

Newdigate Society Magazine

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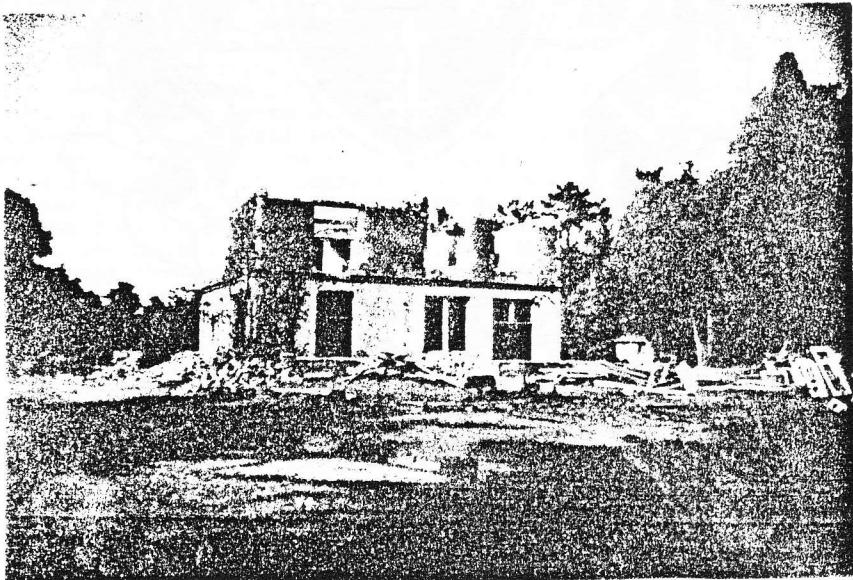


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The original Red House



The Red House in 1950

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

On Sunday July 17th we had a very successful meeting, when we acted as hosts for the A.G.M. of the Surrey Local History Council, of which the Society is a member. It was good to see that quite a number of our own Society members came too and we enjoyed the visits to Nye's Place, Gildings Farm and the church. After tea John Callcut gave an illustrated talk on the history of Newdigate parish. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Graham Capel and to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hall not only for their permission to visit their properties, but also for acting as such very knowledgeable guides.

We continue our correspondence with people interested in their family connections with Newdigate. In particular we have recently received letters from descendants of the families of Jordan, Steere, Evershed and Worsfold. As a result we have been able to establish interrelationships between the families of Evershed, Steere and Budgen, all of whom were resident in Newdigate in the 17th Century. The Evershed family originated in the 13th century in Ockley, at what is still called Evershed's Farm and in the 18th century a branch lived at what is now called Chafford's Farm in the south of the parish, although this too at that time was known as Evershed's Farm.

Anyone interested in researching the Worsfold family is invited to join the Worsfold Family History Society, whose aims are to collect and record all data on the Worsfold family and families that join them through marriage. This family can be traced from a Robert Worsefold who lived in Abinger and whose will was proved in 1522. For more information on this please be in touch with the editor.

We have entered our magazine as a project in the Surrey Voluntary Service Council's Village Venture competition, which encourages the creation of new ideas to improve the community spirit. We will know in a year's time whether this merits an award under the scheme.

FUTURE EVENTS

On Saturday September 17th we shall be holding another of our Open Days in the Village Hall, when we shall display much of the material we have collected on the history of the parish. Doors will be open from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m. Light refreshment will be available and entry will be the usual 25p. Please make a note to come at some time during the day.

The Society A.G.M. will be held on Monday September 26th in the Village Hall, beginning at 8 p.m. After the formal meeting and coffee, John Callcut will repeat his illustrated talk on the history of Newdigate which he gave at our July meeting. Brenda Daniel has offered her resignation from the Committee because of other commitments and we therefore welcome nominations for her replacement, to be voted upon at the meeting.

The Charlwood Society has invited us to present the shortened version of 'A Village at War' on March 16th next year. This will take place in Charlwood but we are sure that anyone who has not seen this presentation will be welcome to attend on this occasion.

NEWDIGATE'S OTHER SCHOOLS

By Joyce Banks

In a review of "A Village School: Its Birth and Growth" by W.H. Chouler in the Dorking Advertiser of 17th June 1955, the editor writes; 'Mr. Chouler ... with deceptive ease traces its history and that of Newdigate with it from 1660 to modern times.' Nothing in history unfolds itself too easily, and if in this case we read between the lines, we find glimpses of other schools co-existing with the main one. This, of course, survives as Newdigate Endowed Church of England School; founded by Rev. George Steere about 1660 and its endowment increased by George Booth in 1681, it has seen four different buildings and several changes of organisation.

