

Newdigate Society Magazine

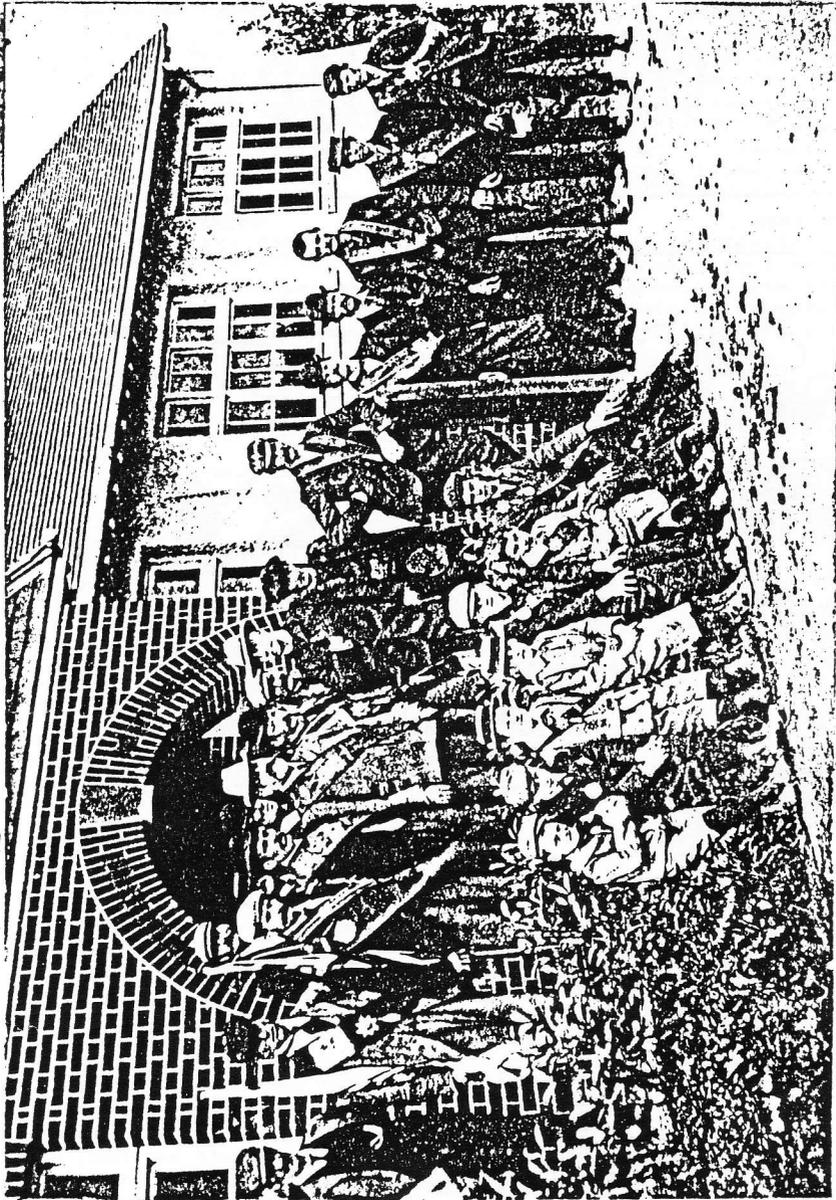
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AT THE OPENING OF THE VILLAGE HALL IN 1901

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

We continue to meet or talk to people who are interested in their family's connections with Newdigate. We have corresponded with Mr. Dendy Evershed, whose forebears lived at Chaffold's Farm. Their names appear in the Newdigate registers from 1560 to about 1730. Mr. Evershed believes that nearly all those bearing the family name today are descended from these Newdigate residents. We have also met with Mrs. Gwen Mundy of Reigate, whose grandmother Emily Burberry was born in Newdigate in 1831. We have been able to give her a copy of the Burberry family tree back a further five generations to a John, born in 1666, who came to the parish in about 1700 and started what proved to be a large and important farming family and one that remained in the parish for 250 years. Mrs. Mundy's great-grandmother was the daughter of James Humphrey, the grocer who is mentioned in our article on the Old Bakehouse. In turn Mrs. Mundy showed us a diary, dated 1850, kept by her grandfather Frank Bridger, a tailor and later the landlord of the Dolphin in Betchworth, in which he mentions a visit to the 'Newdigate club'. As you will see from our article in this magazine this predates the formation of the Club as we know it by 50 years. So what was this earlier club?

