owen, Miss J M Carradine, Mrs E Trevaskis, Mrs I F Gill, Mrs Spibey.
 Front Row L-R Mr J E Goy, Mrs B M Down (Deputy Head), Mr H M Smith (Headteacher),
 Miss M Clegg, Mr K R Cottman.*



48. Retirement of Mrs B M Down
Deputy Headteacher of Ash Wyke Junior School
 After 16 years as a teacher at the school, Mrs B M Down retired as Deputy Headteacher on 28 March 1956. At her retirement presentation many well-known local officials were in attendance. The photograph shows from left to right Mr O T Lewis, the Headteacher, Miss E Booty and Mrs D Vaughan, members of the school Board of Governors, Mr A A Cook, Chairman of the Board of Governors and of Normandy Parish Council, the Reverend Canon Selby-Lowndes, Vicar of St.Mark's Church and a member of the Board and Mr H M Smith, a former Headteacher.



49. St.Mark's Church Choir about 1933

Back Row L-R Sid Humby, Jimmy Lipscombe, Rev.Logan Hunter, Alf Golding, Albert Cook, Mr Graves.

Middle Row L-R Jack Niblet?, George McMillan, Jim Quest, Ted Cottrell.

Front Row L-R John Andrews, Ken Andrews (cousins), Bob Pooley, Charles Cottrell, Albert Sweet.



50. Wyke School Netball Team about 1936

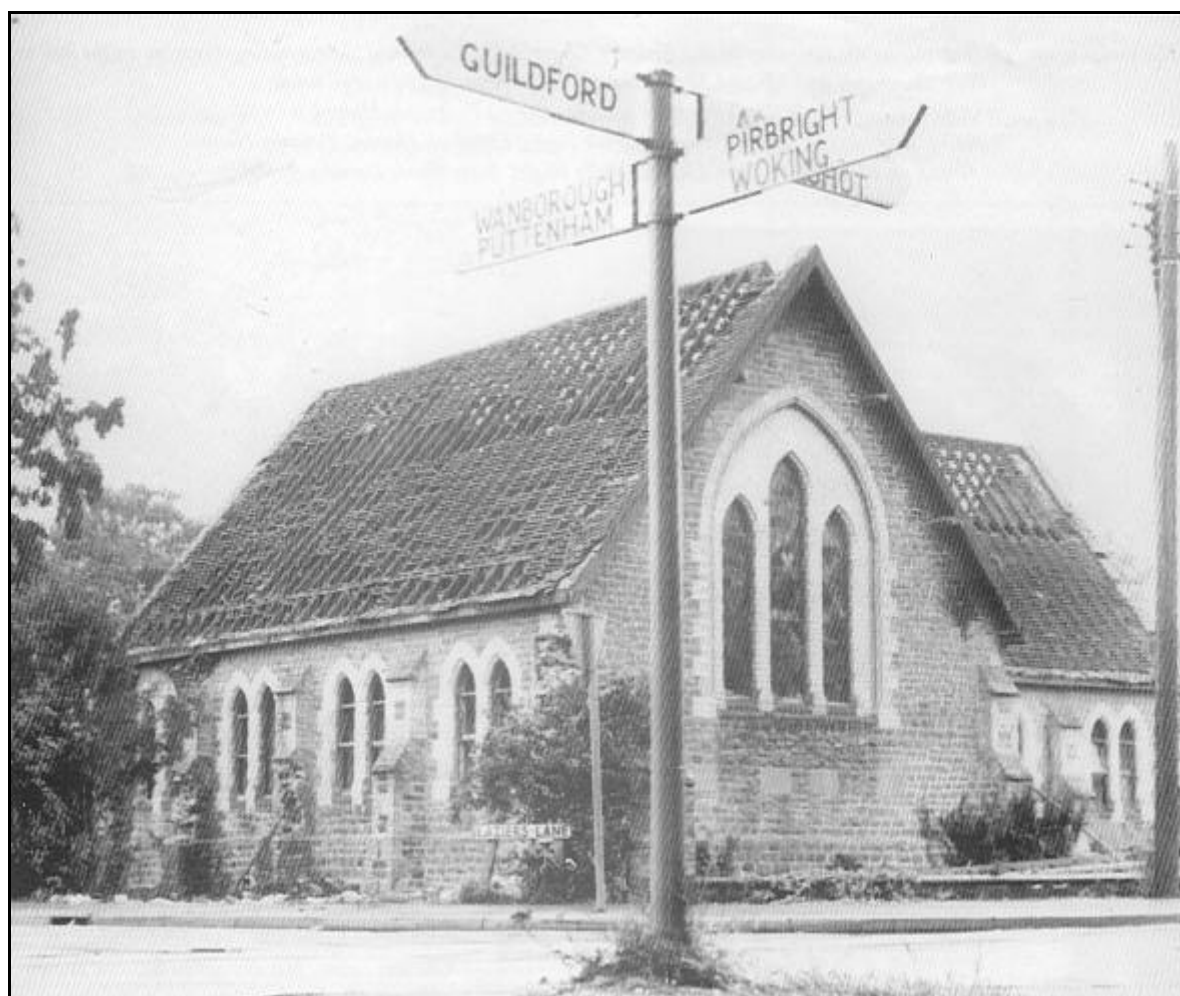
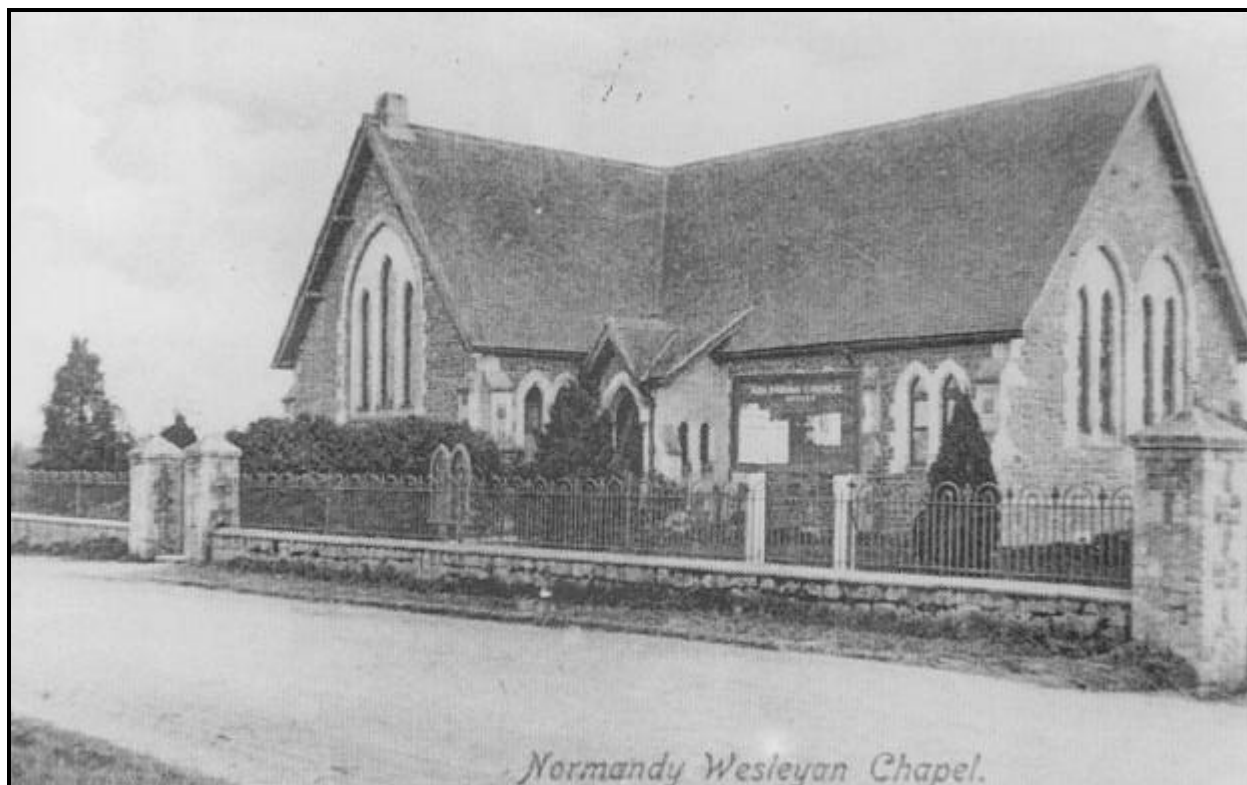
Back Row L-R Dorothy Crighton, Betty Amos, Joan Sewry, unknown.

Second Row L-R Avis Smith, Peggy Smith, Phyllis White, Gwen Azzopardi.

Third Row L-R Joan Lambert, Eileen Sewry, Dorothy Hunt, Iris Lipscombe.

Fourth Row L-R Betty Townsend, Winnie Horsecroft, Joyce Jeet, unknown.

Front Row L-R Nancy Shorter, unknown, Lily Crighton, Peggy Wheeler.



51. The Wesleyan Chapel

The chapel at Normandy crossroads replaced in 1886 an earlier and smaller chapel in Glaziers Lane. The first picture was taken about 1910. The second picture shows the chapel in the process of being demolished in 1970.



52. The Wedding of Mr and Mrs William Fooks on 30 July 1937

The wedding party is shown after the ceremony in the Wesleyan Chapel. The Fooks held their wedding reception in the hall of the chapel and Mr and Mrs Prangnell did likewise in 1940. See below.

Seated: William Fooks, Catherine (Kitty) Fooks, née Halton.

Standing Behind L-R James Fooks, Gertrude Fooks, Elizabeth Halton, Timothy Halton

Group on Right L-R Dick Halton, Molly Blight, Betty Ward, Dorothy Applebee



53. The Wedding of Mr and Mrs Prangnell In 1940

It is a sunny day in 1940 as Doris Ansell arrives at St.Mark's Church for her wedding to Cyril Prangnell. Her outfit is conditioned by wartime austerity but this has not dampened her spirits. She is accompanied by her father, Albert Ansell, the licensee of the Anchor Inn. The car is an Austin 16 York Saloon provided by John Horne who ran a car hire service from his home Coorabelle, now High Gables, in Glaziers Lane. His distinctive hat can be seen behind Mr Ansell as John sits in the driver's seat. The car, with a six cylinder engine, could seat five in comfort with two occasional seats as required. When new in 1935 it cost the princely sum of £318.



54. Normandy ARP Wardens

Back Row L-R Mr Beer, Albert Norman, unknown, unknown, Bert Douglas Young, unknown, Puttock, William Wiltshire,

Dick Halton, W J Beer, unknown, unknown unknown.

Front Row L-R Bill Rodgers, unknown, Richard Beer, Arthur Milton, Capt. Johnson (Head Warden), Bill Olley (Deputy Head Warden), Steele (DR), Mrs Bevan, unknown.



55. Normandy Fire Brigade

The Group is pictured on the occasion of the Brigade winning the cup for Fire Drill in 1945.

Back Row L-R Bill Brown, Tom Honeybourne, Alf Godwin.

Front Row L-R Albert Sweet, Jim Marshall, Charlie Storr, Charlie Collier, Sam Gunner.

The prizewinning team were Sam Gunner, Charlie Store, Charlie Collier and Jim Marshall.



56. Combined Normandy and Wood Street Home Guard

The unit is grouped behind the Normandy headquarters which was a wooden hut which stood where the cricket pavilion is now. Some members are missing including the DR section led by Paddy Johnston.

Back Row L-R Bishop, Bob Codling, Nye, Kennedy, unknown, Mairs, unknown, Les Goodchild, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown.

Second Row L-R Unknown, Joe Duffy, Chennell, Hibbert, unknown, Gamms, H M Smith, unknown, unknown, Herbert Applebee, Charles Barrett, Newlands, Milton, Dearsley.

Third Row L-R Doug Roberts, Tommy James, unknown, Lt.Pratt, Col.Marriott (Normandy CO), Col.Adair (Wood Street CO), Capt.Dennis Parks, Capenhurst, Kit Wells, Tom Marshall, Harry Woods.

Front Row L-R Williams, Percy Woods, Brian Pickford, Bob Stannage, Tom White, Nunn, Dick Bosley, William John Woodcock, Alex Mitchell, Laycock,

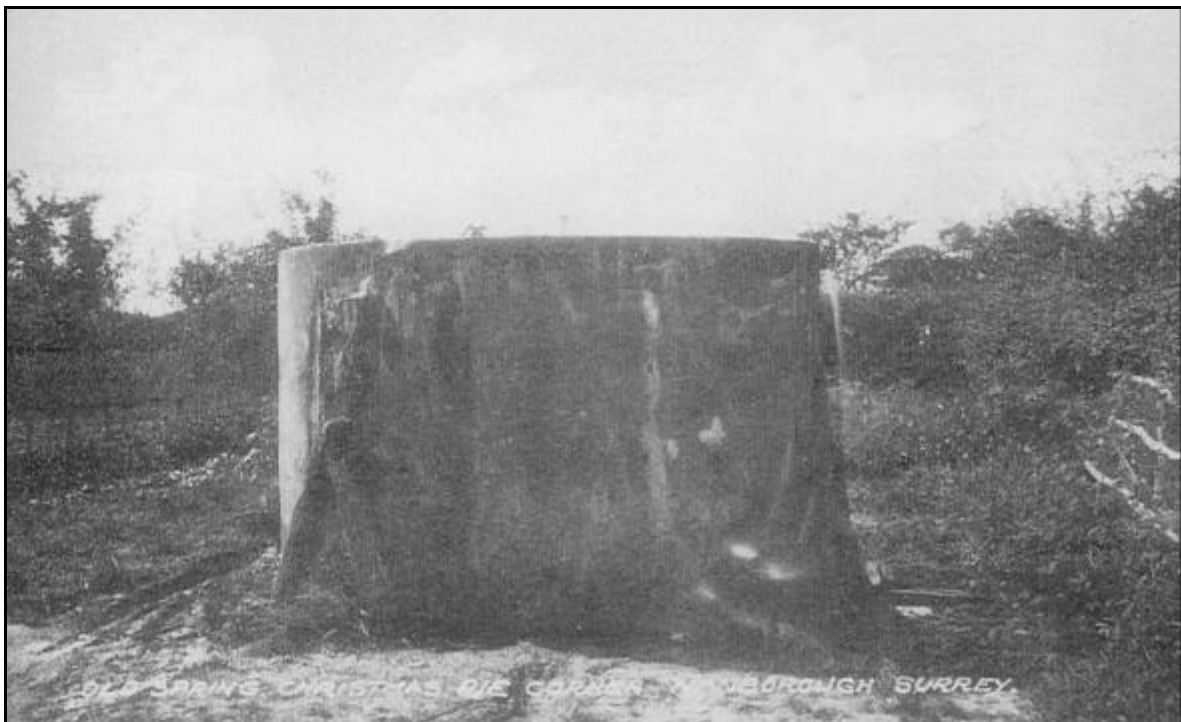


57. WRVS Emergency Training Session

The WRVS attended lectures and were trained in preparations in the event of nuclear war. This photograph shows a practical session of the Emergency Training Course in the autumn of 1984.

Standing L-R Margaret Ray, Sarah Shapley, Margaret Mcfarlane, Brenda Winsor-Brown, Harriet Jennings, Jacqui Fagent, Audrey Brown.

In Front L-R Sally Helm, Sheila Bousfield, Pat Plumley, Dee High.



58. The Famous Water Tank at Christmaspie

Perhaps this is the kind of facility we would have had to rely on if nuclear war had broken out.

In days gone by before the advent of mains water people paid five shillings a year to draw water from the tank for domestic purposes and most had to carry their own water home, but the Coussmaker family used to send a donkey and water barrel once a week to fetch water to Westwood House.



59. At Work and At Rest

The left hand picture shows Henry Lipscombe making a hurdle. Note the neatly cut hazel stools in the background.

The right hand picture shows Henry resting on the grass near Normandy Hill Farm in the 1920s while his wife Ellen reads a newspaper. The advert is for "RINSO", a washing powder of the time.



60. Albert Edward Durbridge (1884-1967).

He was a carpenter and joiner by trade and is remembered as being a colourful character, known to his family as Ted and to his work colleagues as Bill.

From about 1924 to 1927, the family had the Normandy village grocery, bakery and newsagency (now the Motorcycle shop) which was called The Crib then and was run by him and his wife Rosa Marie.

It was a huge family and he had 19 children; 7 by Rosa and 12 by his second wife Helen. There was at least one child in every class in the village school.

Subsequently they moved to Westwood Lane where he had bought a plot of land and built a new home called "The Rest" opposite the garage near the bottom of the hill. When the Normandy and Wanborough District Social Club at the top of the hill in Westwood Lane closed some time before 1954 he bought the building. It was a long, low corrugated iron shack nearly opposite Orchard Close and he used it as a store for building materials.

Ancient and Modern



61. Halsey Cottage

Halsey Cottage was formerly part of the Henley Park Estate owned by Henry Halsey; hence the name. The cottage was originally a half-timbered smoke-bay house of four bays of the usual Surrey type with widely spaced timbers in the framing. It dates from the 16th century but various additions have been made over the years.



62. Glaziers Lane Surgery

The surgery opened in 1988 as an adjunct to the Fairlands Estate Practice. It is built on part of the former Manor Fruit Farm land.

CHAPTER 6

SHOPS AND PUBS

*Who makes the quartern loaf and luddites rise
Who fills the butchers' shops with large blue flies?
Rejected addresses
Horace Smith 1779-1849*

One hundred years ago there were few places where residents of what is now Normandy could spend their money. There were the three pubs we know today - The Anchor (now sadly defunct) and The Duke of Normandy in what was then the centre of the community of Normandy and The Nightingale two miles west at Pinewoods. However, as far as we can ascertain, there were only four shops for the purchase of essential commodities, and one smithy. These four shops were Horace Holland's grocery, bakery and post office, still in use today by Normandy Motorcycles, Thomas Davis' grocery and bakery at Willey Green near to the Duke of Normandy, James Pryor's grocery at Pinewoods and Susan Waters' drapery, which Kelly's directory of the period states as being at "Wyke" but the exact location of which we have not been able to identify. The smithy, where carriages, wagons and carts were also built and repaired, was situated almost opposite the Delta Motor Company garage on a site now occupied by private houses.

At first glance little would appear to have changed in the ensuing century. One of the three shops still remains, albeit carrying out a different business, while the total number of shops as we enter the year 2000, which has only risen to five, bears scant witness to the many businesses which thrived then declined in the intervening years. Today's three garages, one of which replaced the role of the former smithy, clearly demonstrate the change which did take place in road transport.

When Wanborough Station was opened in 1891 the towns of Guildford, Aldershot and Farnham immediately became more accessible. Although the trains were now used to transport much of the community's produce to the markets, the majority of the people of Normandy continued to rely on the local shops for purchasing their daily needs. As the population increased through the first half of the 20th century, so did the number of shops. By 1900 a new shop, later to be known as Preston House, had been built in Station Road just south of the crossroads and it became the village post office, replacing that in Mr Holland's shop. William Underwood was the first sub-postmaster in the new post office and the village's first telephone switchboard was initially located in the bow fronted house next door.

At about the same time John Horne, who was probably a descendant of James Horne, the local Wesleyan preacher, opened up the front room of his house, 'Como' now 'Mariners' as a grocery. Before long his business had expanded and in 1907 he built a brand new shop nearer to the road - the Normandy Stores, which is still trading as a general store under that name today. In the early years of Normandy Stores Mark Turner, father of Tom and Ethel who still run the Westwood Lane stores, worked there. He used to get the faggots for the fire at the bakery and do the bread round on the horse and cart, which was kept in a stable at the back. The emphasis when W J Henry had the Normandy Stores was on quality, when he advertised in the Wyke and Wanborough parish magazine of 1932 "personal attention, courteous service and sterling quality". All this time the original village shop where John Horne had served as an apprentice under Mr Holland, also continued to thrive.

In the early years of the 20th century there was also a sudden upsurge of activity near The Nightingale, which may itself have been a shop before it became a beerhouse in the 1860s. There may have been a butcher or grocer in the Pinewoods area before 1900, and by 1910 we know there were definitely at least four, perhaps

five, establishments carrying on trade at Pinewoods. There was William Cash's butcher's, the Pioneer Stores (a grocery occupied by William Miall Maslen) and another grocery run by James Pryor, which was also a post office. About 1909 Sarah Matthews, wife of Alfred Matthews the commercial carrier, opened up her refreshment room(s) at Petworth Villa and this development may indicate a growing awareness of the value of passing trade as traffic increased along the Guildford Road. Possibly also there by this time was Henry Francis, a fishmonger in a bungalow on the other side of the road, opposite The Nightingale.

In contrast, at the Willey Green end of the village but nearer to the existing shops, we have learnt of only one new shop during this period - that of Edwin Cranstone, a builder and also a prominent figure in the activities of the nearby Normandy Chapel, who owned a shop visible on a postcard of 1906 and which may have been a shoe shop.

If we have found no evidence of any new shops opening in the early years of the next troubled decade, we have also found no evidence that any closed down either. A new name does however appear in Kelly's directory. It is that of Alice Gallop's sweet shop, operating from Wyke Cross House, now called North Wyke Farm. We cannot be sure whether a business existed here previously, owned by one of the tradesmen already mentioned, whose premises we have been unable to trace. However, many residents today still remember this shop from their childhood, for it was on the way to and from the village school and "the aniseed balls, twenty for a penny, and liquorice bootlaces were compulsive viewing in the window".

Further development and expansion took place throughout Normandy following the end of World War I. By 1927 at Pinewoods, Charles James had opened a Drapers shop in the house between the shops of Cash and Pryor, so now there were four shops here next to one another. First the two general stores - the 'Pioneer Stores', by 1938 occupied by the Slaters and 'Cash Stores' which J E Parratt took over from William and Alice Cash in the 1930s. Then there was Charles James' shop, which in the mid 1930s became Rickwood's the butchers and finally Bennett's the newsagents. The specific reference to a "newsagents" was a new feature of the commercial scene, which was reflected in another part of the village with the opening almost simultaneously of the newsagents in Flexford Road.

Although Mrs Matthews' refreshment rooms at Petworth Villa closed some time in the 1920s, the fishmonger opposite The Nightingale diversified into a café, undoubtedly in response to the ever-growing trade to be had from passing traffic as the Guildford Road became busier and busier. This trend was also reflected at the other end of the road where, in the 1920s, the Anchor Café opened. In the late 1920s it was run by Sydney Rickwood and his family, and his son Sydney remembers that the best days of the year were the days of the Aldershot Tattoo. All the charabancs passing through Normandy on their way to the Tattoo would stop at the café, which on these occasions also stayed open late in the evening to catch their custom again on their way back. In May 1935 the café was taken over by George Williams and was named the 'Red Arrow Snack Bar'; part of the name would become better known as that of the famous flying display team which was often seen in the skies over Normandy during the Farnborough Air Shows.

Another house to open its front room as a small shop was Wren's Nest, now long gone but originally near the Homestead at Willey Green. The Wakefords lived here and while Billy Wakeford went out selling goods from his barrow, Mrs Wakeford ran a small sweet shop at home. The back part of the room was curtained off and the family lived there while she ran the shop from the front part. She kept the sweets in seven-pound tins and the children, with only half a penny to spend, would insist that she open up every tin before they made their choice. Mrs Wakeford must have been a very patient lady.

Meanwhile back at the crossroads, which was becoming the focal point for the growing community, another new shop had appeared bringing the total here to three. About 1924 Henry Mills, who had succeeded

William Underwood as sub-postmaster and married William's daughter Edith, built the new shop on the opposite side of Station Road and moved the post office across to there. Preston House was taken over by Frederick Hawkins, a butcher from Ash Vale. He retained his shop in Ash Vale and put a manager in the Normandy shop. This manager came from Preston in Lancashire and this was how Preston House got its name.

However, perhaps even more notable at this time were the several new shops, which sprang up in the inter-war years in the Flexford area south of Wanborough Station, in direct response to the rapid growth of population in this area. About 1920 Tom James, one of the three James brothers renowned for several other commercial enterprises in the village, started up the Wanborough Stores close to the station with a garage beside it. He did the garage work while his mother, 'Granny' James, ran the shop in the 1920s. She is still remembered as being very 'Victorian' in manner and she "always wore a long black dress". The shop was a grocery and general store in an ex-army hut and it was named 'Kantara'. For a short while in the early 1930s, Donald F Christie occupied it and then it was taken over by Lawrence S Oddy who partly rebuilt the shop in the 1950s and was to remain there until the 1960s. During this time there was also a small library there. Several people had the shop after Mr Oddy retired but none made a success of it. It was finally forced to close in 1976 and pulled down. Four houses now stand on the site.

About the same time, on the corner of Flexford Road and Station Road, Muriel Pepin started the Corner Shop as a teasshop and by the 1930s, under George Astlet, this had become a grocery and off-licence. The newsagents in Flexford Road, built by Mr Cull the local builder also started trading at this time. This shop, under a succession of proprietors, has remained a newsagent and a stationer also selling sweets and tobacco, up to the present day, but for the first ten years or so it was also the Wanborough Post Office. In the 1930s too, a small grocery operated from one room at Holly Bank just north of the railway bridge and a drapers and wool shop was started about 1930 by Albert Fairhall and Frederick Ranger, in what is now the garage of the house then called "Gradeley", now called "High Trees". It later became known as "Celine's" with Florence Merrett as proprietress and it also had a little library in the 1940s. It was continued by Mrs Jefferies but then, after remaining vacant for a while, opened as a café known as Dickie's Pantry, run by the Knaptons. By 1959 it had become a wool shop again. It has been a private residence since the 1960s. The trend towards pre-packaging, which is now so pervasive, had already started before World War II. It was noted in a newspaper in the mid-1930s that "in recent years the custom of selling tea already packed has become universal and the number of independent grocers who make up their own blend decreases annually".

The southern end of Westwood Lane was the location of the last of the new shops. Here, some time in the 1930s, 'Granny' James started up the Westwood Lane Stores, another general "emporium", possibly in partnership with another of her sons, Dick, who also owned the garage opposite and is listed as "shopkeeper" in the 1938 directory. Finally, next to the garage, in a small single fronted shop, there was a butcher and poulterer by 1936 - P W Lawrence - who advertised his trade in the parish magazine.

In 1938, just before the outbreak of World War II, the number of shops in what is now Normandy parish had reached a remarkable peak of nineteen, the distribution of which can be seen on the map. Of these, nine were grocers and/or general stores, two were newsagents, three were butchers and two were cafés. There was one post office trading solely as such (the Normandy Post Office in Station Road) while two shops in Flexford and Pinewoods were also sub-post offices.

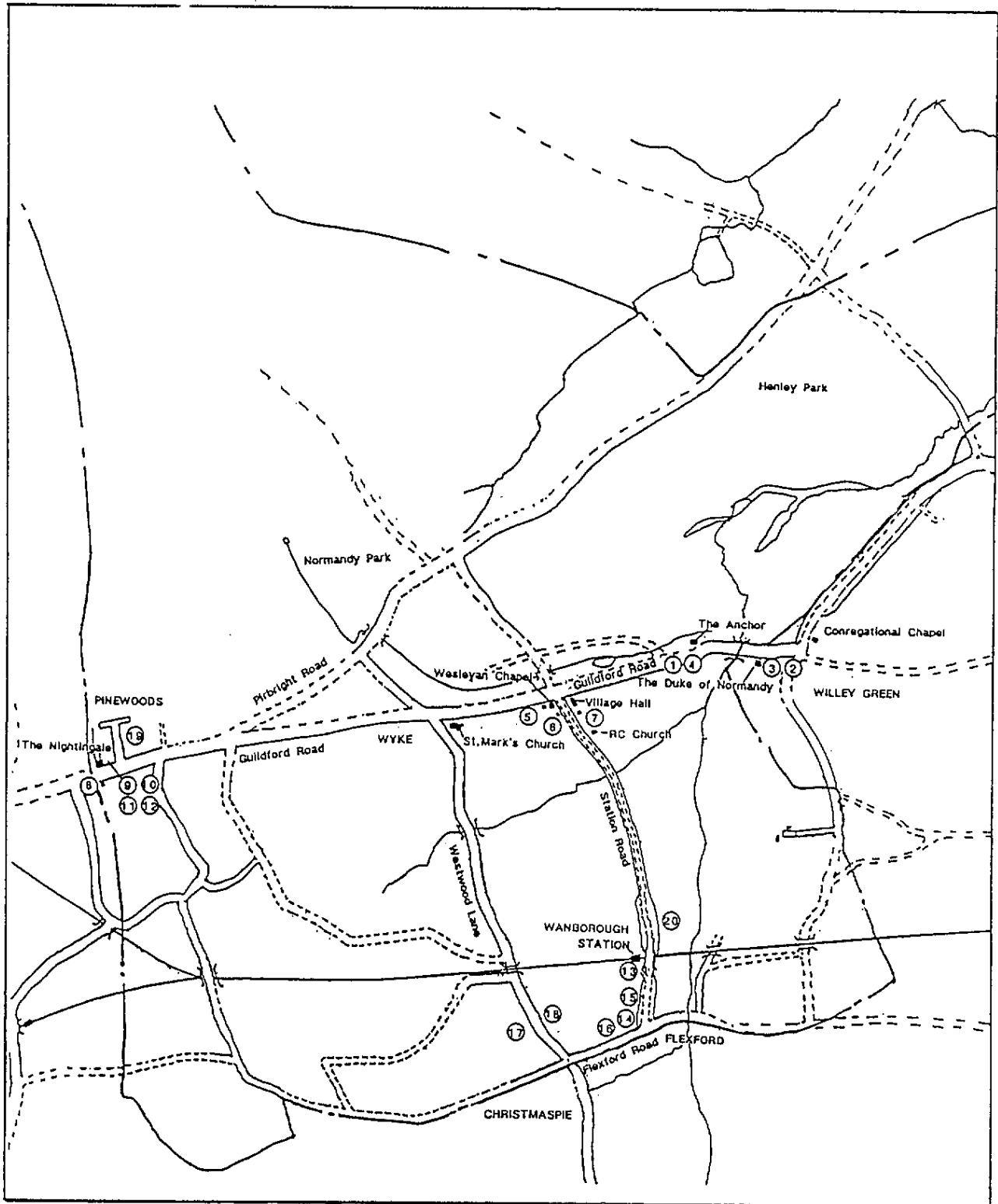


Figure 19 Map of Normandy showing the distribution of shops in 1938.

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B. W. JAMES,
for
COAL, COKE, COALITE,
ANTHRACITE AND
BOILER NUTS

Station Approach, Normandy.

Figure 20. Advertisements from a 1936 Parish Magazine.

Key to Map showing the distribution of shops:

	<u>Name of shop & type of business</u>	<u>Proprietor(s) in 1938</u>	<u>Closed</u>
1.	Grocery & Bakery	Florence Carpenter	
2.	Grocery	Walter J Rolph	1999
3.	Wardrobe dealer	Mrs J Smith	c.1990
4.	Red Arrow Snack Bar	George Williams	1960s
5.	Normandy Stores (grocery & general)	Edward H Worster	
6.	Normandy Butchers	M Barlow & F J Hawkins	1988
7.	Normandy Post Office	Henry Mills	1997
8.	Fish and chip shop	Christopher Davis	1940s
9.	Pioneer Stores (grocery)	Raymond Slator	1990
10.	Cash Stores (grocery)	James E Parratt	1980s
11.	Oxford Villa (butcher)	Sydney G Rickwood	
12.	Newsagent & Post Office	Arthur R Bennett	1996
13.	Wanborough Stores (grocery, general)	Lawrence S Oddy	1976
14.	Corner Shop (grocery & general stores)	Alfred Paice	c.1983
15.	Celine's Drapers	Florence M Merrett	c.1960
16.	Newsagent & Post Office	Joseph Mathieson	
17.	Westwood Lane Stores	Dick James	
18.	Butcher	Frank A Pitman	c.1956
19.	Celia's refreshment rooms	Mrs Percival	c.1940
20.	Holly Bank (a small grocery?)	(Already closed in 1938)	c.1935

There are still many who look back to the shops of those days with great nostalgia, recalling how "you could buy almost anything", and indeed every conceivable goods and service has been offered somewhere at some time or another. Today, though greatly reduced in number, our last remaining shops still offer a considerable range of goods and services and have kept pace with the times, now having frozen foods, video films and beers and spirits, as well as services such as photocopying and faxing. What has changed is our non-dependence on the local shops for these and all our other requirements and it is that which has transformed the scene so completely. The majority of us, with our own transport today, also no longer rely on the delivery service which was once such a vital element provided by every shopkeeper and tradesman. Almost every old photograph of a shop shows a cart or van parked outside. The butcher at Preston House started with a horse and cart, which he replaced with a motor van about 1928. Others did their round by bike and the Corner Shop in Flexford even delivered by motorbike and sidecar. Tom Turner, who has run the Westwood Lane Stores with his sister Ethel Turner for nearly thirty years, started his working life at the Corner Shop in the 1950s as an errand boy for Miss Paice. Today, he alone preserves the tradition of a delivery service, still so essential for the elderly and less able amongst us.

Another interesting activity of some of the very early shops was the production and sale of postcards of local scenes. In the days when few people owned cameras and photographs were rare, these postcards have proved an invaluable source of information on the changing appearance of Normandy and many are reproduced in this book. John Horne of Normandy Stores, James Pryor of Pinewoods Newsagents and both J W Bentley and Ralph J Harvey, of the original village shop, produced postcards in the first two decades of the 20th century. They were followed in the 1920s by William J Henry, also of the Normandy Stores, and P A Pepin of the Corner Shop. As recently as the early 1970s Tom Walton of the Normandy Post Office in Glaziers Lane issued a series of six postcards with local views, but so far we have only traced copies of four of them. Dorothy Applebee worked at the Normandy Post Office full time for 46 years then part-time for another 10. When she left school in 1939 she had an offer of a job at a shop in Guildford but her parents didn't like the idea of her going all that way every day.

They were relieved when the Mills offered her a local job, but she wasn't allowed to work in the post office proper until she was 16 so she delivered the telegrams. They received them on a special phone for that purpose in the post office and they would write them out by hand before delivering them. Dorothy had to buy a bicycle and learn to ride it and delivered telegrams as far as Pond Hill and Wood Street because the Wanborough and Wood Street post offices had no facilities for them and were covered from Normandy. There were a lot of telegrams in those days because not many people had a telephone. The first one she ever delivered was to Elfreda Fry who lived on the Pirbright Road. Dorothy also delivered the letters herself if the postmen were not available. It was a seven-day a week job because they also took telegrams from 9 to 10am on Sunday mornings, then Dorothy had to rush back to get ready because she played the organ at the URC Chapel at Willey Green. She had a half-day off on Wednesdays and worked 8am to 6:30pm on other days. When she started at the P.O. she received five shillings a week plus dinner and tea. Her father suggested that she should ask for a rise so when she finally plucked up courage to do it, Mr. Mills agreed to pay her eight shillings a week but she had to go back home for her dinner.

At that time the post office was very small with only room for one or two people. It was like a short corridor with a dark wooden counter at the end. The counter was left unattended when there were no customers because a bell would alert Mrs Mills when someone came in through the door. There was no shop, they only did post office work like stamps, savings certificates and dog licences until after World War II. Before the war Doctor Fleming from Pirbright held a surgery in the sitting room on Mondays and Thursdays. There was a locked poisons-cupboard in a small room off the post office and Mrs Mills had the only key. The Mills' daughter Barbara married Albert Cook, who was later Mayor of Guildford. The Mills named the house Four Winds and the name has always remained the same.

The changes, when they came, were very slow and for a while almost imperceptible. At Willey Green, the general store was still run by the Rolphs until 1954. It was known affectionately by at least one customer as 'Cobweb Kate's' on account of the clouds of dust that were dislodged whenever 'Kate' (actually named Ruth) brought down the jars of sweets onto the counter! Walter Rolph had a Ford van with a tea urn mounted in the back and he used to sell tea to the soldiers on the ranges.

In the 1950s, the Post Office at the crossroads end of Station Road, underwent the first of its three extensions making it possible to offer a wider range of goods. At the other end of Station Road, although we hear no more of the little grocery at Holly Bank, the Wanborough Stores had its front rebuilt and modernised. Also in the 1950s the little wool shop and library at Gradeley was replaced by 'Dickie's Pantry'. Run by the Knaptons, it offered teas, snacks and hot lunches. Later on it was granted a drinking licence and some say, became a club with a questionable reputation, although others refute this. About 1957 the licence was revoked and it reverted to being a wool shop but is also remembered as selling model aeroplanes!

At this time the local village general store was still very 'general'. In the official parish guide of 1957 the Beverlins, proprietors of the Wanborough Stores, not only advertised grocery and provisions, fruit and vegetables and 'Eskimo' frozen foods, but also HyGrade shoe repairs, Ryders seeds, Neilson ice cream, watch repairs and Sandersons wallpapers. Orders were collected as well as delivered. The Normandy Post Office offered wools, children's clothes, drapery, toys, sweets, stationery, cigarettes, ice cream, chemists' sundries, dry cleaning, shoe repairs and film developing. Before World War II W J Edmonds at the Flexford road newsagent advertised the varied mixture of "hairdresser, newsagent, wireless". The shops were clearly acting as agents for other tradesmen and offering services that today's hypermarkets have still not caught up with but may yet provide in the future.

However, signs of decline can be detected in the 1950s and the first significant loss for the village came when the original village shop near The Anchor ceased trading as a grocery and bakery. It had traded as such for over 100 years and even in the 1940s villagers had taken their turkeys there to be cooked in the large brick bread oven. Florence Carpenter had taken it over from Arthur Page in 1935 and she was said to bake super bread, which remained available throughout the war. In 1957 Mrs Carpenter closed the shop when her husband Frederick died and it remained vacant for several years. Although once more the population of Normandy was on the increase with new housing springing up everywhere, no new shops were opened in response. More and more people were beginning to run their own cars and started the trend of travelling further afield to the towns to buy everyday needs, which has gathered pace ever since. Soon after World War II the café opposite The Nightingale closed and Rickwood's, the butcher at Pinewoods, became a fish and chip shop after a brief interim spell as a second-hand furniture shop. Both the adjacent general stores survived as such well into the 1960s.

The butcher's shop in front of the house called Fairlawn in Westwood Lane, a small single fronted shop with a lean-to of wood slat at the back, also disappeared in the 1950s though for a different reason. In 1942 the proprietor was called away to war service. Edward Gray, a butcher from Ash Vale, an ex-Service man with security clearance, was called upon by the Ministry of Food to take over the shop and to supply such high security establishments as Wanborough Manor, Blackwell Farm and the Royal Signals Unit at Cobbett Hill. In about 1956 the shop could not meet the new hygiene regulations so it had to close and was pulled down. Mr Gray though, continued to supply his customers in Normandy by van from his other shop in Ash Vale. In 1961 Stanley Gray, the proprietor of the nearby Westwood Lane stores, un-related to Edward Gray, applied to build a butcher's shop on the premises but planning permission was refused.

By the 1960s the changes had become more apparent. Two independent (and unofficial) surveys of the village were carried out in these years. Stephen Turkeiwicz, in a school project, found that *"these few shops supply the village's immediate everyday requirements while Aldershot and Guildford cater for their major household needs"*. In 1968 the Normandy Branch of the Young Conservatives distributed a questionnaire to all householders (except those in the Pinewoods area), one section of which dealt with shops and shopping. Residents were asked - where did they do their shopping? Of those who replied, less than 30% did most of their shopping in the village and 5% said they did not use the local shops at all, something that would have been inconceivable even ten years before. When asked if they thought the present shops were adequate for the village's needs, 65% said no.

From now on a steady decline can be observed. By the 1970s, The Red Arrow Snack Bar had been demolished to make way for the expansion of the neighbouring garage and the wool and baby shop south of the station closed its doors for the last time. Also near the station, the Wanborough Stores was forced to close in 1976 and was demolished, followed in the early 1980s by the Corner Shop, which then became a private residence. At Pinewoods the two general stores ceased trading as such. Cash Stores became a TV and electrical repair shop and Pioneer Stores a bed shop. Then in 1988, after diversifying into fresh vegetables and fruit, Michael Jones who had been trading in Normandy for 17 years, was forced to close the butcher's shop at Preston House and the building was demolished and redeveloped as four terraced houses. The redeveloper, Gerald Ledgard, was quoted in the Surrey Advertiser at the time as saying that he had no intention of closing the shop for more than a few days and that it would reopen under new management and *"remain as a butcher's shop for at least another hundred years"*. This particular hundred years does not appear to have started yet.

The remaining shops adapted. Westwood Lane Stores took over the off-licence from the Corner Shop and the Normandy Post Office, or more correctly speaking, the sub-post office was extended twice more almost doubling its size. In 1988 it took over the sale of fresh meat, under the supervision of Bob Howard the

former manager of Preston House, supplied by Michael Jones who had moved to Yateley, where he continued to trade as 'Normandy Butchers' until 1992. Thus the move across the road from Preston House that began in 1924 was finally completed over 60 years later.

Shopkeeping was not without its dangers. Normandy Post Office was several times the target for armed robbers and Dorothy Applebee won two bravery awards in the 1980s for her courage, on one occasion grappling with a raider armed with a sawn-off shotgun. The last attack on the post office, not long before it closed in late 1997, was featured on the Crimewatch TV programme and Hunts Hill Road was closed while the BBC staged a reconstruction of the events.

Nearby the Normandy Stores was clearly feeling the pressure from the large supermarkets, closing down twice for extended periods in the 1990s. It was built about 1900 by John Horne who later went into partnership with Mr Hawes, a shopkeeper in Ash, and who was succeeded by his son John Horne. The next proprietor in the 1920s and 1930s, when petrol was also sold from pumps outside the shop was William J Henry the scoutmaster. In the late 1930s and the 1940s the shop was run by Edward H Worster, followed by Mr Burton, then Mr Denby and then Arnold Court who was successful in obtaining permission for a hairdressers salon at the back of the premises. About this time it came under the Spar franchise. After several further occupiers it became a Circle K shop in the late 1980s then briefly reverted back to the Spar brand before re-opening as Normandy Village Stores in 1999.

Some types of establishment have disappeared completely, such as eat-in cafes and teashops like the Red Arrow and the Corner Shop in Flexford. Perhaps they have just been replaced by new phenomena which cater more closely for the hurried pace of our times such as Chinese takeaways, like that at Pinewoods which has been renamed in turn the Lotus House, the Jumbo, the Pearl River and now China Express. Other establishments like the Pinewoods Post Office, which closed in the mid 1990s, are lost from Normandy but not from the community at large, having been relocated a few hundred yards down the Guildford Road into the parish of Ash.