On page 34 of Mr. Chouler's book a letter to the Charity Commissioners from the Rev. Arthur Sugden (Rector of Newdigate 1852-68) is quoted; it partly deals with the charging of fees for pupils. Arguing for the charging of fees at the Endowed School, Sugden writes "The parents appreciate what they pay for and send their children to the National School, paying 1d or 2d a week, rather than send them to the Endowed School for nothing." One might think that Sugden was speaking in general terms, or drawing on previous experience, were it not for an earlier letter of his in the National Society's file on Newdigate at Church House, Westminster. This was written on February 12th 1862 and reveals quite plainly that there was more than one school in Newdigate at that time. "Independently of my two schools" he writes "there is also an endowed school chiefly for boys." This letter to Rev. J.G. Lonsdale, the Secretary of the National Society, is mainly an appeal for a grant towards books, materials and apparatus, and a more formal application follows on March 22nd. Together they provide conclusive evidence that two schools apart from the endowed one existed prior to this date, and give some details of how they were run.

Before returning to the state of the schools in the 1850s and 1860s we need to go further back. The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church (henceforth called the National Society) was founded in 1811 and its schools began to receive some government aid in 1833. It is impossible to know if there was a National School in the parish as early as this but in the National Society's Church School Inquiry of 1846-7 Newdigate had one National School with 22 boys and 8 girls, and also two Dame Schools with 13 boys and 33 girls. The National School employed two schoolmistresses and occupied two rooms (not secured). The total 'paid to Master or Mistress' was £25 and total estimated expenditure £29 10s. The school was supported through subscriptions and payments by pupils. In this survey no endowed school is mentioned though the similar foundation at Charlwood is recorded. The Newdigate National School cannot be the same as the Endowed School; two schoolmistresses were said to be in charge, whereas John Chart was Master of the Endowed School from 1820 to 1867 i.e. almost the entire period with which we are dealing, and from 1797 Thomas Chart, his predecessor had promised to teach 18 pupils which John Chart continued. (See Chouler pp.22-3, also confirmed in Manning and Bray's History of Surrey) The 1851 Census lists two schoolmistresses living at Reffolds; Mrs. Dinah Tugwell and Mrs. Mary Mitchell.

Arthur Sugden became Rector in 1852 and from the following year remain (at Guildford Muniment Room) specifications and plans for 'the erection of a new school and residence at Newdigate, Surrey for the Hon. and Rev. Arthur Sugden.' The heading reads 'Newdigate National School' but the 'National' has been inserted in Sugden's own hand-

writing. Plans show a high schoolroom 28 feet long by 15 feet wide, lit by a large bay window with stone mullions, and a smaller window above. This schoolroom opens from a porch and adjoining it are a class room 15ft x 11ft and a cloakroom. The elevation shows two tall chimneys, one for the school and one for the house. The upstairs windows are dormers. The estimated cost for schoolroom, wood house and privies, including entrance gate was £229; for the residence (if the schoolroom already built) £319. There is no indication where these buildings were to be erected and it seems that they remained only plans. The architect was F. Muggeridge of Dorking. However in his letter of 1862 Sugden writes "The school was formed about 9 years ago and was then incorporated by me into the National Society." He went on "owing to my unavoidable absence it (the school) fell in 1855, but was again renewed last year, a house and piece of freehold land having been purchased for £250 in which the school is at present held." In his report on the parish in 1857 the Rural Dean says "there is a school in the vestry" - this was the enlarged porch of the church built in 1701 and removed in the alterations of 1876 - so perhaps the school had continued during the interregnum. When asked on the application form for details of the balance sheet for 1861, Sugden says "none kept by the Curate who had sole charge." This was Rev. Samuel Martin Mayhew, who acted as Curate from 1857 to 1862.

On March 21st 1861 a messuage or tenement, stable and outbuildings were conveyed by a farmer, Joseph Wood, to Charles Hart of Dorking to the use of the Minister (Rev. Mayhew) and the Churchwardens - the same farmer Joseph Wood and the Schoolmaster of the Endowed School, John Chart - "to be applied as a site for a school for teaching poor persons of the parish of Newdigate, under an Act for affording further facilities for the conveyance and endowment of sites for schools, to read and to write and in arithmetic and generally for imparting to them religious and useful instruction, and for the residence of the schoolmaster and/or schoolmistress." (Joseph Wood had bought this property in 1840 from the Governors of the Dorking Union and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Newdigate.) We know this today as the Old Post Office, on the west side of Newdigate Street.