Our thanks are due to Richard Harris of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum and to Joan Harding of the Domestic Buildings Research Group for their help in giving the technical information used in the article on the Old Bakehouse. Mr. Harris has indicated that he will be happy to join us one evening to give us a talk based on his knowledge of old buildings. We will let you know when this has been arranged.

We include an article by Joyce Banks which she has contributed following the article on Newdigate Frizzle in our last magazine. We welcome very much any contribution like this, which adds to our knowledge of the subjects covered by our articles and hope that others may be encouraged to write down their comments. Similarly we welcome the paper on his family history written by Mr. Henry Risbridger.

From our collection of old records we are now able to help people searching for information about their ancestors, but will our successors in the Society be able to give similar information in 60 to 100 years time about the village and its inhabitants today? We have a responsibility, we think, to future generations to put on file now information about ourselves and our immediate forebears. If you would like to add any such information to our files we will be pleased to receive it.

FUTURE EVENTS

The next meeting in the Village Hall, at which all members will be welcome is the A.G.M. of the Surrey Local History Council on Sunday July 17th at 2.15 p.m., when the Society will act as hosts. The business of the meeting will last about 30 minutes, after which John Callcut will give an illustrated talk on the 'History of Newdigate'. We hope to follow this with a visit to Nyes Place, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Capel, and to Gildings barns, old and new, by kind permission of Peter Hall. Please support us and help us to show our guests how friendly is our village.

On Saturday September 17th we shall be mounting another Open Day exhibition of our increasing collection in the Village Hall. Doors will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE RISBRIDGER FAMILY

By Henry J. Risbridger

It might be of interest to trace briefly the movements of a Surrey family around the south of the county; a family - my direct line - which until the present century won a living from the soil, first as freeholders and later as tenant farmers, dwelling for two periods in the Newdigate parish.

The Risbridgers take their name from a brushwood bridge or causeway on Run Common. Their earliest records are traced in the Wyntershall (Bramley) manor court rolls dated 1320, and the 1332 Subsidy Assessments recording John atte Rysbrug. Towards the close of the fourteenth century another John married Christina Cooke, daughter and heir of Peter Cooke, and thereby inherited Cooke's Place, Albury. The route of this romance can still be traced through the Surrey lanes via Woodhill and Farley Heath to the house which clearly shows parts of the original and subsequent developments. Although a branch of the family continued here until 1745, another branch moved to Shere in 1511 where three generations appear as Churchwarden in the Book of Reckoning. During the Shere period they acquired Shere farm and farmhouse and the manor of Shere eborum. In 1600 yet another John married Joan Steere of Jayes, Ockley, a contemporary and probably a relation of the Rev. George Steere, Rector of Newdigate for forty-four years. William their eldest surviving son married Agnes Baxe of Ockley; he died at an early age, leaving an only son and two daughters. John and Joan's youngest son, also John, was the head of a line of clockmakers in Dorking. Some of their clocks survive.

The line continues through John, only son of William and Agnes, first at Stylehurst, Ockley and at the end of the century at Clarkes, Capel, then owned by John Stone of the Nunnery, Rusper, whose daughter Ann he had married in 1666. John died at Clarkes in 1694 leaving Ann a widow with six sons and one daughter. We leave her for the present to follow Thomas her fourth surviving son. He eloped with Elizabeth Benson, daughter of the late Vicar of Betchworth, whom he married in 1702 and by whom he had two sons, John and Henry, both born in Betchworth where Elizabeth died in 1712. There is some evidence that Thomas remarried and had further children at Bletchingley, but he is recorded in Newdigate by 1723. Two of Ann's elder sons John and Henry had died but in that year Ann and her four surviving sons disposed of Shere farm and farmhouse and the manor of Shere eborum, when they too are described as 'of Newdigate'. Ann, widow of Line (Lyne) died in 1728. From the limited evidence available it is assumed that the family were at Lyne in the old farmhouse - then probably owned by the Steeres - for twenty to thirty years, some fifty years before the rebuilding during the Broadwood occupation.