So, in these one hundred years, the story of Normandy's shops has almost gone the full circle. It has been a remarkable story of enterprise and initiative. Some of the shops have had a very consistent history, for example the Normandy Stores, trading for over 90 years as a general stores, the Newsagents at Pinewoods and the Normandy Post Office that served the village for 65 years. Others have had a more varied existence like the wool shop at Flexford which changed to being a café, Dickie's Pantry, for about ten years. Yet others have appeared only briefly to disappear again and amongst these are Mrs Gallop's sweet shop at Wyke Cross House and the grocery at Holly Bank in Station Road.

At the start of the year 2000, as already mentioned, there are five shops trading in Normandy but how many of these can still be considered village shops in the traditional sense? Some of them depend on customers largely from outside the village, particularly the Motorcycle Shop. The others are the Normandy Stores, the Westwood Lane Stores, Flexford Road Newsagents and the Chinese take-away at Pinewoods, and yet some of these too rely as much on passing trade as on that of the village itself.

The village shop has been described as an essential part of any thriving community. No matter how we regard our surviving shops today, they continue to exist only under very difficult circumstances. Having come to terms with the competition from the larger supermarkets and megamarkets, they have also had to endure massive increases in taxes and rates in recent years. Further decisions like that of the national Post Office to close down many of its sub-post offices poses a new threat. If our remaining shops were to close, we would lose a vital lifeline for our village and an important chapter in its history as well.

Pubs

Neither of Normandy's two remaining pubs was originally in Normandy. The Duke of Normandy was in Worplesdon until the boundary change of 1962, which moved Willey Green into Normandy civil parish, and The Nightingale was in Wyke, which was a detached tithing of Worplesdon in the 19th century. However, at different times there were as many as five other places in Normandy where the residents could get a drink, and there were plans for even more which were never realised, as we shall see.

The Anchor

Now sadly defunct, it was probably Normandy's oldest pub and the place around which the original hamlet and community of Normandy centred. It is mentioned as early as 1790 in the records of the manor of Cleygate, when Thomas Bicknell rented it for 2d. In 1821, John Knight held the copyhold from the manor of Cleygate (meaning his occupancy was 'copied' into the manorial roll), still for 2d rent, subject to a fine of 6d, a fee payable to the lord of the manor by the incoming tenant in consideration of a small rent, and heriot of 2d, a fee payable to the lord of the manor on the decease of the tenant. John Knight's tenure lasted until at least 1869, but he was not the publican for most of this time - the person that we would misleadingly refer to as "*the landlord*", was Edmund Waters, licensed victualler, from at least 1841 until 1874. Edmund Waters' daughter married William Hill and he was the landlord until 1882, keeping the pub 'in the family' for over 40 years.

The ownership too appears to have stayed in the family, because in 1890 John Henry Knight owned it and he might well have been a descendant of John Knight. However, Farnham United Breweries owned The Anchor by 1904 and the age of personal ownership was ended and replaced by almost a century of ownership by ever-larger companies and corporations. Farnham United Breweries was acquired by Courage and Courage formed Innentrepreneur Estates with Grand Metropolitan.

The John Henry Knight who owned the Anchor could well be the John Henry Knight of Farnham who built the first British petrol-engine driven road vehicle in 1895. This was a two-seater, three-wheeled car capable of reaching 12 mph. It was later converted to a four-wheeled layout and in this form it was the only British motor car at the 1896 exhibition at the Crystal Palace. The museum in Farnham has a permanent exhibition featuring the life and inventions of John Henry Knight who also had the dubious distinction of receiving the first speeding conviction in Britain.

In a survey soon after 1910 the Anchor was described as having a taproom, sitting room, clubroom, cellar, etc. and as being in fair order considering its age. Nevertheless, the old building was pulled down in 1916 and a new one built on exactly the same site. Meanwhile beer was sold from the stables. Doris Prangnell née Ansell who was born at the Anchor in 1916, remembers that the Inn had hot and cold running water which most homes did not have at that time. Apples were stored in one of the back rooms and Doris can still recall the aroma of the apples more than half a century later.

In the early years of the 20th century the Anchor had a full licence, provided dinners, teas and minerals, had accommodation of two beds and stabling for four horses. The clientele was "*of all classes*". Concerts were held at the Anchor and at the Duke of Normandy but the Anchor's were remembered as being more rowdy! In the 1930s the coaches returning to London from the Aldershot Tattoo would stop at the Anchor for their passengers to have a drink. Local housewives would take their chairs down to the end of the lane to watch and local children like Cynthia Oliver would sing for the passengers who would throw pennies for them.

Hunt meets were held at the Anchor regularly up to the 1930s and they also used to call in regularly to the Duke of Normandy for drinks and refreshments. The last foxhunt to take place in Normandy was in the early 1990s when the Goschen hounds met at Henley Park Farm, when Major Robin Fulton was Master. The Goschen hounds were formerly the Bisley hounds and were named after a Dutch family who had moved to England. Mrs Goschen, who was reported to have been a 'very formidable lady', was field master and continued to ride at every hunt well into her 80s. Mr Goschen used to follow in a car, a 'tatty white Renault 4' that could apparently 'get anywhere', including all over the Army ranges and by going between trees, he could get the car into places where a land-rover couldn't fit!

The Anchor was not a coaching inn but it is said that the coach and four from London to Southampton used to change horses there. A reconstruction in 1962 re-created the Red Rover London to Southampton run, which actually operated over a century earlier. Even after the war Jim Roberts kept horses at the Anchor's stables and they were used for the annual public relations journey from London to Reading and Alton. A photograph in the Surrey Advertiser in 1981 shows a coach and four with passengers in period costume leaving the car park, but the watching crowd had modern dress.

Before the war there was a big tree in front of the pub where children played while their parents were inside. By the 1980s children's tastes had become more demanding because there was a double-decker bus formerly owned by Brighton Corporation in the beer garden, which had a slide from the upper deck to the ground serving as an amusement.

The tradition of family occupancy continued and for 65 years from the turn of the century the landlord was James Hutchins followed by his son Frank. When Frank and Winifred Hutchins retired in 1965 the pattern of stability ended and over the next 30 years there were at least six different occupiers and when the landlords went into liquidation in 1993 the pub closed. Although it reopened again the next year as a free house, it was not long before the Anchor closed again and now it presents a sorry spectacle, boarded up and with damaged cars rusting on the forecourt.

The Swelled Cat

The other alehouse in the hamlet of Normandy was the cottage at the sign of "The Swelled Cat", at the bottom of Dolley's Hill on the Pirbright Road. It is possible that the unusual name derives from a swealed, meaning singed or scalded, cat. It was referred to by this name in 1869 when it was part of the Normandy Park estate owned by George Bean. The cottage had an acre and a half of land and the copyhold tenants, Thomas Chandler and family, were agricultural labourers who probably supplemented their income by selling beer to passing customers. After 1830 any ratepayer on payment of two guineas could open a beerhouse. Local residents remember the alehouse existing until about 1914 after which it became a gardener's cottage. The building was there until the 1950s and Percy Woods the builder obtained it as part payment for work done in 1953, when he converted Normandy Park into three separate residences. The cottage was in ruins at this time and in 1958 or '59 it was demolished and the bungalow 'Wynnstay' built on the site.

The Duke of Normandy

While many believe the village of Normandy to be named after the Duke of Normandy pub, this seems unlikely because Normandy is referred to in deeds and maps as early as 1608. In 1841 the site, where the pub now stands was a green field. By 1855 the pub was established as the Duke of Normandy and was leased to Thomas Taunton, the Guildford brewer and it was fully licensed before 1869. Taunton's brewery and public houses were taken over by Friary in 1874 and the pattern of company ownership was established. In 1991 Friary Meux sold the Duke of Normandy to Greene King plc.

From 1881 to 1930 the landlords were the Carpenter family. In the 1920s and 30s Friary used to deliver to the Duke of Normandy in a steam lorry. Throughout World War II the landlord was Alf Godwin, who was in Normandy's wartime fire brigade. In 1993 the tenants Robin and Val Osborne gave the Duke of Normandy a "vigorous refurbishment" which took six weeks and cost £65,000, and decorated the walls with historical photographs of the area provided by Normandy Historians.

The Nightingale

This pub stands just inside the Parish of Normandy on its border with Ash. The boundary, now an unmade road, is remembered as being a stream with a ford where it crossed the road. Like the Swelled Cat, The Nightingale may have started as a smallholding whose occupant also sold beer. In the 1860s and 70s, The Nightingale was occupied by Robert Waters then by Luke Kersley, both being beerhouse keepers. In 1881 it was sold to Burrell, Burrell and Wormold, the Alton brewers for £785 while Luke Kersley remained the landlord. In the early years of the 20th century it was occupied by Frederick Sheldon Hill, beer-retailer followed by Sidney B Hill. It is not clear whether they were related to each other, or indeed to William Hill the earlier landlord of the Anchor, but it seems likely.

The Nightingale had an on/off licence and bread, cheese and minerals were also supplied. There was no accommodation (for people or horses!) and customers were said to be "*of the labouring class*". A survey before World War I when it was owned by Crowley's brewery of Alton showed that there was a taproom, two parlours, a club room and two cellars and it was in very fair order. Crowley's was taken over by Watney, Combe and Reid in 1947 and in 1992 Grand Metropolitan's Watney pubs were transferred to Inntrepreneur. Interestingly the pub was not shown as a Public House on Ordnance Survey maps of 1916 and 1934. According to a previous landlord it was a beer and coffeehouse since cider used to be classed as coffee!

There was never actually a pub in the "Flexford – Christmaspie" area although there were plans for one. In the late 1920s Farnham United Breweries, later Courage, bought a plot of land on the northeastern corner of the crossroads, formerly part of Christmaspie Cottage. It was still waste land in 1960 when Fred Hibberd tried to sell Christmaspie Cottage to Courage who proposed to convert it into a pub, but planning permission was refused and the appeal was lost in 1969-70.

There have from time to time been other licensed premises in Normandy, which could not be classed as pubs. The café called Dickie's Pantry, in the house now called High Trees in Glaziers Lane, was run by William and Florence Knapton. By the mid-1950s it had become a social club with a bar and a games room. At 11:20 on the night of the 15th of December 1956 the Dickie Social Club was raided by police who found eight people drinking illegally in the club. William Knapton was fined £76 plus five guineas costs for serving drinks after hours and serving drinks to non-members but the charges against his wife Florence were dropped. The eight customers, four from Normandy Parish and four from elsewhere, were fined £4 each. Farnham magistrates found that it was not a bona fide club and the Knaptons were living on the profits so the club's licence was revoked.

Other licensed clubs in the village included the Normandy and Wanborough District Social Club in Westwood Lane and the Normandy Ex-Servicemen's Club at the Royal British Legion. These along with the pubs played an important part in community life.

CHAPTER 7

TRADE AND SERVICES

A good workman is worthy of his hire

Paraphrase on Luke X 7

Introduction

While the shopkeepers described earlier worked on display behind façades with their names and businesses in large letters, many more tradesmen and small businesses flourished by reputation without the benefit of premises or grandiose names.

The shops are generally easier to pin down - they stay in one place, are much the same size and have similar characteristics. However the subject of trades spans small to large - from a single trader wheeling his barrow round the village to Vokes (a factory once employing over a thousand people) and from the very mobile to the totally stationary - the brickworks only existed because of the nature of the ground they rested on.

Furthermore, unlike the shops, we don't have many photographs of tradesmen to give us clues and there is not the same emphasis on a definite 'place', so we have to turn to the documentation and figures. The census of 1891 shows those who could loosely be defined as tradesmen, reflecting the day-to-day needs of a small agricultural community. There were two builders, three blacksmiths, five carpenters and wheelwrights (one retired), one wood dealer, one hurdle maker, one hawker and a rather ambiguous "general dealer" - the Arthur Daley of Victorian times? One of the blacksmiths and the hurdle maker were in Willey Green, the other tradesmen in Normandy or Wyke.

Over the preceding 50 years this list had grown from the single blacksmith, John Stedman, who was at the Normandy smithy in 1841. In the intervening years a carter, a hoopmaker and a spring van builder had also appeared briefly in the census but had disappeared again by 1891. Equally interesting perhaps are the trades missing from this list that later offered their services. Did all householders in 1891 repair their own shoes, sweep their own chimneys and cut each other's hair? Or were there people who travelled from further afield offering these services to the residents of Normandy as and when required?

We can only speculate on what a similar analysis of today's census (or rather 1991's) would reveal, as it will remain closed and out of sight in the Public Record Office for a hundred years, but it should look very different to that for 1891. A large proportion of the occupations revealed would clearly not be carried on in Normandy - most of the residents now commute to Guildford, London or beyond, whereas in 1891 it seems unlikely that anyone travelled further to work than they could walk.

The 1890s is probably the last decade when this is true because Wanborough Station opened in 1891, offering easy, affordable access to the markets and industries of the nearby towns. We will have to wait until the 1901 census is made public in 2001 to see how quickly the effect of this accessibility to the towns made itself felt in the makeup of the population of Normandy.

Blacksmiths and Garages

The earliest recorded business in Normandy is certainly the smithy, which was situated just opposite the grocery store, now Normandy Motorcycles, occupied since 1825 by the Stedman family. As well as their main trade of smiths and wheelwrights, the Stedmans tried their hand at many things, building, coffin making and coach, wagon, sprung vans and cart builders. The smithy was located on an 8-acre smallholding

called 'Lynthorne', which was part of the Henley Park estate and was owned by the Halsey family until 1922.

From 1871 to at least 1910 Archibald Coleman was the wheelwright and for many years Wilfred Sewry was the blacksmith. Mr Sewry was probably apprenticed there about 1908 under Mr Bridges or Bridger and his first job was to operate the bellows. After serving in the Army as a farrier he returned to the forge in Normandy and was the last recorded blacksmith there in 1924. There is however a difference of opinion about when the blacksmith's workshop closed - some say the early 1920s but there is reference in 1930 to Stephenson and Benbridge, smiths of Guildford Road, and mention in the early 1930s of a blacksmith called Mr Slaughter in the area.

We have heard that there was also a blacksmith's workshop in Flexford around 1920, run by Mr Sewry who was also a postman. Wilfred Sewry from the Normandy forge became Normandy's postman when he retired from Dennis Brothers about 1947, delivering letters on his bicycle. He is remembered as being very conscientious and reliable. Unfortunately the Flexford workshop had a lot of old tarred wood in it and it burned down about 1954 when a nearby bonfire got out of control.

It seems likely that the Normandy blacksmith's shed was subsequently used in the 1920s, first as a builders yard by Arthur George Oldershaw, then as a paint shop by William Wiltshire who had the coach building works on the other side of Guildford Road. William Wiltshire had a paint shop and workshop here, probably in the old smithy, until at least 1939. His telephone number in the 1930s was Normandy 15.

The coach builders, on the site of what is now Delta (formerly Wykehurst) garage, was started by the Stedman family in the 1880s and continued until about 1923 when it was taken over by Albert Henry Wiltshire and son. When son William Wiltshire built the house called Lynthorne and moved across the road around 1930, W L Yorke started the garage under the name of Cleygate Garage. It had one hand-operated 'wind-up' petrol pump. In 1935 C W (Paddy) Johnston, the former TT motorcycle champion, took it over and was proprietor for several years under the name of the Open Road Garage.

In the 1950s, 'Monkey' Marsden ran the garage. The nickname derives not from an insult but from the large cage of monkeys kept on the garage forecourt by Mr Marsden. These monkeys were constantly escaping and villagers can recall them climbing on cars and banging on the roofs. One of them even managed to jump on a motorcyclist's back and remove the astonished man's crash helmet before he knew what was happening! The next proprietors were Frederick Bayliss and Reginald Dare who ran it under the name of Anchor Garage Ltd. They sold it about 1979 and it became Wyke Hurst at Normandy, Datsun Centre, who rebuilt it in its present form.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the village, Thomas James started Normandy Garage in the late 1920s, who by 1936 was offering "*any make of car, lorry, electrical or radio parts (telephone Normandy 13)*". He also mended mowers and bicycles. According to local residents, filling your car with petrol in those days was a very leisurely affair. Tommy would stroll out of the workshop and, after a chat, would labouriously pump the petrol from one of his 'side-to-side' type pumps. The Richards family came to Normandy Garage in 1966 and became outright owners in 1976. John concentrated on building up the service side of the operation while Joan manned the petrol pumps. In 1982 the trend towards vehicle sales culminated in Normandy Garage becoming one of the first UK Hyundai franchises. Their success led to the complete remodelling of the site in the winter of 1997/98 with an impressive modern showroom.

The third garage in Normandy, in Westwood Lane, was started in the early 1930s by Richard (Dick) James, Tommy James' brother. (The third brother, Barry, was the coal merchant at the station and there was also a draper's near the Nightingale run by a Charles James. Was he related?) At first the garage was just a shed

where Dick did repairs, sold paraffin, etc. He started the haulage business with just one lorry. Nearby Fred Nunn, who made breezeblocks also sold petrol from his pump.

After the war Dick had the two fields beside the garage full of army-surplus lorries which he was repairing and selling for the 'groundnut' scheme in West Africa. In the late 1950s he sold the garage to Mr Ashe who modernised it. By 1965 it was Normandy Engineering Limited, advertising in an official parish guide: - *"Petrol, repairs, service, plant hire, site clearing and earth moving. Cut prices and Green Shield stamps"*. Since about 1971 it has been All Recovery, a breakdown recovery service owned and run by Brian Mayhead.

When the vehicles purchased at Normandy's garages reached the other end of their useful lives some of them no doubt ended up at the scrapyard in Willey Green. This property was originally part of a nursery called Chapel Farm. The Bayliss family moved there before World War II and kept pigs until swine fever wiped them out. By 1938 William Bayliss was dealing in second-hand cars and during the war they broke up cars to provide much-needed metal. This was the origin of the scrap-yard. In 1965 Normandy Auto Salvage started trading and in the early 1980s it was run by A G Bayliss and managed by John Norgate with a staff of six, offering *"a vast range of spare parts"*.

A sign of changing taste in modes of transport is that the only 'vehicles' for sale in Normandy before World War II were offered by James Smith, horse dealer of Normandy Common, from the 1920s to 1938. Then about 1961 the Normandy Motorcycle Company was established in what had been Mrs Carpenter's bakery and general stores. Now, of course, a full range of modern cars is available at each of the major garages on the Guildford Road, and the horses are strictly confined to leisure pursuits.

Reflecting these changes, while horse riding became a leisure activity over the years, so the driving school has become almost a necessity and Normandy has had its own since 1989. A century ago, did everyone learn to ride a horse as a matter of course, as we learn to drive a car, or were horses the prerogative of the better off? The first horse riding school in Normandy was advertised in a trade directory of 1938 by John Wallace of Pirbright Road and by 1950 Paddy Johnston had been running the Normandy Riding Club for many years and organised a gymkhana four times a year. Then in 1966 Mrs Davidson of Ragwort, Normandy Common advertised the Ragwort Riding School in the village festival programme of that year and in 1971 the Parwood Equestrian Centre, offering riding and showjumping lessons, was established by Peter Parsons at Westwood Farm, after a considerable planning battle with the authorities. His daughters Jill and Jennifer were qualified riding instructors and the intention was for them to take over the school, but the Parsons sold the property about 1972. Harry Goold bought it in 1986 and re-established the equestrian centre.

Barrows & vans

Billy Wakeford lived at 'Wrens Nest', a small cottage near The Homestead at Willey Green. In the 1920s he used to push his barrow into Guildford to buy fish at the market and sell the fish on the way back. Somewhere in Wood Street he had to leave his barrow to go up a drive and when he got back there were always some fish missing, so he bought a mousetrap and set it next time he was there. He found it had gone off and a lad whom he suspected and who lived nearby was found to have his fingers bandaged when Billy called there. He never lost any more fish! Later, in the 1930s, he used to sell fresh fruit from his barrow and he was known as Banana Billy and the Orange King.

Billy also used to make doughnuts in a large copper in the fireplace filled with boiling fat. In the winter local boys used to make snowballs and lob them down the Wrens Nest's low, wide chimney. The result was chaos inside and Billy would chase the boys as far as the Anchor where he would run out of steam.

His daughter Prudence (Pru) remembers going to the rabbit burrows at the top of Smith's field at the back of The Homestead with her brother-in-law Jim Boyd and another man. They had a ferret and net. The ferret was put in the burrow and as the rabbits ran out into the net Jim gave them a chop on the back of the head that killed them instantly.

Her father used to hang them on the side of his barrow and sell them. If people couldn't skin them he brought them back and mother skinned them. Very often they didn't want the heads, so mum cooked them and Pru had them for her tea when she came home from school. Her mother always broke the top of the head so that Pru could eat the brains. Billy used to cure the skins by pegging them on the clothes-line (they had very hard frosts in those days) and when he had a sack full he used to take them to Aldershot and sell them. He used to say that he got more from the skins than he did from the rabbits.

In his younger days Billy Wakeford was a great runner and would go by bus to Elstead to run in races. However, later on he had a growth on his leg and when it became too painful for him to walk, he fixed an iron bar with two little iron wheels on to the front legs of his barrow and he scooted along using it as a walking aid. He had an old pair of crutches to get to the houses. The Lipscombes of Normandy Hill Farm gave him a donkey to pull the barrow; their children rode it round there for him and in return he gave them oranges. When Pru left school she had to take over the rounds with the help of her mother, as Billy could not get around. They had to use two prams as they couldn't push his barrow. They did that for two years until he died. He was buried in Worplesdon churchyard next to a Mr Page (was this the Arthur Page who kept the Normandy village store and bakery until 1935?).

Walter Rolph who had the general store in Willey Green had a horse-drawn van that he used to take up to the ranges and sell tea to the soldiers there. In 1927 he got his first motor van which was a 'T' type Ford and he continued to go to the ranges with a tea urn in the back. A vendor's licence then was 4d a day.

Before World War II many travelling salesmen came to the village and Normandy-based tradesmen travelled far and wide in search of custom. Mr Puttock of Bailes Lane used to sell fish from his van and George Coomber did a milk delivery round on his bicycle and he was rumoured to leave the lid open in the rain for a good purpose! A greengrocer in Flexford delivered once a week by horse-drawn float and his round went as far as Aldershot. Some people who lived in Willey Green would fetch coke in a pram all the way from Aldershot Gas Works. Mr Plowman from Woodbridge Hill came to the village selling shoes and trousers and Mr White was the rep for Delmasco sheets, but he also sold tea in 5 x one-pound packs. Mr Venn sold "everything" from his van.

The 1960s saw more vans in the village, where a fish and chip van delivered for years and ice cream vans were a common sight in the summer months. Another fish seller was Graham Norris, a former trawlerman, who used to come to Normandy from Cleethorpes on Tuesdays in the 1970s and sell fish from a counter in the back of his refrigerated van in the British Legion or the Anchor car parks.

Other individual tradesmen

Among the craftsmen who worked in Normandy are Lambert C M Staniford who has been a cabinet maker and antiques restorer in Westwood Lane since 1961 up to the present day. There have been at least three boot and shoe repairers in Normandy - Albert Allison at Dolleys Hill in 1909, Fred Hibberd at Christmaspie Cottage in the 1920s and 1930s and George Tyrell at Devonia in Glaziers Lane throughout the 1930s. Since World War II it appears that residents have had to go elsewhere for their footwear repairs. Two professional photographers were based in Normandy, E M Finch in Orchard Way from 1968 to 1969 and R J Hicks in Westwood Lane in 1989. In earlier days, the keenest photographers seem to have been the proprietors of the village stores, as evidenced by the large number of postcards published in the early years

of the 20th century by John Horne, P A Pepin and their contemporaries.

Barbers and hairdressing facilities were available at the working men's club in the 1930s, at Apple Trees in Glaziers Lane (once the village telephone exchange) in the 1970s and at Mollymops, run by Dennis Smith's wife Jill above the Spar shop from 1973 until the Smiths left in December 1986. Several of the businesses that came and went were 'one-offs' to fill a particular market niche. One such enterprise defying categorisation was run by Mr Fowler the scoutmaster, who recharged the accumulators of the village wireless sets for 6d a time!

Mr Saunders, the chimney sweep, lived at Hawthorne, Glaziers Lane (or Station Road as it then was) from 1938 to the 1950s. In 1977 Bruce Peto established Normandy Windows in Christmaspie Avenue as a one-man business. By 1981 he had installed windows at 42 houses in Normandy and although he subsequently moved to Churt he still trades under the name of Normandy Windows.

In about 1957 the Wesleyan Chapel at Normandy Crossroads closed and the next year C J Williams bought it at auction and it was used as an engineer's drawing office. It was finally demolished in 1970 and two houses and a bus lay-by now occupy the site.

Merchants and dealers

There have been dealers in wood, coal, second-hand furniture and building materials in Normandy, but the two earliest, Thomas Osgood and Stephen Head, who lived three doors apart in Pirbright Road in 1881, just referred to themselves as 'general dealers' and we can only speculate about what they dealt in. Later, in the 1940s and 50s Brian Pickford, the Vicar's son, was a general merchant dealing mainly in building materials.

Normandy's coal merchants have been located in two places, the station yard and on Pirbright Road. The latter seems a little less convenient for deliveries by rail but one of the railway sidings was known as Bosleys after Richard Bosley, the coal merchant at Mount Pleasant, Pirbright Road. Mr Bosley was trading throughout the 1920s and 30s and by 1938 was offering coal, coke, anthracite, boiler nuts and coalite as well as haulage. He retired in 1953 and died in 1969.

At the station yard itself, Barry James, one of the three James brothers who all traded in Normandy, was the coal merchant from at least 1932 to 1938. By this time the warehouse and premises were occupied by Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society, known as SCATS, dealing in agricultural feeds, seeds, fertilizers and chemical products. SCATS was a farmer-owned co-operative which expanded in the 1930s based on a format of railheads with a small store, a manager, store-man and lorry driver. Don Bishop was the original manager of SCATS at Wanborough, followed by Harold Church up to 1955 or 56.

Interestingly, in 1950 Barry James was again the coal merchant based at the station yard, advertising that he was "now allowed to trade in this area again". What happened in between is not clear. By 1965 A Luck & son were coal and coke merchants of Station Approach until they sold the business to Western Fuels in 1977, with family members continuing to work for the firm. By 1982 the business was run by British Fuels (who had taken over Western Fuels), managed by Ted Harms with a staff of 13 and six vehicles.

Sydney Rickwood was a furniture dealer in the early 1930s from his shop on Guildford Road, where Delta Motor Co. is now, and in the early 1940s from his shop at Pinewoods. The versatile Rickwoods also ran a café, a butcher's shop and a draper's store at different times from these premises.

There have been two wood-yards in Normandy. George Freakes was a wood dealer of Pinewood Road from 1891 to 1918, by which time he must have been about 81 years of age. He sold beanpoles, amongst other things. The Bayliss' woodyard in Willey Green was started during World War II and by 1966

William Bayliss was advertising garden sheds and fencing. By 1981 they were offering Wendy houses, fencing, loose boxes, summerhouses, timber, logs and firewood. The most noticeable feature in the 1970s and 80s was the group of attractive and elaborate Wendy houses on display at the front of the yard, designed by Les Bayliss who was always on the lookout for an 'interesting' piece of timber or an old window to incorporate into the design.

Builders and joiners

The best known of Normandy's builders is remembered indirectly because of his untimely death. Charles Cull, who had been an overseas civil engineer for McAlpine, bought a bungalow on the eastern side of Christmaspie Cottage in the late 1920s. He was a builder and undertaker at this time, but dropped the undertaking about a year later. He established a builders yard on the land behind the bungalow with a joiners shop, glass shop, paint shop, etc. He had a workforce from 25 to 60 people and contracts throughout the area. He found it a bit of a comedown doing 'little' building jobs after the million-pound works he'd been constructing abroad and became frustrated until Bill Olley of Glaziers Lane suggested building an estate of bungalows. You could buy land for £1 a foot frontage in the early 1930s and Mr Cull and Mr Olley sat down one night and sketched a plan of the estate - Mr Cull was a good draughtsman. Pretty soon he was selling the bungalows before he'd finished building them - for £500 he would have a house ready for you to move into in 12 weeks.

He started building Flexford Close (now Christmas Pie Avenue) before World War II and finished it afterwards. When domestic building was stopped during the war Mr Cull got the contract to build the BBC blockhouse (where Culls Road joins Christmas Pie Avenue today). In 1958 or 59 Mr Cull died suddenly. His widow continued the business, which was then taken over by C G Robertson who named Culls Road after him. Robertson's vacated the yard after they had completed Orchard Close and Ulanders took it over and built the chalet houses in Christmas Pie Avenue, then the bungalows along Westwood Lane and on the corner.

For more than half the 20th century the Woods family had a builders yard and shop at The Firs on Pirbright Road. In 1891 George Hayter, a carpenter and wheelwright occupied the premises, then in 1896 William Albert Woods established his building and apiary firm there in two cottages with a workshop at the rear. As an aside, the wall bounding the west gardens of Henley Park House had a bee-hole (an artificial bee-hive) about 20 yards up from the entrance to the footpath across the gardens, which was still there, well hidden in the ivy, in the 1980s. Sadly it appears to have been destroyed during the recent renovations. It is interesting to speculate whether Mr Woods built it during Lord Pirbright's improvements to the property. By 1915 Mr Woods was concentrating on building but from 1930 to 1938 he also found time to be Secretary of the National Deposit Friendly Society. After he died, Percy Woods, his son, carried on the business and he was still occupying The Firs in 1964.

In 1926 the Colborne brothers who described themselves as farmers, architects and builders purchased The Quinta (now Quinta Cottage) opposite Normandy Pond. As well as building a significant extension to that property in 1932 they built new houses including Orchard House and Dardoni on a former orchard in Glaziers Lane and other properties in Bailes Lane.

Other builders and decorators in Normandy included Arthur George Oldershaw, who in the 1920s lived opposite the Anchor and then up the lane opposite Normandy Motorcycles. Then from 1930 until at least 1971 he lived at Argwean, Flexford, where he also did signwriting, plumbing and central heating work. Others advertising in Normandy included: Richard Mitchell of The Oaks, Pirbright Road, employing four men and three boys in 1881. G A Hopwood in Glaziers Lane in 1964. G H Cooper at Fernhill Bungalow in 1966.

Alfred Thomas of Fair Oaks, Guildford Road, in 1968. A & G Betts Brothers of Ghezirah, Pirbright Road in 1974 and K G Aslett in 1955 at the Normandy Joinery works in Guildford Road, the location of which we have not yet discovered.

Brickworks

There were several brickworks around Normandy because of the quality of the local clay and the history of brickmaking in the area goes back to the period of the Roman occupation.

The largest in Normandy, Wanborough Brickworks, was relatively recent however. In 1896 the site was still arable land, part of Cleygate Farm, but in that year 22 acres of 'Big Field' was sold to A R H Wright as part of the Normandy Manor Estate sale. The next year Mr Wright sold the property to Philip Shuttleworth Darnell for £2,000 and it was probably Mr Darnell who established the brickworks very soon after he acquired the property. From 1899 to 1909 entries for Wanborough Brickworks appear in Kelly's Directories and during this time there were at least four managers, Harry Holt, Philip Tassell, James Tull and George Carter. The clay was dug by hand and hauled up from the bottom of the pit in bogies driven by a steam engine. About 100,000 bricks a week were made and fired in five kilns.

The brickworks was always troubled by flooding. Sid Rickwood's grandfather worked there around 1900 and he recalled that once when they were digging the clay they struck a spring and the pit filled with water. From then on they had to use a pump. Four feet of loamy wash lie over the clay. Because of the water present it was only possible to work during the summer months and even then only to work the loamy wash and about two feet of clay.

In the valuation survey of 1910 there were clay kilns, machinery sheds, drying sheds and a chimney at the site, all valued at £3,100, but the works were not actually operating at the time of the survey.

In 1917 Philip Darnell sold the brickworks to W T Lamb & Sons, a London firm of brick merchants and at this time the vendor also had 'an interest in the windmill on the stream to the west of the land and the pipes that run from it'. It was sold as a going concern but the price paid, £1,100, was less than Mr Darnell paid in 1897, an indication perhaps of the depression in building and allied industries as a result of World War I. At this time the stables were still in use for the horses which used to draw small loads of bricks locally.

The Lambs worked a different system from their predecessor. The clay was dug at the end of winter and made into bricks and dried in the summer. The clay was mixed with powdered clinker and the bricks put on clinker beds in a heating room. Only one of the kilns was now used, not for direct firing but for producing hot air which was passed gently through an underground pipe beneath the clinker beds and out through the chimney. They made about a million bricks a year. These were high quality bricks of variegated colours of yellow, brown and purple; they were used for decorative purposes and were in high demand for use in the restoration of old houses.

In the 1920s the manager was still Mr Carter and the head brickmaker was Ernest Hibberd. There were no more than a dozen men employed at any time. The brickworks was served by a railway siding just east of the nearby Wanborough station. In 1928 the Lamb brothers negotiated a reduction in the rental of the siding from £36 p.a to £18 and again to £10 in 1938. The railway siding was removed in the 1960s.

By 1937 the works was closed because it was uneconomical to run, possibly due to the supplies of clay becoming exhausted or because the only access by road was under the very low, narrow bridge which the Railway Company would not alter. However Lamb & Sons did not sell the site until 1977. Various stories survive locally as to how it all ended, and one of these describes how the workmen went for a lunchtime drink at The Anchor only to find when they returned that the water pump had ceased to work and the pit

had flooded. Another possibility is that the flooding problem became insurmountable and the efforts to pump it out were abandoned.

The kilns and other buildings quickly became derelict and were cleared around 1950 and it is said that their bricks were reused to make a runway for the Brabazon, although this seems unlikely. The Bristol Brabazon, designed by a committee chaired by Lord Brabazon of Tara, was a huge passenger aircraft with eight engines intended to be the first of many, but only one was ever built. When it was coming to the SBAC (forerunner of the Farnborough Air Show) in 1949 they extended the runway at Farnborough believing it would need much more space to take off and land, but in the event it only used half of the runway length. The brickworks' chimney however was saved as a landmark for the army and as an air navigation aid. From 1955 to 1975 Jim Kirke lived at one of the brickfield cottages and he used to drive to and from his place of work in one of W T Lamb & Co's old lorries, giving rise to the mistaken belief of some that the brickfields were still making bricks at this time.

There was another brickworks at Elm Hill on the Guildford Road in the early years of the 20th century but all the bricks had to be taken to the Wanborough Brickworks to be fired. It had apparently been converted to a poultry farm by World War I but was again referred to as a brickfield in the Poyle estate sale of 1924. The earliest brickworks in the area was near the railway junction at Whitegate Copse but its site is now lost in the woodland to the south of the railway line.

Industry - Vokes of Normandy

Although the main thread in our story is the transition of Normandy from a small agricultural hamlet to a dormitory village, there has been a certain amount of industry based here. The village has even boasted such exotic activities as an imitation jewellery factory at Vaglefield Farm in the 1940s, but this did not last very long after local villagers complained about it.

The local history of Vokes, probably the largest employer in Normandy, goes back to World War II when the Company bought Henley Park as a replacement for their bombed factory in London, but the history of Henley Park itself goes back to the 11th century. At the turn of our century Henley Park was still a gentleman's residential and sporting estate, occupied by Lord Pirbright, his wife and nine servants. During World War I it doubled as an Auxiliary Military Hospital then resumed its role as a mansion house under the occupancy of Edwin Ramsay Moodie, referred to as the '*last lord of the manor*'. Since then the historic mansion of Henley Park has undergone dramatic transformations, from gentleman's country residence to corporate headquarters to company sports club to dereliction and it has now undergone a further transformation back to quality residences.

There were a lot of local objections to Vokes establishing itself at Henley Park, mainly from local gentry who knew that the factory would attract all the local labour and they would have to pay a lot more to get people to work on their estates. However, the emergency wartime powers overrode all objections. Vokes originally occupied the mansion to carry on their work of making filters, a vital cog in the war machine. The Company worked flat out during the war. On one occasion the invasion fleet from America bound for Italy was stuck in the middle of the Atlantic with clogged engines. The staff at Henley Park worked night and day for three weeks, sleeping by their machines in the workshops, producing new filters that were flown out and parachuted down to the fleet, which was thus able to resume the invasion. The logistic advantage given the Allied forces by their efficient air and oil filters - not possessed by the Axis - was a major factor in ultimate victory.

Mr C G Vokes ran the company very much as a 'benevolent dictator' and was a fatherfigure to his staff. When he asked about forming a union they replied "*you are our union*". When the Ministry insisted on a static water tank on the premises it was his idea to create it in the form of a swimming pool. During the war the

Company did well but the extreme hard work affected Mr Vokes' health, which deteriorated during the late 1940s and 1950s. He resigned as Managing Director in 1950 and died in 1961.

When the emergency powers were relaxed after the war the Company had a battle from 1947 to 1950 to be allowed to stay at Henley Park, and it was probably the influence of certain notable local figures such as Archibald Graham Brown, Mayor of Guildford, that ensured their success. There was also a considerable furore about re-opening the footpaths. They were all completely closed during the war for security reasons but afterwards groups like the Ramblers Association wanted them all reinstated exactly as they appeared on pre-war maps. The Company was unhappy about the path that runs across the slope just to the south of the mansion and offered instead to open a new, more pleasant path lower down through the formal gardens. However, the ramblers insisted on keeping exactly to the pre-war route, so to maintain security the Company had to erect a chain-link fence and top it with barbed wire.

The rooms of the mansion were used for different purposes at various times by Vokes. In the 1950s the Company Research Director, the Company Engineering Director (Mr. G H "Tony" Vokes), the Company Director and Chairman of the Vokes Group (Bert Osborne, who died suddenly on the morning of Sunday the 26th April 1998 at age 89 years) and the Company Secretary (Jim Phillips) had offices in the ornate rooms on the ground floor. Tony Vokes' office had been the 'Morning Room' when the mansion was still a gentleman's residence and it was known as the 'tea room' in the 1950s. It had a painting in the middle of the ceiling and much ornate plasterwork. Mr C G Vokes the Managing Director and his secretary had offices on the north end of the first floor and Mr Vokes' flat was at the south side of the first floor. Ted and Margaret Queening, who subsequently retired to 'Deyrolles' on Cobbett Hill, had a flat at the south end of the second floor, with magnificent views across to the Hog's Back. There was a door from the attic over the billiard room on to the flat lead roof and the Queenings used to have tea up there in the summer. The Company's drawing office was in the 'Noble Drawing Room' on the ground floor of the western extension and the Company's dining room was in the 'finely proportioned dining room' in the semi-circular projection in the middle of the west face of the mansion. Upstairs, in what had been the billiard room, was the Company's sales office. The stable block to the north-west of the mansion was used as offices and a despatch area.

About 1963 Vokes moved out of the mansion into the present factory, which had been built in 1958, and the mansion became the sports and social club for the Company's 1,200 employees. Vokes spent £8,000 on providing facilities "*which any country club would envy*", including a licensed bar, a ballroom, a jive room for younger employees, a table tennis room, a children's room, a darts room with fruit machines, a billiards room and a room for golfing instruction. The club had use of a swimming pool, a stocked fishing lake and football and cricket pitches. Edward Moore was appointed Sports Club Manager by the Company in March 1963, taking-up residence with his wife and daughter on the top floor of the mansion. Until June 1979, when he left to conduct his own business after 16 unforgettable years, Edward managed the extensive sport facilities, a superior bar and a successful shop with a turnover at times of £45,000 per annum catering for the sports and social wants of a workforce of well over 1,000 employees. In 1972 the Thomas Tilling Group acquired the Vokes Group and sold the mansion and its immediate grounds to a property developer in 1982.

Vokes, now a wholly-owned subsidiary of BTR plc, continued to prosper at their Henley Park factory and at the turn of the century it remained the centre of the Company's filtration technology research, manufacturing, administration and sales activities, employing 250 people. In 1991 Vokes celebrated its 50th anniversary at Henley Park with an open day and fête, "*an afternoon of exciting events for all the family*".

Reflections and Visions

These trades and businesses reflect the changing needs of the local population over the 20th century. Some skills have always been required - there has almost always been at least one local builder. However, other trades like the blacksmith and chimney sweep have disappeared as their services became no longer relevant or were taken over by large industries. Part of this is a reflection of the trend from local craftsmanship to

mass production, and industries such as the several local brickworks were gradually replaced by large centralised manufacturers who could reap the benefits of large-scale production and wider markets.

Another evident trend is from a small community having to be largely self-sufficient, where the local tradesmen provided everyday necessities, to a part of the 'global village', where most of the trades cater to the leisure or luxury end of the market, and the necessities are only available a car's-drive away in the town or hypermarket.

In a hundred years' time the world will look even more different. Everybody will probably have a personal telephone, which we will wear like a wristwatch rather than carry round as a separate gadget. There will still be landlines into houses and offices but these will be used for computer data and images like faxes rather than for holding verbal conversations. They will probably carry entertainment to our 'home entertainment centres' (which we used to call televisions) and we will be able to pick and choose interactively what we want to watch and when.

Telephones

A hundred years ago there probably weren't any telephones in Normandy, unless one or two of the big houses like Westwood or Henley Park had them as novelties. The first telephone numbers in Wyke and Normandy, listed in Kelly's Directory appeared in 1924. They were three Ash Vale numbers: Lt Colonel Cecil Toogood, a private resident at Wyke House was number 40Y6, Thomas Tubbs Fenner, farmer of Wyke Cross Farm was number 42 and William John Henry, grocer of Normandy Stores was number 40X5.

The format of these numbers seems strange to us now but they were based on a very logical system. The prefix applied to a group of properties in one place, so 40 was a section of Guildford Road and 68 was Station Road (now Glaziers Lane) and the suffix was the number of rings. Thus, the telephones in the houses in Guildford Road would ring when there was a call, but if there were five rings, Mr Henry knew he had to pick up the phone!

The first full Normandy exchange was installed at Pakefield, now called Appletrees, Glaziers Lane in 1927 and run at that time by Mrs Wilson in the front downstairs room, where there was a trapdoor in the floor for cable inspection. The exchange was taken over by Mr and Mrs Annis in 1937 when they retired from their newsagents in Woodbridge Hill. They manned the exchange night and day. Each Normandy telephone had a separate number, rather than sharing them like the Ash Vale system. One of the earliest to get a Normandy number must have been at North Wyke Farm, whose number Normandy 3 was displayed by Gayler Frederick Chambers, dairyman, on the logo embossed on his milk bottles. We have not yet found out who had the numbers Normandy 1 and Normandy 2. Mary Dean (née Coussmaker) informs us that Normandy 1 was the Mills' at the Post Office and Normandy 2 was Westwood (subsequently 2101 and 2102).