The school was to be under the management of a Governor, who was to be the 'Minister for the time being' of Newdigate. The conveyance document lays down strictly what the Governor was permitted to do and the rules under which the school was to function. These rules stated "Firstly, the morning and afternoon shall open and close with prayer. The Holy Scripture shall be read by the children daily. Secondly, The whole system of instruction shall be in accordance with the Word of God and teaching of the Church of England. Thirdly, Instruction is to be given in reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing and in singing. Fourthly, A child for continual bad conduct will be liable to be expelled from the school by the Governor. Fifthly, A child by good behaviour may obtain a reward and on leaving the school a certificate of good conduct signed by the Governor. Sixthly, Weekly payments shall be at the rate of twopence for one child, but two children from the same family may attend for the same charge. A third and every additional child from the same family will be charged one penny per week for each child."

This school lasted for only eleven years. In connection with the building of the new (endowed) school of 1872, the Charity Commissioners stated in 1873 that the school building had cost £1,100 or thereabouts. From this sum £800 was to be found from the Steere and Booth

charity and 'also a sum of £200 arising from a sale effected with the same (school) Board of a school building in the said parish (of Newdigate) founded by Deed dated 21st March 1861' The sale of this school building was authorised by the Charity Commissioners on 24th December 1872 and the deed conveying it to the new owner, William Farnell-Watson, described the property as 'late used as a Girls' and Infants' School.'

The school building of 1872 had been erected virtually on the same site as the 1838 school (although further away from the road), so the school sold must have been one of the National Schools. In spite of Sugden having incorporated the school in 1853, at a later date the Secretary of the National Society, writing to the Rev. W. Noble, the Rector on 11th May 1906, says "We have now made a careful search ... but cannot find that the Trust Deed of the School has ever been deposited with us ... nor any copy."

To return to the Rev. Arthur Sugden's letter to the National Society of February 1862; he begins by asking for a list of the Society's publications and the prices of other school articles. Describing himself as "Manager of Newdigate National School" he then asks for a grant and gives his reasons for so doing. 'The parish is a poor one, there being no resident gentry and but one resident landlord (Broadwood?) who subscribes £10 annually ... We have one school in the village and another at a hamlet three miles from the village school. The salaries of the two schoolmistresses amount to more than the subscriptions.' On the back of the application form he states that he, Sugden, subscribes £5 per annum and George Cubitt, M.P. one guinea. The total subscriptions are only £23.8.0. whereas the salaries paid were £24.16.0.

Although there is nothing in Steere's will which would limit his charity to one school, these National Schools seem not to have shared in it at all; certainly not before the major Education Act of 1870 when new regulations were made for all types of school. (In 1872 a 'Scheme for the Management of the Endowments founded by George Steer(sic) 1st November 1661 and George Booth 31st December 1681 for a School' was drawn up and approved by W.E. Forster, Minister of Education). "We have literally no funds to buy new school requisites" writes Sugden, "I think I might be able to raise a small sum to meet a grant from the Society if they would kindly take our case into consideration. I should also be glad to have the conditions of incorporation sent me ... as well as the Society's paper ... and the price of the Clothing Club cards per 100."

The filled-in application form is for 'the Girls and Infants Schools' in the parish which then had a population of 610. Dimensions of the schoolroom and classroom in use are given as 25'8" x 11" and 12' x 9' respectively (not dissimilar to those of the proposed 1853 school), and are said to be in good repair. In reply to a question as to what efforts have been made to procure subscriptions, the answer is 'appeals to landowners and friends. The farmers carry bricks, gravel etc. gratuitously.' In the abortive building scheme of 1853 the cartage of the bricks is also proposed to be done 'by the farmers of the parish gratuitously.' In his letter Sugden says there are 70 children on the two books but on the form he gives the number as '22 at Girls School and 17 at Infants School three miles away.' This latter can only have been at Parkgate but the distance seems exaggerated. Sugden explains in a note on the back of the form 'the parish is large in extent, there being 15 miles of roads ... and in winter it would not be possible for the children to come to the Girls School,