In 1729 there is an entry in the Dorking manor court rolls - unfortunately written in Latin - relating to a property named Trahurst giving details of the family:- her sons Thomas of Newdigate, Joseph of Newdigate, Robert of Newdigate and Edward of Horsham - and her grandson John, son of Thomas of Charlwood, carpenter. Trahurst was probably Tanhurst, or Tanhouse, for Thomas in the sale document of the Shere property had been described as a tanner, and may already have been resident there. Joseph was described simply as a gentleman and both Robert and Edward as farmers. Although Edward was 'of Horsham' it is in the Rusper parish register that the baptism of his children are recorded and he is here described as 'of Newdigate' This lends further weight to the belief that the family were associated with Lyne.

In 1727 Robert was a churchwarden of Newdigate, but all family burials at that time were in Capel, which was a centre for the Quakers. We know that the family were non-Conformist in the nineteenth century so it seems possible that they were already of the persuasion. The Friends meeting house in Capel is built on land bought by the Quakers from Joseph Risbridger for £7 in 1723.

John, son of Thomas, who married Mary Mott in the old parish church at Dorking, emerges as the heir. They had a family of four sons and five daughters in the parish of Charlwood, but in a detached part of the parish at Sidlow Mill, where the Mole crosses the old Brighton road. After Mary died in 1753 John had a further family of six sons and one daughter, although with one exception the parish registers are silent: all is revealed in John's will. Our line continues through Benjamin, the third son of this second family. He married Mary Humphrey, probably a daughter of a Betchworth family, at Ifield, returning to Betchworth, his father's birthplace. By 1799 he was farming Gadbrook Farm, which various members of the family occupied until 1866.

This paragraph taken from 'Local History of England' by W.G.Hopkins helps us to visualise the changes taking place in the country at this time. "The men and women of the nineteenth century witnessed the destruction of a world, a material world as old as man himself. Up to the nineteenth century men had depended on their own exertions to win a living from the earth. This world, a world dependent upon human muscle power and the muscular power of draught animals was a product of thousands of years of development. It was not a primitive world, it was not an uncivilised world, above all it was not an uncultured world. All the primary needs of humanity, material and spiritual were met, and met adequately. It was a hand-made world throughout, a slow world, a world without power, a world in which things were made one by one. Unless we keep this continually in mind and think ourselves back imaginatively into such a hand-made world we shall never understand the immeasurably slow process by which the English landscape down to the nineteenth century came into being and much of its beauty and fascination will for ever escape us."

Of Benjamin and Mary's family of six sons, John the youngest continued at Gadbrook farm. It was he who in 1833 built the little Independent chapel at Gadbrook where in the chapel yard he, his wife and only daughter are buried. His brother Joseph married Sarah Frank at Betchworth in 1817 and took Gaterounds Farm in Newdigate as tenant of the Duke of Norfolk. It was sixteen years later that their only child Joseph was born. He, this second Joseph, married Mary Wonham, daughter of Thomas Wonham, back in the same village Albury but not in the same church as his direct ancestors. Thomas Wonham was then farming at Albury, but may have been a relation of the Newdigate Wonhams, the subject of an earlier article. It is interesting to reflect on their life at Gaterounds. Thanks to the research of the Society the boundaries of the farm and all the field names are known. Farming was in decline, prices had slumped, with minimum machinery working on the heavy Newdigate clay, it must have been hard to win a living. There was the yearly round, ploughing, sowing, haymaking, harvesting, threshing and ditching, and the inevitable cider press.