By 1930 the residents of present-day Normandy had telephones connected to four different exchanges - part of Wyke remained on the Ash Vale exchange while the rest of Wyke and most of Normandy were on Normandy's own exchange. However, a few properties south of the railway had a Puttenham number, such as the James brothers' grocery shop (Wanborough Stores) which was Puttenham 57, and subscribers at Willey Green were connected to Worplesdon exchange.

In the 1930s there was no direct dialling, you had to go through the operator, so telephone numbers simply started at 1 and went up sequentially. In 1933 the Normandy exchange had 79 lines. A new automatic exchange (for the technically minded, a Strowger type UAX14) was opened in 1940 in nearby premises in Glaziers Lane, which is now the United Reformed Church, and the Normandy numbers all became four digits long, starting with a 2 or a 3. Thus the number for the Normandy Stores, at this time run by E H Worster, changed from Normandy 11 to 2121.

In 1945 this exchange had 171 lines, by 1955 there were 376 connections and the number of telephones started to increase rapidly, to 573 in 1965 and passing the thousand mark in 1974. Subscriber trunk dialling was introduced in 1970 when Normandy had the STD code of 048642 and international dialling became available in 1979.

By 1981 there were 1400 lines and various expansion schemes were considered, including building a new exchange in Normandy, but instead in 1981 the exchange was closed and the Normandy numbers were transferred to other exchanges - about 700 to Puttenham and the remainder to Worplesdon. The Puttenham numbers had an '81' prefix and the first digit of the old number changed, so the butcher's shop at Preston House changed from 2110 to 811110, while the Worplesdon numbers had a '23' prefix.

The Puttenham and Worplesdon lines were re-routed to Guildford and all had Guildford (0483) dialling codes but the lines that had remained with Ash Vale exchange became Aldershot (0252) codes. The expansion continues relentlessly, of course, and extra digits are being added to our telephone numbers with monotonous regularity. The latest innovation has been the installation of mobile phone repeater masts at Henley Park and near East Wyke Farm, bringing a foretaste of what the 21st century may hold.

Postal service

Normandy has always rather untidily straddled the 'dividing line' for provision of these services. We have seen how the telephone numbers ended up divided between Guildford and Aldershot. Similarly the postal services came into the village from different directions.

In the 19th century Normandy letters were sorted at Farnham but at the turn of the century they came via Guildford. They arrived at William Underwood's post office in Glaziers Lane at 7:15am & 6:30pm Monday to Saturday and had to be collected. Outgoing letters were dispatched from the post office at 10:30am & 7:50pm. There was one arrival and delivery on Sundays. By 1911 the western end of the village was served by letters through Aldershot delivered to and dispatched from J P Pryor's post office at Pinewoods three times a day and once on Sundays. The nearest telegraph offices were at the railway station and at Ash Vale.

This situation remained largely unchanged until World War II although postal delivery was introduced. In the 1970s Tom Walton, who ran the Normandy Post Office, had two postmen to do the local deliveries. Bert Sweet retired in 1986 after delivering Normandy's letters on his bicycle for 16 years. The division of Normandy was perpetuated with the introduction of post-coding, because while most of Normandy fell into the GU3 sorting area, the western end beyond Elm Hill became part of GU12 and its correct address remained 'Aldershot Hants' rather than 'Guildford Surrey'. The residents have been trying to change this situation for at least six years but so far without success.

Sewerage

The service that aroused the most passion in Normandy was sewerage. In December 1925 Aldershot Borough Council received an ultimatum from the Thames Conservancy to stop polluting the river Blackwater. They had clearly raised this issue before because "they would not acquiesce to any further postponement" of the necessary measures. In response Aldershot Council proposed a joint drainage scheme with Farnham Rural District Council to build a sewage farm in Normandy and in 1927 Colonel Lannoy John Coussmaker was approached to sell some land from the Westwood estate between Westwood Lane and Glaziers Lane for the purpose. Normandy residents fiercely opposed the scheme and by January 1928 Farnham RDC had withdrawn from the venture, proposing an alternative whereby Aldershot sewage would be treated at the Army Camp sewage farm. However, at their meeting in February 1929 Aldershot Council resolved to proceed with the scheme for a disposal works in Normandy and recorded that Colonel Coussmaker had agreed to accept the sum of £9,000 for the land and any "*consequent damage*".

The opposition from Normandy residents, led by Bill Olley continued and Surrey County Council was petitioned, with the support of Ash Parish Council, on the grounds that the proposed scheme was offensive, damaging to property values, excessively expensive for ratepayers and unnecessary. In January 1930, Surrey County Council resolved to oppose the scheme and support the Farnham RDC alternative. In 1931 Farnham RDC gave formal notice of their intention to construct the sewage disposal works in Aldershot and Aldershot Council resolved to oppose this scheme. According to Mr Olley the whole dispute was taken right up to Parliament and the expense of fighting it cost Aldershot residents an extra 8d on the rates, which made Mr Olley very unpopular!

In 1934 the question flared up again when Aldershot Borough Council proposed to build a new sewage farm 'beyond the brickfields' between Station Road and Bailes Lane. The first that Normandy residents knew of this new scheme was when an article was published in the Aldershot News. There was considerable opposition as before, but also apparently some confusion as to where the proposed site actually was, varying from the other side of Station Road from the previous site to out of the parish altogether. This scheme also disappeared from view and local settlement tanks were implemented for Walden Cottages on land purchased by Guildford Rural District Council from Mr Baldrey which was later converted into allotments, and a pumping station where Szabo Crescent is now, built by Mr Cull for his new estate. These schemes were not well documented and there is still considerable confusion about which houses in Culls Road are on main drainage and which are still on the private sewer.

There remained no main drainage in most of Normandy until the early 1960s when the main sewer was routed from the Fairlands Estate along the Guildford Road and a relief sewer laid south to north from Flexford to the east of Strawberry Farm. The depth of laying in Guildford Road required de-watering equipment and the ground water was tested and found suitable for drinking! Even now houses on Normandy Common, Pirbright Road and isolated properties where connection costs are prohibitive remain on cesspits despite the proximity of the sewer main.

One of the least lamented 'lost trades' of the area was the night soil cart. In a cottage on Ash Green lived 'Captain' Budden and up to the mid 1940s he used to go around collecting the night soil in a horse drawn cart with a cylindrical tank hung between two wheels, with a seat at the front. His round included properties in Normandy in the days before most houses had indoor toilet facilities.

Electricity, Gas and Water

The other services seem to have made their way quietly into Normandy. At the beginning of the 20th century there was no mains electricity, no gas and very limited private piped water supplies. It is likely that some of the big houses had their own electricity generators because in the census of 1891 James Marshall, living at Dolleys Hill, put his occupation down as an Electric Light Engine Driver. This was probably the steam engine used to power the lighting at Henley Park House. Normandy Park also had its own generator and was one of the first properties in the village to connect to main electricity.

About 1931 when 'Dardoni' and two nearby properties were being built on Glaziers Lane hardly anyone between the butcher's shop and the railway had electricity laid on. The Olleys, who were moving into Dardoni, asked the builders to find out how much it would cost. The Electricity Company approached the other residents of Glaziers Lane but nobody was interested in sharing, so the Olleys were charged the full price of £30 to £40 to bring the current from the main road to the house. However, before they had even

moved in, a dozen of the other residents had connected to it! Mr Olley says that when they got the bill they threw it on the fire!

In 1970 street lighting was first installed on all the major roads in Normandy by contractual agreement between the Parish Council and the Southern Electricity Board.

Water was drawn from wells and spring-fed sources such as the famous tank at Christmaspie. People paid five shillings a year to draw water from it for domestic purposes and most had to carry their own water home, but the Coussmakers used to send a donkey and water barrel once a week to fetch water to Westwood House.

One of the first mentions of piped water in the village concerns the water supply to the original 'Foxwell'. Water to the house was piped from a well in the trees on the west side of the highest point of Hunts Hill Road and the head of water was sufficient to ensure a constant flow through a tap. This well is now completely filled in and indistinguishable from the undergrowth. The Frimley & Farnborough Water Company piped water to the parish in the 1930s and from the 1950s to the 1970s they had become part of the Mid-Wessex Water Company, but piped water was not available in every part of the parish until around 1960.

Now all these services are almost universally present but we have few stories about them and we completely take them for granted. Our predecessors would be amazed!

CHAPTER 8

COMMUNITY LIFE

*All work and no play
Makes Jack a dull boy.*

*J Howell
Proverbs 1659*

The answer to the greeting "what did you get up to today?" would be very different now from that given in the nineteenth century, judging by the reports of activities printed in the Parish Magazines of the 1880s. For many reasons, the leisure needs of the community have changed greatly over the passing years. As more houses were built and new people moved into the village so clubs and societies were formed to meet their needs.

Pursuits of "bye-gone days"

Children of the 1800s had few toys of their own and what they did have were either newly handmade or handed on from their older siblings or relatives. Their games, although simple were energetic and full of fun and like their toys, had been played and passed on from their parents. There were the popular games such as draughts, dominoes and tiddlywinks, all well used by the family and fun games such as "hunt the thimble", which remained firm favourites, being played well into the next century.

Dark winter evenings were best spent indoors. Girls had the opportunity to join friends at the girls club, held at Wyke Lodge and run by Miss Wilson, where they could sing and play games together. The boys would use up their energy at the gymnasium club run by Colonel Coussmaker and Doctor Chester in the farm outbuildings at North Wyke Farm.

When work in the home was finished, some mothers met with friends at informal millinery classes or the more formal activities of church and chapel. Similarly, fathers, after a hard day's work in the fields and woods could relax with friends at the Wyke and Normandy Institute for a game of whist, dominoes, draughts or don. Every so often a team of local players would enjoy a challenge match with a team from another village. Results from a Parish Magazine of 1898 show that the Normandy team beat Wanborough in a match composed of a mixture of such games. There were alehouses or "The Anchor" public house, within which both parents could find comfort, but in general the pub then was the province of the male.

In the bitter months of winter, skating and sliding on the frozen ponds was a popular pastime as was tobogganing at Fox Hills. Spring and summer months, for everyone, were filled with work, from first light to the fading dusk of evening. For the children, play could be found everywhere in everyday things.

At school, hopscotch squares were marked out with a lump of chalk and each child hopped through the numbered squares trying not to touch the lines. Girls were very good at this game, much better than the boys were. Girls were also very good with the skipping rope, singing their chants such as "salt, mustard, vinegar, pepper" and keeping time with the twirl of the rope. Elsewhere in the playground, boys would be busy playing marbles, whip and top, piggy in the middle or chasing after each other in a rough game of "follow the leader". When school had finished for the day, it was best to get home as quickly as possible for there would be set tasks to do before going out to play.

Some boys dawdled on their way home, kicking an old tin or a stone along the road. Although fewer in number, girls also played such games on the way home and were, as a result, called “tomboys”. A big tree offered a challenge to most boys and girls. Boys were much better at climbing than girls were, they then being referred to as “little monkeys”. Favoured trees were easily identified by a rope hanging from a branch and used as a swing. So-called “kind neighbours” would pass on tales of misdemeanours to the appropriate parent with long remembered consequences! There was no real need for effective policing in those days.

One of the daily chores was collecting the milk from the nearest farm until, in later years, daily delivery of milk to the door from a milk cart became an accepted feature of village life. Enterprising youngsters saw a source of pocket money in helping to deliver the milk during the early hours of the morning, summer and winter. Other chores were collecting firewood from the copse and groceries from the village shops.

Hay making, threshing and gleaning after the harvested crop was part of country family life. Blackberry and other seasonal wild fruit picking were a special treat for the family, usually ending with a picnic. These outings were an opportunity for mum and the older children to show the younger ones how to make daisy chains and for dad to show his skill at fashioning a walking stick or cutting pea and bean sticks for the garden. Autumnal outings for hazel nuts and chestnuts were just as popular, for they not only heralded Christmas, but were a great time for kicking heaps of dried leaves about.

Most children love and are fascinated by water. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that a great deal of their playtime was spent in or around the ponds and running water that abound in Normandy. The stream running through Henley Park was a favourite place for children to meet and play particularly where a most elaborate brick bridge, known as the Chinese Bridge, spans the stream. The reason for the building of such an attractive bridge remains unknown for the present, although at one time it must surely have enhanced the parkland setting. It was up and down such streams that children fished for minnows, taking them home in a jam jar.

A focal point for a lot of children has been and still is the Normandy pond. In the past, children have floated around on rafts, made from old oil drums tied to wooden planks given by Mr. James of Normandy Garage, fished, swam or in later years, used the “ups and downs” area for their activity biking and the occasional motorcycle type scramble. In the 1930s the pond and its surrounds were well maintained but due to neglect the pond lost its identity, became overgrown and eventually was just dank, stagnant water hidden by dense undergrowth. In the 1980s volunteers restored the pond, with financial assistance from the parish council, and its tranquil setting is appreciated once again. In 1991 the pond was entered in the Pond Watch Community Wildlife Pond of the Year competition, sponsored by Shell Petroleum, winning the first prize of £250. The pond is now the responsibility of the Normandy Pond Trust.

Horse things

In the mid 1800s, the officers of the Aldershot Cavalry Brigade held their Annual Steeplechase at Normandy on “Marshalls” and “Nansons” land, now known as Manor Fruit Farm, Elm Nurseries, Park Farm and Strawberry Farm. Little is known about the course, other than it included natural water jumps using the streams that ran through the land. It was on this course that the Guildford Races were staged in April 1870.

These races were held previously on Merrow Downs during the late 18th century and early 19th centuries, the last being in 1830. Large crowds were expected to attend and understandably local residents were all agog at the prospect of seeing such an event. They were not to be disappointed. Although they were interested and enthralled to see all the elegant horse-drawn carriages lined up opposite the grandstand, they were thoroughly dismayed at the lack of law and order. For years afterwards, one can imagine children listening wide-eyed to the stories from parents of theft, violent behaviour and the fights on that day. The local newspapers more than adequately reported the event, generating bitter correspondence on the organisation and role of the County Police and the mayhem that resulted from their inaction. Had the event been successful, one can only guess at the place Normandy may have held in the Racing Calendar!

The horse continued to play a prominent part in farming and in later years at local leisure events such as horse shows and gymkhanas. In the late 1960s, pony club meetings held at The Oaks, Pirbright Road by Beryl Johnston, were a popular pastime for riders of all ages particularly the annual show held each Easter Monday until at least 1974. Paddy Johnston, her late husband, started the shows in 1937. In addition to the Easter show she organised three other shows during the year. During the 1960s the annual Ragwort Horse Show, held at Normandy Hill, was a favourite venue for local riders and attracting competitors from as far afield as Hertford. In June 1967 the spectacular sport of "Sand-surfing" made its debut on a sandy stretch of common at Dolleys Hill. Originating from Texas, the sport caught the eye of Mrs G Krawczyk, who persuaded a group of enthusiasts to demonstrate it there, having tried unsuccessfully indoors on sawdust. All that was required was a horse, a rider and a board. Imagination and the name of the sport provide a vivid picture of the event. The surfer enjoyed the thrills and spills of water surfing without having got wet. The rider was Hilary Davison on "Blue Beat" and the surfer was Wendy Pope. Between 1960 and 1972, Miss Isobel Toolmin welcomed the Bisley and Sandhurst Hunt to her home at Mariners House, attracting about 30 riders including some from Parwood Equestrian Centre. The Master of the Hunt was Major R A Fulton of Bisley.

Today, equestrian activity is generally confined to the individual rider and the occasional horse and buggy, to be seen most days of the week on the roads and bridle-ways of the village. They alone retain and enjoy for a brief period the freedom of a more leisurely pace of life.

The sound of leather on willow

Normandy Cricket Club was formed in 1896, the early matches being played in a field between Westwood House and Westwood Farm. A balance sheet of the club's finances, drawn up by the Secretary/Treasurer Arthur Stedman, shows that *"the field was rented for £2 and that twelve shillings was paid for an old stone roller and three shillings for labour."* In addition to subscriptions from players, *"the proceeds of two concerts and the balance from a cricket supper boosted the club's funds."* The club continued to grow, despite having to relocate to land in School Lane, now forming part of Roughts Farm. Matches were played there up to the start of World War II, when in accordance with government directives Sir Philip Henriques, the owner of the ground, repossessed it for food cultivation.

The club has always enjoyed a strong association with the incumbents of St Mark's Church. The Reverend H D Wyatt was both an enthusiastic player and a patron of the club in its early days. Suffering from ill health, he was assisted in his ministry by curates, one of whom was the Reverend G E J Milner, also an enthusiast of cricket who, not only played for the club but also later was elected Captain. The bond

between church and club continued into the 1950s when the Reverend Canon Selby-Lowndes was elected President.

The fortunes of the club changed in March 1945 when Guildford Rural District Council acquired land from the War Department at Normandy Common, specifically for use as a cricket ground and to be let to the club at an annual rent of two pounds ten shillings. The land, off Hunts Hill Road, was used throughout World War II as an army training ground. It was undulating, criss-crossed with trenches, covered with bracken, gorse and pine, presenting a most daunting task for any group of enthusiasts from which to create a cricket ground. Clearance of the area started in 1946.

At about this time, many new types of earth-moving equipment had been sent back to Aldershot Command from the Low Countries, where they had been used to rebuild war damaged dams and dykes. The army was well provided with sports grounds and had little use for such machinery. However, part of the retraining programme for military personnel was designed to prepare them for return to civilian life and this included training in the use of heavy earth moving machinery. Aldershot Command was, therefore, looking for suitable training sites in the area and had consulted the Local Authorities. Development of the land at Hunts Hill Road was an obvious choice. It was agreed that the work would be carried out by soldiers from the Aldershot Command with Normandy Cricket Club paying for the cost of the civilian labour and fuel.

There was a great celebration when the Member of Parliament, Sir John Jarvis, officially opened the ground on 28 June 1947. The opening match played against Major D L Cox's XI (the President's XI), was the first since departing from School Lane in 1940. A second ground was established on adjoining land leased from the parish council in 1991. The excellent facilities are often in demand by other clubs requiring a neutral ground for fixtures, providing an additional and welcome source of revenue for the club. There is strong support from its social members in regularly preparing teas for matches and helping to maintain the clubhouse and grounds.

George Harris, Secretary and Treasurer for twenty-one years, died in 1977 requesting in his will that his ashes be buried at the cricket ground. His brother-in-law, Jack Evans, carried out the ceremony with President John Milton, Chairman George Readings and life member Doug Roberts, in attendance.

Unconventional use of the grounds has included the emergency landing of a helicopter, hot-air balloons and in 1959, the location for a film "Light up the sky", starring Tommy Steele, Benny Hill and Ian Carmichael featuring the hilarious antics of a searchlight unit in World War II.

On 31 May 1999, guests, players and well-wishers were invited to attend the grand opening of the club's new pavilion, performed jointly by Mickey Stewart, President of Surrey County Cricket Club and Doug Roberts, life member and now President of the club. It was a memorable occasion, set in a location that is best described as one of the most pleasant and picturesque in the County of Surrey.

Muddy boots

Most boys love to kick a ball around and the youngsters of Normandy are no exception. Although the most popular place for playing in the 1940s was Station Road, now Glaziers Lane, a lack of traffic on the roads and lanes of the village meant that they could play almost anywhere. It is probable that the early 1920s saw the start of senior football in the village, for by 1925/6 the Normandy team was playing on what is now known as Roughs Farm.

At a public meeting in May 1928, held to discuss the purchase of land for a recreation ground in Normandy, a Mr Lance represented the football club and a Mr Mumford the cricket club. Sir Philip Henriques is reported as saying, “ *he himself allowed two portions of his property to be used for public recreation*”. He may well have been referring to the use of Roughts Farm.

The present Normandy Football Club had its beginnings in the 1950s. A group of keen footballers, Tom Turner, Ken Hunt, Bob Stiff, Michael Boyd, Bernard Hobbs, Fred Mayhead and others, decided that instead of playing the occasional match for the Junior Technical College, Guildford, they would try to form a Normandy team. Ken was Secretary and Fred was Fixtures Secretary. Their first matches were played at Aldershot Park since there was no home ground in Normandy.

In 1955 the Council decided to construct a pitch on the parish owned land at Hunts Hill Road and engaged Glover Bulldozers Ltd to carry out the work estimated at £420. The work took over two years to complete, owing to wrangling between the dissatisfied Council and the contractor. To hasten completion, players, scouts and school children from Wyke School helped to clear the pitch of stones before sowing the grass seed. A water service was installed by Mid Wessex Water Co. to the ground at a cost of £35 with the club members back-filling the trench. The first full season of football started in 1958 with the maintenance of the pitch shared between the club and the Council in lieu of rent.

The first clubhouse was a meagre affair, being a green tin shack attached to an old Nissen hut, within which, both teams changed. In 1975 the club replaced the shack with a recovered prefabricated bungalow, previously used elsewhere as emergency accommodation for bombed out families during World War II. The building, held on a five-year lease from the Council, was luxurious by comparison with its predecessor, the tin shack, providing separate changing rooms, toilets, showers and kitchen. Electricity and water were connected but the building had to wait until 1986 to be connected to the main sewer by Vine Excavations Ltd of Dunsfold at a cost of £6,200 to the Council. This building survived more than one five year period of leasing but the increasing cost of its maintenance became a drain on the finances of the club and in 1984 it was purchased by the Council for £1. Early in 1990 the building was destroyed by fire and the present pavilion erected in its place. Both pavilion and pitch are rented seasonally from the Council and by other organisations in the summer.

John Gaines, Dave Stiff, Alan Cheeseman and Roy Hebburn played regularly between 1960 and 1980 providing stability and experience to the team. In the 1970s, Tim Kerins and Ted Harms ran four senior teams and two junior teams in the Hampshire and Surrey leagues, resulting in the pitch being overplayed. In 1972, Simon Wildig, Malcolm Lucas and Martin Quest, junior members of the club, organised a petition to the Parish Council for a second pitch. The council considered the petition, also a request for recreational facilities in the Christmaspie area but both schemes failed to proceed. A government directive of 1976, to curtail public capital spending, spelt the death knell of those and other similar schemes of the council. The site selected was subsequently developed in 1985 for the present tennis courts. The estimated cost of construction for the pitch in 1976 was £12,500.

When Doug O'Malley came to Normandy in 1987, he joined the club as a player member and is now Chairman with Barry Proudfoot Secretary and Roy Hebburn Treasurer. Together, they form the driving force of the club. Two teams play every Saturday during the season and with a positive interest from teenagers the club is assured of new players to augment those now playing.

You can't be serious!

That historical outburst by celebrity John McInroe possibly evokes the best and the worst in tennis. The "best" as in technical excellence and athleticism, the "worst" as in the unacceptable role of a player questioning an umpire's decision.

There had been a Normandy Tennis Club playing on rented grass courts at the village hall from 1922, sadly disbanded in 1942 owing to a declining membership as members left in response to the war effort. A few continued to play on one court, the other used by the public. Henley Park Sports Club (Vokes) also used the courts, but a lack of skilled ground staff added to the problem and eventually both courts fell into disuse and were abandoned. In 1947, consideration was given to their reinstatement but the cost was too great. The present grassed area, dwarf wall and concrete path, which now constitutes the surround to the hall, clearly indicates the previous location of the courts.

In 1985, the two side by side courts of the present three courts were completed for the parish council by Messrs P A Housden for £14,050. The official opening performed in April 1985 by Miss Virginia Wade, Wimbledon Ladies Singles Champion 1977 was attended by Peter Housden, a Director of the company, and seemingly half the village!

Miss Wade had kindly accepted the invitation by Robin Furlonger to carry out the ceremony and afterwards to play an exhibition mixed doubles match. Robin who, through his business activities, had for many years supplied and maintained the floral decorations at Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club, partnered Miss Wade against Win Gilson and Bill Willis. Dennis Larkin umpired the match. It was obvious to all present that day how much Miss Wade enjoyed the afternoon, staying much longer than anticipated.

The inaugural meeting of the present Normandy Tennis Club was held January 1986 at which Tony McSweeney, a founder promoter of the club and a staunch supporter of its Steering Committee, was elected Chairman, Judith Rossetti, Secretary and David Pollock, Treasurer. Initially, the Council granted the club a three year licence for the courts, with use by the public at predetermined times and rates of hire. A long lease replaced the licence, further enhanced and extended in 1998 when the club enlarged the existing courts, added a third court and replaced the small changing room with a new pavilion. The improvements were accomplished with Lottery Grant Aid, the enlargement of the existing courts being necessary to meet the new standards of The Lawn Tennis Association.

Tim Seymour, a past junior, coached members of all ages and abilities. Now, however, the club Captain, Paul Wardell, undertakes that responsibility. The present Chairman is Geoff Glassup who, with his wife Valerie as Secretary and John Hall, Treasurer together with a current membership of about two hundred ensures the club, is well placed for a highly successful future.

Festivals for funding

In the summer months the recreation ground is the venue for many activities, fetes, circus, caravan rally, barn dances, celebrations and ecumenical church services. The first Normandy Festival took place there on a sunny weekend in June 1966 to raise money for the village hall Repair Fund. Dorothy Steers, founder Chairman of the organising committee, together with members, had worked hard during the previous six months designing a programme to ensure a happy occasion for everyone. The Rt. Hon Lord Napier, then residing at the Manor House, opened the festival. With sponsorship by local businesses and supported by the user organisations of the hall, the festival was a huge success.

The festivities began on the Friday evening when Normandy Cricket Club held an Edwardian fancy dress cricket match, during which the ladies and gentlemen struggled in their costumes, to field and score runs. On Saturday, colourfully decorated carnival floats assembled near the crossroads at Christmaspie where they were judged. The Brownie pack dressed as "Bunny Girls" gained first prize in their class. Mums of the pack made the costumes and Pat Van 't Riet the backdrops. To the rapturous applause of spectators lining the route, the floats led by the Festival Queen and her court rode in style through the village to the recreation ground. Meanwhile the helpers of the sideshows and the various competitions such as the "Glamorous Grandmother", "Knobbliest Knees" and "Bonny Baby" were preparing for an afternoon of gaiety and excitement. The Beauty Queen, Diane Jukes, having been selected prior to the festivities, dutifully visited all the stalls and exhibits, presenting prizes to the successful contestants. The festival closed with a barbecue and dance in the big marquee.

In 1968, Irene Handl, who was appearing in "My Giddy Aunt" at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Guildford, opened the festival in true theatrical style firmly clutching her pet chihuahua to her bosom. The festival was also spectacular in that a hot air balloon, "The Bristol Belle", manned by the Hot Air Group, took off from the cricket ground. The Saturday evening ended with a dance to the music of the Frank Allan Four held in a marquee for about 700 people. Sunday was for the children with handicrafts, exhibitions, sports, maypole dancing and a pet show. It all ended with an open-air ecumenical church service.

By 1970 there was a noticeable decline in the number of contestants for the Festival Queen Competition, which until then had had as many as 21 entries. The Ideal Married Couple Competition replaced it for the next two years. In 1971 it was won by Mr and Mrs Ron Hall and by Alf and Joyce Davis in 1972, who rode in an open car at the head of the floats. In the years that followed variations were incorporated into the festival programmes. A concert of Sacred Music and a Festival of Flowers was held at St Mark's Church. A commercial fun fair was invited into a field off Glaziers Lane to add its cacophonous and glittering presence to a festival. June Grove persuaded Pete Murray of BBC Radio Two fame to advertise the 1973 festival "over the air", for that year it took place over the whole week with each village organisation holding its own special event. The brownies and guides, for example, put on a stage show and the Women's Institute, wearing appropriate costumes, ran an English Country Market. By then the festival committee had achieved its aim to raise sufficient funds for the Hall Repair Fund but at a meeting in December 1973 there were insufficient members to continue. It fell, therefore to the Village Hall Management Committee to take over the running of future festivals.

The festival of 1977, to mark the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's reign, was held at various locations throughout the village, starting on Sunday 5 June with a Service of Thanksgiving in St Mark's Church, followed by the opening of the celebrations by the Jubilee Queen Toni Owen. The content of the two-day programme served to remind people of that first festival held eleven years ago in 1966 and how their community had continued to flourish since. On Monday scouts, cubs, guides and brownies combined to give a remarkable display of marching on the recreation ground. As daylight faded a candle light procession made its way to the specially prepared beacon at Manor Fruit Farm, where it was lit by Albert Cook the Chairman of the parish council assisted by the Jubilee Queen. The evening ended with a barbecue and dance at The Royal British Legion Club. The Wednesday following, Normandy Singers gave a concert in St Mark's Church and in common with other organisations donated the proceeds to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund. The Festival of 1977 was possibly the best of the festival years. That of 1978, although a fund provider, was hard work for the organisers and was the last of the Normandy Festivals.

The smell of grease-paint

Although the Normandy Amateur Dramatic Society (NADS) was formed in about 1943, its predecessor the Normandy Amateur Dramatic Club had flourished in the village hall between 1923 and 1933. Its demise may have been due to the increasing popularity of the Women's Institute, their more regular use of the hall and of the stage for their productions. NADS emergence from the wings into the spotlight in 1943 was ironically, a probable offshoot of the WI for Rene Steel, a principal innovator of ideas within the community and then a member of the WI, is credited with starting the society. Her honorary title of "The Queen of the Village" was well deserved and few would have denied her that title. She was elected Chairman, Dr.Cranstoun, President and Kay Kitchen, Secretary. Later, in about 1970, Floff Arthur succeeded Kay.

The Society's first production in 1944 was "Gaslight" for which Rene's husband Arthur was responsible for the stage lighting. It was through his professional association with London theatre land that he acquired and installed the initial stage lighting for the hall. In later years, their son Brian took over the responsibility of lighting. Rene's undoubted ability to rise to the occasion came in 1955 when she took the part of Madame Arcati in Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit". Her daughter Celia, an accomplished singer and chorister, took part in many productions. Ken Hawkins joined the society on leaving the Army in 1946, played many roles and was generally responsible for the building of the sets. Gordon Stuart, the present President joined in 1947. His first acting role in 1950 was in "Grand National Night".

The Presidency passed from Dr Cranstoun, to Pop Hawkins to Rene Steel to Ken Hawkins and finally in 1986 to Gordon Stuart. Sadly Ken died in 1991, and in commemoration new stage curtains were presented to the hall.

To date the society has presented over 170 productions. The first pantomime was "Cinderella" in 1976, written and produced by Pat Hunt and Janet Stockwell, followed by "Aladdin" in 1978, both productions being highly successful. In 1979 instead of a pantomime, a play was produced for children called "The Plotters of Cabbage Patch Corner" written by David Wood which was equally successful. Until 1990, a play and a pantomime have been produced in alternate years. Generally, the costumes for the principal actors and actresses were hired from Bermans and Nathans of London but many were made professionally by members June Baldwin and daughter Denise. They were introduced to NADS and encouraged to join by Kath Bryant, an early member of the society, renowned for her cockney acting parts.

The last decade has seen the introduction of an informal concert group presenting highly entertaining sketches and reviews to dedicated audiences such as at the "Over 65s party". Although the concert party is composed of members, friends and their families most are instantly recognised as the backbone members of the society. These include Pat Hunt, Len Mayhead, and Doug Baverstock, also the husband and wife team of Peter and Shirley Padley-Smith. Shirley, of course, won wide acclaim for her oratory and act-linking role in the concert party. The present Chairman of the society, Phil Kerby, who has held office since 1992, is the popular compere and Master of Ceremonies at the "Over 65s" party. His wife Sheila is Secretary and Ian Rose Treasurer.

Gordon regards NADS and its current membership as continuing to play an important part in sustaining a visual art presence in the village and providing light varied entertainment for special occasions.

My two left feet

Modern dances were held regularly on a Saturday evening in the village hall from 1923 until about 1940 to raise funds for the upkeep of the hall. Also Surrey Education Committee held well-attended dance classes in the hall from 1942 until about 1945. With so many army units stationed in the area it was inevitable that soldiers came to the hall whenever a Saturday night dance was held. When, however, the Canadian soldiers were in attendance, jitterbugging was not permitted and an Officer had to be present to maintain order! A dancing club, called Normandy Dancing Club, did function in the hall between 1951 and 1956, but little is known about it. Perhaps attendance at the modern dances declined as old time dancing found favour, for Old Time and Modern Sequence dancing clubs started using the hall about that time.

The first was the Normandy Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance Club formed in April 1951 when Arthur Govey was elected Chairman. Unfortunately, the club expired in January 1952 but was revived in September 1953 by Cyril White, who as Chairman placed emphasis on Old Time dancing. The club continued successfully under his direction but when in 1986 he and his wife moved from Normandy Robin Furlonger became Chairman. Edie Sharp, the present Secretary, joined the club in 1978 and almost immediately was asked to take over as secretary for a month. Except for a short break in 1995 that "month" has lasted over twenty years! "*All things permitting*" says Edie, Chairman Eric Neville, Treasurer Gordon Everingham, members and herself plan to celebrate the club's Golden Anniversary in 2001. Until June 1998 the club met in the hall throughout the winter but in June 1998, Richard Purcell and Joyce Hutchins decided to "carry on dancing" through the summer months and so formed the Summertime Old Time Dance Club, meeting each Wednesday evening as usual from May to September. Purely for Old Time Dances, the club has been very successful attracting about 40 dancers each session. Part of the evening format is teaching "set dances", some of which pre-date 1900, with such well known names as The Lancers and The Quadrille.

In 1993 Gerald and Joan Bibby started the Monday Club for modern sequence dancing, which they continued to run until 1999, succeeded by new leaders Ron and Jean Ahearn. This brief account of Old Time and Modern Sequence dancing would be incomplete without mentioning The Wey Valley Sequence Dance Association and its Secretary Ruth Mullard. When formed in 1947 the title of the association included "Old Time". Today the association has 38 affiliated clubs that meet once a month between September and April on a Sunday evening in the village hall. Attendance is limited to four members per affiliated club. Professionals teach the club leaders the latest competition winning dances, which they later teach to members of their respective clubs.

The association's principal dance, usually in January, is held at the Prince's Hall, Aldershot, where about 200 dancers from the affiliated clubs, dance the night away to a live band.

If only I could recapture my youth

There was a thriving youth club that met in the village hall, usually on a Friday evening, between 1941 and 1947 and with a membership of over 100 obviously filled a need within the community. Although its own members basically ran the club with Keith Baldrey Chairman, Leader George Callaghan and Florrie McMillan Secretary, its activities within the hall had the support of managers Arthur Steel and Percy Woods. Members particularly enjoyed the social exchange visits with the Royal Signals unit at Cobbett Hill and since a popular event and fundraiser for both groups was the Saturday evening dance, held whenever the hall was free, these exchanges led to romances and at least one marriage.

During these years there were other active youth movements in the village. The Young Communicants Guild met and was guided by Miss Emily Booty at St Mark's Church, sometimes using the hall and the stage for plays. The Young Conservatives met in the hall or the church room as convenient between 1944 and 1947. It is probable that there were other organisations in the area that offered similar opportunities for youngsters to meet, but perhaps did not have the attraction the hall had for young people to play billiards and snooker. A later organisation, formed in 1969 with a membership of about 20, was St Mark's Youth Fellowship. With Moira Newman as Leader the club provided social support to the church and generally enjoyed a Christian fellowship between themselves and other similar groups.

It was Kurt Newalder, County Area Youth and Community Officer who, in 1948, promoted a formal youth club in the village, meeting on a Friday evening in the billiard room of the village hall, initially with leader Mr Brickwood, succeeded by Mr Lister in 1952. Despite its popularity, by the end of 1955 the club ceased to exist because of having to compete for the use of the hall, a tendency for the County to delay payment of dues and difficulty in securing leaders.

The youth club re-opened in October 1965 as St Mark's Youth Club, promoted it is believed from a suggestion made by The Reverend Donald Faulkner, who was appointed Chairman with Joe Rigby as Leader. Other officers included Doreen Lee, replacing Gordon Swabey the enrolment meeting secretary, Michael Jackman, Winifrid Mason and George Hiron. Donald Faulkner was a great character and games participator often playing table tennis, a game at which he excelled. With a membership of about fifty his pleasure at the success of the club was evident. Since the club had planned to have its own accommodation, a modest prefabricated structure costing about £2,000, it joined the Surrey Association of Youth Clubs in order to take advantage of grants. The County would provide the funds and the Farnham Youth Authority would be a trustee of the land with the club as tenant of the building. The club approached the Normandy Village Hall Trustees, St Mark's Church and the Normandy Parish Council for land on which to place the building. Although each authority was sympathetic and supportive of the need and purpose, the request was negated owing to the difficulties each would have had in disposing of its freehold land. Eventually the club severed its close links with St Mark's Church and changed its name to Normandy Youth Club. Tony Kellerman was appointed Leader and Joe Rigby became an assistant leader. Tony remained as Leader until closure of the club in 1984.

In October 1975 the club held its tenth anniversary celebration in the village hall at which the principal guest, Councillor Albert Cook, the Deputy Mayor of Guildford described the club as *"one of the most vigorous and happy clubs in the area"*.

The club, meeting three times a week in either the hall, the scout hut or the church room as available, was indeed vigorous in both social and activity skills. A popular indoor game and a novelty at the time was table-top football donated and shipped from Hong Kong by a business associate of Sylvia Wilkinson's husband. Not all activities were held in a hall. The club took advantage of the sporting facilities at the Guards Depot, Pirbright for athletics, swimming, gymnasium, assault course and small-bore rifle shooting. Camping, in conjunction with Wrecclesham Youth Club, was very popular with visits to Dartmoor, Cornwall and the Brecon Beacons but the most frequented was Southsea. The presence of a permanent fun fair may have been the attraction! A football team, run by Rita and Tim Kerins, played their first match in 1966 and by agreement shared the recreation ground pitch with Normandy Football Club.

The club participated in charity and fund raising walks, some organised by The National Association of Youth Clubs. One such walk, the Surrey Shuffle, was a 25 mile cross-country sponsored walk between Epsom Race Course and Guildford taking in much of the North Downs Way. One of the youngest club members to complete the walk was 11 year old Danny Hoare. That walk was not so popular with the youngsters as the Farnham Charities walk routed through the beautiful river valley villages of Tilford and Elstead. On one occasion Tony Kellerman and Kurt Newalder called at the home of comedian and actor Peter Sellers and were received by his butler. From within the house the voice of the great man called out to enquire who was at the door. In answer to the butler's response that it was the man for the sponsorship money, the voice gave instructions "*Show him in, sit him down, give him a drink. The cheque's on the table. Tell him to fill in the amount and not to rob me!*"

As the mid point of the 1970s passed, relations between the club and the village hall managers became increasingly strained owing to the more than boisterous behaviour of the youngsters. In March 1979, Tony reluctantly informed the managers that he had suspended the club from using the hall for the time being, a decision fully supported by the managers. Club activities were restored, but complaints continued. By February 1981 the club and the managers were in crisis talks and in June 1983 the club was banned from using the hall. Talks between the two organisations and representatives from County Hall and Guildford Borough Council enabled the club to enjoy twelve months conditional booking of the hall. Sadly in September 1984 Normandy Youth Club was disbanded. At a public meeting convened by the hall managers in February 1986, and attended by four people only, attempts failed to revive a club for the youth of the village.

A "Maying" we do go

Whereas dancing around the maypole has long been a custom of the village, it was not until 1955 that it was popularised as the May Day Revels by the Village Hall Management Committee. In many respects the dancing is derived from the Celtic festival Beltane. The origin of the decorated maypole is obscure, although dancing around poles decorated with leafy garlands was part of the May rituals of the old rural calendar. The traditional annual custom of maying was maintained here well into the end of the 19th century with Garland Day celebrations held in a field near Westwood House. Since it was a time of frivolity, even for children who should have been at school, there was an air of expectancy generated by the preparations for the celebrations, the sports, the dancing and the choosing of the fairest maiden to be Queen of the May. The custom lapsed and was replaced by the now familiar maypole dancing with ribbons first taught, it is believed, to children at Wanborough School in 1899. Whilst not a subject included in the curriculum of the local schools, pupils would spend hours practising their dance routines ready for the day in May when they would perform in front of parents and friends.

Jean Levers, nee Azzopardi, remembers a School Governor teaching country dancing in the old scout hut and also seeing dancing around the maypole on the lawn at Wyke School during the celebrations for the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. She recalls that the pole was removed at the start of World War II for the building of the air raid shelters and was not replaced until the early 1950s.

The hall managers' contribution to the village celebrations for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 was maypole dancing on the lawns of the hall, organised by Rene Steel with dancers accompanied at the piano by Stella Woodcock. Later pianists have included Gladys Grainger and Ann Wildig. The event was a huge success and a surprise fundraiser and since that time May Day Revels in the hall has been a popular annual event. Charges for admission in 1955 were one shilling for an adult and three pence for a child.

Edie Sharp taught dance routines and in 1957 had the pleasure of seeing her daughter Jean crowned May Queen. Other teachers of the dance routines have been Pat Hunt, Anne Regester and Eileen Notley. The present day travelling maypole owes its beginning to a much humbler version made by Ted Gray from a silver birch tree, mounted in a lorry wheel, supplied by Doug Backhurst. Originally, boys and girls took part in the dancing, but the number of boys taking part declined leaving the girls to carry on, a situation that prevailed for many years, although some boys are again taking an interest. The dances have descriptive names based on rural traditions and customs such as Spiders Web, Twisting Barber and Sheep Shearing. Those with simple step routines are for beginners. The complicated ones are for the experienced dancers who must practise regularly in order to plait the ribbons correctly for a mistake can cause mayhem to the group. During the summer months the dancers, by invitation, "go on tour" to perform at village fetes, school and church functions and by request to retirement and residential care homes.

A programme for those early May Day Revels started with the procession of prettily dressed dancers, followed by the crowning ceremony of the newly adjudged May Queen. She wore a long white dress, a violet cloak, a spray of fresh flowers in her hair and carried a posy of flowers as did her attendants. She was crowned by the retiring May Queen and escorted by her attendants, led the first dance around the maypole. The programme continued with a mix of dances, songs and poems. Pam Peachey made the principal costumes and Eileen Furlonger the May Queen's crown of fresh flowers. Since today real flowers are not used, the Queen now retains her crown as a souvenir. In addition, the hall managers present the Queen with a necklace to keep as a memento of the occasion, the presenter more often than not being Trevor Wilks, in his capacity as a manager and trustee of the hall. The judges are usually well known people of the village and in 1999 were Anne Seymour, John Sherwood and his wife Clare who selected Belinda Best to be May Queen.