the roads being constantly flooded. This puts us to the necessity of having two schoolmistresses.' (We know that much later, in the early part of this century, the children of Sidney and Harriett Burberry, who lived at Reffolds, stayed with their maternal grandparents at Woodshill Cottage in order to be able to get to school in winter.) The form states that it is a condition of any grant that the school be placed in union with the Society and that the managers will be prepared to expend from school funds an amount equal to the grant voted. Sugden's letter accompanying the dispatch of the form is written in grumbling mood. 'I regret I could not get the articles ... sent for inspection ... so that I might have had them when school opened again after Easter. I do not think it will be possible for me to leave house even for one day previous to Easter.' Not surprisingly he finds the grant rather small. As a trustee of the Steere and Booth charity, Sugden signed the deed of conveyance when 'The Scallow' at Worth was sold by auction for £3,020 in 1868. (It took two attempts by the lawyer on this occasion to find Sugden at home and he insisted on an extra examined copy of the report on The Scallow.) The comparative wealth of the Endowed School must have invited comparison with his own finances.

In the parish register Sugden writes that he was 'absent by leave of the Bishop from 1855 to 1862, leaving Messrs. Lovely, Coote Mulloy and S. Mayhew in charge.' (There was also another curate before these, Thomas Blissett, who complained about 'the badness of the Glebe House.) Perhaps they did some teaching. Sugden received a licence for non-residence in 1855; the living was sequestrated for debt and the tithes, fruits etc. were in the hands of the Receiver, John Burden. However the inscription on Sugden's elaborate tomb, formerly surrounded by iron rails, described him as 'many years Rector'. His wife, Annie Jane, buried in the same grave, did not die until 1912.

In the 1871 Census a widow, Melina Rudd, was listed as the 'Governess of the Girls' School' and Christopher Search as the Headmaster of the Endowed School. Mr. Chouler mentions that the 'Dame School' in the Old Post Office was run by an old lady called Lotty Wilkes, but she was not then resident in Newdigate according to this census return. He tells us also that the children from the Endowed School had lessons in the years 1871-73 in the downstairs room of the National School whilst the 1838 Endowed School building was being replaced and then all the children from both schools transferred to the new building. The schools were combined into the Newdigate Endowed Church of England School, the name by which we know it today. It is believed that a dame school continued after this time but it is not clear where it was housed or for how long it continued. There is no mention of it in the 1881 Census, and the Old Post Office was then the home of a farm labourer, James Lucas, and his family.

MARRIED v "SINGLE

We reproduce, without comment, two reports on cricket matches found in the parish magazine under Ockley. "On May 15th (1895) the first match of the season took place - married v single. The former were victorious, and proved conclusively the superiority of the married state." But then; - "The season began on May 17th (1897) with the usual match - married v single. The latter proved successful. No inference must be drawn from this as to the inferiority of the married state."

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF WALTER CARPENTER (1877-1962) By John Callcut

Walter Carpenter, the father of Bob and John Carpenter who live in the village today, first learnt to bake bread at Aldershot, for the troops in the Boer War. In 1912 he moved to Kingsland and started baking bread for Alfred Dean at the old bakehouse by the side of the Village Stores.

Flour was delivered in twohundredweight sacks from Wonham Mill and stored in a room adjacent to the bakehouse. At about seven o'clock in the evening Walter would walk from his cottage in Kingsland to the bakehouse and commence work. He mixed the dough by hand in a large bin, estimating the quantities of yeast and water required, by experience and 'feel'. He would then go back home for a while to allow the dough time to rise. Later that evening he would form the dough into about 120 loaves - he made Coburgs, Cottage, Tins and Split Tins. At about two o'clock in the morning he placed three six foot faggots, purchased from Henry Horley at Parkgate, into the oven, set them alight with a burning piece of paper, closed the door and pulled out the damper. The faggots burned very quickly and the heat generated could be as high as 400-500 degrees Fahrenheit (205-260 C). All the loaves which had previously been placed on trays over the mixing bins were covered, because once the faggots had finished burning all the ashes were carefully removed from the oven into a container and inevitably a lot of ash would fly around. Next he used a 'scuffle', which was a very long stick with a wet sack tied to the end, to remove the last of the ashes in the oven - this operation also produced steam which improved the texture of the bread. Once the cleaning operation was complete he then placed all the loaves in the oven by using a peel, which is a flat shovel on a long handle.