They were non-conformist, births being recorded in the registers of the Independent Chapel in West Street, Dorking. Joseph and Mary's children had bible names; Solomon, John, Sarah and Jabez. They were fortunate to have sons to work as cheap labour on the family farm. On Sunday mornings they would go by horse and cart to attend divine service

at Gadbrook chapel and in the evenings Joseph would hold a service in the farmhouse. It is only in recent years that the pulpit there has been removed. He gave shelter to itinerant tramps in spite of the opposition of the village policeman; youngest son Jabez, my father, was detailed to check that they carried no matches before taking them to rest on the straw of the hovel, and how thankful some were for a secure night's rest. Two generations of Josephs and their wives are buried at Gadbrook.

The close of the nineteenth century saw the end of those hard but happy days, close to the soil, as the sons turned to the trades of the future.

THE OLD BAKEHOUSE, NEWDIGATE

By John Callcut

Just to the south of the Village Stores is a small building which many years ago served as the bakehouse for the village. The structure itself is of interest as it has undergone a series of changes and additions since it was first erected. The left hand side is timber framed and dates from the seventeenth century. It has a very wide door and ripple-stoned floor and it is thought that it probably served as an abattoir for the butcher's shop. (This shop is now the front room of Wirmwood and it is still possible to see the meat hooks around the porch, and the extra wide door for carrying in the sides of meat.)

In the eighteenth century a bread oven was built next to the abattoir but it must have fallen into disuse because there is no mention of a baker in the 1841 Census. However towards the end of the nineteenth century the oven part was demolished as it was probably worn out and was rebuilt. This can clearly be seen as two types of brickwork are in evidence - Flemish Bond in the older and English Bond in the later parts. The bakery was operated in the early part of this century by Walter Carpenter, the father of Bob and John, who still live in the village. For a small consideration villagers could utilise the cooling oven during the day for cooking their own cakes and buns and at Christmas time they would bring their poultry to be cooked, as generally their own ovens were too small.

The bakehouse again fell into disuse in the 1930s, due to competition from Whittinghams in the "Old Bakery" opposite. Similarly no doubt the abattoir was disused, much earlier, due to the opening about 1905 of the larger slaughterhouse behind the Forester Villas. (Now the offices of Lawrence Law & Associates)

Since bread was last baked the building has been used solely for storage and has subsequently deteriorated and fallen into disrepair. However the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton have recently carried out a complete survey of the structure and will shortly be removing it brick by brick. It is to be re-erected close to the Lurgashall Mill at Singleton and will again be used for baking bread using traditional methods including the use of faggots. It will be known as the Newdigate Bakehouse and visitors will be able to see and smell the bread being baked. Just beside the bakehouse is a small derelict building currently used as a paraffin store. The museum will also be rebuilding this as it was originally a workshop, possibly used by the shoemaker James Farindon in the 1840s. By 1850 he had taken over from his father-in-law James Humphrey as grocer at the Village Stores and his family remained there until Alfred Dean took over in the 1890s.

Now that the Community Centre is preparing to extend the Village Hall it is appropriate to look back to see how and why the original building came to be constructed.

The first reference we have found is in the Parish Magazine of October 1900 when, under the heading of "The Men's Club and Reading Room", the report read "before long we are hoping to see this begun. The first plan was not considered to be quite satisfactory and consequently there was some delay in preparing of others. Those which have now been submitted by a firm of architects in London have been accepted, and so soon as they have been passed by the District Council, the building will be commenced. When it is completed we shall be the fortunate possessor of a Club House charmingly situated in the centre of the village, very picturesque from the outside and very comfortable and well arranged within. There will be a large club room and a smaller room opening out of it where those who want to read or to see the papers may be quiet and undisturbed. A caretaker's cottage will be attached, so that the Club may be well kept and attended to. We shall all await its completion with interest and look forward to the day when it is opened for our enjoyment and use. It may not be generally known that Mrs. Farnell-Watson is most generously presenting this much needed addition to our village in memory of her husband, the late W. Farnell-Watson Esq. and Newdigate people will not soon forget the debt of gratitude we owe her for her gift." (William Farnell-Watson lived at Henfold House and owned much of the land in the village. He had been a great benefactor to the village and his sudden death at the age of 44 in December 1897 had been a great shock. His widow Bessie, then aged 29, was his second wife. She died in February 1950 at the age of 82.)