Moira Newman became principal organiser in 1974 and with the help of Diane Ingram ran the revels until Moira's retirement in 1985. Diane retired in 1986, since when Pat Newton, Sue Higham and daughter Lucy have organised and trained the youngsters in dance routines. Georgina Cole has been the pianist since 1992.

Friendly Rivalry

Unlike the gardens of today those of the early 1900s were usually of a generous size and were put to very good use. Part of the garden would be set aside for flowers and another for fruit trees and bushes but the largest part would be for vegetables. Space permitting, there could have been a hen house, pigpen, hutches for rabbits and perhaps a small pond for ducks or geese. In general, the head of the household accepted the responsibility to provide seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to feed his family throughout the year, with the occasional rabbit or chicken for Christmas.

For mother, use of the produce from the garden was an essential part of balancing the family budget. She was expected to preserve surplus produce by salting, bottling and making jam and chutney. It was normal for her to tend the front garden and the flowerbeds.

For most, gardening was a necessity but to some it became a hobby and a pastime generating a challenge to produce crops bigger and better than anyone else, leading to friendly rivalry between friends and neighbours. No doubt small competitions were probably arranged to show the produce and to exchange ideas on growing methods, eventually encouraging gardeners of the village to have an annual show. The shows of the 1920s were held as part of the village annual fete in a field near Westwood House.

The fete attracted not only the gardeners but also a great number of residents, whose particular interest was in other entertainment such as games of skill, tent pegging by the Royal Dragoons, country dancing, the Highland Fling and traditional music by a brass band. The discerning gardeners and housewives journeyed to the large tents where their appetites were satisfied by seeing splendid examples of good housekeeping and gardening produce.

Normandy Horticultural Society was formed in February 1925 with Lady Henriques of Normandy Park as President, and Mr W Wainwright Chairman. Shortly afterwards Colonel M.F. Coussmaker was elected President. In 1932, the society was dissolved owing to lack of support and its funds held in trust by bankers. A public meeting held in April 1938, chaired by Sir Philip Henriques failed to reconstitute the society but it was resolved that the funds of the society be donated to the village hall. Interest in forming a new society was rekindled in 1944 following a lecture given by the Royal Horticultural Society entitled "How to form an allotment society". Thus The Normandy and District Gardening Association was formed with Albert Norman as President, Messrs L A Dennett Chairman and G T Harris Secretary.

Albert Norman lived at Wistaria, Glaziers Lane and in his garden 4000 rose bushes flourished winning Diplomas from all over the world. In 1946 he propagated the popular and acclaimed roses, *Frensham*, in recognition of Frensham Ponds so much loved by his grandchildren, and *Ena Harkness*. Both roses headed, for many years, the National Rose Society's list of the most popular roses. By profession, he was a diamond cutter, but his prowess and reputation as a rose grower earned him election to the Council of the National Rose Society in 1933 and President for 1957 and 1958. In 1957 the Rose Society was awarded the accolade of "Royal". Albert was awarded the Queen Mary's Commemoration Medal in 1957 and in 1958 the Dean Hole Medal.

Bill Olley was elected combined Secretary and Treasurer of the association in 1948 and for many years he was a prominent organiser of the Normandy Shows ably assisted by his daughter Audrey, in her capacity as Secretary to the show committee. These were from 1949 always held in the village hall. The autumn show, the main show of the year, attracted about 400 entries, mainly fruit and vegetables which by tradition were auctioned at the end of each show. Only one autumn show has been cancelled and that was in September 1997 when the date coincided with that of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. Bill was a good friend to the association, trading and distributing garden goods, seeds and fertilisers to members from the garage of his house Dardoni, Glaziers Lane. In later years he was elected Chairman, President in 1976 and in retirement was made a Life President, a fitting tribute to a dedicated member who had held, at one time or another, all offices of the association.

Members of the former horticultural society and the present association are commemorated in competition trophies such as the AW Milton Cup, Hewens Award, Doddrell Cup, Treble Cup, Mettingham Cup, Wistaria Cup, Dardoni Cup and the George Orchin Rose Bowl.

The association remains in good hands with Chris Knight as Chairperson, Barbara Milne Secretary and Tony Newman Treasurer who, together with the Committee, continue to provide many interesting events and monthly talks for their members.

The advent of the supermarket with its all year round availability of exotic fruit and vegetables has diminished the popularity of the vegetable garden for many families. It would not be unkind to presume that gardening is no longer the aid to prudent housekeeping but for pleasure and meditation. The modern garden with potted plants, ornamental trees and shrubs, pergolas, statuary ornaments and water features can be a most attractive extension of the house and sun lounge.

“Bring me my bow of burning gold”

The Wyke and Normandy branch of the Women's Institute (WI), started in 1919 with 20 members meeting at Wyke Lodge, Guildford Road. Miss Vera Flood Page was elected Chairman and in 1921 was elected Vice President. Lady Roberts, a keen supporter of the WI movement, was elected President in 1920 and became Patroness of the branch in 1923. Early committee members were Mesdames Roberts, Deedman, Henry, Booty and Horne.

Members moved from Wyke Lodge to the parish room where afternoon meetings were held monthly and the programme extended to cover competitions, talks, demonstrations and some form of entertainment. By 1921 members were meeting in yet another place, the newly established Normandy Village Hall, where they continued to meet until 1986. At their monthly meetings members enjoyed creating tableaux and competitions for which points were awarded. Each year the member gaining the most points was presented with the Trevaskis Trophy donated by Eleanor Trevaskis and the runner-up a WI silver spoon.

Throughout World War II the WI movement was deeply involved nationwide in the war effort, with branches such as Normandy contributing by knitting mittens, socks and squares to make blankets for the Forces. Jumble sales and other money raising events were held in aid of the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund, the Institute for the Blind, Warship Week and Wings for Victory Week. At the start of the war most housewives were still very much home orientated, with many finding it difficult to cope with the shortage of food, clothing and many of the home comforts previously taken for granted. Everyday things were in short supply, as were the essential commodities for survival since all food products, with the exception of vegetables, were rationed. Each person in the household had a ration book and each household had to register with a specific grocer and butcher. The WI movement gave guidance to its members on many household matters, salvaging materials for alternative uses, forming “make do and mend” groups, making the best use of garden produce to supplement the rations and gathering mother nature’s food from field and hedgerow to produce nourishing meals. The branch programmes for those dreadful years record talks on topical items such as “from plot to pot” given by Mrs Young and “what can be made from old felt hats” by Miss Nix. There were talks on tasty recipes using dried egg powder, dehydrated potato and spam, an American meat product. Shortages, including sweets and clothing, continued after the war even into the early 1950s. The task of feeding and providing for a family of today bears no comparison whatsoever to those dark days of the war years.

The immediate post-war years, although remaining drab and austere, saw a revival of interest in the activities of the Wyke and Normandy WI, resulting in an increase in membership with a record 121 members by 1954. In October 1949, a party was held for members, their friends and families, to help celebrate their 30th anniversary. In 1959 they celebrated their 40th and in 1969 their Golden Anniversary when a luncheon party, presided over by President Kathleen Mason, was held in the village hall attended also by past presidents and founder members. The centrepiece for this special anniversary was a beautiful white and gold decorated cake made by Yvonne Renouf and Elsie Instone.

Rene Steel encouraged members to form a choir and soon they won certificates in the Godalming, Woking and Aldershot Music Festivals. These successes encouraged them to enter the National Singing Festival Competition for a chance to sing in “Folk Songs of the Four Seasons”, a cantata for women’s voices written for the National Federation of Women’s Institutes by Vaughan Williams, to be performed at the Royal Albert Hall 15 June 1950. They comfortably won through the County Preliminary Competition and the

Area Festival to join other winners to form the 3,000 strong choir to sing the cantata conducted by Sir Adrian Boult and in the final encore by the composer himself.

By 1970, The National Federation of Women's Institutes was concerned at the decline in membership of the branches and by 1980 Wyke and Normandy WI was no exception to this trend. In 1986 the committee reluctantly closed the Wyke and Normandy WI. Two wonderful scrapbooks survive and these record landmark events of the branch. In April 1986 former members of the branch, June Grove, Sylvia Langston and Molly Llanwarne, established a small group called The Wednesday Club, meeting socially in one and other's homes and enjoying regular outings. Friendship within the group is its most valuable asset.

Contrary to the national trend a new WI was formed in 1966 for those ladies who, because of family and work commitments, preferred to meet in the evenings. In January 1966 a group of 33 prospective members and Officers from the County Organising Committee met in St Mark's church room and agreed to form a branch to be known as Christmas Pie WI. At the inaugural meeting in March founder member Hilary Otway was elected President, Anne Regester Secretary and Shirley Padley-Smith Treasurer. Jackie Fagent, also a founder member, was appointed to represent members at the county annual meeting of the Federation. In later years Jackie was elected President. Other past presidents have been Pat Plumley, Elizabeth Haley, Rosemary Charles and Judith Grigg to name but a few. The early meetings of members were held once a month in the church room but since then have been held at various locations in the village. In more recent years, regular meetings were held at the scout headquarters but are now held at the village hall. Members celebrated their 25th anniversary in style and look set to celebrate their golden anniversary. Some members of the former Wyke and Normandy WI, joined this branch when their own closed. The present officers are Sue Taylor, President, Ann Beckton, Secretary and Diana Lockyer-Nibbs, Treasurer.

Care in the community

There is mention of a Dr Clutterbuck visiting Wyke School with Colonel Wavell, a school manager, in April 1887 and a Dr Pringle accompanied the Colonel, in October 1889. There were the usual visits to the school by Medical Officers of Health, such as Dr John Lorrimer for the Farnham Division, as early as 1891. However, little is known about doctors until Dr Cranstoun arrived at Worplesdon and set up practice in 1922. From 1929 until 1961 his surgery was at his home at Hollow Trees, Perry Hill, Worplesdon, with him doing his rounds in those early years on a motor bike.

Immediately prior to World War II, Dr Fleming of Pirbright held twice weekly surgeries at the Glaziers Lane post office but by 1939, Dr Cranstoun was the acknowledged doctor for the greater part of this community. Some residents in Wyke Avenue, Pinewood Road and Nightingale Road may have been in the care of Doctors Hamilton, Russell, Sterling, Sofian and Bartlett.

In his early years Dr Cranstoun could rely on two ladies of Normandy for their nursing skills. Nan James, married to Thomas James in 1927, was the midwife and Granny Fooks for midwifery and the "laying out" of dead persons, a task that Mrs James performed in retirement. Mrs James came to Normandy in 1925, having trained in midwifery at King Edward's Hospital, Ealing.

Dr. Cranstoun is remembered affectionately not only as a doctor but also as an active supporter of the social life of the community, carrying solely without complaint the burden of care throughout the war. Dr John Moir, straight from the Royal Army Medical Corps, joined him in 1946 followed in 1952 by

Dr Robert Harwood, who took up residence in Wyke Cottage and in 1958 by Dr Anthony Hillard of North Chase, Worplesdon.

Interestingly, Dr Harwood's parents Lt-Col Leonard Austin Harwood and Fanny Harwood (also doctors) retired in 1948 to Fernhill, Normandy Common, from their joint practice at Sloane Street, Chelsea. For a number of years Fernhill had been their weekend retreat. Mrs Harwood was believed to be the country's first woman dental surgeon, qualifying in 1912 and as a doctor in 1916. During the two world wars Mrs Harwood ran the practice while her husband served with the Army. Mrs Harwood died in 1973, having been widowed for 21 years.

Although Dr Cranstoun did not retire until 1960 Hollow Trees remained the local surgery at Worplesdon and Dr Harwood maintained a surgery at Wyke Cottage. In 1961 the partners established a new surgery on the Fairlands Estate at Worplesdon and closed the surgeries at Hollow Trees and Wyke Cottage. Dr Hugh Foster joined the Practice in 1966 and Dr John Nichols in 1973. The practice continued to grow and on the death of Doctors Harwood in 1981 and Moir in 1982, Doctors David Laurence and Jonathan Norris joined the partnership in 1982 and Dr Hilary Trigg joined as the sixth partner in 1987. The Glaziers Lane branch surgery was opened in 1988 relieving the pressure on the Fairlands surgery. Dr Foster took early retirement in 1991 and Dr Hillard retired in 1993, being replaced respectively by Doctors Christopher Lukaszewicz and Timothy Arnold.

With new housing development at Worplesdon and Stoughton, the Fairlands surgery was once more under pressure and additional accommodation a top priority. The problem remained until 1998 when a new medical centre was built near the Fairlands Community Centre to replace the old surgery that had served the community so well.

The 65s Club

Surprisingly, it isn't really a club at all. It is a group of well-known people who organise the Over 65s Party held each year in the village hall under the patronage of the hall managers. Its origin resulted from a surplus raised by the Coronation Fund Raising Committee for the village celebrations of 1953, which Richard and Edie Atkins suggested should be used to give the old age pensioners of the village a Christmas party. The 65s club is a self-funding organisation, raising money throughout the year from tombolas, jumble sales, mini-markets, draws and concerts. In 1984 the combined age of a trio of guests was 287, John Edwards was 90, Albert Bowyer was 96 and Nancy Townshend was 101 years of age.

The present day party attended by about 110 senior citizens, starts at 4.30pm when they are welcomed with sherry or non-alcoholic drinks. A full three-course meal, served with wine, followed by coffee and mints helps to relax everyone for the evening entertainment. The Chairman of the group is currently Joan Jones. Past Chairmen include Barbara Milne, June Drage and Sue Keen.

Service and Brotherhood

The first mention of a Normandy Scout Troop was in 1912, although little is known of its activities. Then, scouting took its lead from Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts movement in 1908. The Normandy troop probably met in a cow shed on Mr Warner's farm at Wyke Cross, a hop, skip and a jump from St Mark's Vicarage. It is believed that the Rev F N Pickford and his wife ran the troop. In 1919 with life beginning to return to normal, scouting in Normandy attracted the attention of Mr and Mrs William Henry and with the help of Will Fowler laid the foundations for the present day

Normandy Scout Group. Meetings and troop activities were held at their Headquarters called The Normans.

This building, still in use but not for scout meetings and activities, was a Canadian Army hut brought over from Witley Camp in 1919 and erected on land purchased from Longerend Farm. William Henry was appointed Scoutmaster and D B Pitt Assistant Scoutmaster. Mrs Henry was appointed Leader of the first Wolf Pack in 1922 with 15 cubs in her charge. William, her husband, retired in 1928 when there were two scouters, 20 scouts and 12 cubs and she took over the Warrant and duties of Group Scoutmaster holding the Warrant until 1959. In addition to her group duties she found time also to help with the organisation of the World Jamboree at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead. She dedicated 38 years to the scout movement, enabling many of the youth of this village to prove themselves and to prepare for adulthood.

In 1954 the 1st Normandy Scout Group won the Harvey Totem Pole for camping, the Packman Flag for scout craft and the Gordon Whale Cup for drill, the first time that the three trophies had been held by a single Group. It was an equally exciting time for several of the scouts when they joined other Guildford District Scouts on a trip to Austria. They stayed in the homes of Austrian scouts before going to camp with them near Assbach in Lower Austria but because Assbach was in the Russian Zone of Austria, the scouts were obliged to obtain travel permits from the British & Occupational Forces.

In 1962 the scouts celebrated their Golden Anniversary for which Godfrey Watson, Group Scoutmaster, George Hirons, Scoutmaster, Cyril Dyson, Cubmaster and Cyril Prangnell Group Chairman had prepared a week of activities for the scouts. The celebration started with a Service at St Mark's Church on Sunday 15 July. On the following Saturday morning the District Cub Swimming Sports were held in the swimming pool and the remainder of the day was reserved as a "winding-down" time for everyone finishing with a campfire and barbecue. The celebration gave the scouts a wonderful opportunity to show guests, families and friends the skills of scouting they had acquired.

The golden anniversary celebrations focused attention on the inadequacy of the headquarters building and the need for replacement for which a "new building fund" was subsequently started. Thanks to keen local support, particularly from Doreen Halton, Pam and Jim Chant and Edie Sharp the target of £1000 was reached within 5 years. The Scouts Association rewarded each of them with a "Thanks Badge". Edie Sharp's badge was the original one presented to her mother Edith Chant and handed back some years previously to the Scouts Association, which now was considered appropriate to re-issue to her daughter. The opening of the new headquarters on 12 September 1970 by past District Commissioner Major-General Bond was a nostalgic occasion for a number of guests, especially for the Reverend Andrew Tuck, Queen's Scout and former member of the 1st Normandy Troop, who administered "the Blessing".

Cyril Dyson, past Cub Master, paid tribute to the Group Scout Leader Godfrey Watson, who with the help of so many had fulfilled the ambitious plan for the new building. Malcolm Otway, the Scoutmaster, stressed how much the new premises would be appreciated. Founder members Doug Roberts and Bert Goodchild ceremonially closed the old headquarters building.

Cyril Dyson who had been associated with the Normandy Scout Group for 48 years, first as a scout, then Assistant Scout Master and later Cub Master, epitomised "scouting". In Alexandria Egypt, whilst serving with the RAF Transport Command in World War II, he joined their Rover Scouts and applied for and was granted a Cub Master Warrant for the 3rd Alexandria Group, the badge of which he proudly wore on his

uniform. In 1968 he was awarded the Scout Medal of Merit and made an honorary life member of the Guildford Scout Council. When in 1969 he surrendered his Warrant, it was returned to him by the Chief Scout, Charles Maclean, who had personally added: *"I accept your resignation with regret and with cordial thanks for your past services to the movement"*.

The Group is fortunate in possessing extensive grounds around their headquarters building, ideal for practising camping skills and outdoor activities enabling them to win the Surrey Camping Competition on at least three occasions. Undoubtedly many present and former residents will remember the swimming pool. Although perhaps comparison with a Guildford Spectrum type of pool is hardly fair, it has been greatly appreciated by both the scouting fraternity and the populace of Normandy until its decline in about 1980. In 1996 it was drained, filled and the site landscaped.

In 1974 an International Scout Camp was held at nearby Fairlands Farm bringing together 1200 scouts and guides including those from Normandy. Camping is a feature of scouting life. *"Going to camp in Jim Chant's lorry"* is remembered by many ex scouts and not just those of Normandy but of other Groups in the district for it was Jim's pleasure to help set-up camp and return at the end of the holiday to help strike camp.

Cubs participated in the Guildford District Football League in which monthly matches were played against other District Groups. Players had to be under 11 years of age, points were forfeited for late arrival or non-attendance and at least one adult had to accompany the team who, more often than not, was Pat Plumley and David Pamplin, who between them spent many Saturday afternoons supporting their players.

Residents will recall Bob-a-Job week when a smartly uniformed scout or cub would turn up on the doorstep asking for work. It was an innovative and imaginative scheme to raise funds. The "no nonsense" attitude as to the size or the unpleasantness of the job, had great appeal but sadly the scheme was abused and eventually laid to rest.

Remembrance Sunday has long been a special occasion for the Group, when scouts, cubs, guides, brownies and beavers would attend St Mark's Church and afterwards parade with their standards at the War Memorial. Many will remember the marches from the church, accompanied by the Bisley Boys Band from the Gordon Boys Home, the vicar leading the congregation and the colourful standards carried by the proud standard bearers of the village organisations. The return to the two minutes silence *"at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month"* has been widely welcomed by so many.

The 1st Normandy scouts is one of the few Groups that display a Roll of Honour for its King's Scouts and Queen's Scouts. It also holds an unusual record in that father and son both gained the Queen's Scout award. Bill Knight gained his in 1959 and his son Roy in 1989. In 1970 Bill Knight retired as Assistant Scoutmaster and became Venture Scout Leader. By 1989 he had, to his credit, produced one King's Scout and 22 Queen's Scouts.

There has been a wonderful history of husband and wife teams serving the Group. Starting in 1912 with the Pickfords followed in the early 1950s by the Henrys and then by the Boxalls. Don and Pat Plumley worked together for 25 years followed by Jonathan and Carole Gasson with Tony and Carol Shirliff continuing the tradition. Warrant holders have always enjoyed a wonderful support from its lay officers, too numerous to mention here. They, together with family and friends over the years, have helped to make the 1st Normandy Scouts Group a successful and vibrant member of the scouting movement.

Fun and friends

The Beaver Scout Movement was set up in Northern Ireland in the 1980s as a means of keeping the children of six to eight off the streets. Carol Shirtliff, whose husband Tony is Chairman of the Normandy Group of Scouts, noted that the children hereabouts within this age group had very little companionship outside of school and so in 1992 formed the Beaver Colony. The present leader is Shirley Lane and the maximum number allowed to take part in their activities is twenty-four. Although their motto is "*Fun & Friends*" they are taught to love God, nature, to learn about themselves and the world around them.

On Sunday 25 April 1999 they joined with scouts, cubs, guides and brownies of the Guildford District Association for the annual St. George's Day parade and service at Guildford Cathedral. Because of their age, it is the one parade that they are permitted to take part in since it is controlled and escorted by Surrey Police.

The "Shamrock" girls

At the request of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, his sister Miss Agnes Baden-Powell formed an organisation for girls, similar to that of the Boy Scouts, known as Girl Guides, the badge of which was the Shamrock, the three leaves representing the guides promises.

The 1st Normandy Girl Guides was formed in January 1931 with Beatrice Grimshaw as Captain and Doris Spears as her Lieutenant. Initially their meetings were held each Saturday evening in the village hall. Sir Philip and Lady Henriques frequently invited the guides to their home at Normandy Park where the girls entertained them with singing and dancing. Lady Henriques presented the guides with a Union Flag which, Joan Dyson recalls carrying to St Mark's Church where it hangs to this day for safe keeping. The original "Colours" that were carried and featured on formal occasions were mislaid but in 1973 new ones were presented anonymously and blessed by the Reverend Graham Hawckett at a special service. Ethel Turner recalls that when she was Guide Captain between 1945 and 1952, the guides and ranger guides met in either the church hall or the village hall. Apart from the regular weekly activities, they attended rallies in Guildford, and on one special occasion met Lord Baden-Powell at Hampton Court. In 1945 the Summer Camp was held on the Isle of Wight.

The guide uniform, like that of the scouts, has changed over the years to reflect the fashion of the period and to suit today's more active pursuits of guiding and like the scouts, obtaining achievement badges is equally important to the guides. In 1950, Eileen Manuel was the first Normandy Guide to gain the Queen's Guide and in 1954 she became Tawny Owl of the Brownie Pack, continuing after marriage as Mrs Bunyan. In 1984, and having retained a lasting interest in guiding, she was invited to present the Queen's Guide Award to Lorna Sherwood and Davinia Turner. In 1975 Fiona Jackman received the Queen's Guide Award, the first in Normandy for 25 years. In 1977, four former guides, Susan Backhurst, Jacqueline Hunt, Elaine Jackman and Sonia Van't Riet had each received the Queen's Guide Award.

Inez Rigby and Hilary Otway were Captains between 1967 and 1969, followed in about 1970 by Pat Van 't Riet, succeeded by Pam Backhurst and Mrs Allen between 1979 and 1981. Jean Mayhead started her Captaincy in June 1981 assisted in 1982 by Barbara Aylott. Jean had a long and rewarding association with the Guides, supporting and sharing in their many successes. In February 1982 the District Commissioner presented Karen Jones with her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and in June the Queen's Guide Award.

Later in 1986, but now an ex guide, Karen was presented with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

by HRH himself at Kensington Palace. Equally, Jean shared the pleasure of the patrol that attended the Thinking Day Service at Westminster Abbey, in February 1982, to commemorate the birth of Lord Baden-Powell in 1857. In October 1983, six guides, accompanied by Pat Short, gained first place in the Three Sisters Walk at Leith Hill. In September 1984, for nine months, Puttenham Guides with their leader Sheila Smethurst, amalgamated with the Normandy Company.

In April 1985, to celebrate 75 years of guiding, Jean Mayhead with guides Alison and Catherine Davies, Christine Rooks, Debbie Seymour and Melissa Sherwood attended a rally at Crystal Palace at which Melissa carried the Normandy Colours and Christine the Puttenham Colours. They also attended and took part in a pageant at the West Surrey Guides Rally at Sandown Park. For Debbie Dean, 1990 was a memorable year. That summer she was enrolled as a Guide on the balcony of Lord Baden-Powell's South Africa Room at Foxlease in the New Forest, the Guide Association's Training Centre and camping site, when she and four of her Normandy companions together with guides from Emmanuel Church, Stoughton, were there at camp. Jean retired that year but maintained her ties with guiding as a tester. Fiona Larby briefly ran the Company, but after a break Christine Nicholson restarted it in the autumn of 1994 and as their Leader maintains the fine standards she inherited, continuing the traditions and training of guides as did her predecessors. The guides continue to meet as usual on Friday evenings in the church room.

Girls in brown and yellow

A Brownie pack, sometimes called Brownie guides, was formed in 1932 possibly as part of the West Surrey, Woking Division, Brookwood District. The records of the Guildford Rural Division, Ash District, indicate that Ellen Garman was appointed Brown Owl of the Normandy Pack on 24 July 1933, continuing as Mrs Ellen Passingham until November 1937 when Miss J Wilson was appointed as Assistant Brown Owl and then Brown Owl in 1938. Doris Baker who retired in May 1945, took over from her in 1943. Betty Tapply, who became Tawny Owl in 1945 and Brown Owl the following year, became the driving force of the pack and remained in the post until her retirement in 1965. In later years, some former Brownies returned to Betty with their offspring for enrolment.

Brownies worked for their achievement badges in the same manner as did the scouts, cubs and guides. Thanks to the patience and help of parents they gained skills in cookery, art, writing, gardening, entertaining, swimming and first aid, to name but a few, and all put to good use at camp. They were too young to be allowed to camp under canvas but nevertheless enjoyed their "pack holidays" at various village halls and, of course, Wanborough Youth House at nearby Flexford. Their pack meetings all ended with singing and playing games thus ensuring happy faces at the end of the day.

In 1965 the Brownies were thriving and meeting weekly in the church room with Doris Page as Brown Owl assisted by Louise Rigby as Tawny Owl followed by Evelyn Bush. In March 1970, they were proud to welcome Lady Baden-Powell, grand daughter-in-law of Lady Olave Baden-Powell to their "thinking day" at St Mark's church room. Guests were entertained by poetry readings and tea was served by six Brownies each anxious to obtain a hostess badge. The pack had a number of successes singing in competitions, attributed without question to the enthusiasm and choral exuberance of Doris, her helpers and parents. Many families will remember Doris and her little group singing carols outside their homes. In 1972, they came second in the National Guide Festival of Song, featured on London Radio, and in 1980 entered and won the Song & Dance Festival arranged by the London and South East Girl Guide Association.

Doris retired in 1981 after 15 years of devoted service to the Brownies. Jayne Trowbridge took over from Doris Page and was succeeded in 1984 by Mary Miller. She was followed successively by Sue Hewitt, Rosemary Mills, Diane Threlfall and Barbara Aylott eventually handing over the organisation in 1999 to the present Leader Susan Meyjes who, with a pack of 24 Brownies continue to meet each Wednesday evening in the Scout Headquarters.

Ceiling too low?

Although not ideal, because of the low ceiling and the roof construction interfering with the true flight of the shuttle, the village hall has, since 1925, been the venue for badminton. The start of World War II saw an early decline in numbers playing but as the war waned there was a renewed interest in the game within the then Social Club for which credit is perhaps due to the Astley-Smith family. Some may remember the club as the Village Hall Club. Whatever the name, it was for men only with members paying an annual subscription of five shillings. Such was its initial popularity during the immediate post war years that membership was extended to include ladies. The meetings were in the evenings, the ladies on Thursdays, the men on Tuesdays and Fridays and a mixed membership on Mondays and Wednesdays. The club was, however, defunct by 1952 but from its ashes a Mr Peachey the principal organiser of badminton within the club, formed the Normandy Badminton Club. By 1953, the club had extended its one night a week meeting to two nights, with matches played on Friday evenings. The game attracted other organisations such as Wyke and Normandy WI, playing one afternoon each week from 1953 and later in 1973 the Christmaspie WI. Others, not wishing to join a formal club, formed fringe clubs, Ladies Badminton (1978-1986), Monday Morning Badminton and Tuesday Morning Badminton (1978-1982), Summer Badminton and Junior Badminton in 1982. In October 1983, Andrew Haley and Irene Bunce formed the Monday Evening Badminton Club. Plans for the new village hall on the Manor Fruit Farm site will include facilities for badminton to be played to recommended club and recreational use standards.

Drake has a lot to answer for

In 1950, Mr Abbott suggested and consideration was duly given to the construction of a Bowling Green on the site of the old tennis courts at the village hall. The cost was too great and not justified in view of proposals to extend the front of the hall. In 1980 the parish council included a bowling green in its development scheme for the recreation ground but that also failed to materialise. Arising from a high profile meeting in the village hall in September 1991 to again discuss bowling, a Steering Committee was elected with Albert Cunningham as its Chairman to promote the formation of a club. In the following November the Normandy Bowling Club was formed and short mat bowling was started in the village hall on Friday afternoons and evenings and on some Sundays.

An initial membership of 50 rose to 90 by the end of the year with many taking part in club competitions such as Men's and Ladies Doubles, mixed Doubles and Triples and a Ladies versus Gents match. Some outside matches were played using the bowling green at St Peters Hospital Chertsey until the facility was closed. Friendly matches are played now on opponents' greens.

In 1992 the club looked at the possibility of constructing a bowling green on the recreation ground, as had been envisaged by the parish council in its scheme of 1980. At that time the village was embroiled in the controversial plan to develop the Manor Fruit Farm site, Glaziers Lane with football pitches for Guildford youth teams. At a public meeting, held in the village hall in February 1993, the consensus of opinion was that the site should be used to benefit the village.

Recognising the strong opposition to the plan the Guildford Borough Council, the owner of the site, gave the parish council the opportunity to propose an alternative recreational use for the site. It became clear that Manor Fruit Farm would be the most suitable site for a Bowling Green and clubhouse and when the parish council set up a working party Albert Cunningham and David Pamplin represented the club.

The Guildford Borough Council approved the Manor Fruit Farm planning application in June 1997, thus enabling detailed planning applications to be prepared and submitted. This spurred the club into greater efforts to raise funds. The social aspect of the club had always been strong, so raising money whilst having fun had never been a problem for its members. Funds have been raised from a variety of parties, barbecues, fetes, jumble sales, as well as visits to local places of interest and abroad to France and Holland. By October 1998, the club had its plans ready for inclusion in the Manor Fruit Farm project. A lottery application has been prepared and discussed with the Sports Development Officer of the Borough Council but it cannot be presented for consideration until the current legal formalities are concluded between the borough and parish councils.

Service not self

The primary function of The Royal British Legion (Royal was added in 1971), is to help provide support to ex-servicemen and families when in distress and in Normandy a place that has helped to achieve this ideal has been the Normandy branch, started in 1936 by a few enthusiastic ex-servicemen. Ten years later there were over 200 members, today there are but a few. When the branch was thriving, a Benevolent Committee was formed to keep in touch with ex-service families and if any were seen to be in need the Surrey representative was informed and the appropriate action taken.

The early meetings of the branch were held at Orchard Dene, the home of Major Harold Darby, a founder member of the branch and its first Chairman. It was at his home on 19 June 1937 that a tennis tournament was held to raise funds for the proposed new headquarters building. The event was attended by about 60 people and raised £9. Other fund raising events followed such as horse shows and gymkhanas, held in a field next to The Anchor public house. Later in 1937 an unwanted mess building was acquired from the War Department, erected on its present site and opened by Major Cohen. The first President was Colonel L A Harwood in 1937, followed by Brigadier F J Allen in 1953, then by Major G M Barnes in 1958 and M B Barclay in 1961. The present President is Doug Roberts.

In 1973 extensions in the form of a snooker room, a bar and a committee room were added. The committee room displays a collection of medals, photographs, old books, flags and standards. The door to the room and the over mantelpiece of the fireplace are unique and were probably recovered from the demolished Boxgrove Priory near Chichester. The door is heavily ornamented on one side with a simple panelled pattern on the other. The reason given for this is that the plainer side was presented to the servants quarters and the ornamental side to that of the master's side of the manor. The original over mantelpiece was too tall to stand upright in the room and was accordingly cut down to fit.

Upkeep of the building was funded from social functions, the bar and other facilities enjoyed by members and friends of the Ex-servicemen's Social Club. Such was the popularity of the club that in 1970 a bungalow was built for a full-time caretaker/steward. Sadly, membership lapsed and the social club finally dissolved in 1997. Today, establishment and maintenance costs are funded from the rent for the bungalow and hire charges for use of the building by other organisations.

For over 20 years the Hounslow branch of the Legion came each year to parade at Aldershot and it was the privilege of the Normandy branch to entertain their members, resulting in a strong bond of friendship between the two branches. Their visit in 1974 was for the last of the Aldershot Remembrance Ceremonies. In July 1977 the Hounslow branch "colours" were laid up at Normandy for safekeeping. More recently, the branch opened its doors to the Canadian Ex-servicemen's Association, which now holds regular meetings there. Most members of that association were stationed in this area during World War II and remained after the war with their families or have subsequently moved into the area. The Chairman of the association is Albert Cunningham.

Each year on Remembrance Sunday, the branch parades for the memorial service in St Mark's Church. For as long as most people can remember, Bob Hammond has proudly carried the Standard of The Royal British Legion in procession to the war memorial. Sadly without a police escort such processions are no longer possible. However, that does not deter members, friends and others from joining at the War Memorial for the traditional short service by the vicar, the exhortation by the President Doug Roberts, the placing of wreaths, the playing of the "Last Post" and "Reveille". The small neat garden and holly bush surround to the memorial has always been well tended over the years, the current keeper being Alf Davis who, throughout the year, provides plants from his own garden. In spite of a reduced membership, the branch continues its good works and as an organisation, is regarded with special affection within the community. Gordon Finden is the present Chairman and Edith Roberts is Secretary.

Normandy Village Hall

Few would deny that the gift made by Lady Louisa Roberts in 1921 would play the role that it undoubtedly has in sustaining the community life of the village. The humbleness of that original building was, at that time, in direct contrast to that of the Victoria Hall, Ash and the Memorial Hall, Worplesdon. A booklet published by the authority of the Village Hall Committee in September 1932, entitled "Notes on Normandy Village Hall", provides a very clear picture of the extent to which the hall had been used from 1921. It demonstrated also the number of affiliated user groups, hire charges and the manner in which the regular users not only paid for its use but also donated their surplus funds back into the general funds of the hall. Edward S Hose, a trustee and manager of the hall compiled the notes for the booklet. The purpose of the booklet was to raise money towards the cost of reconstructing the stage and Proscenium, estimated at £45, as a memorial to Theophilus A Allen a founder Trustee, Secretary and Treasurer, who had taken a prominent part in effecting Lady Roberts' benefaction. The initial sales of the booklet in December 1932 raised £1.2s.0d. Further sales were made at the opening of the new stage and the drawing of the new curtains, made by the Co-operative Society, for the commemorative play by the Normandy Amateur Dramatic Club.

From time to time essential repairs, improvements and modifications have been made to the building to keep pace with changing needs and mandatory requirements. Some costs have been met from hire charges but that of major works has generally exceeded such income and the Managers have had to promote special fund raising events. These include fetes started in 1925, weekly whist drives and dances, the Normandy Festivals started in 1966, the Fun Runs in 1984 and the 100 club formed in 1986. Since 1960, some financial assistance has been secured by grants from outside bodies including the borough and parish councils.

The hall has always been well used, often for seven days of the week over long periods and with the occasional request for use beyond midnight. There have been many demands for regular uses that have had to be refused simply because the hall was fully booked. In 1967 there were 27 active societies and organisations using the hall on a regular basis. A low profile group using the hall occasionally, firstly in 1946, has been the Normandy Motor Cycle Club, the present representative of which is Richard Thomas. Interestingly there was a Normandy Brass Band that faltered and failed in March 1925 because a replacement percussionist could not be encouraged to join.

Perhaps not so unusual have been Ministry of Information film shows between 1944 and 1950 followed by the more popular current film shows held twice nightly on each Monday until 1953. Surrey County Council held educational classes between 1944 and 1950. Keep fit classes were held for the two years 1984 to 1986. An art club first started in 1965 is still going strong, and recently dog obedience classes were held for a short time. The list is almost endless. An unusual use of the hall but one important to many men and women workers of the village, long before the National Heath Act came into force, was "The Slate Club", an illness and death benefit fund run by the hall managers between 1939 and 1958.

Despite the fact that in 1921 the original hall building was second hand and was not a "permanent structure", it has none the less stood the tests of continual use and the passing of time. It has provided nearly 80 years of service to the community. In many ways it has been a "flexible friend". Also it has had its critics. Successive trustees and managers have considered and resisted pressure to replace the hall. In 1992/3, for the first time ever, the financial climate and the acquisition of land was conducive to positive action for relocation. The Normandy Village Hall Trustees, therefore, joined with the Normandy Parish Council, Normandy Bowling Club and Guildford Archery Club to form a partnership to develop the Manor Fruit Farm site for leisure and recreation. The Guildford Borough Council, acting in its capacity as both Planning Authority and owner of the site, approved the proposals and the development of the site is now eagerly awaited. Plans for the redevelopment of the village hall site are complete and subject to the approval of the Charity commissioners its disposal can go ahead and the proceeds from the sale used to fund a new village hall.

CHAPTER 9

OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL - THE EARLY YEARS

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding

Proverbs.3:13

Introduction

For the impoverished, family life in Normandy during the early 1800s was hard. It was a life-style to which families were accustomed. Church service for the family on Sunday and afternoon Sunday school for the children was a welcome break from the labours of the week. However, a chain of events had started within the Church and central Government, that was to improve the quality of the life of children and their children's children. Elementary education and health care for children would become a fact and a birthright.

Building on the success of the "Sunday schools", started about 1780 by Robert Raikes, the Church of England formed in 1811 The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales. Its aim was to encourage, by means of grants, the opening of National Schools. Robert Raikes, a Bristol journalist (1735 - 1811), is the recognised founder of the Sunday school movement for teaching religious instruction, basic literacy and numeracy skills. Within a few short years, this society was referred to more easily as the National Society. Its influence in urbanised areas was immediate, but took longer to reach and interest the rural parishes. The demand for learning was insatiable, schools having to resort to the use of unqualified teachers. Between 1839 and 1846 the society was obliged to establish Teacher Training Colleges throughout the country, such as at Winchester and later at Guildford, to meet the ever increasing demand for qualified teachers.

To help the self-financing Voluntary Schools, the Government in 1833 made available building grants for new schools, subject to half the building cost being raised by private subscription. This was inadequate and it was, therefore, with considerable reluctance that the Government in 1870 finally took the responsibility for the education of the country by introducing compulsory education into England by means of the Elementary Education Act 1870 (Forster's Act). W E Forster was Vice-president of the Committee of Council on Education and the Minister responsible for drafting and guiding clauses of the Act through numerous sessions of acrimonious debate. The Act enabled the Government to provide funds for elementary education and to set up School Boards, the function of which was to supplement the voluntary system, which was generally denominationally provided. Surrey established twenty-nine Boards but in 1903 transferred all School Board functions to the County Council. Wyke School was placed in the Farnham Union Board.

In the beginning

The present building complex, forming the school, has been built mainly on land acquired in 1862 by Deed of Gift (for a consideration of five shillings), from H M Chester and F J Chester of Poyle Park. A Trust Deed was executed in January 1862 with the Vicar and Churchwardens of Wyke and their successors as trustees for the building of a school and schoolhouse. No provision was made by the deed for the management of the school.

Since The Victoria History of the Counties of England gives “*Wyke School (National) built 1874, enlarged 1896*”, there is a significant and unexplained time lapse between the acquisition of the land in 1862 and the building of the school in 1874. However, there are one or two clues to explain this and to show that the school was not started until 1879. In 1864, Bishop Sumner, the then Bishop of Winchester, printed a “*Conspectus of the Diocese of Winchester*”, which suggested that a school was here in 1848 and a schoolhouse in 1861. An earlier manuscript conspectus begun in 1828 and updated until 1869 refers to a schoolroom for 60 children about 1850. Another diocesan document, “*The Diocesan Calendar*” gives the date of the school in the 1881 edition as 1848 and in the 1885 edition as 1879.

It is believed that in about 1850 The Reverend H F Cheshire, Vicar of St Mark's Church and then living at nearby Wyke Lodge, held classes in a schoolroom attached to the Lodge. The school may well have been started by The Reverend Paxton, the first Vicar for there was indeed a schoolroom at Wyke Lodge as early as 1841, if not earlier, since one is indicated on the 1841 Tithe Map, surveyed in 1839. In 1878, The Reverend Henry Drayton Wyatt made an application to the National Society “*for a building grant towards the erection of a new school, which was to replace the present school held in a room that was now too small to accommodate the numbers who wished to attend*”. The supporting statement indicated that the room then used was sanctioned for 53 children with a register of 70 wishing to attend. The room was in private property and the agreement, under which it was held, expired 30 September 1879 and would not be renewed.

The application was approved and a grant of £45 made towards the new school, designed by Henry Peak (Architect) and built by W Swayne (Builder) at a cost of £555.9s.9d. Subscriptions raised from landed proprietors and others fell short of the final cost by three shillings and three pence, which The Reverend Wyatt was himself obliged to donate in order to make the books balance. The school was up and running in October 1879.

The original school building

The L shaped building consisted of two rooms. The smaller one was for 60 infants, the other for 70 boys and girls of mixed academic standards. Both rooms had poor natural ventilation and lighting. In winter, the two rooms were terribly cold, the larger being heated from a single combustion stove, quite inadequate for the size of the room. The infants' room, the smaller one, had a fireplace and seating in fixed gallery formation. In later years, about 1900, the workbenches of the manual evening classes were stacked in the room during the day. The gallery was removed in July 1905 and replaced by desks. There were separate stepped entrances for the boys, girls and infants. Each lobby was used as a cloakroom. In one, there were three steps and two to each of the others. The infants often fell on the steps and hurt themselves. Mr P F Story, an early surveyor of the school, recommended in 1904 a sloped approach to the entrance lobbies. However, users and visitors to the school over the decades, will be aware that no such recommendation was ever adopted.

The sanitary arrangements, “the offices”, were on the pail system with the boys being separate from that of the infants and girls. The caretaker, who lived in the schoolhouse, emptied the pails daily, the contents being buried in his garden which adjoined the school. Should the reader be of a sensitive disposition (since one can't be euphemistic over the subject), what follows could be upsetting. The caretaker, if asked, would supply the children with water from his well. What perhaps was not commonly known was that the nightsoil, removed from the offices, was deposited and buried close to and around the well. This practice continued for many years but eventually the nightsoil, by instruction, was carried further away and buried.

Fresh drinking water remained a problem until 1905, when the school acquired two four-gallon jars, which the caretaker had to take each day to fill at Mr J Deedman's well. The caretaker in 1905 received 30/- per week for all his duties.

The play areas were separated, but a piece of ground to one side, covered with gorse and in a very rough state, was used as a common playground. The school site was enclosed partly by a post and wire fence, partly by a close-boarded fence and partly by a hedge. It had practically no drainage at all, so consequently the ground was often flooded in periods of heavy rain.

Further Acts and their effect

Until Lord Sandan's Act of 1876, attendance, although compulsory under the earlier Act of 1870, was without effective monitoring. The Act effectively placed on parents the responsibility for the education of the child and attendance at a place of learning. It not only made attendance compulsory, but imposed sanctions on employers not to employ non-educated children. This led to the setting up of Labour Boards, the local one being at West Street, Farnham, where children from the school were examined for educational fitness before being permitted to leave school for employment. The Act remained extant until the Education Act of 1944.

By about 1880, compulsory attendance of children at schools throughout the country was widely enforced. School Boards appointed School Attendance Officers to ensure that children attended school each day or had a very good reason for not attending. The Boards ensured that by making these appointments, children were obliged to attend school and ensured also that the Boards received the maximum grant from the Government. The Farnham Board appointed Mr Snugg to deal with truancy at local schools. He first visited Wyke in March 1883 and continued until replaced in 1899 by Mr Drake. Notes from parents, absenting suspected truants, were carefully scrutinised by the teachers for discrepancies of handwriting and parental signature before asking the School Attendance Officer to investigate.

Until further legislation came into force in 1891, parents were obliged to pay a weekly school fee towards a child's elementary education. The "School Pence" varied from 2d to 9d per week, the maximum payable under the 1870 Act. At Wyke, the fee for the labouring class was 2d and 3d for others. In many cases this fee imposed additional hardship on the family since the income of the family was already reduced by having to keep a child at school instead of working. Children of the day were sent home from school if attending without the proper fee and were not permitted back into the school until the fee was paid. The school managers accepted the Government Scheme of "Assisted Education" and abolished the school pence on 20 September 1891.

Government Grants were made on a performance rated system related to two factors, average attendance as a ratio of pupils on books to pupils attending and examination results of pupils. HM Inspectors visited and tested the pupils each year to determine the amount of grant payable. The Code of Inspection and Examination was enforceable on the managers. A headteacher had to ensure that at least one class subject was set for the pupils. Grants could be withdrawn for non-compliance with any of the articles of the code such as efficiency of teaching, qualification for teaching and accommodation. In 1874, the grant allocation for attendance was five shillings per pupil and for passing examination in reading, writing and arithmetic was four shillings, with a further grant of three shillings for passing the grammar examination.

A small school of 50 good pupils could, therefore, receive about £30 per annum, which helped to pay the expenses of the school. The last “payments by results” visits by H M Inspectors for Grant Monies ceased by 1897.

Victorian Headmistresses

Miss Cecilia White commenced her duties as Headteacher (Certificated) of Wyke Church of England School on Monday 14 October 1882. Her predecessor, Miss Sarah Elizabeth White (Uncertificated) was to remain as Assistant Teacher until December 1883, when she married and sailed with her husband to India. Miss Davies replaced her in April 1894. Miss Cecilia White was assisted from time to time by a number of monitresses, older pupils able to teach the infants, such as Ivy Goddard, Kate Grover and Elizabeth Bellinger, all of whom were paid two shillings a week. Miss Davies departed for Puttenham in the August and Miss Billson took her place.

The use of logbooks, to note daily happenings, was introduced into schools in about 1862. It is possible that there was an earlier one than that started by Miss Cecilia White in 1882. So, for the time being, earlier headteachers of the school (other than Miss Sarah White) remain unknown, as do their chronicles. Interestingly, the 1881 census for the Parish of Ash, Village of Wyke, indicates that the schoolhouse was occupied by George Marshall (Gardener) and the occupation of his wife was “schoolmistress”.

It is reasonable to presume from Cecilia White’s early recordings that only families living in the immediate area of the school sent their children to the school. Equally, it may be safe to assume that the school premises were used for night school pupils as well as day pupils, since frequent mention is made of “*parties for the day pupils only*”. Often the school was closed in the afternoon in order to prepare the larger of the two rooms for an evening concert.

Since the greater part of the income of the school was dependent on government grants based on average attendance figures, the marking of the daily registers were of paramount importance. The regular inspection and signing of the registers by one of the managers was mandatory. Should the daily number of children be dramatically down, the headteacher consulted with a manager and the school was closed for that day. Frequently, at the beginning of each May, the school closed, since children would be absent “Maying”. It was traditional on the first day of May for the children to wear garlands of greenery as they ran around the village. Another favourite excuse for being absent a week at a time was for seasonal fruit picking. In July 1883, children picking currants at Mr Parrott’s Nursery, reduced the daily attendance average for the week from about 90 to 50. No excuse was needed, however, to close the school for the annual church choir outing in July of each year. These started in about 1896 and continued until 1914, possibly then being discontinued because of the outbreak of World War I.

Miss White’s headship was short-lived for tragedy struck on Saturday 17 January 1885 “*when she (Miss Cecilia White) met with a fatal accident on the SE Rail near Ash Junction Station*” as entered in the logbook by The Reverend Henry Wyatt, Chairman of Managers.

Mr Beer (1885 - 1899)

The Reverend Wyatt and Colonel Wavell, assisted by an extra paid monitress, Elizabeth Billingham, managed the school until Arthur Beer commenced duty as Headteacher (Certificated), of the Wyke Mixed School on 17 February 1885. He moved into the schoolhouse occupying three of the five rooms with the caretaker occupying the other two.

Mr Beer was a disciplinarian and he was to have a profound effect on the school. He recognised the need for better teachers and better teaching methods. Possessed of that inherent ability to teach, he gave his time willingly to pupil teachers, monitors and monitresses of the school. He was acutely aware that town schools had much the advantage over those in the country but nonetheless, was able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of his pupils. By encouraging competition he extracted their best. He would not tolerate repetitive carelessness, for which there was immediate and painful admonishment. Girls were not exempt. He abhorred truancy and disobedience. Young Mark Robinson fell foul of the latter in May 1887, receiving three of the best. Truancy was severely punished. Joseph Robinson in the July was unlucky in being found out. His sister Emma told Mr Beer, that their mother had sent him to school. Joseph was rewarded with two strokes of the cane on each hand and two on the backside. In January 1923, the Surrey Education Committee decided that *"the headteacher of any small mixed school, in which there was no Certificated Woman Assistant Teacher, might delegate the power of corporal punishment of girls to an Uncertificated or Supplementary Teacher"*. As late as 1942, two girls at Wyke were caned for wearing slacks contrary to school rules. Mr Beer noted in May 1888: *"Irregularities of attendance is the chief cause for some children being backward in all the Standards. Those children who attend regularly, work much more intelligently than those who do not, as the latter really have not time to enter into details and their work is chiefly mechanical."*

The school was not immune from thieves. In July 1892 the thieves entered by one of the windows, stole stockings worked by Edith Thomas, Annie Reynolds, Annie Robinson and Olivia Hogsflesh also a nightdress made by her. Six pairs of drawers and a chemise were also taken. The following year, thieves again broke into the school, stole ten yards of calico together with several garments valued at fifteen shillings. No one was ever apprehended.

It was not uncommon for the school to close for long periods on account of diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever and ringworm. In March 1885, whooping cough and measles was prevalent, forcing the managers of the school to close it for two weeks. Early in 1891, scarlet fever raged in the Willey Green area. Families in Bailes Lane were forbidden to send their children to the school. Sadly, in August, Edith Northover died of diphtheria and the Medical Officer of Health for the Farnham District, Dr John A Lorrimer, recommended the closing of the school. In 1893 and again on his instruction the school was closed for three weeks in May due to another outbreak of diphtheria, in July for a further four weeks and again in November for six weeks. By 22 January 1894 there had been 23 cases notified.

As an incentive for improving attendance, Colonel J H Annand, a newly appointed manager replacing Colonel Wavell, gave a sovereign for distribution to those children who made the highest attendance during the last quarter of 1895. The school was divided into six classes with two prizes for each. First prize was two shillings and the second, one shilling and four pence. Closure of the school for an election, the first of which was held in December 1894, the next in March 1895 and another in March 1896 undermined such incentives. Interestingly, these and many other elections, including a Parliamentary election were held on a Monday, rather than a Thursday as today.

Teaching of the 3 - R's

The school was organised in six standards, referred to always in Roman numerals I to VI. A child was placed in a standard suitable for age or academic attainment and a backward child, irrespective of age, could be retained in a lower standard. Teaching was by repetition. Emphasis was on the basic three R's, namely Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Mr Beer actually recorded class results in tables under the heading *"The 3 - R's"*.

The range of subjects taught was limited and each subject had very little in content to stimulate the minds of the children and was repetitive to each standard of each year. The adopted and favoured system of early learning by the school was, therefore, the “monitorial system”. A headteacher would give the lesson to the infants, leaving a monitor assistant in charge to help the little ones. Other duties of the assistant was handing out and collecting the slates and pencils and sweeping the classroom floor during dinner break. A scholar showing early signs of brightness, intelligence and teaching qualities was selected for grooming as a monitor or monitress. In the Victorian School singing was included in the curriculum. The Inspector specified the song titles and the class was obliged to sing those songs to his satisfaction. The quality of the singing was as important as that of the three R’s.

Copying off the blackboard, working of sums, taking dictation and reproducing the drawing from the object lesson was on slates using slate pencils. The latter were often worn to short stubs, a practice hardly conducive to good writing. Their use was less expensive than paper. Corrections were easily made and so the practice continued for many years, but eventually was phased out with the infants being the last to use slate and slate pencil.

Teacher Training

From the monitorial system emerged “pupil teachers”. The brighter school leavers, usually girls, desirous of a career in teaching, were apprenticed at thirteen years of age to a five-year course of teaching and studying at their local school. During the day the pupil received instruction and taught the infants and also received tuition in advanced levels of subjects from the Headteacher or senior certificated teacher. At the end of the apprenticeship the pupil sat the Queen’s Scholarship Examination and if successful transferred to a grant-aided place at a training college. The trainee qualified either as a certificated teacher or as an uncertificated teacher at a lower salary. Re-examination by an Inspector was possible.

In July 1886 Agnes Smith, the paid monitress, resigned and Lewis Edward Smith commenced duties as monitor on probation and later as a pupil teacher. In May 1891 he sat for the Queen’s Scholarship Examination at Winchester Training College. Sadly he failed the examination because of “writers cramp”. At St Thomas’ Hospital, London he was told that the paralysis of the nerves would be an effectual bar to becoming a teacher. Alice Hogsflesh started as a monitress in February 1895 and in 1897 was engaged as a pupil teacher, completing her training, under Mr Beer in January 1901. She continued to teach at the school until the following October, but returned in June 1904 to teach as Mrs Alice Underwood, terminating her engagement with the school in June 1905.

An almost daily visit by the Vicar of St Mark’s Church ensured that pupils received a sound religious education. Pupils were not only academically examined by HM Inspector but also examined by the Diocesan Inspector in religious dogma. At the announcement of the Diocesan visit, priority was given to the teaching of the scriptures over all other subjects. He would examine each class during the morning and if satisfied with progress would grant the school the remainder of the day as a holiday, hence the emphasis on passing that examination. Dates of the Church Calendar occurring during the school week were strictly observed with the whole school in morning attendance at St Mark’s Church. The Service was always followed by a half-day holiday. There were extra days at Easter and at Christmas although it was normal to attend school during the week leading up to each festival. The academic year for the school ended on 30 June of each year with the “Harvest Vacation” being the longest holiday. The start and duration of the holiday was often dictated either by the weather or whether or not “the hopping” was over since large numbers of local children were employed for picking hops at Wanborough, Puttenham and Farnham.

Physical Training or “drill”

The War Department, having founded in 1860 The Army School of Physical Training under the command of Major-General Frederick Hammersley, expressed to Government its concern at the poor physical condition of recruits. School leavers were ill prepared for the rigours of army life. The Government, therefore, introduced into the education system the Physical Training Code of 1871. This required the Education Authorities to train teachers in physical training and to pass on their skills and the benefits of “drill” to their scholars. Surprisingly, physical training was not formally introduced at Wyke until April 1899, although Mr Beer had introduced “drill” as early as July 1891 when he took the whole of the older scholars outside and drilled them for 20 minutes. Popular or not, the drill was repeated to music several times that year. In June 1901 a day’s holiday was given to the children so that teachers could see a display of physical training at the Aldershot Gymnasium. In the following September, a class of physical training for teachers was opened in Guildford.

Thoughts on enlargement

It was now evident that the early stages of the development of State Education were a success. In the urbanised areas, money from industry and commerce flowed into their local schools. New and larger schools were built, with improved and better facilities. In the rural parishes, where the development of education was more directly attributed to the influence of the Church and its benefactors, schools and scholars were suffering from overcrowding and a lack of adequate funding to correct a deteriorating situation.

In July 1896, HM Inspector of Schools, Mr J C Colville, stated in his report: *“I hope the managers will endeavour to enlarge the school so as to meet the growth of the population. The staff should at once be strengthened so as to meet the requirements of Article 73, which are not at present satisfied”*. The managers, The Reverend H D Wyatt, Colonel J H Annand and Mr A Stedman, must surely have agonised over the report for a long time. In July 1897 they resolved that the school should claim Aid Grant as being *“necessitous”* because:

- 1st. *Extra cost of carrying on the school owing to the increase in scholars (viz; 117 in 1895 to 147 in 1897). The population of Wyke has increased from 540 in 1881 to 709 in 1891 and is supposed to be 800. Although several cottages have recently been erected in the parish there has been no addition to upper and middle class residences.*
- 2nd. *The Managers are under engagement to raise the salaries of two assistant teachers from 1st July 1897.*
- 3rd *The present staff require strengthening.*

In December 1897 Aid Grant of £30 was made for *“improving the staff and apparatus and increasing the efficiency of the school”*. The following year the grant was increased to £55 to cover increase in salaries and remained at or about £50 a year for subsequent years.

The managers finally heeded the report of HM Inspector, Mr Colville and determined that an enlargement of the school premises was in order to accommodate 100 more children. They decided to add a new room of equal length but slightly wider than that of the existing large room. However, in order to build the entire proposed enlargement it was necessary to acquire some adjoining land to the north. The cost of the new room and cloakroom was estimated at £493. Accordingly, the Vicar, The Reverend H D Wyatt, set up an Enlargement Fund, managed by Messrs Stedman and Pryor, to which subscriptions and promises of money could be made. In January 1898 the fund stood at £295 with promises of a further £28, leaving a shortfall of £170.

At the time there was considerable friction between the managers, who wished the school to remain a voluntary school and Lord Pirbright, a principal landed proprietor, who openly stated that a Board School would benefit the Parish.

In January 1898, annual subscribers to the school met to elect a new Board of Management based on a scheme suggested by the National Society. The new Board was constituted as The Reverend Wyatt, Lieutenant Colonel George Coussmaker, Messrs Harding, J Arthur, George Bean, F E Smith and Arthur Stedman. Previously there had been three managers only. The Reverend Wyatt remarked that, *"The increase in the number of managers from three to seven was agreed as a wise and necessary concession to the spirit of the age"*.

In the following March, The Reverend Wyatt reported: *"that the additional land is about to be made over to the Trustees of the school. The Winchester Diocesan Board of Education has recently made a grant of £25."* A shortfall of £150 remained before work on the new building could commence. In the June, an application for assistance was made to the National Society, which awarded a grant of £34. The building work did proceed, complete with seven new desks, at a final cost of just over £446 of which about £307 had been raised by local subscription.

On 3 March 1899, Mr Beer retired after completing 14 years as Headteacher of the school.

Mr Blaber (1899 -1915)

Mr Beer's successor, James Blaber, commenced duties as Headteacher of the school on 11 April 1899. His first visitors were Mr J Arthur, a manager of the school, accompanied by his wife the Hon Mrs Arthur and Miss Balfour, sister to A J Balfour MP.

Mr Blaber had four assistant teachers, Misses Marion Gaffney, Alice Hogsflesh, Mabel Weston and his wife. They had two daughters, Florrie and Winnie, both of whom attended the school and in 1905 were two of nine children awarded a bronze medal for having not missed a single day at school during the year. The other children were Harry Baldwin, Alma and Frederick Jenkins, Percy Huggett, James and Lily Hutchins and Willie Sewry. Competition to win the award of a bronze medal helped to improve the attendance records. In 1909, Doug Roberts and his brother Roy qualified to receive one each and in subsequent years were awarded a "bar" to their medals. In September 1905, Florrie and Winnie both won a three-year scholarship to the Guildford Training College. Winnie returned to Wyke in 1910 to teach as a Certificated Teacher until 1912.

In November 1902, Mr Blaber drew the attention of the Vicar to *"a serious spreading of the roof of the new room causing the north wall to be forced dangerously out of the perpendicular"*. The National Society were informed and by the end of the month, the society had not only commissioned Henry W Burrows, ARIBA of Victoria Street, Westminster to report on the defects, but was also in receipt of his report. The comprehensive report showed that the wall had buckled and bulged outwards, as had the dormer window and the roof principals had spread. He concluded from the evidence of associated fittings that the defects had occurred before the building was completed. Remedial works were seemingly made without further cost to the school or the society.

Mr Blaber held decisive views on gardening and developed it as a subject for the older boys and later included it in the school timetable. With the help of Mr Hayward, a school manager, land was measured out for gardens and the boys used the last hour of each Friday afternoon for gardening. Mr Blaber often adjusted the timetable to accommodate extra periods to compensate for those lost by inclement weather.

Mr Wright, the Schools Gardens Inspector, always expressed his pleasure at the workmanship of the boys.

Unfortunately for many a gifted child of the time, presence at home was more important than a career away from home. In October 1906, Mr Blaber was preparing a pupil for a scholarship examination, but was disappointed to learn, that should the boy pass, he would not be able to accept a place. There was a large family at home and his father wanted him to leave school as early as possible for his wages, no matter how small, would be needed. It is regrettable that often the inadequacy of parental income has denied the intelligent child from realising his or her full potential. To forgo the hope and promise of the future is a tragedy. Mr Blaber noted in the logbook, *"I am very sorry about this, as the lad is very promising. The most intelligent boy I have had in this school."*

Syllabus of work for the year ending March 1902.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Upper division</u>	<u>Lower division</u>
English	Reading from Geographical Historical and other readers. Recitation, writing and composition. Elementary grammar and analysis, roots, prefixes affixes, dictionary work suitable recitation.	Reading from suitable reading books, changed from year to year. Copy book writing and transcriptions, letters simple composition and formation of short sentences.
Arithmetic	Scheme A, Code page 84. Books and cards to old standards VI & VII. Mental arithmetic.	Simple sums from cards and books writing out tables, older children to old standard III, mental Arithmetic.
Geography	County & district, general geography of England in more detail.	Geographical definitions. Capes of England.
History	Lancastrians, Yorkists and Tudors.	List of Kings.
Common things	Course of lessons dealing with familiar objects surrounding the children and with subjects the knowledge of which will be useful to them in later life.	
Songs	Cherry Ripe. Raindrops. Sunny smile. Cuckoo. How I love to see thee.	
Needlework and drawing	As per Board of Education Schemes.	
Physical Training	Exercises from the model course.	

From its beginning, the girls of Wyke enjoyed an enviable reputation for their needlework. Even the boys were introduced to knitting, the best of whom progressed to turning the heel of a sock.

Prior to 1902 the State provided elementary education only. If better and larger schools were needed and if both the standard of teaching and the breadth of education were to improve, then money was the key.

The Education Act 1902, commonly known as Balfour's Act, was instrumental in ensuring that education was recognised as a social service and that money could be raised from the rates. Local Councils were, therefore, made responsible. School Boards were replaced by Local Education Authorities, the primary function of which was to consider the educational needs of their area beyond that of elementary education.

Each school was required to have a managing body of six persons, four Foundation Managers, appointed by the religious body to which the school building belonged and two to represent the Local Education Authority. The Foundation Managers were responsible for the religious instruction and the Local Education Authority for the secular instruction. The Wyke Foundation Managers appointed in June 1903 were The Rev C Page Wood, Alfred John Ridler, Arthur Stedman and H W Stevens. The Local Education Authority representatives were Lieutenant Colonel Coussmaker and William Deedman. The Correspondent for the Managers was W M Porter of Bridge Street, Guildford.

In 1904 P F Story, surveyor for Surrey County Council, inspected the school and his reports provide a very human story of the conditions endured by both staff and pupils at that time. Part of his report on Wyke stated: *"that the school has been added to from time to time on no particular plan. Not easy to enlarge"*. By 1904 the average weekly attendance had risen to 168 from that of 66 in 1883. It was many years, however, before additions were made to the school.

Opportunity knocks

The Morant Code of 1904 defined Secondary Education as *"Any day or boarding school which offers to each of its scholars, up to and beyond the age of 16, a general education, physical, mental and moral, given through a complete graded course of instruction of wider scope and more advanced degree than that in elementary schools"*. In 1907, it was stipulated that any secondary school that was receiving a grant from the Board of Education had to provide for 25% free places to be taken by worthy scholars from the elementary schools presenting themselves for examination. In general, secondary education was designed to further extend the learning ability of the scholar in preparation for more suitable employment on leaving school. Schools and parents now had an incentive for promoting gifted children to a higher tier of education. At first there was no defined age for examination. Gradually "eleven plus" became the accepted age for elementary scholars to attend examination for places at grammar school. Later, with the advent of the Junior Technical Colleges, scholars had two opportunities for examination, one at age 11 years for grammar school and the other at age 13 years for the technical college.

Wyke retains the names of successful scholars on two Honours Boards appropriately located in the main room of the 1894 school building. The list starts with Norah Mumford in 1916 and ends in 1944. It is, unfortunately, an incomplete record of academic successes. Nonetheless, its presence serves to remind pupils of past achievements and perhaps provides an incentive for future pupils. As with many and similar village records, family names re-occur. At Wyke the family name of Pooley occurs three times. Harry, Robert and Ronald Pooley. They were brothers. In 1934 Harry and Robert went on to the Royal Grammar School, Guildford and Ronald to Farnham Grammar School in 1940. Harry, the eldest, enlisted in the army at age sixteen to make his career, whilst Robert and Ronald entered the teaching profession. Their sister Angela, also a former pupil of the school, now married and known by so many as Kath Baldrey, also won a scholarship. Not all children are suited for academic achievement. Some are born to be artisans. Others, to develop a natural skill in art and fabrics. All can be achievers, however, at their chosen discipline if they so wish. *"A child encouraged to take pride in a school and made to feel an individual will respond by working carefully and well so as to do honour to that school and to his or herself"*, a paraphrase of the writings of Catherine Rebecca Beeney, Headteacher of Wanborough School (1899 - 1903).

Mounted adjacent to the honours board are two paintings by John L Baker, writer, artist and creator of The Seeing Eye articles in the Surrey Advertiser. He personally presented them to the school in 1995, when residing in Beech Lane. They show in brilliant colour the advancement of British man from the Stone Age through to the splendid pageantry of the present. Sadly John died in January 1999 aged 76.

For the health of the child

The Education (Administration Provisions) Act 1907 placed the responsibility for the health of the child with the Local Education Authorities. Initially, medical inspections were confined to elementary schools only. The County Educational Medical Officer in 1906/7 was Dr T Henry Jones and the District Medical Officer of Health for this area was Dr Pierce. Dental inspections were started in May 1916, with twice yearly checks in July and November. Mr T H Griffin (dentist) visited the local schools about 1930. The regular tests initiated by Dr Jones were simple and easily appreciated by staff, parents and pupils. Children were watched for swelling of the throat and soreness. In some cases children were sent home to reduce the risk of a spread of a recognised disease. Such care resulted in an improvement in the general health of the children and with attendance figures. Health visitors were appointed. The first to visit Wyke in 1918 demonstrated simple checks in personal hygiene. Hands and fingernails were inspected for cleanliness. Prudence Manton, nee Wakeford of The Wren's Nest, Willey Green, recalls that when she was at the school not all children had a handkerchief. Any child who didn't have one had a piece of rag pinned to their coat. Vaccination for life threatening diseases had been given to children at the school as early as 1902, although outbreaks of mumps, scarlet fever and the like continued. Occasionally there were severe outbreaks, such as in 1928, when an additional clinic was set-up in Normandy Village Hall to deal with an epidemic of chickenpox.

In September 1910, the managers gave consideration to the provision of teaching cookery and manual work to form a useful addition to the curriculum. In January 1911, Mr Blaber gave instruction in woodworking, although he had not taught the subject for 18 years. In February, having been delayed until an oven could be installed, cookery was started under the instruction of Miss Payne. Due to a prolonged illness, Mr Blaber had suspended the woodwork class after only a year but it was resumed in September 1912 with an itinerant teacher. It was again suspended about the middle of 1914, presumably due to the war. Since there seemed no prospect of the boys carrying on with woodwork, Mr Blaber arranged a class for cardboard modelling in the November that was both popular and challenging to the scholars.

Today the educational year starts in September. It was not always so. The academic school year at the end of the 19th century was to a certain extent arbitrary. In 1913 the Surrey Education Committee issued an administrative procedure order to each school stating that the next educational year would commence August 1913 and would terminate at Easter 1914 and thereafter the educational year would commence at Easter. The order affected the school in that its educational year was shortened upsetting the yearly examination results.

By February 1914, The Reverend Pickford, exasperated for the last two years at the demand by the Education Committee to carry out improvements to the school, approached the National Society for guidance. The demands included better ventilation and heating, removal of the offices (toilets), which the managers did not consider necessary and division of the larger schoolroom. The estimated cost of the work was £300. Mr J F Seabrook, sent by the society, inspected the school and advised the managers who applied for a grant and in the May were voted an award of £20. The bulk of the money for the work was found by subscriptions together with a grant of £20 from the Diocesan Authority.

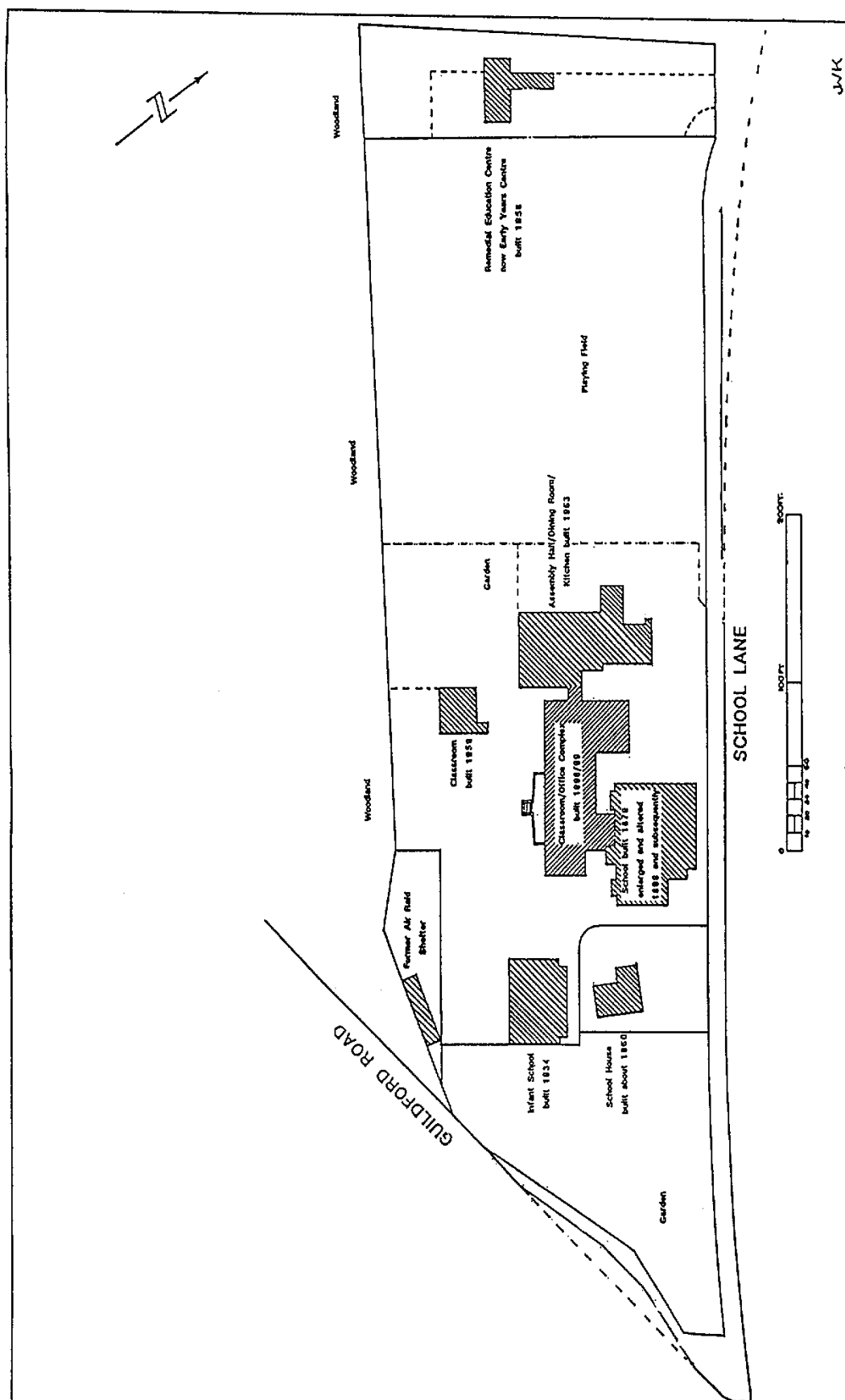


Figure 21 Wyke Primary School

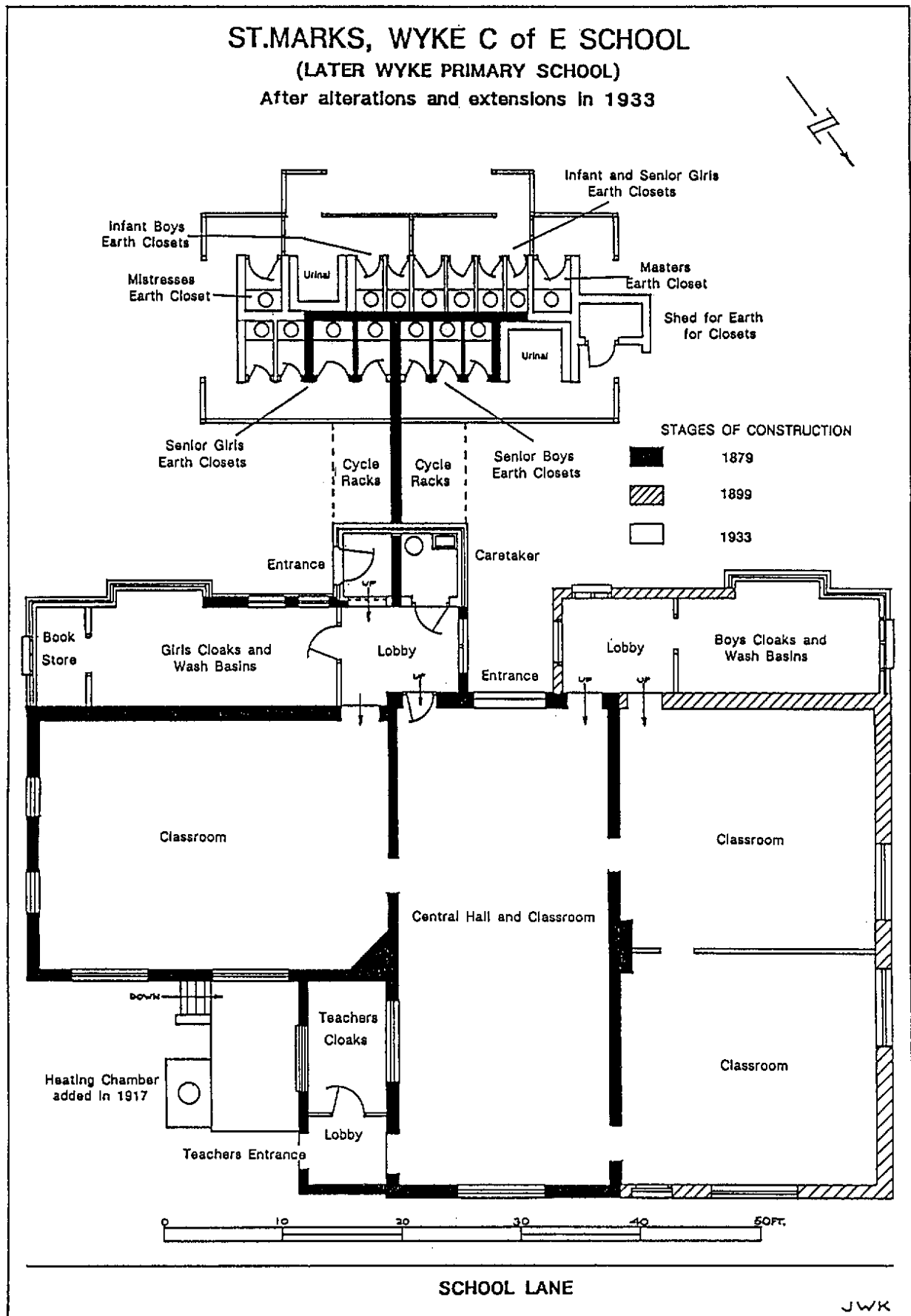


Figure 22 St.Mark's C of E School 1933

CHAPTER 10

OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL - WORLD WAR I AND BEYOND

My salad days when I was green in judgement.

*Antony and Cleopatra
William Shakespeare*

The declaration of War with Germany on 4 August 1914 had a profound effect on the teaching staff and on many former pupils of Wyke, many of who became actively involved in the conflict.

After sixteen years as Headteacher, by which time it was evident he was not a well person, Mr Blaber retired on 30 April 1915 knowing that the school library, in which he had a great interest and had opened in October 1912, was a great success. In 1884 Mrs Coussmaker had previously presented a “*library of books*” to the school “*for the benefit of the day school and the parish*”.

Mr Mumford (1915 - 1928)

Henry Lundy Mumford took control of the school on 3 May 1915 but was required to relinquish his headship twelve months later in June 1916 because the military authorities at Aldershot insisted that he join “*the colours*”. For two years the school had caretaker headteachers, Ellen Allen for six months, during which time her husband Tom was in charge of the upper standards, and Bernard Sholto Barton for eighteen months who handed Wyke back to Mr Mumford in September 1918 on his return from the Army. The school was delighted to hear in July 1917, that in his absence from the school, his daughter Norah had won a teaching scholarship, in recognition of which, the managers gave the school a day’s holiday. Her sister Nancy obtained a free place to Guildford High School for Girls in 1922. The following year her brother Samuel Mumford and Harry Goodchild obtained a County Junior Scholarship. Norah returned to teach at the school in 1924 and Nancy did likewise in 1928.

The central heating system, installed in June 1914, was very inefficient. At the start of winter in 1916, the classrooms were so cold that the children were forced to wear their outdoor coats to help keep warm. In the December, because of the extreme cold and shortage of coal, conditions were so bad that Mrs Allen persuaded The Reverend Pickford to close the school early for Christmas so that the heating system could be rectified. School re-opened after the Christmas holiday with Mr Barton replacing Mrs Allen.

In 1918, another important Education Act was placed on the Statute Book, which ensured that a child remained at school until the age of 14 years was attained. The Act abolished earlier exemptions, prohibited employment of a child under twelve and restricted employment of a child between 12 and 14 years of age to a maximum of two hours working a day. Children of school age were prohibited from working in factories, mines and street trading. The Act also abolished fees in elementary schools and gave the Local Education Authorities power to raise the school leaving age to fifteen.

During World War I children at all schools were encouraged to help the war effort by darning clothing and knitting comforts for the troops. Money was collected for overseas clubs and for the relief of prisoners in Germany. School gardens were used more effectively and those of Wyke were extended into the nearby parish council land.

In 1918 the children had an unusual task of collecting conkers (horse chestnut). They collected one and a half tons, which were taken away in an army lorry for the Ministry of Munitions. At the time, no explanation was given. Enquiries made to the Ministry of Defence in 1993 revealed that the then Ministry of Munitions had used the conkers for the production of acetone. This was the solvent used in the manufacture of Cordite, the propellant required for high explosive shells and rifle cartridges. The horse chestnuts, collected throughout the country by children, were used instead of grain, the previously used product for making the solvent. The scheme permitted a considerable increase in the amount of grain available for bread production.

In 1921, memorials to the fallen of that war were being erected in the cities, towns and villages of the United Kingdom as happened here in Normandy. The Remembrance Church Services then were always held on the anniversary of Armistice Day, irrespective of the day of the week. Children who had perhaps a father or other relative killed in the war, attended a service with their family and thus officially absented themselves from school. The Education Authorities, concerned for whatever reason, issued in November 1926 an instruction to schools stating that *"children can be taken from school on Armistice Day to Memorial services at War Memorials, Churches and Chapels. After services, the children should return to school and any time beyond the morning interval, made up to complete the minimum period of secular instruction required by the code. This continues until further notice"*. In contrast to such ungenerous dictates has been the generosity over the years of local dignitaries to children of Wyke such as that by the Coussmaker family, Colonel and Mrs Wavell and Lady Bright. Mrs Stevens, a manager's wife in those early years, presented at Christmas to each girl a pair of scissors, a knife to every boy in the upper school and two handkerchiefs to each infant. The Halsey family and Lady Roberts invited the school to tea parties at Henley Park. Also, Lady Roberts gave a bun and an orange to each child at Christmas, between 1918 and 1923.

In 1923/24 the buildings again required extensive repairs, painting and maintenance together with improvements to the toilet facilities and replacement of some flooring, all at an estimated cost of £310. The works were carried out over an extended period between March and October with the managers having to return to the National Society for additional grants, owing to a deficit in funds from the regular sources. Although the cost of running the school by voluntary means was becoming an unwelcome burden, the teachers and managers were rewarded by the report of HM Inspector Mr R Heath, who in 1926 stated *"Altogether there is a vigorous and lively atmosphere in the school. The children are given great freedom, which they do not abuse and when called upon they work industriously"*.

Cookery and woodwork classes were recommenced at the Ash Vale Centre in 1924 and 1925 respectively, with the girls and boys, accompanied by a teacher, having to walk the three miles there and the three miles back. Whenever an instructor failed to attend or send an *"unable to attend"* telegram in time, the journey for the children was needlessly made. The centre, its title changed to The Manual Centre for Craft Instruction in later years, was located at the corner of Government Road (now Lakeside Road) and Ash Vale Road. The centre no longer exists, having been replaced by three modern houses. The start of World War II in 1939 interrupted the classes but they re-started in May 1941.

Mrs Mumford, employed as an assistant teacher during her husband's headship, terminated her engagement in July 1928, the same month that her daughter Nancy commenced her teaching duties at the school. Mr Mumford terminated his engagement with the school the following December.

Since a new headteacher could not be immediately appointed, the Education Authority instructed Benjamin Arthur Greenfield to take temporary charge of the school until Harry Aubrey Smith took control as Headteacher on 1 March 1929.

Mr Smith (1929 - 1954)

Mr Smith came to Wyke from Stoughton Boys School where he had been an assistant teacher since 1921 and later the Assistant Headteacher. Previously, he had been an assistant teacher at Charlotteville School, Guildford. He brought to Wyke a love of athletics, having taken a prominent part in the organisation of the Guildford Elementary School Sports. He became a formidable force in generating social solidarity between school and parent and a strong supporter of the managers in their efforts to enlarge the school. Although organised sport had not been a high profile school activity, the school had first participated in the Ash Inter School Sports in May 1922 and continued to do so in subsequent years but no significant successes were recorded. In July 1927, Mrs Ramsay Moodie invited the school to a tea party at Henley Park where the children were divided into two "*house teams*" and each team competed for a silver cup presented by her to the winning "*house*". In May 1933 the school entered a team in the Farnham and District School Sports. Again, no early successes were recorded. The school was obliged to wait until 1959 for a success when the girls won the District Challenge Cup.

By September 1932 the school had reached the limit of authorised accommodation with 221 pupils on the roll and more waiting to enrol. Plans for the improvement of the buildings had been discussed with an HM Inspector as far back as 1924 but no worthwhile improvements had since taken place. Because space was at a premium, medical inspections were held at the nearby church room. However, it was agreed with the Education Authority that the number of pupils could be increased by 10% to 243. The Reverend Hunter, concerned at the huge cost of further enlargements, estimated at about £1,000, discussed with Canon Girling, the Director of Education for the Diocese, ways to overcome the difficulties. The decision was to lease the school to the Education Committee for a term of twenty-one years, excluding the full use of the schoolhouse. The National Society disappointed at this turn of events and despite having been advised of the reasoning insisted that the grant of £45 made in 1878 and the further grant of £34 made in 1898 was repaid. The society was persuaded to accept the return of the first grant of £45 only, which was duly paid March 1935. In July 1933, the school was transferred to Surrey County Council and was renamed Ash Wyke Council School, Normandy, previous to which it had been Ash Wyke St Mark's C of E School. In August 1934, the school was closed and work started on a new school building. All furniture and stock was stored in the Scout Headquarters out of the way. Owing to delays by the builder the school remained closed for a further two weeks, much to the delight of most children including Frank and Ena Chant, who well remember the building works and the unexpected extension to the summer holiday.

The new building, designed by Jarvis and Richards, Architects of London, was sited to the east and behind the schoolhouse. It comprised two classrooms, separate cloakrooms for boys and girls and a room for the teachers. The building has been known as the Infants School and more latterly as the Reception Classroom. Included in the scheme were additions to the existing latrine block but remaining external to the main buildings. At that time no improvement was made to the antiquated pail and closet offices, other than improved segregation between the senior and junior pupils and separate facilities for the men and women teachers.