In February 1901 it was reported that Mrs. Farnell-Watson had consented to lay the memorial stone, originally arranged for February but in the event performed on April 27th. This was a Saturday and had been chosen specially so that many of the parishioners could be present. The ceremony was reported by the Parish Magazine as follows: "At the hour named a large number of parishioners had assembled at the Club-house, and when the choir, robed and led by Mr. Warner (who kindly came from Dorking to conduct the singing) entered the Club-room it was nearly filled. The Rector asked Colonel Graves to present Mrs. Farnell-Watson with a silver trowel, subscribed for by over 120 of the men of Newdigate, and subsequently he asked Mr. Hackwood to read an illuminated address, thanking her for her great kindness in presenting so generous and so valuable a gift to the parish. A short service followed, beginning with a hymn and a prayer, and then headed by the choir, all present proceeded outside to the place where the Memorial Stone was to be laid in the south wall of the building.

A large bottle containing several papers announcing our late Queen's death, together with the Times for the day, the Parish Magazine for last month and the last issue of the current silver and copper coins of the realm were then enclosed in a tin box and laid in a place prepared for it beneath where the stone was to rest."

It was hoped that the Club - now simply called the Newdigate Village Club (also called the Institute and much later the Village Hall) could be opened in September for those wishing to become members, and indeed it was - on Wednesday evening September 26th. A caretaker had by then taken up residence. He was Sergeant Bowtell,

who had served in South Africa during the Boer War and who, having been wounded at Bethlehem, had lost a leg. He and his wife were to continue as caretakers for ten years before resigning to take up other work in Southend. An appeal had earlier been made in the parish magazine for illustrated papers and magazines and for any kind of games, and for a bagatelle board. It was hoped that one day a piano might be obtained and in fact this was purchased very quickly with the proceeds of a "Dramatic Entertainment" given by Mrs. Farnell-Watson and some friends. A billiards table was also purchased. Various local residents gave papers and games and provided pictures to hang on the wall - of Queen Victoria and Generals Baden-Powell and Hector MacDonald.

It was reported that refreshments could be obtained at the bar - tea, coffee, cocoa and also lemonade, ginger beer etc. with a variety of fancy drinks. These were all non-alcoholic because, despite the fact that the Farnell-Watsons had owned Isleworth Brewery which had provided their wealth, Mrs. Farnell-Watson was totally opposed to any form of alcohol. In November 1925 when it was proposed to sell intoxicating liquors, she objected strongly and had a memorandum drawn up as an endorsement to the original trust deed to prohibit their sale on the premises. Later - in 1935 - the proposal was again put forward and in order not to offend the restriction a new and separate building was erected, to which the Club transferred. Mrs. Farnell-Watson was so angry about this that she had the original memorial stone removed from the Hall.

The Hall was erected by Colls and Son on land purchased from the Trustees of the Farnell-Watson estate by Mrs. Farnell-Watson for £40. The site was that now occupied by the Hall, the Club and the car park. The Ordnance Survey map of 1897 shows that there were already two buildings on the site, which presumably had to be demolished to allow for the new building. But perhaps they may already have been derelict. We have heard a story that when the tenants, possibly of these cottages, had complained to Mr. Farnell-Watson about the state of their disrepair, he had ordered his employees to remove the roofing entirely.