Although cheap milk was first made available to schools in 1934 with half price or free milk for undernourished children, it was not until January 1935 that Wyke adopted the Milk Marketing Scheme when 98 scholars took milk on the first day of term. The milk, costing half-a-penny for each third of a pint, was delivered and distributed to the children at mid-morning break. Drinking straws were provided. In winter, if the milk was left outside for any length of time it froze, and the cardboard bottle seals would pop out. Preferably the crates of milk were placed around the stove to warm the milk making it more pleasant to drink. Inspectors visited the schools to take samples of the milk to ensure its proper quality.

The child's love of water

Stories abound of swimming and splashing about in Normandy Pond, the pond at Wanborough Brickworks and even the pond at Bailes Farm. The introduction in June 1935 of proper swimming lessons in the new pool at the Scout Headquarters was, therefore, received with delight. Under the tuition of Mr J Lamb of Elstead, children from the local schools not only thoroughly enjoyed the experience of learning to swim at the pool but tried hard to attain a proficiency certificate, presented and proudly received at the end of each school year. Apparently, use of the pool was not confined to the schools. According to Ethel Brambleby (formerly Rolph) a family could pay a seasonal charge of about five shillings to swim there. The use of the pool by Wyke was discontinued in 1959 in favour of the indoor baths at Castle Street, Guildford until 1970. As the children improved so the school took part in the annual Guildford Swimming Gala but no successes are recorded. Wyke has never had its own swimming facility. As late as 1996, new entries, having no swimming experience or confidence in the water were encouraged to take lessons at Southcote School, Ash. At present, pupils attend the Aldershot Indoor Pool for lessons.

Rumblings of war again

Britain was, by some accounts, ill prepared in 1939 for World War II. Hitler's Nazi Germany on the other hand was well prepared with massive forces mobilised on land, sea and in the air. Strangely at Wyke a scheme of evacuation was tested at the school in September 1937 to see how long it took teachers and pupils to clear the school buildings. All children were off the premises in 30 seconds. In July 1939, everyone at the school was instructed to bring their issued gas mask to school for the first time. Soon, all adult civilians and children of school age carried a gas mask at all times in the issued cardboard box. Small children and babies had a special unit. People developed a whole catalogue of enterprising ideas to devise a smart and attractive looking case for a gas mask. It became a competition, a sort of status symbol. The air raid shelters in the school garden were occupied for the first time in September 1940 and three teams of senior boys were trained to use stirrup pumps to fight fires. As the years advanced to 1942, the sound of the air raid warning was generally dreaded whereas the long continuous wail of "the all clear" was a very welcome sound, although it could hardly be heard in the shelter. A problem emerged later in 1942 as to how some children could be protected in the daytime during the summer holiday when parents were away from home on essential war work. In consultation with the Education Authority and the school managers, Mr Smith arranged for the school to remain open with attendant teachers on a roster system. A telephone, Normandy 2197, was installed for the Local ARP (Air Raid Precautions) to give the teacher early warning of an air raid. Mr Smith complained "*that not only was no warning given by phone, but neither was any message received by runner from the local ARP post*". A shelter remains on the school site forming part of the south-western boundary.

As in World War I children were again encouraged to help the war effort. Orange Juice, issued to babies in the early part of the war became unobtainable and was replaced with rose-hip syrup. Many children recall picking the hips and taking them to school where they were packed and sent to a depot in Middlesex for processing into syrup.

Even as late as 1945 the Surrey County Council Education Committee issued advice and instruction for the collection of waste paper. It was collected and sent to Watson Amalgamated, Cardiff for processing.

For safety, children were kept at school all day rather than have them go home at lunchtime and be exposed to the dangers of an air raid. It was also seen as an opportunity to provide the children with a meal extra to rationing and so school hot dinners were promised for the late spring of 1943. Of the 200 meals ordered by Mr Smith, the Guildford branch of the Women's Voluntary Service, an organisation founded in 1938 and to which "Royal" was added in 1966, could supply only 80. The younger children were served first. Despite this initial set back and other upsets such as the occasional undercooked puddings, the service and quality of the meals was surprisingly good. By the end of January 1944, the full quota of 200 dinners was supplied but necessitated two sittings. To deal with this dinner ladies were appointed and eventually were part of school life, often providing motherly comfort to the small and insecure child. In 1947, the dinners came direct from the Ash Vale Central Kitchen. The success of the delivered school meals, first introduced in a time of crisis, continued until replaced by the school's own on-site facilities in 1963.

Surprisingly, central government had time, not only to deal with the urgent requirements of the all-demanding war machine but also to draft new educational legislation. The Education Act 1944 was designed to abolish the two-tier system of elementary and higher education and replace them by three distinct stages namely primary, secondary and further education. Responsibility was imposed on the Minister for Education to promote through the Local Education Authorities (LEA's) an effective educational service to meet local needs. Voluntary schools had the choice to become either "*controlled*" or "*aided*" schools. Those that met half the cost of improvements to meet the new requirements would remain voluntary schools. Those that elected not to do so became controlled schools with the LEA assuming full responsibility. For Wyke, it effectively meant that a senior pupil would at age eleven, and depending on success at the eleven plus examination, either go to a grammar school or to a secondary school. In 1944, Kenneth Newman was awarded a special place at Guildford Grammar School but chose instead to go to the Guildford Junior Technical School.

Normandy had been generally unaffected by enemy air raids, despite its proximity to Aldershot, the Home of the British Army. However, on 16 June 1944, five windows of the school were damaged by blast from enemy action. Although there were other incidents around and about, life at the school continued undisturbed until cessation of hostilities in May 1945 when the school was closed for the VE Day (Victory in Europe) celebrations.

Post war changes

The more relaxed and affluent post war years and the lifting of the many restrictions applied during the war introduced many changes to the school. To relieve Mr Smith of many administrative duties, Dorothy Knott was engaged in 1946 as a clerical assistant for a six months trial period and was subsequently appointed as a school helper eventually retiring on pension in 1953 succeeded by Eleanor Trevaskis. A series of annual outings and day visits for scholars was started in 1949, the first to Whipsnade Zoo, followed by Hampton Court, Science Museum and other places of interest and ended in 1964 with a visit to London Airport.

In January 1951, Mr Prior was appointed "*Adult Road Patrol*" to see children across the busy Guildford Road but was obliged to retire owing to age restriction in September and was replaced by Ada Weston.

In May 1951, builders started work on the new lavatories and ex-forces trainee teachers commenced duty as floating staff, amongst whom were Messrs Tingey, Bishop, French, Bottomley and Richard Charters. In April 1956 Peter Charters returned to teach at the school until July 1960.

In 1946, Wyke wanted its own playing field for organised games. The Surrey County Council Education Committee therefore approached the Ash and Normandy Parish Council to purchase the adjoining parish owned recreation ground and terms of acquisition were agreed. However, the Minister of Health insisted that the registered electors of the Normandy ward of the parish agree to the sale of the land. At a public meeting, held in the Normandy Village Hall 16 May 1947, the electors decided not to sell the land. The Chairman of the school managers, William Henry expressed the view that *"the children attending our school should be the first consideration in this matter, as a matter of fact it is the children and nobody else who have been penalised by the decision reached at the Parish Meeting"*. At another public meeting, held in the village hall Friday 28 November 1947, the majority of electors present resolved *"that this meeting of Local Government Electors of the Parish of Ash and Normandy, hereby agree to rescind the previous decision"*. The sale of the land for £450 was completed in June 1948.

Mr Smith retired 31 August 1954 after twenty-five years service as Headteacher of the school and was immediately succeeded by Owen Thomas Lewis.

Mr Lewis (1954 - 1971)

To stimulate friendly rivalry between pupils and further encourage the concept of team sports Mr Lewis divided the school into four *"houses"* St Andrew, St George, St Patrick and St David with respective team colours of blue, red, green and yellow. Following the normal attendance at the District Sports in June 1955, the school held their own sports day in July when the four houses competed for the Coronation Cup, won by St Andrew's and presented by Mrs Selby-Lowndes, wife of the Vicar of St Mark's. The addition of the Sportsmanship Cup and the Fellowship Cup in 1962 to the single Coronation Cup swelled the number of school trophies. The school continued to attend and support the Ash Schools Sports Day and in 1961 their improved performance was rewarded. Four awards were gained, the Challenge Shield for the highest number of points gained, the Insley Cup for meritorious performance, the Relay Challenge Cup and the Girls Challenge Cup.

July 1955 heralded the inclusion of the Annual Parents Day into the school calendar, establishing a relationship that exists to the present day between managers, staff and parents. That July with all staff in attendance, the children's work, house records and books were displayed for the benefit of parents throughout all the rooms of the school. Later in December, managers and over 100 parents attended a visual aids demonstration.

Mrs B M Down, Deputy Headteacher, retired in 1956 after teaching at the school for sixteen years. Miss Margaret Clegg, a respected teacher of Wyke since 1946, succeeded her. By 1956, the number on the roll was 272 with one class accommodated in the church room. Fortunately the County Architect had indicated satisfactory progress with the planning and financing of the promised new classroom, although the actual work was not started until 1958. The classroom was eventually occupied in February 1959.

More new buildings

Since 1960, Mr Lewis had discussed with County Hall proposals for more new buildings and he was rewarded in February 1963 when the new assembly hall and kitchen were finally brought into use.

It was 25 years previously that hot meals were first provided but now school meals were cooked on the premises. In April, Miss I F Pope, County PE Organiser watched staff and pupils use the new hall for "Gym" and in 1964 the school was honoured by a visit from Mr A Anderson, the General Inspector of Physical Education. In September 1969 the new hall became a temporary classroom for Miss F P King and in December, Christmas Dinner was served for the first time.

Mr Lewis had a strenuous career at Wyke, not just as a headteacher but also as an educationalist. His services were in demand on various County Educational Bodies, particularly Examining Boards. As a result Wyke became, during the 1960s, a visiting post for overseas visitors and teachers attending county conferences. The school was also subjected to numerous temporary staff changes and visits by student teachers from the Gypsy Hill Training College, an extension of the Guildford College, observing teaching methods. There was yet another change in staff when Margaret Clegg, Deputy Headteacher, retired in July 1967 after 21 years of dedicated service to the school. When school reopened after the summer holiday, Mr Lewis commented that *"The same staff continues for the first time since 1959"* but changes continued until 1970 when there was a degree of stability in the permanent teaching staff. They were his deputy Mrs S Burrows, who succeeded Miss Clegg, Mr E W D Ledbury, Mesdames E H Hall, M E Bassett (nee Norman) and M V Rose together with Misses J English and C F Clarke. Mrs Eileen Notley, who commenced her part time teaching duties in April 1970, is now Deputy Headteacher of the school. Mr Lewis retired in April 1971 and was succeeded by Miss Burrows.

Miss Burrows (1971 - 1994)

Miss Pat Burrows came to Wyke from Birmingham on 25 April 1971 and soon made her distinct and personal mark on the school. The assembly hall, on her arrival in 1971, was devoid of modern gymnastic equipment, but not for long. There were no carpets whatsoever, soon there were. A flourishing and supportive parents association was created. She was firm but fair and quickly gained the respect of the community. She possessed a love of music and personally taught many of the children to play the recorder. Classroom assistants were encouraged to help the slower learners.

In 1972 Wyke became a First School. The change to the Surrey Education Plan required that those children over 8 years of age move on to a Middle School. Some schools, such as Perry Hill, Worplesdon were closed and the pupils transferred to other schools. Fortunately Wyke was generally unaffected. By 1974, all schools in the county were feeling the effects of cutbacks in spending on education. Some school buildings, owing to long overdue maintenance were in a deplorable condition. Whereas the then primary function of parent and school associations was to promote good relations between school and parent, those same organisations now took on the role of renovator. Miss Burrows was determined not to let Wyke's buildings suffer a similar fate and persuaded her staff and the parents to carry out essential decoration and renovation.

Wyke at risk

On 13 September 1991, the Surrey Education Authority issued a public notice regarding the Age of Transfer Reorganisation in Surrey that sent tremors of apprehension through the Western Wards of the Guildford Borough. From September 1993, Wyke was to change the age range from mainly 5 to 8 years to 5 to 11 years and would be required eventually to provide 180 places. To assist with the transition, the on-site former Normandy Remedial Centre building, established for "special needs" children within the county, would be made available for additional accommodation.

At this time the building was used as The Surrey Wardrobe, a county facility to store valuable period clothes and drama costumes. During the transitional period, the over eight age group would transfer to Holly Lodge School, Ash. There was widespread consternation at this news and the attitude of the managers, staff and parents hardened as it became apparent that county officers ignored constructive argument.

Concerned parents quickly formed an action group called WATAG, an acronym for Wyke Age of Transfer Action Group, with Chairperson Patricia Robinson. The resolve of the group was to persuade the Surrey Education Committee to vary its proposals so that all children at Wyke could remain during the reorganisation period. A plea by Miss Burrows to the County Education Officer indicated that in 1971 Wyke was a primary school with a roll of 265 accommodated in the present buildings. She accepted that teaching methods were very different now and that such a number of children could not now be properly accommodated. However, by changing the use of certain rooms, about 190 children could be accommodated. The teaching staff was prepared to accept the slight inconvenience, since the move would be more than compensated for by the educational advantages that the children would gain. Her plea failed to persuade.

The apparent stumbling block was the lack of adequate accommodation. The group offered to provide a temporary classroom at their own cost. That failed to persuade. In November, WATAG supported by Cranley Onslow MP submitted an appeal to the Secretary of State to oppose the transfer of the eight-year-old pupils to other schools. The appeal was successful and a Variation Order was made to the Public Notice. The County Council provided temporary classrooms and the Surrey Wardrobe, although promised previously, was not made available. That building, however, is now the Early Learning Centre of the school and Wyke is once again a Primary School. The former Remedial Centre had its place and function in the past but its absence from the needs of the county is no indicator that there is no longer a problem. Few schools are without some children in need of special treatment. In conjunction with the County Educational Psychologist Wyke has in place a policy for the special educational needs of such children. The policy comprehensively involves staff, governors and parents to protect the advantages that Wyke can provide to the local community.

Whilst not totally disruptive, the change back to a primary school did affect staffing, for there occurred a later change of headship, the absorption of a teacher displaced from another school and the inevitable movement of teachers seeking promotion elsewhere. Stability was not restored until 1999 when the school governors reported *"Mrs Notley, Mr Green, Miss Cook and Miss Sutherland continue in their present positions, enabling us to have continuity of staffing for the first time since Age of Transfer with all full time members of staff on permanent contracts"*.

Acronyms

With the reorganisation to a primary school once again came added responsibility for the Board of Governors. The introduction of The Surrey Scheme of Local Management gave governors a financial budget for control of salaries, some maintenance contracts and the provision of new teaching material. All schools were obliged to employ an Administration Officer and John Weeks was appointed at Wyke. The scheme soon became known as LMS, certainly not with affection and certainly not associated with the initials of the railway system that once linked London and Scotland. As schools became adept at self-management so the scheme expanded from one manual with supplements to four manuals entitled Premises, Training, Personnel and Finance.

Another acronym now familiar to staff, pupils and parents alike is OFSTED, the Office for Standards in

Education set up in 1990. A team of inspectors first visited the school in May 1997. They assessed the quality of teaching, learning abilities and achievements of the pupils in social, physical and creative skills related to the School Development Plan which the governors and staff monitor and update. The current period of the plan is 1999 - 2002.

Unique Events

The highlight for pupils of year four was the annual camp held on the playing field during the summer term and run for many years by teachers Pat Newton and Elizabeth Sprake. They and the pupils slept in tents and used equipment provided by army units from Pirbright Camp. Since there was no male teacher at the school an 'over-night, adult-male-presence' was provided by Peter Bond with the full approval of his wife Lesley, a teacher at the school.

The School Animal Farm is unusual and was started by Eileen Notley in 1972. She was given two rabbits by a teaching colleague and then given two goats by a governor of the school. With the approval of the governors, Miss Burrows and the skilled help and encouragement of Bill Warner at nearby North Wyke Farm, the animal farm prospered. Not only did the animals increase in number but also their size. A donkey named Puff was donated by Bill for the use of the children but stabled at his farm for convenience. Puff enjoyed his school days, more especially when joined by a young Shetland pony named Chico, also given by Bill, and a lamb named Topsy given by Tony Fulk of Wyke Farm. Puff died in 1987 and was replaced with Christmas, who took part in many Nativity plays at the school and services at St. Mark's Church. Christmas continued with rides for the children but in this Millennium year has been retired to Devon.

The popularity of the animals has generated a greater understanding for the needs of animals. To the delight of some children and having firstly persuaded their parents to agree, rabbits, guinea pigs, tortoise and other small animals are fostered at home during the school holidays. Children and parents help with the routine work of feeding and cleaning. The playing field, recently renovated and now unavailable for grazing, has fond memories for Eileen Notley and Elizabeth Sprake, a former teacher at Wyke, both of whom can reflect with perhaps a certain amount of pleasure, spending many nights on "*lamb watch*" and the occasional hand feeding of lambs.

Today, in keeping with the new modern school buildings, there are new animal pens. Surely Mr Ormonde, Inspector for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, would have been delighted to know that his talk to the school in February 1891, entitled Kindness to Animals, would have had such a far-reaching influence.

A fond farewell

On 30 April 1994, Miss Burrows, Headteacher for 23 years retired. She will be affectionately remembered for two idiosyncrasies, her love of the recorder, which she played brilliantly, and the ever-present chiffon bow that she wore in her hair.

At her retirement presentation, tributes to her achievements came from many quarters. One in particular was from a past pupil, David Newman, then the Borough Councillor for Normandy, who confessed that the children played a guessing game each morning as to what colour of scarf she would wear that day. Ivor Simpson, a long term personal friend and then retired Local Education Officer for the Guildford Division, confessed that his staff, knowing that Miss Burrows would be visiting his office, would also guess at the colour for the day. Another guest to congratulate Miss Burrows was Tim Yates, successor to the Headship of Wyke. Somewhat unusual was the fact that his official date of appointment, 13 April 1994 and the date

of retirement of Miss Burrows overlapped owing to contractual procedures.

Mr Yates (1994 -)

Tim Yates, within a very short time of his appointment, reinstated the competitive and organised sports of football, athletics, with an emphasis on cross-country running, netball, rounders and cricket.

The school is an active member of the Farnham and District Primary School Association and in the District Athletic Championships held in July 1999, won the Loe Cup for gaining the most points per pupil taking part. Currently, the football team takes part in six-a-side competitions and in 1999 shared with Waverley Abbey School the championship of their league.

Mr Yates inherited the promise from County Hall of new classrooms, to replace the temporary ones installed as a result of reorganisation, and for improvements to the existing buildings. The pleasing modern buildings of 1999 have blended well with the original Victorian buildings, providing three new classrooms and an administration area. Carpeted corridors link the new with the old and with the assembly hall although the Early Learning Centre building remains remote from the main cluster of buildings on the far side of the playing field. In June 1999, Heather Hawker, Chairman of Surrey County Council, supported by Humfrey Malins MP and Sallie Thornberry, Deputy Mayor of Guildford formally opened the new school buildings. The Chairman of the Board of Governors, Sue Higham, proposed the vote of thanks to the guests.

With a maximum of 210 pupils on the roll the community again possesses a most pleasing village school of old, very old and modern buildings, with its own playing field, all set in a rural location. With the drive of the present headteacher, the proven merit of the teaching staff and the guidance of the governors, Wyke will continue to provide tomorrow's citizens, whether they be academicians, professionals, technicians or craft specialists.

Yet again does the name of the school change. Under new legislation there are two main categories of schools, namely Community Schools and Foundation Schools. The school became a Community School in September 1999 and is now known as Wyke Primary School. The word "County" has been dropped from its title, but it is rewarding to note that "Wyke" is retained.

About other schools

When built in 1879, Wyke coexisted with three other schools to which parents could send their children. There was Wanborough School, closed in 1947 that now, as Wanborough Youth House, provides facilities for youth groups, Ash Common Church of England School, later known as Heathcote, closed in 1987, demolished and the site redeveloped and Ash National School, Ash also demolished and the site redeveloped.

Today, for children of Roman Catholic families, the nearest primary school, both private and State aided, is at Rydes Hill, Guildford, with secondary level of education for the boys and girls at St Peter's Catholic Comprehensive School, Merrow. There are no local schools for children of other religious orders.

There have been few privately run schools in this area. Wychwood School, Ash a boarding and day pre-preparatory school for boys and girls up to age eleven was probably the most popular. Shortly after World War II, Molly Yorke Batley purchased Shawfield farmhouse to start the school with herself as Headteacher.

Muriel O' Grady assisted her later, together with Mrs May and Nora Coussmaker, wife of John de Lannoy Coussmaker of Westwood, whose two daughters Josephine and Jacqueline were pupils at the school until 1960. Matron was Elpimimi Marinou. Whilst he was at Cambridge University, Kim Philby who acquired notoriety for allegations of spying, arranged for his four children, Harry, Tommy, John and Miranda to be taught at the school. It no longer exists and the site has been redeveloped for housing. In keeping with a policy of Ash Parish Council for street naming, the development is named Wychwood Close.

There have been a few nursery schools. In some instances such schools were known as Kindergartens, since their foundation is of German origin. It is probable that there was such a school held at Wyke Vicarage about 1920 run by the Vicar's wife Mrs F N Pickford.

Normandy, in the early 1940s, was fortunate in having both a nursery school and a kindergarten under one roof at Red Leys, Glaziers Lane, then called Station Road, run by Marjorie Martin. In 1949 Mummy Martin, as she was so affectionately known, responded to the request to provide a foster home for children with special needs from the London Boroughs. Red Leys in addition to a nursery school, became a home for so many children until her death in 1983. *"Everyone who came into contact with her, found a truly kind and generous person"* recalls Gwen Mayhead, a confidant and Marjorie's personal assistant for 30 years. Red Leys was demolished and the site is now occupied by four houses, one of which retains the name of Red Leys.

The Emmanuel Nursery School located since 1985 at the United Reformed Church (Emmanuel Church), in Glaziers Lane, was started at the Normandy Chapel, Guildford Road in September 1970 with Margaret Stogden as its first leader, continuing until her retirement in October 1990. The nursery arose from an idea of The Reverend Derek Wensley, the Minister, wanting to see the chapel being used more than just on Sundays. Initially, numbers were small but by the time the nursery moved to Glaziers Lane in 1985 it offered a five-day service for children up to the age of five. Today the school still flourishes under the leadership of Diane Haslett, who took over in 1995. A collage of the defunct Normandy Chapel, made by nursery children, hangs in the church.

St Mark's pre-school nursery, started in 1985 for children from two years to school age, continues to meet regularly in the church room with Leaders Prue Levers and Sherry Kenyon. The once thriving Mother and Toddler groups, that met in the village hall, have faltered but hopefully may be re-established one day. However, children under five and approaching school age may be introduced into the Early Learning Centre at Wyke Primary School.

Normandy is fortunate in having enjoyed a village school for over 120 years, a fact now endorsed by the Surrey County Council by providing new buildings and upgrading the old ones. The school is a fitting reminder of its heritage and is adequately prepared for the foreseeable future.

Parental choice of school for the child has been and will always remain a dilemma for there is a whole raft of factors for consideration, accessibility, sibling choice and the reputation of a school, are but a few. As a result, the paths of Normandy children often criss-cross on their respective journeys to and from their chosen school. Wyke Primary School is widely recognised as the popular and practical choice of local parents, but the school continues to enjoy an influx of pupils from Ash, Ash Vale, Puttenham and Pirbright as it always has done.

CHAPTER 11

CHAPELS, CHURCHES AND CHARITIES

*Thy hand, O God, has guided thy flock, from age to age.
The wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page.*

*E H Plumptre
1821 – 1891*

Places of worship

When James Horne first came to Normandy in about 1819 there was no official place of worship in what was then a small hamlet. On Sundays, churchgoers were obliged to journey to their church, chapel or meeting house in Ash, Pirbright, Wanborough or Worplesdon Parish. However, James's presence in Normandy and his religious fervour during that century had not only a profound influence on the people of this area but also on the building of church and chapels.

James was born in 1798 in Salisbury of a "*God fearing family*" and for reasons presently unknown, came to Normandy in the early 1800s, met and married in 1819 Mary Chitty of Poyle, Tongham. It is presumed that he and Mary moved to Buckinghamshire shortly after their marriage, for it was there that he joined the Methodist Society and their first child, also named James, was born in 1822 at Adstock near Winslow. Shortly after the birth they returned to Normandy to be near Mary's family, probably as support to her parents for her father died later in 1825.

By the end of that century there were four formal places of worship established for the people of Normandy. They were, the Congregational Chapel at Willey Green built in 1825, a small chapel in Glaziers Lane built in 1850, St. Mark's Church Wyke consecrated in 1847 and the Methodist Wesleyan Chapel built at Normandy crossroads in 1886, replacing the small chapel. Following the consecration of St. Mark's Church, its churchyard became the final resting-place of most parishioners for all denominations until crematorium were opened to the public. The burial record for James Horne leads one to believe that his grave, now unmarked, is in the corner of the churchyard looking towards School Lane.

The Congregationalists

When resident in Normandy James joined with others of his faith in services, which then were held in private homes and sought ways to further establish Methodism in what to him seemed "*a God forsaken part of the country*". His enthusiasm and religious belief was the inspiration to set up the first official place of worship in Normandy, the Congregational Chapel, Willey Green. Thus in 1825 the small chapel, later and affectionately referred to as The Normandy Chapel, was built by enthusiastic followers with their own hands on land which had been given to them. To quote from *The Fellowship of Churches* by Joyce Reason, "*they were faithful Christians in Normandy, poor in world's goods but not in spirit*". For a considerable time they had no full time Minister but were served by either Lay Supplies or by a resident Minister from Guildford. Daniel Deedman was Superintendent of the chapel followed later by Edwin Cranstone, both of whom had helped to establish services and encourage local families to give their support both financially and spiritually. It was a very happy and industrious congregation with a thriving Sunday school for the children of the village. Those children who regularly attended the Sunday school were encouraged by the Women's Fellowship,

who met weekly in the chapel, to channel their energy into collecting farthings for the Barnardo homes and institutions, founded in 1867 by Dr. Thomas John Barnardo. When Edwin Cranstone was Superintendent, his daughter Grace kept a record in a cash-book of the collections taken at each service and the custodian of the chapel records holds this cash-book.

Hymns were sung to the accompaniment of the American Foot Pedal Organ often played from about 1919 by William Fooks when aged only nine. He more or less continued to play the organ until 1940 when he joined the Royal Army Service Corps, seeing out World War II in India until demobilization in 1945 by which time he had obtained the rank of Warrant Officer. During the war years Dorothy Applebee took over the playing of the organ, relinquishing her duties to him on his return from the army. He provided organ music for services until his death in 1974 when once again Dorothy took over the duty for the congregation. Dorothy was often to be seen riding her bicycle around Normandy and through her work at the Post Office in Glaziers Lane acquired, over a lifetime of service there, a wonderful knowledge of most people and house names in the village.

Ernie Coleman, who also played the flute at services, succeeded Edwin Cranstone as superintendent and in 1951 orchestrated the refurbishment of the chapel in arranging for electricity to be installed and the provision of a new vestry, kitchen and toilets. In 1975, when the congregation celebrated the 150th anniversary of its foundation the Moderator, the presiding minister, presented Gladys Marshall with a framed certificate in recognition of 50 years membership of the chapel. She and her sister Elsie were the staunchest of supporters of the chapel. This big event in the history of the chapel was the catalyst for the Officers to consider a larger chapel, for it was obvious that the seating capacity for 60 was inadequate to accommodate those wishing to attend the normal Sunday Service. Since the site was much too small for further development they set about looking for new premises.

The Minister, the Reverend Derek Wensley was the co-ordinator for fund raising but since so many local people donated money and ran numerous fund raising events, including a cake stall each Saturday in the village hall, the task was made comparatively easy for him. At this time the Telephone Exchange, Glaziers Lane was redundant and came on to the market for disposal. By an enormous effort on the part of members it was purchased in 1985 and converted into a modern chapel more suited to their needs. Since the Congregationalists had amalgamated with the Presbyterians to form the United Reformed Church the chapel took on the title of the United Reformed Church Normandy, but in 1991 became the Emmanuel Free Church. The tradition of self-help that has been so evident over the years continues and as their church enters the new Millennium there may well be plans for further development.

The Methodists and Wesleyans

When James Horne and his family returned to Normandy in about 1822, they lived in the Flexford area, later moving to Normandy Hill Farm leased from the Reverend William Parsons. Their home was always available for Sunday school and prayer meetings. Although he had to work long and hard both as a farmer and schoolteacher to support a growing family, he travelled many miles often walking, seeking ways and places to establish his faith and preaching Methodism whenever possible, usually in private dwellings. In 1850 he built a chapel and a pair of small houses in Glaziers Lane, one of which is now called The Croft and it was in that chapel that he conducted services, preaching with the vigour and zeal that was his hallmark. Since he was a schoolteacher it would be reasonable to presume that he established also a schoolroom in the chapel. The 1851 census shows the chapel as having had *“60 free sittings and 30 other*

sittings". Richard Chapman a Wesleyan Minister from Guildford signed the afternoon service on the day of the census. Although he held the office of Circuit Steward, James preferred to preach rather than administer. In 1853 "*land together with chapel therein lately erected*" was conveyed by James to the Methodists, and used by them until 1886.

When John Parrott brought his family to Normandy from Buckinghamshire in 1862 he purchased the Normandy Manor Estate, including Normandy Hill Farm, and his family became close friends of the Hornes. In 1871 his two sons William and John witnessed the Last Will and Testament of James Horne, who by then was living, with his wife and daughter Elizabeth at Mariners, Guildford Road. James' two sons, James and Joseph and their respective families were living nearby, presumably in the two cottages adjoining the chapel in Glaziers Lane.

The two brothers, William and John Parrott, played an important part in the Methodist movement in Normandy. Minute books of the Quarterly Surrey and North Hants Mission Circuit show that they both preached in the area and opened their home at what is now the Manor House for Circuit Meetings. The minutes also show that in April 1861 James Horne's son Jabez, born 1837, preached his Trial Sermon and was recommended to be a local preacher. About this time the Methodists purchased from the Parrotts two pieces of land near the crossroads. The larger for £45 and the adjoining strip to the west for £6.10s.0d and on the site, in 1886, built the large chapel in Gothic style consisting of two halls, one for services and the other for social functions. The old and small chapel of 1850 became defunct, but in the early 1900s was used as an evening institute for teaching shoe repairs and cookery. By 1898, when the Parrotts left the area, the new chapel had a flourishing congregation.

Some referred to the building as a church others as a chapel. Even in communal conversation, a group would quite happily mix the two names. John Wesley never wished the Methodists to leave the Church of England. The definite break, however, came in 1795, four years after his death. The followers were known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church, later breaking into various smaller schisms only to rejoin again starting in the early 1900s.

The chapel at Willey Green was not registered for marriages until 1964 and the building was too small in any case to hold anything but a very modest wedding function. Chapel worshippers were invited, therefore, to have their wedding and reception in the larger Methodist Wesleyan Chapel at the crossroads. Rosie Coleman, the daughter of Ernie Coleman, the Superintendent of the Congregational Chapel married Eric Rivett in this chapel in October 1935 as did their very good friends William and Catherine Fooks in July 1938 but on that occasion their own Congregational Minister, the Reverend Davis, performed the service. Cyril and Doris Prangnell, although married in 1940 at St. Mark's Church, also held their wedding reception in this chapel.

The 1950s witnessed the start of a dwindling congregation. A visiting preacher, John Newland, recalls taking the regular service, of four hymns and a full sermon, to a congregation of just four children. It is believed that Gladys Marshall and Alfred Williams last used the chapel for worship. In 1953 the Chapel was de-consecrated and the building was sold to C J Williams when it was converted and used as a drawing office by architects until 1965. The building proved too difficult to maintain, it became derelict, infested with vermin and was eventually demolished in 1970. There was no great uproar when the building was demolished and the wooden pews burnt, and only after the disappearance of the chapel as a landmark, was its passing regretted.

Congregational Ministers

1921 - 1924	Reverend F Hosier
1924 - 1927	Reverend AW Austin
1929 - 1936	Reverend Arthur Lewis
1937 - 1938	Reverend A Hitchcock
1939 - 1946	Pastor GW Simmons
1946 - 1949	Reverend Arthur Bowen
1951 - 1960	Reverend DS Bell
1960 - 1967	Reverend Alan Cassingham
1967 - 1987	Reverend Derek Wensley
1989	Reverend Ray Whittle
	Reverend David Bedford

The Anglicans

The land given by the Coussmakers for the building of St. Mark's, Wyke, during a period of national upsurge in church and chapel construction, enabled work to start in 1846, including the setting out of a churchyard. A young architect by the name of Henry Woodyer, with an office in Guildford and related to both the Coussmaker and Halsey families, was commissioned to design this church for Wyke. St. Mark's was his first venture into designing and constructing a church having been previously concerned only with restoration work. He went on to design many other churches in Surrey and neighbouring counties.

As befits a first foray into church design from scratch, St. Mark's is an unpretentious building consisting of a chancel, a north vestry and a nave. It is in the then fashionable Geometric Decorated or Second Pointed Gothic style and is built of Bargate Stone rubble with Heath Stone foundations and quoins and Bath Stone dressings. The roofs are tiled and there is a small bell turret at the west-end. The Coussmaker family maintained their Memorial chapel and private mortuary, added to the main building in 1848, until 1962 when the family relinquished the rights of the chapel to the Parochial Church Council. The Coussmaker monument stands against the south wall of this chapel. There is also a memorial tablet to Henry Woodyer's parents, Caleb and Mary Woodyer, nee Halsey. A description of the interior of the chapel and other details may be found in "Westwood, the Story of a Surrey Estate".

St. Mark's, Wyke, consecrated in 1847 and obtaining full parish status in 1867, was endowed principally by the Coussmaker and Halsey families and with contributions from the Incorporated Church Building Fund and the Winchester Diocesan Fund. The church immediately became the focus of life in Normandy, as early records of baptisms, marriages and funerals record during the period when the Reverend W A Paxton travelled from Aldershot to take the services. The 1851 census gives the number attending services, 105 for the morning service and 114 in the afternoon, signed by Henry Freeman Cheshire, the resident Minister who at that time lived with his family in what is now Wyke Lodge. Although he and his wife went to live in Bath after his retirement in 1877, both are buried in the old churchyard here at Wyke.

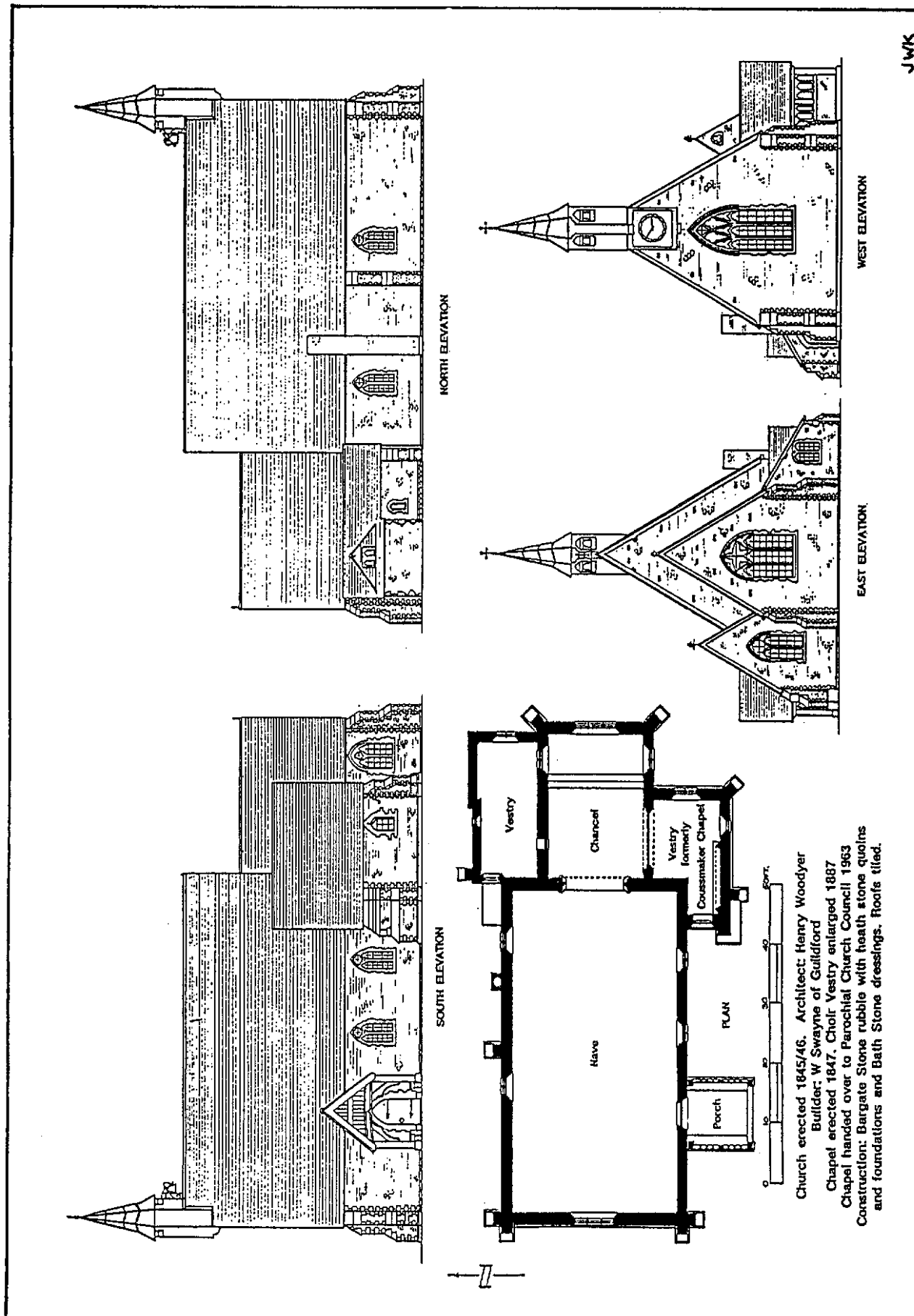


Figure 23 St.Mark's Church Wyke

Until Woking Crematorium was opened to the public in 1886, most people of all faiths in the area around St. Mark's were buried in the churchyard and a sizable amount of additional land was needed at that time for future burials. Consequently a quarter acre of land was acquired from Colonel George Coussmaker and in the 1930s further land was bought for a new burial ground although a church room was built on part of the land.

Since 1977 part of the burial ground has been set aside as a Garden of Remembrance in memory of Cyril Dyson, an active member of the church and a long serving member of the choir. Today this garden may be used as a resting-place for the ashes of parishioners. It is perhaps fitting that the churchyard is now a designated Site of Natural Conservation Interest in which grass cutting has to be restricted in order to permit the cowslips, the wild orchid and other plants to prosper.

To commemorate the addition of the burial ground to the churchyard, Major Leslie Gordon-Alexander, a local resident until 1937, produced a Register of Graves, on which he spent many hours skillfully documenting, with detailed notes and illustrations, designs uniquely symbolic to the church. It contains pages of 13th century style decorated borders with illuminated capital characters. On the front page is the ornate initial T and it contains the heraldic bearings of Venice, which are representative of St. Mark, the church's patron saint.

The coats of arms in the border are those of the successor Patron Bishops of Eton, Winchester and Guildford, and of the Coussmaker family. The symbol of the daisy, featured in the border, is the flower of April, representing the month in which the Coussmaker family donated the land for the building of the church. Three Signs of the Zodiac are set into the borders. They are Scorpio, referring to the date of the Order in Council constituting the Parish of Wyke, Taurus the Bull referring to the Deed of Gift of land by the Coussmakers and Sagittarius the Archer referring to the 24 November, the date the church was consecrated. This Register of Graves was entrusted to Miss Emily Booty, organist and choirmistress of the church for 40 years until 1954, and as a result was referred to over the years as "*Miss Booty's Book*". It is a most fascinating book and a valuable asset of the church.

The organ then was non-electric and the air reservoir required regular manual pumping in order to maintain a sufficient volume of air to replace that blown out in producing the musical notes. It was usual for a boy to be detailed to the task of "*pumping the organ*". One such lad was young chorister George Chant. He recalls many occasions, when resting between hymns, his anxiety and concentration not to miss the rarity of a passing car on the main road. So intent was he on one occasion that he forgot to pump and that was his undoing. The consequences of that remains a secret but what was not so secret were his efforts to attract the interest of another rarity, a schoolgirl with an English-rose complexion, long pigtails and a warm smile who sat in the choir-stalls opposite. That warm smile is still reserved by Valerie for George after 44 years of married life. The two Booty sisters, Emily and Alice, were well known in the village. Alice, who was lame, often accompanied her more active sister and like her was a keen chorister and churchgoer. They both lived at The Croft, Glaziers Lane. Emily and her other sister Mary were co-principals of Denehyrst School, Guildford.

In the north east corner of the churchyard, close to the Guildford Road and standing in distinctive isolation, is the elaborate chest tomb of Henry de Worms, Lord Pirbright of Henley Park, first Jewish Privy Councillor and one time Leader of the Anglo-Jewish Community, who died in 1903. In life he had distanced himself from his old religion when he married a Christian. A representative of King Edward VII attended the funeral, but the Jewish Community, saddened at the gradually deepened rift between themselves and Lord Pirbright and shocked further by his Christian burial, boycotted the service.

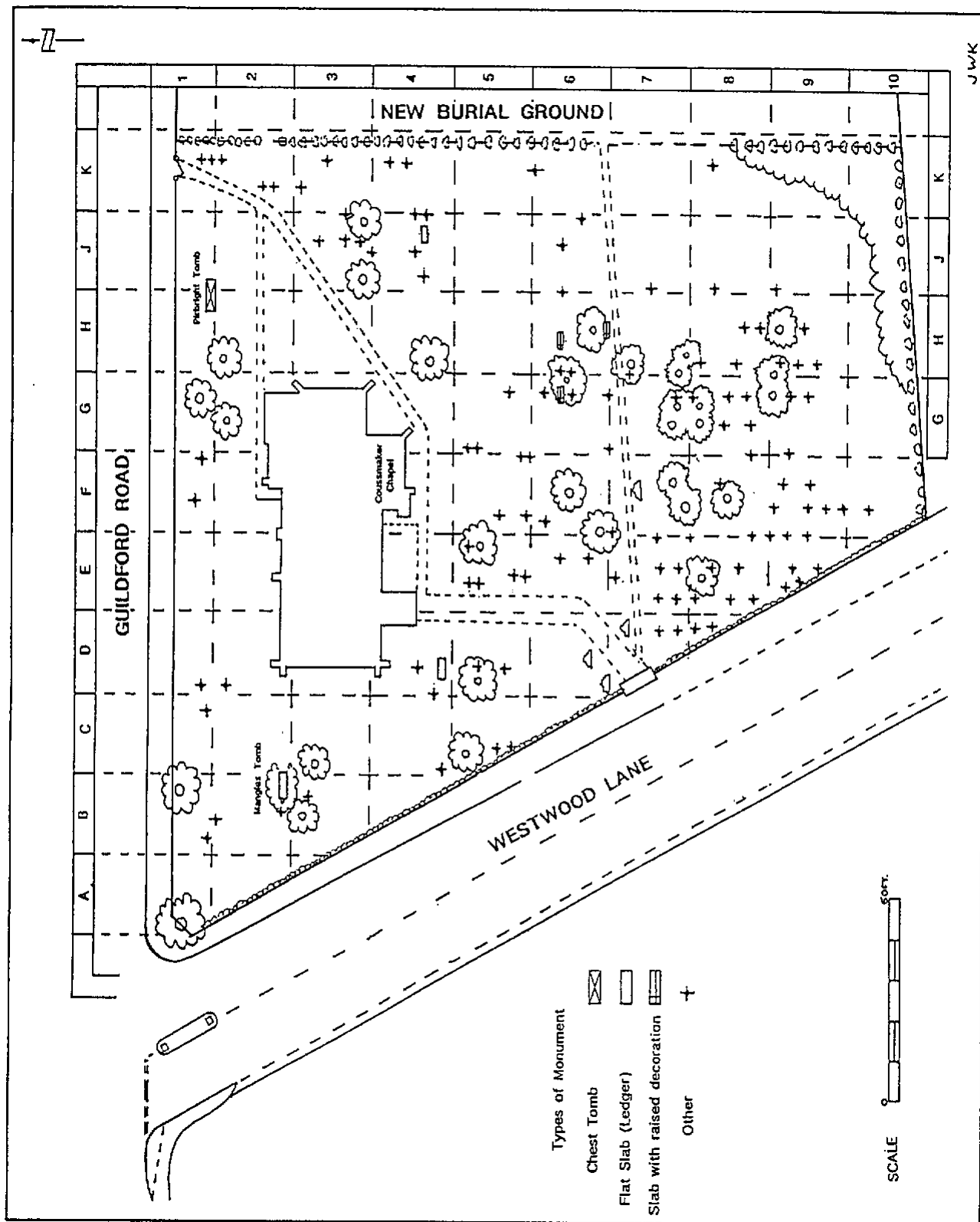


Figure 24 St. Mark's Churchyard Wyke

Surname	Christian Name(s)	Abode	Died Year	Age	Location
Adams	Georgina	Flexford	1929	82	G 8
Adams	I M		19??		G 8
Adams	W M		1951	77	G 8
Addington	John Sylvester	Branksome	1917	11	E 7
Alvensleben	Baron Werner		1989	77	H/J 1
Alvensleben	Constance		1963		H/J 1
Archer	James Thomas	Wyke	1856	25	E 5
Bartley	Jeanette		1928	64	G 3
Blackaby	Elizabeth		1927	88	E 6
Blackaby	Thomas	Normandy	1906	71	E 6
Blston	Emily	Normandy	1937	71	H 9
Bonham	George Frederick	Normandy	1896	25	K 4
Bosley	Edwin	Normandy	1908	73	G 6
Bosley	Mary Ann	Wyke	1920	75	G 6
Bowring	Jesse		1868	3	F/G 5/6
Bowring	William James	Henley Park Lodge	1876	19	F/G 5
Bowyer	Sarah Ann		1948		F 10
Bowyer	Thomas	Normandy	1936	88	F 10
Bradshaw	Mary Ann	Pirbright Road Normandy	1914	73	D 7
Bright	Gen Sir Robert	Normandy Park	1896	73	H 6
Bright	Lady Catherine	Normandy Park	1911	79	H 6
Buckton	Thomas Christopher Edward		1928	66	H 8
Cawson	Elizabeth		1930		H 8
Cawson	Thomas:		1940	84	H 8
Chadwick	Mary	Union Infirmary	1917	64	E 7
Cheshire	Henry Freeman	Bath	1885	73	J 3/4
Cheshire	Mary	Bath	1891	81	J 3/4
Coe	Herbert Charles	Trinity House London	1931	53	E 8
Cookseley	Clementine	North Wyke	1876	76	C 1
Cookseley	Margaretta	Harley Street	1882	69	C 1
Cooper	Fanny	Normandy	1924	69	F 8
Cooper	Lewis	Normandy	1929	76	F 8
Coussmaker	Agnes Caroline	St' Leonards	1909	68	G 6
Coussmaker	Archibald Lindsay	Westwood	1851	1	F 4
Coussmaker	Arthur Lannoy	Westwood	1870	37	F 4
Coussmaker	Carolena	Guildford	1927	42	B 8
Coussmaker	Caroline	Guildford	1936	90	E 8
Coussmaker	George	Westwood	1924	85	F 4
Coussmaker	Harriette Ann	Shanklin Isle Of Wight	1903	80	E 5
Coussmaker	Henry.Charles	Westwood	1855	2	F 4
Coussmaker	Katherine	Ealing	1901	56	G 6
Coussmaker	Lannette Emmeline	Westwood	1944	91	G 6
Coussmaker	Lannoy Arthur	Westwood	1880	70	F 4
Coussmaker	Macclesfield F	Guildford	1941	97	E 8
Coussmaker	Margaret Shaw	Westwood	1907		F 4
Coussmaker	Mary Anne	Westwood	1879	68	F 4
Coussmaker	William Henry	Wyke Lodge	1882	45	F 4

Figures 25 Key to churchyard

Surname	Christian Name(s)	Abode	Died Year	Age	Location
Davis	Thomas William		1887	6	K 2
Deedman	Ann	Wyke	1939		F 9
Deedman	Charles	Normandy	1881	4	D 2
Deedman	Harry W	Wyke	1931	73	F 9
Deedman	Henry	Wyke	1961	79	F 9
Deedman	Jane	Wyke	1907	28	G 6/7
Deedman	Mary	Wyke	1907	23	G 6/7
Deedman	Susan	Wyke	1907	31	G 6/7
Deedman	Thomas John	Normandy	1881	4	D 2
Deedman	William	Normandy	1881	6	D 2
Deedman	William	Fairview Normandy	1927	80	G 8
Douglas	Janet L		1935	65	G 9
Dring	Alfred Henry		1962		E 9
Elliott	Thomas	Normandy Common Farm	1909	64	B 7
Elliott	William	2nd Life Guards	1928	55	E 8
Elston	William	Normandy	1934	79	H 9
Fladgate	George	Godalming	1891	69	K 3
Fladgate	Mary Ann	Godalming	1897	65	K 3
Flood Page	Mona	Ash	1914	42	G 8
Furnival	Katherine	Worplesdon	1866	89	J 3
Gardiner	Louisa	Normandy	1894	59	G 6
Hale	Bessie	Fernhill Normandy	1918	20	J 7
Hale	Elizabeth		1959		J 8
Hale	George		1893	70	K 4
Hale	William Thomas	Fernhill Normandy	1929	54	J 8
Halford	Loetitia T	Mother of Edward	1934	89	D 8
Halford	Lt. Edward	Royal Engineers Aldershot	1918	30	D 8
Halton	Timothy		1932		H 8
Harding	William	Woking	1899	53	K 2
Hardy	Mary	Ash	1900	71	H 6
Harwood	Ellen	Ash	1938	81	H 9
Harwood	James	Ash	1929	70	E/F 8
Harwood	Jane	Wyke	1919	89	J 6
Harwood	John	Wyke	1906	76	J 6
Hayter	Frank		1904	37	J 3
Hayter	George	Wyke	1897	59	J 3
Hayter	Matilda	Wyke	1889	54	J 3
Hone	Harriett	Wyke	1898	82	K 3
Hone	Richard		1875	21	K 3
Hone	William	Flexford	1885	69	K 3
Horne	Edith or Emma		1932	61	E/F 9
Horne	F/O Cecil	Died in Action	1945	37	E/F 9
Horne	Jabeth John	Normandy	1948	76	E/F 9

Figures 26 Key to churchyard

Surname	Christian Name(s)	Abode	Died Year	Age	Location
Hose	Bishop George Frederick	Normandy Manor	1922	83	D 7
Howell	Elizabeth	Station Road Normandy	1918	68	E 7
Hunt	Hugh		1908	65	F 7
Inkpen	Robert S		1939		H 9
Keel	Mary Ann			15	D 5
Lee	George	Wyke	1906	72	E 6
Lee	John		1900	31	E 5
Lee	Mary		1896	61	E 5
Lipscambe	Edith	Normandy Hill	1921	21	F 9
Lipscombe	Ellen	Normandy Hill	1935	73	F 9
Lipscombe	Frederick.	Royal Sussex Regimant	1918	18	E 7
Lipscombe	Henry	Normandy Hill	1934	76	F 9
Lovelock	Caroline Wallis	Flexford	1860	16	E 5
Lovelock	Helen Wallis	Flexford	1866	28	E 5
Lovelock	John	Flexford/Stoke	1876	73	E 5
Lowenstein Wertheim	Prince Leopold		1974	71	H/J 1
Lowenstein Wertheim	Princess Diana Maria Faith		1967	46	H/J 1
Lowenstein Wertheim	Princess Henriette		1986	78	H/J 1
Mangles	James	Wanborough	1838	77	B 2
Mangles	Mary	Wanborough	1852	79	B 2
Mangles	William	Brighton	1857	10	B 3
Mansell	Mary Ann	Cobbett Hill	1878	80	E 5
Mansell	Matthew	Cobbett Hill	1859	65	E 5
Marshall	Albert	St.Stephen	1907	6 mth	D 4
Marshall	Charles	Normandy	1929	19	D 4
Marshall	George	Normandy	1887	53	D 4
Marshall	Stephen	Normandy	1932	68	D 4
May	James			62	G 5
Merrett	Stella	Normandy	1937	3	E 9
Miller	George French	Farnham Infirmary	1926	60	E 8
Mullard	James	Farnham Infirmary	1918	71	J 7
Osgood	Emily	Normandy	1864	17	D 1
Osgood	John	Normandy	1886	72	D 1
Osgood	Mary	Normandy	1887	73	D 1
Parrott	Herbert William	Bowers Mills Guildford	1889	38	J 4
Parrott	Isabella	Normandy	1886	75	J 4
Parrott	John	Normandy	1881	81	J 4
Penn	Fanny Emma	Henley Park Lodge	1875	30	D 5
Penn	Jesse	Henley Park Lodge	1877	49	D 5
Peploe	Amy Alice	Normandy	1933	46	J 9

Figures 27 Key to churchyard

Surname	Christian Name(s)	Abode	Died Year	Age	Location
Peters	Jane Mary	Westwood	1934	1	E 9
Pickford	Gertrude Ellen		1887	40	J 3
Pickford	Humphrey Francis	RAF Cranwell	1926	20	D.8
Pirbright	Baron Henry	Henley Park	1903	62	H/J 1
Pirbright	Lady Sarah	Claridges	1914	80	H/J 1
Pollard	Alfred George	Pinewoods	1900	23	G 5
Povey	Agnes		1929	76	F 9
Pryor	Emily Alice	Pinewoods Post Office	1902	29	H/J 6
Pryor	James Peter	Pinewoods Post Office	1930	93	F 9
Pusey	Wilfred Stanley	Normandy	1933	15	H 9
Quennell	Evelyn		1929		F/G 8
Ralph	Catherine	Ash	1864	60	J 4
Roberts	Ernest	Normandy	1938	68	E 8
Roberts	Mary	Normandy	1963		E 8
Robinson	Elizabeth		1903	79	K 1
Robinson	George		1906	81	K 1
Robinson	Jane	Fernhill Normandy	1903	57	K 2
Robinson	Jane	Normandy	1896	18	K 2
Robinson	Joseph	Cambridge Hospital Aldershot	1902	28	K 2
Shearman	Elizabeth Hannah	Normandy	1891	44	G 6
Simmonds	Mary	Farnham Infirmary	1933	76	F 9
Smith	Clarissa	Normandy Hill	1919	70	E/F 7/8
Smith	Elizabeth				F 1
Smith	James	Normandy Hill	1943	97	E/F 7/8
Smith	John		1905	19	F 1
Smith	John Edward	Normandy	1914	74	F 1
Smith	Martha	Normandy	1939	98	F 1
Smith	Reginald	Normandy		19	F 1
South	Frederick	County Hospital Guildford	1931	65	G 9
Stedman	Arthur	Normandy	1920	74	G 7
Stedman	Elizabeth	Normandy	1887	81	J 4
Stedman	John	Normandy	1891	77	J 4
Stedman	Maria	Normandy	1905	58	J 4
Stedman	Raymond Cecil	Normandy	1918	27	J 4
Stuart	Arthur	Normandy	1932	93	E 9
Summers	George William	Henley Park Road	1917	45	E 7
Taylor	Isaac Penfold	Westwood Farm	1899	80	F 6
Thompson	Jane Emily		1931	55	F 9
Trussler	Mary Ann	Normandy	1872	55	B 2
Wainwright	Eleanor	Normandy	1931	74	E/F 9
Wainwright	Walter		1939		E/F 9

Figures 28 Key to churchyard

Surname	Christian Name(s)	Abode	Died Year	Age	Location
Waters	Annie	Normandy	1866	25	G 5
Waters	Edmund	Normandy	1879	72	G 5
Waters	Elizabeth	Woking	1884	73	G 5
Waters	Frances	Normandy	1867	15	G 5
Waters	John	Normandy	1878	25	G 5
Waters	Lucy	Normandy	1865	30	G 5
Waters	William		1879	41	G 5
Waterworth	Annie	Wyke	1891	55	J/K 3
Watkins	Harold Fuller		1906	43	J 6
Weston	Henry	Wyke	1935	61	E/F 8/9
Weston	Mary	School House	1931	57	E/F 8/9
Woods	Jane	Guildford	1911		H 6
Unknown	Sylvia			9 mth	K 8

Note: These are the identifiable graves. There are many others that are unmarked of odscured.

Figures 29 Key to churchyard

The Pirbright Tomb, a Grade II Listed Building, is nine feet long and about four feet wide and high. It has panelled sides decorated with Jacobean-style strap work with ribbands and swags of pomegranate. The top is supported on the chest and eight detached fluted balusters with Ionic capitals and moulded bases. The Pirbright coat of arms and inscriptions to Lord and Lady Pirbright, both interred in the tomb, are carved on the top. The tomb stands on a plinth with ogee moulded edges, which in turn stands on a two-step slab covering the sealed vault which contains the two caskets. On the steps around the tomb are placed inscribed tablets commemorating relatives of Lord Pirbright buried nearby. At the west-end is a small urn with Greek key and vine swag decoration.

A fascinating glimpse into family life and history of the past can be gleaned from the memorial tablets and headstones placed in the churchyard. Apart from the re-occurring family names, the dates of birth and death, they sometimes provide other oddities about a person. We can shed a tear for three little Deedmans, William, Thomas and Charles who all died in the same epidemic in 1881 and are buried together, and be thankful for modern medicines. Another family tragedy for the Deedmans was the loss of Susan, Jane and Mary all aged between 23 and 31 and who died in 1907, the cause of which we may never know be it an epidemic or a tragic accident.

It is no longer so easy to follow the threads of family life through the church records, which have reflected the trades of the people of that time, nurserymen, farmers, bricklayers, basket-makers, sawyers, as well as those who were employed in other occupations in the service of the large estates. From the turn of the 20th century other occupations emerged, particularly of those associated with the railway, and of soldiers, due no doubt to the close proximity of the developing garrison town of Aldershot.

Our present day shifting population and modern lifestyle will provide future historians with a much wider framework for research than hitherto. However, a note of some family names in the churchyard, such as Horne and Deedman will undoubtedly remain familiar to many future generations when visiting Normandy.

In the church porch a board, made by Peter Bond of Bailes Lane, records the long and valued association of the Weston family with St. Mark's. Jack Weston, born in 1906, lived with his parents Henry and Mary Weston in the schoolhouse. After the death of his father in 1935, Jack took over the duties as verger and school caretaker previously carried out by his parents. For 50 years Jack and his wife Ada faithfully carried out the many necessary tasks to keep the church and its environs in good order. In their later years each of them was successively a school crossing patrol officer at the crossroads, which had become dangerous with the ever-increasing traffic.

After over half a century of existence, St. Marks' was providing the focal point for the people of Normandy that the main benefactors, the Coussmaker family must have visualized and worked for, and still as a family they remained remarkably involved in the general affairs of the Parish. One can only speculate on the reasons why the family channeled their energies and considerable finance into the building of this church. As a family they were strong supporters of the Church of England, entrenched in their faith. It is probable that the interest generated locally in the Methodist movement may have initiated the building of St. Mark's as a counter measure. It would have been an extravagant measure just to overcome the inconvenience of the journey to St. Peter's, Ash or St. Mary's, Worplesdon. St. Mark's certainly provided the community with an easily accessible place to be baptized, perhaps later to be married and finally buried.

From about 1898, and in addition to his principal duties as headteacher of St. Mark's, Wyke School, Arthur Beer was Choirmaster and Organist at the church, where the choir sang at Morning and Evening Services every Sunday, dressed in cassock and surplice. The Sunday school became popular with the children of the village, encouraging them in weekly religious instruction and hymn singing, the regular attendance to which was all important if one wanted to go on the annual summer outing or be invited to the Christmas party and prize giving. Later, for the older child there was the Girls Friendly Society and for the older generations there was the Young Wives Group and the Mothers Union.

Before the welfare state came into being just after World War II, St. Mark's Church Vestry administered funds received from charities and by voluntary subscriptions from people within the village, particularly from the well-to-do, to provide clothing and financial assistance to the sick and the poor of the Parish.

Between 1964 and 1967, whilst the Reverend Donald Faulkner was Vicar, extensive alterations, initiated by him and his Churchwardens Captain Craddock and Albert Cook, were made to the interior of the church. The former Coussmaker chapel was converted into a second vestry. The original organ of 1887 was replaced by a James Chettle Gomme organ, with an electrically operated pump, which was installed beside the font at the entrance to the church and the choir moved to pews alongside the organ. Captain Craddock who, at the time, had presented two clergy stalls to the church, retired in June 1966 after eleven years as Churchwarden and eight years as Treasurer. Don Plumley succeeded him as Churchwarden.

Albert Cook was, in his late teens, a lay reader at the Congregational Chapel, Willey Green but in later life he became very involved with St. Mark's. Between 1946 and 1980 he successively occupied the posts of Vicar's Warden, People's Warden and Churchwarden during which time he provided continuity to the affairs of the church by helping in the refurbishing, as a Lay Reader and assisting at services. It was during the period of alterations that the first Ecumenical Service for the village was held in the church room in April 1966. Later in April 1970, Sister Carol Graham, from Farncombe Ecumenical Community, was the first lady to preach from the pulpit on the occasion of St. Mark's Patronal Festival. By 1992, the organ of the 1960s was itself the subject of much debate as to its replacement. A committee led by Trevor Davies finally decided on a conventional pipe organ to take the place of the old James Chettle Gomme organ.

During the time of the Reverend Graham Hawckett's long ministry, music was a feature of the church and the choir flourished. The Normandy Singers, formed in the 1970s during his time, gave musical recitals with poetry readings by Louise Hawckett. He and his family were the last to reside in the old vicarage, for following his retirement in 1985 it was sold. When in retirement and officiating with Monica Taylor at the funeral of Catherine Preston in 1999, he remarked to the mourners that "*music is the language of Heaven*". The remark was a prelude to his personal tribute to Catherine, who for 17 years had been the organist and choir mistress at St Mark's. Music had been her life. So many children and adults, anxious to improve their singing and musical talents did so under her tuition.

An interdenominational choir also called the Normandy Singers, started by Maggie Larkin in 1991, still practices weekly and continues to give recitals or perform religious works wherever their services are requested.

Over the next 14 years, the Reverends Neil Turton and Andrew Knowles successively followed Graham Hawckett as Vicar to St. Mark's. In 1996, a celebration service to mark the 150th Anniversary of the church was held on Sunday 28 April, the nearest to St. Mark's Day, attended by the Bishop of Guildford. During

the year, in addition to the usual fund raising events many extra ones were held, musical events, a Victorian School play, a flower festival and an exhibition of arts and crafts.

In 1999 the Reverend Pauline Godfrey came to St. Mark's as Normandy's first woman priest. The church is blessed with devoted Churchwardens, Pastoral Assistants and a Reader. Monica Taylor is responsible for the Parish Magazine, an ongoing and vital link between church and people. To encourage the youth of all ages, helpers from the church and the village run the Starters, Markers and Supermarkers, Crusaders and YOYO groups. There have been other groups in the past.

Plans for a new church hall in 2000, to replace the present one, are complete and for which fund raising has been most successful although numerous fund raising methods are still in operation. The new hall will be built behind the present church room, which started life as an army hut, placed between the present vicarage and the churchyard. The first church room, placed nearer to the old vicarage in about 1910, came to an abrupt end in December 1952 when soldiers, trying to be helpful, scored a direct hit on it by felling a large nearby oak tree. Their exit from the scene of devastation was indeed very fast. The replacement was modernized in 1975 and waits patiently in this millennium year to be replaced with the planned church hall.

Incumbents of St. Mark's, Wyke

1847 - 1849	Reverend William Archibald Paxton
1850 - 1877	Reverend Henry Freeman Cheshire
1877 - 1898	Reverend Henry Drayton Wyatt
1899 - 1905	Reverend Charles Page Wood
1905 - 1930	Reverend Francis Newland Pickford
1930 - 1937	Reverend Ernest Logan Hunter
1937 - 1944	Reverend Canon Charles James Tapsfield
1944 - 1948	Reverend Arthur Ernest Chapman
1948 - 1954	Reverend Arthur Leslie Jones
1954 - 1962	Reverend Canon George Noel Selby-Lowndes
1962 - 1967	Reverend Donald Faulkner
1967 - 1985	Reverend Graham Kenneth Hawket
1986 - 1992	Reverend Neil Christopher Turton
1993 - 1998	Reverend Andrew William Allen Knowles
1999 -	Reverend Pauline Ann Godfrey (Priest in Charge)

The Roman Catholics

Although there were Catholic families living in and around Normandy, practising their faith together and establishing places for worship had been very restricted. Today their main Church is Holy Angels, Ash but records are available only from 1904. In 1927 a mission centre was established in Normandy, one of four, attached to The Southwark Catholic Itinerant Mission with Father Arthur Dudley as the Diocesan Missioner, joined in 1929 by Fr. Francis Bayliss. The Headquarters of the Mission was at a house called St. Ann, St. Paul's Road, Dorking. There were 44 Catholics in Normandy at that time. Services were held in the village hall, and there are stories of Frank Chant collecting the congregation from Mytchett, Ash and Normandy in his van with people sitting on slatted seats, peering out through small windows. The Mission priests Frs. Dudley and Bayliss administered the small "flock" in Normandy and were joined later, probably in early 1931, by Fr George Winham. The temporary "chapel" at the village hall was, however, served regularly by Fr. Bayliss.

In August 1931, F G Gaskin, the father of Fr. Kevin Gaskin, brought from Ditchling, Sussex by tractor and trailer, a wooden building used previously by Canadian Army Officers during World War I. It was re-erected in just over a month on land given by Mrs. Milton, a devout Catholic and wife of Arthur Milton, the owner of Manor Fruit Farm. Initially the building was designated as a "Chapel-of-Ease" but in 1932 attained "Parish Status" when Fr Bayliss became Resident Priest, remaining so until 1934. A church for Catholic families was now firmly established. The main structure of that original building is the shell of the present Catholic Church of St. Mary, Normandy.

An extract from the very helpful booklet on the church produced by Joe Widlake in 1981 describes the opening ceremony of the church in 1931. *"No official account of the opening ceremony and Mass is to be found in the records relating to Our Lady, Queen of the World at Normandy. An insight into the warmth and humanity of Normandy people is that few recall the splendour of the opening ceremony or the dignity of the Mass that followed. What sticks in the minds of many, who were present that day, was the fact that when the solemn procession of priests in their splendid vestments, remember the days of the biretta and maniple, had filed out to begin Mass, the sacristy door promptly fell down!"*

Father Healey, an Irish priest, was by repute, robust and jovial. He came in 1935 serving for 14 years until August 1949 when he was moved to the parish of Redhill. Fr. Healey lived in the house next to the Holy Angels Church, Ash, built in 1935. The financial strain of administering Ash and Normandy was not lightened until the arrival of Fr. Peter Dorman in April 1951, a retired Colonel with an independent income derived from his Army pension. He continued to serve both Ash and Normandy for 20 years. With the opening of the new church at Mytchett his administrative skills were called upon to re-arrange the times of Mass to cope with the additional workload. It was during the hectic period of the late 1950s that the church was served by others such as Fr. O'Flynn, of the Salesians, and a supply priest Fr. Fox, then a Professor of Theology at Womersley Seminary and now the retired Bishop of Menevia, Wales.

Over the years many people have given loyal support to their church. Ann Dent, a local journalist and John Ades, one time Mayor of Guildford, have been Lay Readers. Evelyn and Eric Gorniock continue to send news to "A & B News", the newspaper of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, as part of their responsibilities. Joe Duffy and his wife Daisy gave many years of practical help and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Merrett were presented with the Bene Merente Award from the Diocese for all their devoted work to the church. Similar duties and responsibilities continue to be undertaken by helpers.

The congregation celebrated their Golden Jubilee in 1981, and the Mass was attended by the elderly Fr. Dorman, and Fr. Wilson, the Priest at that time, who accepted two golden chalices given by Molly Llanwarne, Glaziers Lane in memory of her husband Don. In 1998 Brenda Hardy, previously Brenda Robison of Halsey Cottage, Glaziers Lane but now re-married and living at Milford-on-Sea, presented a green chasuble to the church in memory of her late husband Wally Robison.

During the four years of administration by Father Liam O'Connor, the church benefited by new carpets, benches and curtains. In 1986 his Bishop transferred him, just like Fr Dorman, to Redhill and was quickly succeeded by Fr. Kenneth Freeman, Fr. Emmanuel Agius Maltes, a White Missionary Father, and by repute, was a very jovial character and then finally in 1989 by Fr. John O'Donohue. Fr. Stanley Burt has been the Priest for the past eight years.

Priests of St. Mary's, Normandy

1927	Fr. Dudley (Fr. Winham visited several times)
1929	Fr Francis Bayliss
1931	Fr. George Winham
1932 - 1934	Fr. Francis Bayliss
1934 - 1935	Fr. George Winham (in later years Monsignor)
1935 - 1935	Fr. Quinn
1934 - 1949	Fr. Healey
1949 - 1951	Fr. Hastings
1951 - 1971	Fr. Peter Dorman (assisted by John Styles, curate at Ash)
1971 - 1976	Fr. Winter
1976 - 1979	Fr. Jelf
1979 - 1982	Fr. Wilson
1982 - 1986	Fr. Liam O'Connor
1986	Fr. Kenneth Freeman
1987 - 1988	Fr. Emmanuel Agius Maltes
1989 - 1992	Fr. John O'Donohue
1992 -	Fr. Stanley Burt

Gospel Hall

For nearly 50 years there flourished in Pinewood Road a mission hall, originally called Pinewood Mission Hall, built in 1936 of asbestos and timber by Sidney William Freeman, an Ash resident and local businessman. The site cost £60 and the building £50. An extension was added between 1942 and 1944 at a cost of about £350.

Sidney, the son of a Methodist Circuit Preacher, and other families saw the need for a mission hall to serve the area around Pinewood Road and Wyke Avenue. Later the name of the hall was changed to Gospel Hall. During World War II, Connie Azzopardi played the organ for the services and her mother, Gladys, played it for the Women's Guild started by Sidney's wife Florence, the Guild's President. The hall was not registered as a "building for public worship" until 1980. On 27 June 1980, Tom Hall from Aldershot Park Hall conducted the marriage of Alan Bell to Anne Catherine Clarke, the daughter of Ken Clarke, the Lay Preacher of the Gospel Hall at that time. It was the only marriage conducted at the hall.

Services and Sunday school were held regularly and from the beginning were well attended with a peak about 1970 but by early 1980 numbers had declined to only three to four families attending Sunday service. The hall was closed and in 1986 it was decided to sell the site. The Counties Evangelistic Society benefited by £35,000 from the sale of the land on which three new houses now stand.

The Quakers

There is no evidence of a Quaker presence in Normandy. It is known that during the 17th century there was a strong presence of the Society of Friends (Quakers), in Guildford, also in Worplesdon where they had a burial ground, near what is now Fairlands Farm. Interestingly, at Pond Hill, Wanborough, the southern boundary of Normandy, there is a house called The Quakers. It is, however, not that old. In the late 18th century, Morris Birkbeck, a staunch Quaker, was tenant of nearby Manor Farm, Wanborough and his bailiff at that time, John Greenwood, kept a diary about farming life, since documented in an article entitled "*The*

diary of a Farming Quaker, Wanborough 1793 – 1794” by R G Vever. Despite the presence of Quakers on the borders of Normandy it is somewhat strange that there would appear to be no record of meetings of the Society of Friends in either Wanborough or Normandy.

Religious coexistence

Religion has obviously been a part of life in this area from early times for in the mid 1980s a British-Romano Temple was excavated on the borders of Wanborough and Normandy evidencing both Celtic and Roman artifacts of religious activity in the 2nd century, since documented. More recently, in the late 1990s, further excavation of the site has uncovered earlier religious activity attributed to the 1st century. There was a huge gap in recorded religious activity in this area until the early Christians came and built the three 12th century churches of St. Bartholomew, Wanborough, St. Mary, Worplesdon and St. Peter, Ash still serving their respective parishes.

Events concerning the chapels and churches of Normandy are still unfolding. Witness to this is the emergence of the New Christian Fellowship meetings each Sunday morning at the Royal British Legion Club.

In July 1993, when Puttenham Hill Nursing Home on the Hogs Back, the former home of H J T Channing, was being enlarged, a memorial stone inscribed with the name William Parrott of Normandy and the date May 26 1886, was found in a rockery. The find was reported in the Surrey Advertiser. Historically the inscription was interesting, because records showed that this was the date that the Methodists had bought land at the Normandy crossroads from the Parrott brothers. This stone was originally set in the wall of the large Wesleyan Chapel built in 1886 but demolished by the firm of Channings in 1970. Normandy Historians recovered the stone and it is their ambition to return it as near to its original site as practical.

The defunct Congregational Chapel and site at Willey Green is unkempt and the future of the building, a concern of Normandy Historians, is in doubt. Guildford Borough Council does not consider it worthy of statutory listing by the Department of National Heritage nor of inclusion on the list of locally important buildings compiled by the Borough.

Charities

Unlike many parishes, Normandy has no charity of its own. It does, however, share in the charities of Ash and Worplesdon by reason of having been part of each parish before becoming a parish in its own right in 1955. The Ancient Tything of Wyke, however, receives an annual income from a charity known as the Poor's Allotment Charity, made under the Worplesdon Inclosure Act, incorporated in 1934 in a scheme of the Charity Commissioners. Wyke, now a part of Normandy, was prior to 1846 (when St. Mark's Church was consecrated), a detached Chapelry of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's, Worplesdon. The Rector of Worplesdon, the Vicar of Wyke and three representatives appointed by the Normandy Parish Council administer the charity.

The "*Poor of Wyke Allotment*" was an area of approximately 27 acres located on Cleygate Common in the Manor of Cleygate, off which the poor of the Tything of Wyke collected fuel such as faggots or peat. It is now part of the Ash Ranges. In 1863 the War Department acquired the land for £630. The Rector and Churchwardens of Worplesdon Parish, the Vicar of St. Nicolas Parish, Guildford and the Vicar of Woking Parish, as Trustees, retained £30 to ensure that the money was invested and the income from it used to buy fuel for the poor of Wyke. The money was placed with the Bank of England and in 1870 was transferred

with accrued interest to the Official Trustee of Charitable Funds. In 1927 the Parish Council of Ash appointed two more Trustees and in 1957 the present scheme was agreed with the Charity Commissioners.

Normandy also receives a share from three other ancient charities of Worplesdon, the Charity of Thomas Shaw founded 1605, the Charity of William Stringer founded 1713 and a share in the Charity of Henry Smith out of the Warbleton Estate regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners in 1890. These three charities were incorporated in a scheme of 1910 and known as the Worplesdon United Charity. The Rector of Worplesdon, three representatives appointed by Worplesdon Parish Council and one by Ash Parish Council administered the Charity. From 1955, when Normandy Parish Council was formed, a representative of Normandy replaced that of Ash.

The charity of Thomas Shaw is particularly interesting in that the income is derived from a house in Guildford High Street, rented in 1910 by Messrs. Gate & Co. for £4 pa, the forerunner of Messrs. Cow & Gate, now United Dairies, the milk conglomerate. Many ancient ecclesiastical parishes in Surrey benefit from the charity of Henry Smith. He was a prosperous Silversmith in the City of London, who died in 1627.

The five ancient charities of Ash were combined in 1973 to form one scheme in agreement with the Charity Commissioners. They were the charities of the Reverend Edward Dawe, of Bartholomew Goodyer founded 1795, of Thomas Stevens founded 1747, of the Reverend Dr. Michael Woodward founded 1675 and a share in the charity of Henry Smith out of the Warbleton Estate regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners in 1890. The Charity is known as the Charity of Henry Smith and Others for Ash and Normandy. It is administered by the Rector of St. Peter's Ash, the Vicar of St. Mark's Wyke, the Chairman of Ash Parish Council, two nominative appointments and two co-optative appointments, from the respective Parish Council of Ash and of Normandy.

Income from the various charities is held in the name of the Official Custodian for the Charity Commissioners and is invested in their Official Investment Fund. Revenue is distributed to the Parish Charities according to the number of Income Shares held in the Official Investment Fund. Normandy receives each year about £900 from the Ash and Normandy Charity and about £200 from Worplesdon United Charity. Trustees have a wide choice in the sort of relief they can give out of the income of the charity so long as the need is clear. No income may be applied directly in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds.

CHAPTER 12

THE WAR YEARS

Si vis pacem, para bellum
If you want peace, prepare for war.

Anon

During the 19th and 20th centuries this country has been involved in many conflicts both large and small but apart from the indirect effect on development of the area following the Crimean War, the first conflict that we have found to have had a noticeable impact on the life of the village, was World War I.

World War I

At the outbreak of war in 1914, a contingent of Britain's small regular army was sent to France. The German Kaiser called them "A Contemptible Little Army" which gave them their nickname "The Old Contemptibles" but on the Somme they proved themselves anything but contemptible. Such was the accuracy and rapidity with which they fired their Lee-Enfield rifles that the Germans thought that they were under machine gun fire. In the autumn of 1914 it became obvious that the war would not be "over by Christmas" as many pundits had forecast. War Minister Kitchener called for volunteers to form a Citizens' Army, Kitchener's Army - and the well-known poster appeared with the slogan "*Your Country Needs You*". However, by early 1916 casualties were so heavy that reluctantly Conscription was introduced.

The War Memorial at the village crossroads stands in mute testimony to the sacrifice of the village in the two World Wars. 35 men from the village were killed in World War I and this from a place of barely 900 inhabitants at that time. The names represent a cross section of village society from titled landowners to labourers. Sir Philip and Lady Henriques of Normandy Park lost their only son during the war and there is a memorial window to him in St. Mark's Church. They always attended the annual Remembrance Service and laid a wreath by the War Memorial. Sir Philip was Assistant Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Munitions and he was knighted in 1918. Many of those who returned from the fighting had been wounded. Among them was Doug Roberts who was wounded on the Somme in 1918 and whose brother was killed. Doug, together with a dwindling number of veterans received belated recognition when he was invested with the Legion of Honour in 1998 when he was 98 years old.

Samuel Lipscombe served with the Middlesex Regiment. George and Wilfred Sewry, the Normandy blacksmiths, joined up and served as farriers. George was wounded in the arm and was unable to resume his trade as blacksmith and worked at Henley Park Farm after he was discharged. Wilfred had a narrow escape from death when he was shot by a sniper at Ypres. The bullet passed through his open mouth knocking out one tooth and fracturing his jaw and then exited through his cheek. Dick Bosley won the Military Medal whilst serving in the army.

Many saw wide service including Colonel Lannoy John Coussmaker who was awarded a DSO and bar, an MC and the Croix de Guerre. His brother, Arthur Blakeney Coussmaker, had an even more adventurous war career. He was on special duties with the South Wales Borderers in France in 1915 but later in the year he was severely wounded. In 1918 he took part in the abortive operation in Russia in support of the

White Faction and was a member of the expeditionary force in the Caucasus, known as "Dunsterforce", led by Major General Lionel C Dunsterville. Afterwards, in Siberia, he attempted to obtain a consignment of platinum but this was seized by the Bolsheviks. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1920. He was later to become the guardian and mentor of the young John Coussmaker after his father's death.

In spite of the terrible conditions in the trenches there were lighter moments. Doug Roberts recalled that when a shell struck the trench he was in he turned round to see what he thought would be a gory mess where his colleague had been, but the concussion had split the tin his mate had been holding and he was covered in red jam.

Frail aircraft from Farnborough began to appear in the skies over Normandy village joining the airships remembered from before the war. The Coussmakers had Belgian refugees living in the old farmhouse of Glaziers. Henley Park House was used as a hospital during the war and Lady Roberts, the lessee, moved temporarily to Fox Lodge. After the war, Lady Roberts was instrumental in providing the village with its village hall, which she supported with the compensation she received from the War Office. There was a big effect locally. With many of the men on war service, the women found employment in jobs that were previously closed to them. Farmers were encouraged to be more productive but some of the Coussmaker family letters mention the difficulty in getting suitable replacements for the men who were away. Jobs were to be had at the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough and in Aldershot, the home of the British Army. Many of the bus timetables were severely curtailed but those through the village between Aldershot and Guildford were maintained at pre-war levels and were even augmented towards the end of the war. The German U-Boat campaign had proved devastating to Allied shipping and food supplies were running dangerously low but it was not until February 1918 when the situation was getting desperate that food rationing was introduced.

The announcement of the Armistice, which brought the fighting to a close, was greeted with relief but the exhaustion brought about by four years of war and the grief engendered by the terrible casualties could not be disguised. Almost every family in the land had a member killed or wounded and the effects would persist for a long time. The war had a profound effect on society, not all of it bad, and marked the end of some of the divisions in society. The Representation of the People Act of 1918 recognised the sacrifice made by many humble people and the contribution to the war effort made by the women in particular. For the first time, universal suffrage was granted to men over 21 years of age and women over 30 years. The war brought people together in shared adversity.

The Coming of Peace

The signing of the Versailles Treaty in 1919 finally terminated the State of War and the need for memorials to honour the fallen was recognised throughout the country. Funds for a memorial in Normandy were raised by public subscription and permission for a suitable site was sought. A piece of Normandy Common at the village crossroads was leased from the War Department for a peppercorn rent in 1921. The first page of the Indenture is reproduced overleaf. The document is signed by Winston Churchill, who was appointed Secretary of State for War in 1919.

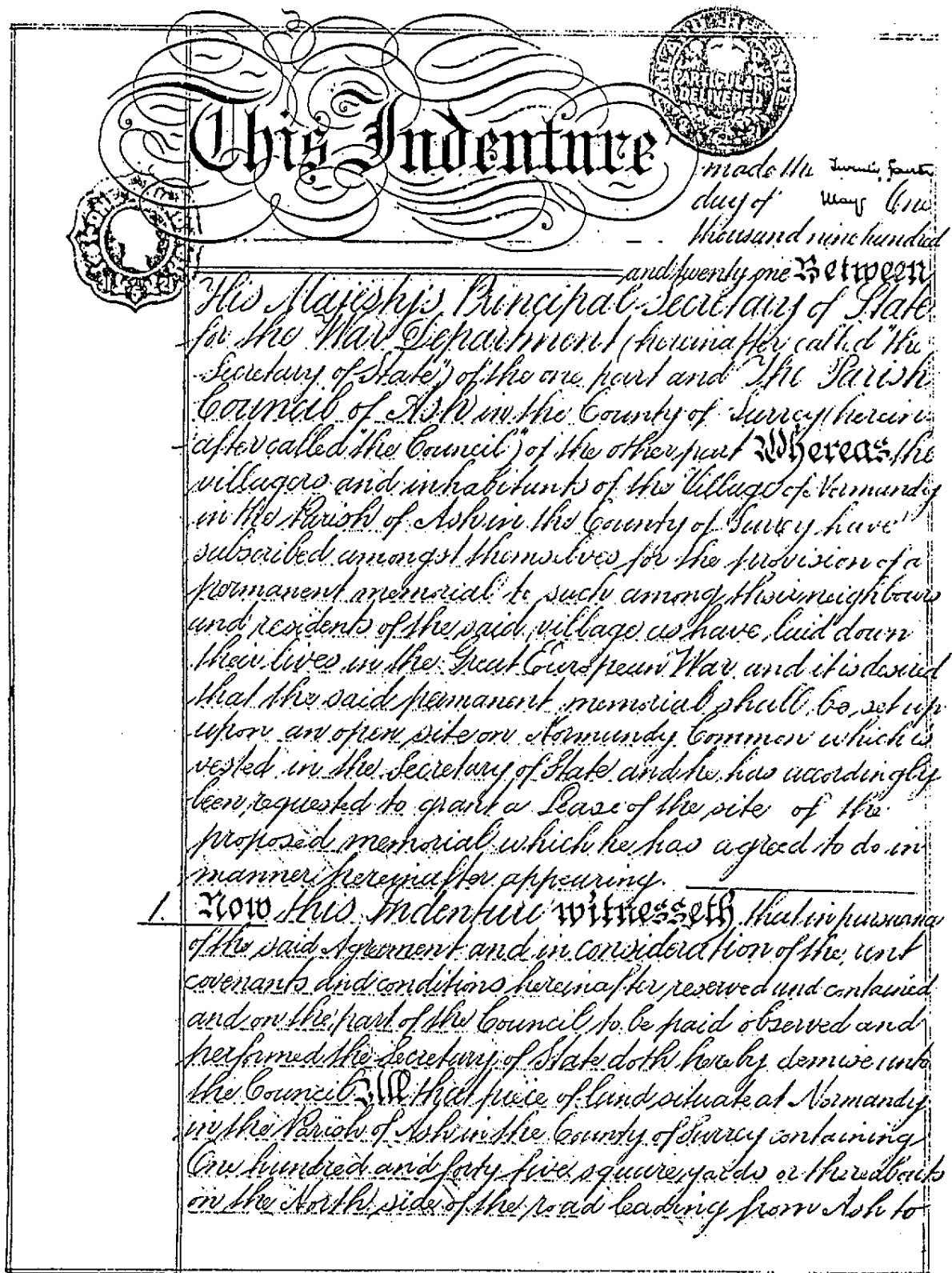


Figure 30 Indenture for War Memorial

Normandy Common had come into the possession of the War Department when it acquired the Manor of Cleygate in 1876. Ash and Normandy Parish Council bought the Common from the Ministry of Defence in 1951 and therefore the requirement of the peppercorn rent no longer applies. Soon after the acquisition of the site the present granite memorial cross was erected. The names of those from the village who had given their lives in the service of their country were inscribed on the base.