The Trust deed drawn up to set the rules for the Club specified that the premises were to be used for the general object of promoting the religious, moral and intellectual welfare and the rational recreation of the inhabitants of the Parish of Newdigate, their visitors and friends. The management of the Club was entrusted to a committee of nine, consisting of two persons, known as life members, who were Mrs. Farnell-Watson and one of the trustees of the Farnell-Watson estate Thomas Skewes-Cox, the Rector for the time being, the two Churchwardens, two others elected annually by the Parish Council and two "residential ratepayers" to be nominated annually by the Rector. All this reflected the influence, no doubt, of the Rector, the Rev. H. Nelson-Ward, a descendant of Lord Nelson, who had been the instigator of the whole scheme and who had persuaded Mrs. Farnell-Watson to make the original gift. Five Trustees were appointed - the two life members, the Rector and the two Churchwardens, Colonel Graves (of Hatchetts) and the Schoolmaster Henry Hackwood. They were joined by W.A. Calvert of Broomells, A. Hepburn, John Borley and Alfred Dean to form the first management committee.

There was no doubt that in a very isolated village like Newdigate there was a need for a centre such as this and the Club was to prove very popular with many of the residents. But perhaps it did not

appeal to one of the larger sections of the community - the so called working class. Whilst it was written about another Surrey village near Farnham, the following extract from a book by George Bourne, called "Change in the Village" written about this period in time, may serve to explain why.

"In clinging to them (the public houses) the villagers have clung to something which they need and cannot get elsewhere. It is idle to pretend that the "Institute" which was started a few years ago provides a satisfactory alternative. Controlled by people of another class, whose "respectability" is irksome, and open only to members and never to women, the Institute does not lend itself to the easy intercourse which tired men enjoy at the public house. Its billiard table is not for their heavy hands, used to the pick-axe and shovel; its card games interrupt their talk; its newspapers remind them that they cannot read well and suggest a mode of life which they are unable to share.

These reasons, I believe, prevail to keep the labouring men from patronising the Institute more even than its strictly teetotal policy. Or perhaps I should say, rather, that while they dislike going without their beer, they object more strongly still to the principle on which it is forbidden in the Institute. It imputes evil propensities to them; it directly challenges the truth of an idea which not only have they never doubted, but which their own experience seems to them to confirm. The day labourer really knows nothing to take the place of beer. A man who has been hoeing in the fields.... for ten hours a day and has perhaps walked six or seven miles to do it, acquires a form of thirst which no other drink he can buy will touch so coolly."

Many activities were quickly organised. Already in February 1902 the parish magazine was able to report that the Capel Village Club had come to Newdigate to play a match at chess,whist, don, cribbage, dominoes and draughts. The result was a "slight gain for our village the scores being Newdigate 20, Capel 19." It was hoped that Capel would pay another visit. A billiards handicap had also been held in January for which there were 16 entries, competing for a silver-mounted pipe, given by the Misses Goldberg of the Red House, who were also great benefactors of the village. It was won by T.Slade who beat F.York in the final.

A few months later the land adjoining the Club had been cleaned and was being laid down as a bowling green. The building was used for other purposes too. In 1900 a Village Library based at the School had been started, with Miss Burt as librarian. Many books, magazines and newspapers had been collected from various sources and over the years their numbers were progressively increased mainly by further gifts. By the first anniversary the library had over 700 volumes and more than 100 members were subscribing one penny per month. Since the plans for the Club building included a reading room it was logical that the Library should be housed there and indeed it was transferred as soon as the building was opened.

The building also became the Court Room for the "Farnell-Watson" Court of Foresters. This was a branch of the Friendly Society which had been started in the village in 1881 and which by 1901 had 97 benefit members, 41 honorary members and 20 juniors.

Many other village societies and organisations made use of the facilities. By 1924, when these were causing the, albeit temporary, abandonment of the on-going activities of the Club - games, billiards etc., the decision was taken to extend the building to provide two new rooms, in which dancing and whist drives and so on could be held, and to allow the Club to continue undisturbed. These new rooms were built at the end of the original building with a separate entrance. A movable partition was erected between the two sections so that the two larger rooms could be made one when required. The builder's estimate of the cost of construction including the provision of central heating was £589. The 1988 extension which among other things will again provide for a movable partition to divide the Hall into two rooms will cost about £40,000.

THE MEMORIAL FIELD

Research by George Green

Now managed as part of the Community Centre, the "Brocus" was not acquired for the village until 1945 and was run for twenty years by a separate committee. The history of its acquisition and subsequent use provide an interesting sequel to our previous article on the Village Hall.