War Again

The problems of peace were to follow and in twenty short years an even greater and more widespread conflict would bring devastation on a far greater scale. The horrors of war would be visited on the civilian population of this country as never before. When, on 3 September 1939, the tired voice of Neville Chamberlain gave his sombre message to the Nation of the Declaration of War against Nazi Germany, few anticipated the desperate struggle which was to follow. The Second World War was to have different effects on the village to that of the first conflict. The death toll was not so great in proportion but even so, 23 men from the village lost their lives. The men served in all three services and they were joined by a number of women.

Here are a few examples of the contribution the village made to the services. Charles Crooke of Passengers Farm and Meadowside, Bailes Lane was in the RAF during 1930 to 1935 and was recalled at the outbreak of war. He served in France, leaving several weeks after the evacuation of Dunkirk and was demobilised in 1944. Norman Palmer joined the RAF in 1938 and his postings included Rhodesia and Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. Desmond Lipscombe enlisted at the age of 17 and served in the Tank Corps in North Africa and Italy. Bob Hammond joined the Royal Engineers section of the Territorial Army and later served with searchlights in the UK and France. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and was later posted to Burma with the Royal Scots. His father was a founder member of Normandy Royal British Legion and Bob, until he recently retired, had been standard bearer since 1949. He still stands in when required and he received a bronze statuette in 1998 in recognition of his long service in this capacity. William Fooks joined the RASC in 1940 and served in India where he met up with his brother-in-law, Les Halton, who was in the Royal Engineers and served in the Azores, the Middle East, Palestine and South India. Bill Goodchild joined an Anti-aircraft regiment in Guildford in 1941 and he later took part in the Salerno landings in Italy. Harold Moreton served with the Long Range Desert Group behind enemy lines in the Western Desert and lost a leg in 1942. Stanley Sharp joined the RAF in 1940 as an engine fitter having previously worked in garages. Cyril Dyson was with RAF Transport Command. Phil Potter also served in the RAF. The Chant brothers were called up one by one and sister Edie was left to keep the family transport business running. John Coussmaker was commissioned immediately on the outbreak of war and served for seven years in the UK, North Africa and Ceylon rising to the rank of Major. Another professional soldier who lived locally was Major George Barnes who joined the Cheshire Regiment and later transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). When he was stationed in Kent he narrowly escaped with his life when the house he was in was demolished by a flying bomb. He received shrapnel wounds, which necessitated the insertion of a plate in his skull. He was a founder member and President of the Normandy branch of the Royal British Legion. Kathleen Gardiner, who later bought Westwood Farm, qualified for her pilot's licence at the age of 23 in 1940. She flew with Amy Johnson who was a personal friend and during the war she was in the Civil Air Guard ferrying Mosquitoes, Spitfires and Lysanders and also co-piloted Wellington bombers. Her husband, Marcel, was an engineer who designed improvements to Barnes Wallis' "Bouncing Bomb" which was used by the "Dambusters".

A searchlight unit was established in huts opposite the telephone exchange (now the United Reformed Church) in Glaziers Lane and an anti-aircraft unit in a field opposite Christmaspie Cottage, manned by gunners and ATS girls. The AA guns were frequently in action and several enemy aircraft were reported hit. The personnel went to Briar Patch next to Vaglefield Farm to have baths, presumably with males and females on different nights.

In the 1950s a film called "Light Up The Sky" recalled the activities of the searchlight station. The film starred Tommy Steele and Benny Hill and was largely enacted on the cricket ground. A false front was built on to the cricket pavilion and the highlight was on the night when, having been pre-warned, almost the whole village assembled to watch the facade being blown up as part of the action. Another scene involved Tommy Steele, having got a local girl "in the family way", crawling through a hedge to look at the baby in a pram. Pat Goodchild's house at 1, Pirbright Road was suitably disguised for this scene with paper tape stuck on the windows and the girls from Vokes' factory along the road were present in large numbers to see Tommy repeating the action about a dozen times before the director was satisfied.

Bob Bagwell of DERA has written an account which tells us that the Radio Station at Cobbett Hill was used by the Royal Signals from the mid-thirties until the mid-sixties as their primary transmitting station for communications traffic to the Far East and South East Asia. After World War II it was also used for strategic communications with the British Army of the Rhine. In its heyday it was staffed by 105 personnel with an Officers' Mess. It also had its own sewerage farm. The Royal Signals occupied the cottages adjoining the station, one of which had to be repainted as it was too conspicuous in its original white finish, there were four barrack blocks and the CO lived in Mercury Lodge. A blast-proof building hidden behind earth banks and under camouflage netting contained very high power transmitters to provide reliable short wave communications. The aerial farm of 200 acres was festooned with high-gain directional "Rhombic" antennas. The Royal Signals called it Henley Park Radio Station and it was only ever used for transmitting; its companion receiver station was located at Oakhanger, near Bordon in Hampshire. The last CO was Major Philip Mootham.

The station was abandoned by the Royal Signals in about 1966 and it remained disused for many years. In 1971 the site was acquired by the Royal Aircraft Establishment (now DERA) at Farnborough. The RAE had had a radio station in Ively Road, Cove since 1922 but increasing development in the area had raised the electrical noise level to a point where Cove was no longer suitable for use as a receiving station. RAE gradually built the two stations into one of the world's foremost radio research facilities with receivers located at the very low noise site at Cobbett Hill and the transmitters at Cove. The Cove site was eventually unmanned and was then controlled from Cobbett Hill. From time to time the radio stations have supported various major expeditions. One such was the Transglobe Expedition when Sir Ranulph Fiennes and his party circumnavigated the globe following the meridian across both poles. The Cove component has now moved to a new purpose-built site in Pyestock Woods but it is still controlled from Cobbett Hill.

The Special Operations Executive (SOE) training centre was based at Wanborough Manor. This was a high security unit for training people to be undercover agents in Europe. Many of the operatives were foreign nationals and it was said that when some of them arrived at Wanborough Station they attempted to get off the train on the wrong side as if they were still on the continent. Only one local butcher, Edward Gray, was allowed to deliver meat to the Manor but the trainees were allowed to shop at the Corner Stores at Flexford. Among many others Violette Szabo was trained at Wanborough Manor. She was captured and tortured by the Gestapo and later executed by them. Szabo Crescent at Christmaspie was named in her honour.

Westwood House was requisitioned and used as an Officers' Mess for a company of Royal Engineers but was soon released. Irene Coussmaker was allowed to stop on in the house and a farm survey taken in 1940 shows that she had the remnants of the poultry farm, two horses and a goat.

In May 1940 events were not going well for the Allies and the War Minister, Anthony Eden, called for a new defence force to be set up. Recruits were to be between 17 and 65 years and "*capable of free movement*". The response was enthusiastic and within a week a quarter of a million men had volunteered. The force was known as the Local Defence Volunteers but in July 1940, by which time the numbers had doubled, it was renamed Home Guard at the suggestion of Winston Churchill. Their task was to keep watch on the coasts, public buildings, roads, railways, etc for signs of enemy invaders who might come by parachute as well as by sea-borne landings. They also did important work in rounding up enemy airmen who had been forced to bail out from aircraft.

After the fall of France, there was a real possibility that this country would be invaded and the Ministry of Information issued a leaflet entitled "If the Invader Comes" which gave advice on what to do if the worst happened. Mindful of the experience of Holland and Belgium where refugees had choked the roads and prevented their own forces from engaging the enemy, the advice was to stay put until told to evacuate an area. The Home Guard assumed an important role in the life of the countryside. They were at first poorly armed (the early units had only shotguns, pitchforks and other primitive weapons) but the force grew into a dedicated body. Although lampooned as "Dad's Army", many of the members were veterans of World War I and had not forgotten their soldiering skills. Old cars were requisitioned for roadblocks and obstructions set up in fields to stop gliders landing. The Normandy Home Guard was linked to that of Wood Street. Their first Commanding Officer was Major Darby who lived at Orchardene. Colonel Marriott, who lived at Hunts Hill House succeeded him, and his officers were Captain Parks and Lieutenant Pratt and Lieutenant Doug Roberts. They assembled for parades in the grounds of the British Legion and their headquarters were in a wooden hut, used by a digging company of Royal Engineers, which stood on the common where the cricket pavilion is now.

In the early days when ammunition was in short supply those with shotguns were issued with 12 bore cartridges with a five eighth inch ball bearing in place of the lead shot. It was decided to try one out firing at a builder's plank and it not only split the plank in half but also tore off the metal reinforcement at the end. What it would have done to an enemy does not bear contemplation. On another occasion, the unit was being taught to throw live grenades from a slit trench at the Guards Depot at Pirbright and when a nervous member threw his grenade it struck the lip of the trench and rolled back on to the floor. The unit beat all records for getting out of that trench!

When General Montgomery was in command of the Home Forces after the Dunkirk Evacuation he gave a lecture to the Home Guard in the Odeon Cinema in Guildford. He stood on the stage with a large map of the British Isles behind him while an officer pointed out various locations as he spoke pulling no punches and everyone present was left in no doubt as to the seriousness of the situation.

The Normandy Home Guard included a dispatch riders section, led by Sgt. C W (Paddy) Johnston the pre-war TT ace, whose duty was to maintain contact between the various units. The members of the section used their own machines and were paid a mileage allowance.

Later, Paddy was joined by two other competition riders, Jack Botting and Ted Wilmott. Towards the end of the war the members of the DR section decided to form a motor cycle club and subscribed a portion of their mileage money each month. This was the origin of the Normandy Motor Cycle Club.

During the early part of the war, an area of the heath north of Pirbright Road and opposite the house called Springhill was used to train the Home Guard in the use of the bazooka anti-tank weapon. They fired towards Whitepatch Hill on which there was a pile of 50-gallon oil drums. In 1943-44 this area was utilised for hundreds of carrier pigeons housed in three or four tier double-sided boxes which stretched for 100 yards. There was a pistol range on the common south of the road near Old Thatch. Firing was into the hill towards the road. George Wopshott was in charge.

No less dedicated than the Home Guard was the Normandy Fire Brigade. It was formed soon after the outbreak of war with fifteen men and was based at Manor Fruit Farm sharing the ARP post with the wardens. Their equipment consisted of a civilian car with a trailer fire pump supplied by the Fire Service. Although several bombs, including incendiaries, were dropped in the area, the Fire Brigade was seldom called to action, except to put out heath fires. Early in 1945 the station was transferred to the Open Road Garage which was on a site opposite the former Anchor pub. Better facilities were provided and the equipment was increased to two pumps and two towing vehicles. A former member, Sam Gunner, recalled a practice operation when they were required to go to the top of one of the gasholders at Aldershot Gasworks. Halfway up, the lift they were in jammed and they were stuck there for over an hour before they could be rescued. On another occasion the Brigade on a practice exercise set fire to the old Stud Farm in Flexford which was then derelict. They thought that they had put the fire out but in the night it flared up again and it was only at the insistence of the ARP that it was infringing blackout regulations that the Brigade put it out again. Known members of the Brigade were Bill Brown who worked for Guildford Council and lived at 4 Willey Green Cottages, next door to The Duke of Normandy P H, Tom Honeybourne who lived at Wyke Avenue, Alf Godwin the landlord of The Duke of Normandy, Albert Sweet a local postman, Jim Marshall from Clasford Bridge Estate, Charlie Storr who was the local florist and lived opposite the Anchor, Sam Gunner who lived at Sunnyside, Guildford Road and later farmed at Grove Farm, Frog Grove Lane and Charlie Collier who lived on Dolleys Hill. In 1940 Normandy Fire Brigade won the Guildford Civil Defence Committee's Cup competing against 12 strong crews.

Another important unit was the Air Raid Wardens. They wore blue overalls, and a steel helmet emblazoned with a white "W". Their duties included supervising air raid precautions, issuing gas masks and enforcing the blackout. An air raid post was set up in the area as early as 1938 during the Munich Crisis and the blackout began on the night of 1 September 1939. People rushed to buy suitable material such as heavy curtains, black paint, cardboard and black paper. The Normandy unit's post was at Milton's barn in Glaziers Lane. The Chief Warden was Captain Johnson and his deputy was Bill Olley. Other known wardens were Bill Rodgers, the Beer brothers, Mr Milton of the market garden, Mr Steel a Civil Servant, he was the dispatch rider, Mr Norman the rose grower, Mr Puttock who had a fish round, William Wiltshire who had a smallholding and workshop at Lynthorne near the Anchor, Dick Halton the messenger boy, Mrs Bevan, Martin Barlow who was the manager of Hawkins butchers shop, he was also duty butcher for killing air raid damaged cattle and was called to the crash at Merrist Wood and Mr Worster who kept the grocery store. There were also the Fire- Guards who were the junior members of the Civil Defence services. Volunteers of both sexes in the village were trained and controlled by Sector Wardens. Compulsory registration was introduced in 1943, the strength was increased and they were organised as a separate service under their own officers. They were disbanded in 1944.

The Normandy Branch of the British Red Cross Society was formed in February 1938. The members manned the First Aid Post in the village night and day for the first few weeks of the war and were then put on call until May 1945. In 1942 a Normandy member was awarded a cup in a competition for the most efficient nurse in the Division and in 1943 members were honoured to join with detachments from West Surrey to be reviewed by HM Queen Elizabeth at Albury Park. Members worked as auxiliary nurses in the Royal Surrey County Hospital. They also organised dances and fund-raising activities. The Cadet Corps was formed in November 1942 and in June 1944 the Senior Girls won the Challenge Cup for cadets in West Surrey. In acknowledging the enormous effort the Normandy branch had put into raising over £1,200 for the Prisoner of War Fund, the Chairman of the British Red Cross Prisoner of War Department wrote thanking members for their hard work and generosity, stating that he felt those fighting in the other Normandy across the water would have shouted "*long live little Normandy*", had they known. The Red Cross Club was formed from past members of the Normandy branch including Lilian Mew, Secretary for 25 years. Today about 20 members among them Hilda Noldart, Joan Dyson, Rosemary Heggie and Daphne White meet once more in the Church Room for an informal afternoon chat and cup of tea much as they did before.

Other groups such as the WVS were active and the Army, Sea and Air Cadets provided eager young men with a basic training before they went into the Forces. Many women joined the Women's Land Army, among them John Coussmaker's sister, Elizabeth. His aunt, Violet Allott, became the Commandant of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley near Southampton. Sir Philip Henriques was Chairman of East Surrey Civil Defence.

The Normandy branch of the British Legion was opened in 1936. Members supported various activities during the war including National Savings Weeks and Horse Shows and Gymkhanas. They also provided financial aid for alleviating distress among local ex-Service men. The Women's Section organised working parties to provide knitted comforts for the Services. They also took part in fund-raising activities.

The Wyke and Normandy Women's Institute rose to the occasion by contributing over 1000lbs of jam to the National larder. They also played a part in a Pie Scheme and knitted garments including many for refugees in Europe. Thousands of swabs were made for the hospital and voluntary workers helped in wards.

Everyday life was changed. There were to be no more flower shows at Westwood House, no children's sports or military band concerts. Gas masks had been issued during the Munich Crisis in 1938 and Identity Cards were instituted at the outbreak of war. Soon after, arrangements were put in hand to evacuate children from areas likely to be at risk from enemy air attack. Some evacuees were billeted in Normandy. A family from Penge who had been bombed out was housed in the brickyard cottages. Unlike in the previous conflict, rationing of foodstuffs was initiated early in the war beginning with bacon, butter and sugar on 8 January 1940. Meat followed in March and from July tea, cooking fats, jam, cheese, eggs and milk were rationed. A points system was started for breakfast cereals, biscuits and tinned food. Clothes rationing started in June 1941 with a points system and Utility clothing designed to make best use of available materials was introduced. Stockings were in short supply and women coloured their legs with tan cream or gravy browning. Utility furniture was also introduced. The opening of British Restaurants where a plain square meal was available at a reasonable price alleviated the shortages somewhat. National Dried Milk and Eggs made their appearance and some people were lucky enough to receive food parcels from abroad. Children who were large for their age were allowed extra rations and points for clothing. In order to qualify they had to be measured and weighed on the butcher's scales.

We are told now that wartime rationing ensured a balanced and nutritious diet although it did not seem like it at the time and women often did without to give more to their men-folk, but at least it gave fair shares to all. In the country, as always, the odd rabbit or pheasant did not come amiss and many people kept chicken in their back yards. Publicans were given a quota of beer that was intended for their regular customers and strangers were not always welcome.

In August 1942 there were still fears of invasion of this country and it was decided to set up emergency reserves of food to be distributed as emergency rations if the worst should happen. The ration was to be sufficient for eight days and it was intended to be distributed only if normal supplies failed. In Normandy, the distribution centres were at Longerend Farm, the ARP post at Manor Fruit Farm, West Flexford House and Orchardene. It was organised by E S Hose who lived at the Manor House and was coordinated by Major Darby of Orchardene.

Petrol rationing was started on 23 September 1939. The personal ration was later abolished and there was petrol only for essential purposes. The few cars were taken off the road and put on blocks with their radiators drained for the duration. Owners were advised to turn over the engines once a month. Speed restrictions were introduced and white lines painted on kerbs and lamp-posts. Even so, with the handicap of masked headlights travelling in the blackout became a real hazard and road casualties rose. As fuel shortages became more severe some buses were fuelled with producer gas made from coke and water in foul-smelling little trolleys towed behind.

Some families were issued with Anderson air raid shelters that consisted of six curved sheets of corrugated steel bolted together with flat sheets at each end. The construction was half buried in the ground and the top covered in soil. Although proved effective on numerous occasions, the shelters were cold and damp and many people preferred to take their chance under the stairs in the house. Those with no gardens were given Morrison shelters that looked like a large steel table with wire mesh around the sides. These were used inside the house. Many people made good use of their Anderson shelters by planting marrows in the earth on top. This had the dual advantage of providing a food crop and disguising the stark outline of the shelter. Others even grew mushrooms inside. Schools usually had brick-built surface shelters. There was one at Wyke School.

Civilian morale was kept up in various ways including exhibitions of captured war material and wrecked enemy aircraft. Slogans were printed on paper bags and fund-raising activities encouraged. Ash and Normandy were congratulated by Guildford RDC for being the most successful district in raising money for the Spitfire Fund in 1940. Warship Weeks were also held. During one such Week, an event was described in the Aldershot News of 13 February 1942, when a large and appreciative audience in Normandy Village Hall enjoyed an entertainment by the Army Physical Training Corps. The programme included fencing, boxing, tricks with rifles (hopefully not loaded) and humorous sketches. Sergeant Tom Cullis, the English soccer captain demonstrated ball control. BBC broadcasts on the "Home" and "Forces" services like "ITMA" and "Bandwagon" helped to raise spirits and on a higher intellectual level there was "The Brains Trust". Cinemas, before the advent of universal television, were popular as an escape from dreary wartime conditions. There were blockbusters such as "Gone with the Wind" and sentimental offerings like "Mrs. Miniver" and "Brief Encounter". The Theatre Royal and Hippodrome in Aldershot were still going strong and playing to packed houses. The Germans did their best to undermine morale, the most blatant manifestation being the broadcasts by William Joyce known to the British Public as "Lord Haw-Haw". His material consisted of lies cunningly laced with a few true facts and his nasal tones always beginning a broadcast with "*Jairmany calling, Jairmany calling*" earned almost universal contempt.

The Vokes Company, who made industrial filter equipment, had been bombed out of their factory at Putney early in the war and their work was considered so vital that the Air Ministry told them to find a place outside London and get back into production as soon as possible, for which the Ministry would subsidise the move. Their search ended when they found that the Henley Park Estate was on the market and the Company bought it for £50,000 complete with 500 acres of land and several houses. Dispersion of factories had been initiated by the Shadow Factories scheme and had the advantage of the factory being less conspicuous than in a town and being able to soak up local labour. The factory was built for Vokes by the Ministry who conformed to their ideas for the best layout to minimise the effect of an air attack, the workshops being dispersed over a wide area and built at different angles so that a blast would affect few of them directly. Vokes gave employment for many people in the village and further afield and transport was provided to bus people to work. The products were essential for the war effort especially in dusty conditions like those prevailing in the Middle East. Aircraft, tanks and other vehicles were provided with filters to enable them to withstand the conditions that would otherwise have caused rapid wear and failure. Vokes later started to diversify and opened a factory in Alton to manufacture artificial limbs. Ironically, some local people from Normandy were bussed to this new location to work. Various other manufactories opened up, some of them very small and local garages and even home workshops were pressed into service to produce small engineering parts.

The writer recalls that during the war life was exciting for a schoolboy and as a newcomer to the village soon made friends with another lad who shared a passion for aeroplanes and introduced me to the delights of the Royal Aircraft Establishment airfield. We would go there on our bikes and press our noses to the security fence in the hope of seeing an aircraft that even the "Aeroplane Spotter" (3d each fortnight) which we both read avidly, had not been able to publish.

As the conflict wore on, the dogfights of the Battle of Britain period gave way to sporadic raids. The Royal Aircraft Establishment was bombed on a few occasions and there was some damage done in Guildford and Aldershot. It was estimated that about thirty large bombs dropped within the borders of Normandy parish. However, only minor damage occurred in Normandy. A string of four bombs was dropped south to north, the first one landing near the British Legion hut. The next one cleared the houses and fell behind some kennels. The third ended up in a field and the last in a wood without exploding. A report stated that an aerial torpedo was dropped on the western side of the stream going under Glaziers Lane. This failed to detonate but was found 25 feet down in the earth. What a torpedo was doing so far from the sea was not explained. A land mine was dropped near Tunnel Hill on the ranges. John Mullard recalled that the explosion lifted his bed off the floor but when he asked his father what he should do the reply was "*It's a bit late now, go to sleep*". He was told later by the village policeman that the land mine had felled a swathe of pine trees of about half a mile in diameter fanning out from the centre of the explosion. Finally, what was reputed to be the second Doodlebug (flying bomb) to land on British soil ended up in the sewage farm near Elm Hill, an appropriate resting place for such a weapon.

Several aircraft crashed in the area including a Dornier bomber that came down near the Anchor but the most tragic incident occurred in 1941. On the night of 10 March, a Halifax bomber returning from its first raid on enemy territory was hit by "friendly fire" and the wreckage crashed at Merrist Wood just inside the parish boundary. Four of the crew were killed but two survived by bailing out. In 1996 a new golf course was being laid out and a rescue operation recovered an almost intact Merlin engine and other parts from the aircraft. The spot is marked at the 14th green on the golf course by a plaque.

A memorial service was held in March 1997 when the plaque was dedicated. Among the guests were three local people who, as children, visited the site shortly after the crash and were able to help in pinpointing the exact spot where the aircraft crashed.

As the fortunes of war began to turn in the Allies' favour, preparations for the invasion of the continent were made. Military units were moved into the area and there was much activity with Army vehicles. Patrick 'Pat' Lewis, born in Newfoundland and in 1943/44 serving with the Canadian forces in this area, recalls that the Hog's Back was an official Tank Storage and Maintenance Depot where the tanks were awaiting dispersal in preparation for the D-Day landings. Pat subsequently married and lives with his wife in Farnham. The Hog's Back was lined with tanks and a force of Canadians were encamped in a field opposite South Lodge in Westwood Lane. The Avenue between Westwood Lane and Glaziers Lane was jammed with vehicles. At last D-Day dawned and the sky was black with aircraft, many of them towing gliders, en route for the other Normandy. Richard Dimpleby made a broadcast announcing the invasion from a BBC blockhouse that had been built at what is now the junction of Culls Road with Christmaspie Avenue and is commemorated by a plaque.

Peace Once More

The announcement of VE-Day was greeted with universal rejoicing and relief although it was recognised that the Japanese were still to be dealt with. The Normandy, Wanborough and District Club had helped to organise hospitality to members of the Forces. They were also active in fund-raising and the ladies held knitting classes. On VE-Day the club was open to all for refreshments provided free and there was a Social Evening. VJ-Day was celebrated in a similar manner and the following day was devoted to the children of the village, for whom sports and a tea was organised. The festivities in Normandy culminated in a Victory Day on 8 June 1946 when the celebrations were held in Westwood Lane during the day and at the village hall in the evening. The events included a Fancy Dress Parade and Sports with free refreshments for the children and Old Time dancing in the evening. Some people may still have their souvenir programmes that were issued for the Day, price sixpence. The programme contained a poem by an unknown local Wordsworth entitled "Normandy Home Guard" and is reproduced overleaf.

The names of those who were killed in World War II were added to the War Memorial. The memorial remains the focus of the annual Remembrance Day observances in the village. As well as the village War Memorial there is a roll of honour in St. Mark's Church which remembers the dead of the two world wars. Those who fell in the first conflict are also commemorated in Ash Cemetery Chapel where there is a beautiful stained glass window of three lancet lights, which depict appropriate biblical events. Beneath the window is a brass plate with a fitting verse inscription. The window was presented by H M Chester of Poyle Park.

Fifty years on in 1995, the anniversary of the end of the war was honoured in the village. From 6 to 9 May the anniversary of VE Day was celebrated with numerous attractions on the recreation ground and in the village hall. The events included games, races and a tea party for the children, maypole dancing, an art exhibition and a dog agility display. A celebration beacon was lit at 8pm on 8 May followed by a maroon for two minutes silence. After this there was a barn dance and fireworks display and the proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

On Saturday 19 August the anniversary of VJ Day was celebrated on the recreation ground in a like manner to that on 8 May and on Sunday 20 August there were remembrance services at St. Mark's Church, Wyke, Emmanuel Free Church and St. Mary's RC Church. As in World War I, privations brought people closer together. There was more sense of community and shared experience. In spite of later upheavals, crises and shifts of population, something of this spirit is still present today.

NORMANDY HOME GUARD

The appeal on the wireless was answered
The locals foregathered that night
The Defence Volunteers were started
And arms were brought to the light.

"Form fours" - we found that dead easy
Till an order from Council decreed
That threes were the ones that were needed
But no one was able to lead.

Bisley we had for one forenoon
Crack shots we intended to seek,
Bad marksmen, however, were many
But improved by the end of the week.

One night, in September '40,
Our church bells were heard to ring,
We mustered in twenty-two minutes,
Our arms slung about us with string.

We guarded the posts till the morning,
Taking the smooth with the rough,
We stuck it till "fourteen-thirty"
And then called the enemy's bluff.

Enough of the German invasion,
The Home Guard were taking the lead
With Monty in charge of our tactics,
What more could Normandy need.

Then training was started in earnest
Twelve sorts of rifle to sight,
Grenades from Molotov cocktails,
To things that went "bang", if worked right.

The Assault Course now fills our horizon,
Fire, water, smoke, shouting and mud,
Any hanging about in the tunnel
The NFS nipped in the bud.

Training all sorts, shapes and sizes,
Good, bad, indifferent and fair,
Till the Company at last assembled
Right here on our own village square.

Addresses and thanks in profusion,
To say nothing of clothes we might keep,
But what the Home Guardsmen were after,
Was a night out, with the lads, once a week.

For writing this very poor doggerel,
We apologise now to you all,
But when you feel cross and disgruntled,
Remember, we answered your call.

Postscript

In spite of all the hopes for world peace, mistrust and antagonism between the Western Powers and the Soviet Union with its satellites burgeoned. Fears of a third world war were heightened when the Soviet Union became the third nuclear power and proceeded to build up stocks of bombs and missiles. The period was known as the "Cold War" and at first it was thought that nothing could be done for the civilian population in the event of a nuclear conflict.

It was belatedly realised that there could be survivors and organisation would become necessary. In December 1980 the Chairman of Surrey County Council issued a statement which ran as follows: *"Whilst there is a possibility of a nuclear attack on the United Kingdom - however remote that may be - there is a moral and statutory duty on all leaders to ensure that contingency plans are made in peacetime to mitigate the effects that this type of attack would inflict upon the survivors of the population for whom they are responsible. Any nuclear attack would disrupt communications and the resulting radio-active fallout might isolate local communities, which would then have to fend for themselves and be completely self-reliant until such time that communications could once again be established with their District Council headquarters."*

This resulted in the Community Team concept being introduced in Surrey. All councils were expected to acquire some expertise and Douglas Backhurst and Ted Gray attended lectures in Guildford entitled "A Guide to Communities for Survival in War". However, there were others including the ladies of the WRVS who were determined to do their bit and I cannot do better than to quote Sally Helm's account:

"There were those of us who having done the WRVS Emergency Training Course realised our lack of resources here in Normandy and most particularly our lack of information. In fact, the questions were never-ending, beginning with how to lessen the effects of radiation in our own homes; what expertise did we have here in the village in the realms of Community Health, keeping law and order, first aid, communications? (had we a radio ham?). Had we a Fire Officer and would he know the location of pumps, generators, etc.? What did we have in the way of heavy duty trucks, bulldozers for the clearance of roads, blocks of material to repair damaged buildings, bulk holdings of fuel, including petrol, diesel, coal and wood, and food? Who were our plumbers, carpenters and engineers? Who had we who could run a community kitchen and where could it be located? Where did our water come from and how safe would it be to use?"

With many of these questions in mind, Daphne McSweeney and I decided to attend the weekly lectures in the Guildford "Bunker". In the event of central administration breaking down, it would be from here that this whole area would be administered. The Bunker was given a low profile. Woking had declared itself a "Nuclear Free Zone" and it was thought that there could be objections to the existence of the Bunker and in particular from the students under whose building it was situated.

We discovered that Normandy had been divided in two. The Anchor and Wyke School had been designated Community Control Centres and the Scout Hut the mortuary. Little else had been committed to paper. Nothing daunted we set out to learn what we could and found most of it interesting. We learnt to use radiac survey meters that measured levels of radioactivity and to calculate the rate of decay in radioactive fallout. We learnt how bodies should be labelled for burial and farm animal carcasses disposed of; how to remove fallout particles and dissolved radioactive material from water; safe food storage and what

would be and would not be safe to eat. We visited the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation Control Centre at Dorking but this was in connection with the WRVS. In retrospect perhaps the most important aspect of this exercise was that we made ourselves known to those who, if the worst scenario came about, would be in the Bunker and in control of everything from supplies to manpower for the whole area. We like to think that they would also know that there would be order and organisation in Normandy!"

With the collapse of Communism in Europe in the late 1980s, the precautions were deemed to be no longer necessary and the organisation was rapidly run down.

CONCLUSION

*Present mirth hath present laughter
What's to come is still unsure.*

*Twelfth Night
William Shakespeare*

In this survey of the last hundred years of Normandy we have seen how the coming of the railway transformed the life of the community giving new opportunities for advancement. This was quickened by the rise of road transport and the displacement of the horse from its position in the rural economy. Increased mobility enabled people to engage in occupations outside the village and the move away from a mainly agricultural society was begun.

Almost every family in the village felt the effect of World War I and the hitherto rigid social structure that was a barrier to change began to break down. Women found a greater freedom and increased importance and power in society after the parliamentary reforms of the franchise.

The period between the wars saw an increase in the population and many more houses were built on land released by the break-up of the large estates in the area. A sense of community was fostered by the many clubs and societies which flourished and better amenities improved the quality of life.

Successive Acts of Parliament strengthened the powers of local government and increased the spread of representation over working, middle and upper classes. A high point for the village was reached with the achievement of independent parish status for Normandy in 1955. The provision of council owned houses began the improvement in housing conditions for the general public and the move away from insanitary and damp dwellings that had so bedevilled the life of the agricultural worker in the past. Later the possibility of home ownership for people of modest means encouraged the building of more private housing estates. The opportunity for tenants of council properties to purchase them as has occurred at Walden Cottages has further spread home ownership.

The community was generally spared from the deprivations of the Depression years. It probably benefited from the migration of families bringing new blood into the village from other parts of the United Kingdom. World War II was to have different effects on the community to that of the first conflict. Happily the number of men from the village who did not return from the war was not so great in proportion as was the case in World War I. The establishment of Vokes' factory gave opportunities for employment to more people. Greater mechanisation on the land led to a further drift away from agriculture and the final break-up of the landed estates, which altered the pattern of farming. The village was spared the devastation of bombing visited upon the urban areas. The few bombs dropped in the parish caused little damage and no casualties. Shared experiences and deprivation strengthened the community spirit.

After the war, increased affluence led to a rise in car ownership and the decline in the use of public transport. The ubiquity of the private car has contributed to the decline of the village shops and the attraction of supermarkets with easy parking outside towns has proved irresistible. Very few people are now employed in agriculture and European policies have also had their effect. The increased mobility of

labour and the professions has produced an element of shift in the population but has also contributed to enterprise and variety in community life.

Normandy remains a scattered community. The contrast of the hungry heathlands to the north and the heavy clay to the south has affected the pattern of settlement of the area and Green Belt regulations have restricted growth elsewhere. But what of the future? With increased pressure to relax regulations and Government requirements to provide more houses in the South East Region, it seems inevitable that change is on the way. It is likely that in the future the scattered hamlets that make up present day Normandy will coalesce into a larger unit in much the same way that Ash has developed. The occupation of the heathlands by the military to prevent northward spread could continue to be a factor. Although the loss of the rural character of the village would be deplored, benefits could accrue. A larger and more prosperous community could provide better amenities. Great hopes reside in the Manor Fruit Farm Project with its opportunity to replace our crumbling village hall with a well-designed modern structure and the provision of a variety of sports and leisure facilities. In the future this could become the green heart of an integrated village.

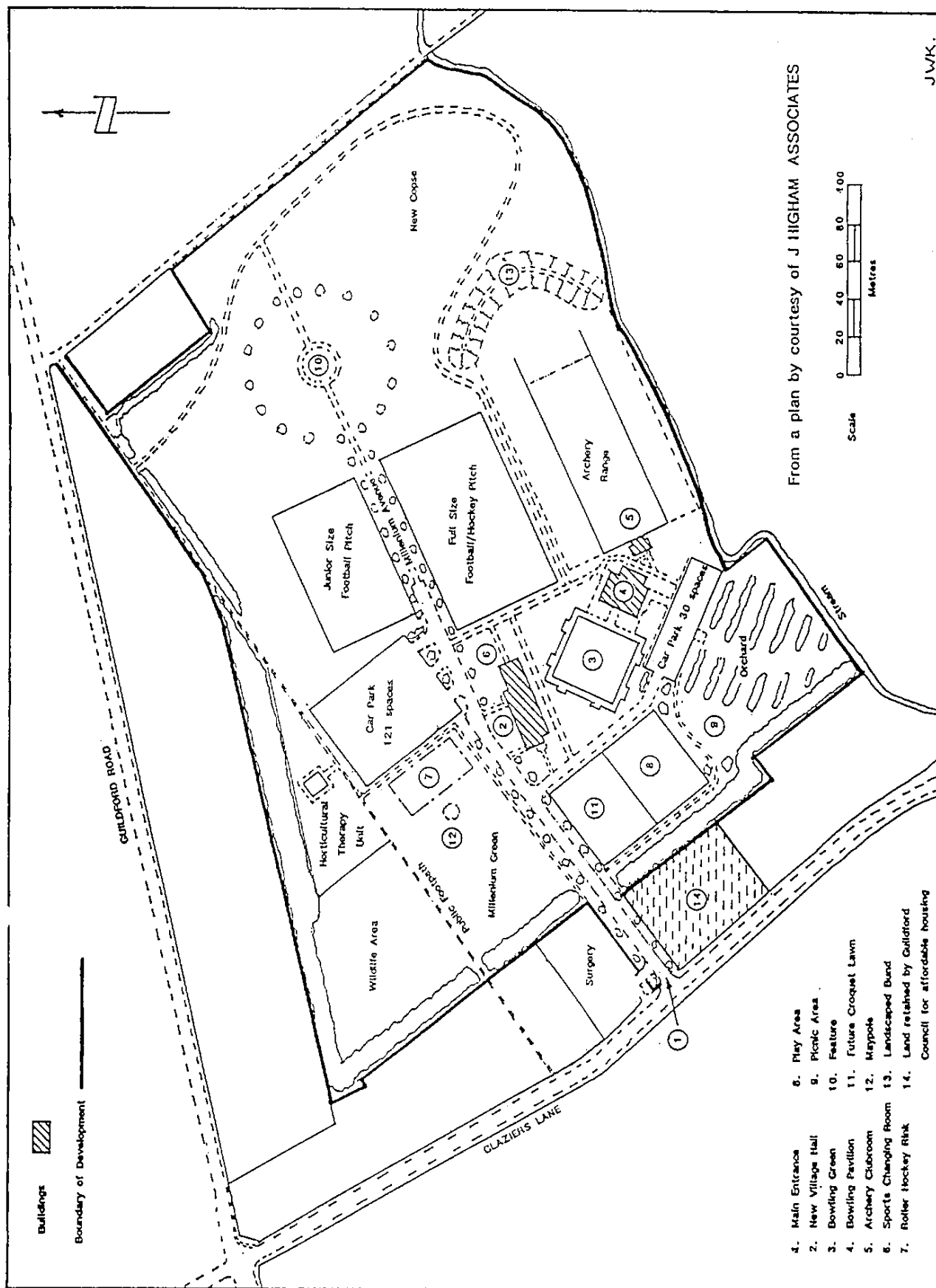


Figure 31 Proposed development of the Manor Fruit Farm site

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Abbreviations:	GMR Guildford Muniment Room	HRO Hampshire Record Office
	PRO Public Record Office	SHC Surrey History Centre, Woking
	SLSL Surrey Local Studies Library	SRO Surrey Record Office, Kingston

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**MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT
OF NORMANDY HISTORIANS
1987-2000**

Ann Adey, Bill Adey, Mark and Pat Ashworth, Kathleen Backhurst and Family, Doris Battersby, Bill and Myrtle Beale, Blackwell Family, Peter and Audrey Blakiston, Malcolm Bridger, Audrey Brown, Daphne Butler, Alan Capelle, Rod and Kate Castle, Pam Chant, David and Rosemary Charles, Maidie Chattaway, Jim Chisnall, Cosh Family, Albert Cunningham, Joyce Davis, Bessie Dearsley, Joan Dyson, Norma and Sydney Foster, John Franks, Wendy Gardiner, Patrick and Valerie Giles, Green Family, Vanden Grimley, Graham and Alycia Hall, Bob Hammond, Iris Harwood, Sally Helm, Frances Howard-Pearce and Family, Catherine Hirst, Jack Kinder, Rev. Andrew Knowles, Keith and Mary Lamont, Jean Levers, Betty and David Luck, Anne Lyon, Diana and Kenneth Marchant, the late Winifred Mason, the late Tony and Daphne McSweeney, Ann and Cholmeley Messer, Barbara and John Milne, Sir James and Lady Eira Nursaw, Brian and Liz Oliver, Peter and Shirley Padley-Smith, David and Morag Palmer, Don Plumley, Margaret Ray, Brenda Robison, Anne and the late Robin Seymour, Jane Shaughnessy, the late Kevin Shaughnessy, Helen Shea, the late Joan Shephard, Clare and John Sherwood, Sally Sherwood and Family, Diana and Frank Smith, John and Sheila Squier, David and Monica Taylor, Peter Trevaskis, Judy and the late Newman Turner, Peter West and Family, Mike and Sue Westbrook, Neville Wheatley, Windsor Family, the late Stella Woodcock.

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Normandy Parish Council, March 2000 at the Royal British Legion Club, Normandy

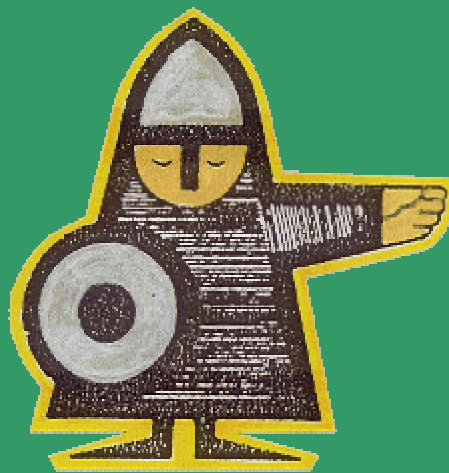
***Left to Right John A (Tony) Higham, John A Milne, Douglas C Backhurst, Michael E Laws (Clerk),
Albert J Cunningham (Chairman), Gillian E Nevin.***

Not present: Irene J Merritt and Peter J Palmer.

Early in 1987, the Normandy Parish Council expressed its deep concern that knowledge and memories of past village life would be irretrievably lost with the demise of elderly residents, known to have been born in the locality or to have lived the best part of their life in Normandy.

The Chairman and Clerk of the Council, therefore, invited a small group of residents, keen to form a Local History Group, to a private meeting on 23 February 1987 to consider how best to alleviate the concern of the Council.

The group proposed that a Society be formed to record initially the last 100 years of social and cultural living within the village and to launch the project and its objects at a Special Parish Meeting convened for that purpose.



The meeting, attended by about 150 parishioners, was held in the Normandy Village Hall on 18 May 1987 and unanimously determined that a society be formed (suggested title NORMANDY HISTORIANS) with terms of reference “to record and publish the last 100 years history of Normandy in a form acceptable to the Parish Council and for the Council, within reasonable terms, to assist financially in the project”.

The inaugural meeting of the Society was held 14 July 1987 when Bill Adey (previously Chairman of the Steering Committee) was elected Chairman together with an effective management team elected from the 30 persons present. The first Executive Committee meeting was held 23 September 1987. A formal Constitution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting held 11 October 1989.

The logo of the Society, now affectionately known as “Norman”, was used during 1991 in the preparation work for the Wanborough Station Centenary Celebration held in September of that year. Although never officially adopted, “Norman”, a much admired addition to the title of the Society has remained ever since. He is, of course, a caricature of a warrior, holding his shield of defence in what is normally considered to be the fighting hand, and dressing (a military term) to the left, which again is contrary to normal military drill! He is, however, symbolic of all Local Study Groups, in that he is the Defender of the past and Herald of the future.