It was in 1944 that, following discussion at the Parish Council, a "Newdigate Recreation Ground Committee" was formed. Its first meeting was held on March 28th at Dr.R.G.Fear's house - Grove House in Parkgate Road - when Dr.Fear was appointed as Chairman. War was still raging in Europe and the Far East, and the D Day invasion was still some ten weeks away. Many of the troops who took part in this invasion were stationed in and around Newdigate. At this meeting reference was made to the "Bookers" as being more suitable than another proposed site in Hogspudding Lane.

In passing it is worth examining how the present name evolved. In the 1841 Tithe map the field, then split into three, was called West Buckhurst, East Buckhurst and, nearer to Trig Street, Buckhurst Meadow. The oak trees on the field today indicate the lines of the division of these fields. (By the turn of the century it was already one). On a postcard early this century the field was described as Bookhurst, but after the first meeting of the new committee, it was referred in minutes as the Brocus. The origins of the name are obscure. The proximity of Brooklag farm (settlement by the brook) might suggest that the name was originally Brookhurst (copse by the brook) but equally the presence of the fields opposite, where Underhill Road now lies, by the names of Hilly Coney Croft and Coney Croft, implying an abundance of rabbits, might support the idea that Buckhurst was the original. But why should we have the bucks on one side of the road and the rabbits on the other?

At a meeting on April 27th 1945 reference was made that the purchase of a suitable recreation ground should be as a war memorial, and on May 7th 1945 Dr. Fear reported that he had heard from the Rural District Council that the field was zoned partly as a residential and shopping area; but that this would not preclude the development for recreation. Thus a decision was taken to pursue the idea of its purchase.

The field formed part of the remaining Farnell-Watson estate - the same William Farnell-Watson whose widow had donated the Village

Hall - and on Monday July 3rd 1945 all this residue was put up for auction at the Red Lion Hotel in Dorking on instructions from the trustees. The auctioneers were Messrs White & Sons, and of particular interest to the parish was Lot 12, an enclosure of 12.589 acres, stated as being particularly suitable for development or as a recreation and sports ground. The rent was apportioned for the purpose of the sale at £10 and the tithe at £1 18s. When the auctioneer asked for bids for Lot 12 an offer of £1,250 was immediately made by W.L. Dean on behalf of the parish, and just as quickly the auctioneer's hammer fell. The Brocus field belonged to Newdigate.

A Trust Deed was completed on July 3rd 1946 setting up an Association to be known as "The Newdigate Memorial Recreation Trust" the field to be a memorial to both World Wars. The original trustees were H.M.Trouncer of Henfold House, Dr. Fear, W.L.Dean of Sylvan Lodge, Beare Green (formerly the proprietor of the Village Stores which was also sold at this same auction) and Capt.C.D.Schermuly of the Schermuly Pistol Rocket Apparatus Ltd, of Mill Lane, Ewood.

Initially the £1,250 required was found by way of a bank loan at 4% interest but by July 1946 the sum had nearly been paid off through fund-raising activities such as a fete, a gymkhana, waste paper collection and a number of donations. A meeting was held on July 17th 1946 to elect the first committee, consisting of the Rector, Rev.D.Bruce-Walker, two appointed by the parish council, two by the trustees, five by the donors of £50 or more and five as elected members. One of the first decisions of the committee was to arrange for the erection of children's swings and to allow Mr. Hickman to use the field for grazing at a rent of £10 p.a.. It was reasoned that this grazing would assist in the initial upkeep of the field.

A Sports Committee was appointed, and the Football Club adopted this as their ground, the Parkgate Cricket Club transferred from their ground opposite the Surrey Oaks and the Tennis Club also joined in from their court opposite on what is now part of Winfield Grove. The first organised bonfire and procession took place in November 1950 and the various other village organisations such as the Youth Club, Brownies and Horticultural Society became regular users. Needless to say the grazing rights were soon discontinued.

A magnificent feature of the Brocus is the 200 year old "Jackson" oak situated halfway between the cricket square and Brocus Cottage - so called because beneath its branches Thomas William Jackson courted his lady Lillah Lucas in 1895/6. Mr Jackson was the coal merchant and carman in Newdigate for many years, working from his yard on the site presently occupied by William Way. They lived at Myrtle Cottage and before the war served teas in their garden to many a passing cyclist.

In addition to being a war memorial, the field contains other memorials to Newdigate residents. On the patio of the Village Club is a seat donated by the Dorking District Independent Order of Odd Fellows in memory of Bro.H.T.Whittingham, proprietor of the grocer's shop now a private house known as the Old Bakery. At this location there is also a plaque on the wall to George A.Treadgold, treasurer of the Village Club 1966-72. In the south-west corner of the field is a beech tree (*Fagus sicutica*) in memory of H.M.Trouncer and a maple tree (*Acer Goldsworth Purple*) commemorating the 1971 Golden Jubilee of the Royal British Legion. The cricket sight screen is a memorial to Vic Cloke, carpenter and late husband of Olive Cloke of Winfield Grove and the north gate remembers Roy C.Wheatland, Hon.Treasurer of the Community Centre until October 1980.

To the east of the ground is a blue cedar (Cedrus Atlantica Glauca) planted by Mrs.C.D.Schermuly to commemorate the presentation of the field to the village on July 27th 1947 and under the tree is a seat in memory of A.McGuinness Butler,May 1973, of Mill Lane, formerly the chairman of the O.A.P.Club of Newdigate.Nearby is the fountain presented by her children in 1951 remembering Susan Schermuly the wife of William Schermuly, the inventor of the pistol rocket. The oak lych gate is for Blanche Hilda Darbyshire (1955) a former owner of Dean House Farm.The original proposal was for wrought iron gates. In 1956 near the cedar a plaque was erected with the following inscription;- The Brocus - this field was bought by public subscription and given to the village in memory of the men who gave their lives in the Second World War 1939-1945. Does anyone know the whereabouts of this plaque today?

Thus the Brocus became the property of the village and today activities are more varied than had originally been envisaged by the first committee,whose foresight in 1944 provided the facility so beloved by succeeding generations. We should be grateful for their acquisition of so central an amenity and for helping to preserve the rural nature of the centre of the village.

NEWDIGATE FRIZZLE - Continued.

By Joyce Banks

I can add a little information to Jean Shelley's paragraph on Newdigate Frizzle in the last magazine no.10.

In 1800 a formal agreement was made between John Rooles of Witney in Oxfordshire and the parish officers that 'he should be paid at the rate of 12/- with board per week ... to undertake the whole care of the poor ... to instruct and teach all them that shall be sent into this house (the Workhouse), and others the officers shall think proper to send to him for the purpose of work in the Woollen Manufacturing Line from the space of 12 months from the date thereof.' Signed 24th December 1800.

It is true there seems to be no further mention of the woollen manufactory after 1801, but John Rooles was still in Newdigate in 1802 when he signed the book containing records of Smith's Charity as 'an inhabitant'. The parish register also contains a baptism - of Ann Rolis daughter of John and Ann on July 7th 1801.

A similar contract for the care of the poor made in 1796 had included the provision of 'A house to keep the poor in'. This was probably the time that the house at Workhouse Green began to be used, replacing one nearer the church, in which Thomas Chart the schoolmaster took up residence.

Not all the poor were relieved in the Workhouse however; in this same period numbers of paupers were boarded out on a 'roundsman' system. As it sounds this meant that the poor who were on relief stayed and worked for a certain length of time with one master and then moved on. The numbers relieved in this way were;- in 1800, 28 persons, in 1801, 27 persons and in 1802, 25 persons. The figure in 1800 was the highest ever; in 1804 and 1805 the numbers had dropped to only 7 and 6 respectively. 1802 was the year in which most was spent on the poor - £1,186.3.2½d. This was spent on direct relief to the poor only, so would not include the Workhouse expenditure. The sharpest increase in expenditure on the poor came between 1799 and 1800 when it almost doubled.