He then closed the oven door and allowed the bread to bake for about forty-five minutes - during this time he would make a drink of hot chocolate by placing his metal cup filled with the drink into the hot ashes. Once the loaves were ready he took them out of the oven and put them onto the bin covers to cool. He gathered a few sacks together, took off his boots and had a sleep.

At daybreak he would deliver the bread and other orders for the shop to houses around the village. He used a pony and trap, and would stop at the Surrey Oaks for his lunch, eating the top of a cottage loaf and some cheese. Finally he reached home in the afternoon, ready to start again at seven o'clock.

From time to time he also baked cakes and hot cross buns, and at Christmas time villagers would take their meat to the bakehouse and pay sixpence for the use of the hot oven. Baking ceased in the 1930s and the bakehouse and oven is now being dismantled. It will be re-erected at the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton as soon as sufficient funds have been raised and bread will once again be baked in it.

In 1931 Walter left the village and Mr. Kemp took over as baker. Walter took over the Old Magpie public house which was on the site of what is now the entrance to Heathrow Airport. He retired in 1947 and moved back to Newdigate and Kingsland Cottage. He died in October 1962 at the age of 85 and is buried in St. Peter's churchyard.

Along the road now generally known as Partridge Lane, from the turning to Charlwood and on to Beam Brook, all the land on the left hand side and much on the right as far as Hatchetts once belonged to an estate the centre of which was the Red House. The house itself, hidden from the road by a screen of mature trees lies in grounds of eight acres between the Clock House, formerly its coachhouse and stables, built at the same time as the house, and Woodland Cottage, built in 1930. This estate, made up of the farms of Coombers, Blanks, Sturtwood and Hatchetts was acquired through successive purchases in the 1880s by Leopold Goldberg and was owned by him until he died in his 84th year on May 1st 1924. A City of London solicitor of Prussian origin, he had a London house in Cadogan Gardens but obviously wanted like many successful Victorians to have a country estate as well. His obituary notice in the Times newspaper reported that he practised as a solicitor for nearly 60 years, briefed as junior many leaders of the Bar, and was connected with numerous famous cases. He was an authority on International Law and author of several works on legal subjects. In spite of his strenuous life in London he found time to be a successful farmer and was for many years a magistrate in Surrey. A man of great intellectual refinement, he was many-sided in his tastes and sympathies and retained to the last his acute brain and clarity of judgment.

Leopold Goldberg came to Newdigate in 1880 when he purchased Coombers Farm with 34 acres (Newsletter 7 May 1987). On the southern-most four fields he built his new mansion - the Red House - and in 1884 he moved in with his wife, Louisa, and their four sons and four daughters. Louisa was not to enjoy this for long because she died on August 17th 1888 at the young age of nearly 38 and was buried in St. Peter's churchyard. Their eldest daughter, also Louisa, married the Rev. William Binks at St. Peter's in September 1894, but the other three sisters remained for many years at the house, taking an active part in many of the village and church activities and financially supporting several good causes, often inviting villagers to the house. Of the sons little is known of Augustus, who may have returned to Germany, except that Leopold wrote in his will "As I have already expended for the benefit of my eldest son Augustus Goldberg all sums which I intend to expend for that purpose, he is not to participate in any of the benefits of this my will." We have found only a passing reference to Percy but the other two sons - Herbert Walter and Frederick William - were both educated at Charterhouse School and in time became barristers of the Inner Temple. Despite their German ancestry they both joined H.M. Forces in the 1914-18 war and were killed in action. (We believe that Leopold had to leave the village during the war because of the ill feeling towards people with German names.)

After Leopold Goldberg's death the estate was in the hands of trustees and the Red House was sold with forty acres and both the Clock House and Woodland Cottage to W.H. Tillet. In 1936 he sold it to Dudley Crump, whose son David has provided most of the following information on the house. The house and the grounds of eight acres were later purchased by Stanley Wagstaff, whose widow Jane has now sold this to a new buyer.

The original house dated from 1884 as is clear from the date on the cast iron rainwater heads. Materials were in the main brought by rail to Holmwood Station and from there by horse and cart. The gardens and the estate were planted in accordance with the dictates of Victorian ideas and what was once four fields has now become a land-

scaped garden with 100 year old trees. The house was a massive structure, including as required by Victorians, a billiards room with a full size table, and with massive foundations covered with superb waterproofing of bitumen about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. At the south-west corner, built out from it, but connected to the south-west room, was a tall six sided conservatory of typically 'Kew Gardens' type, made of wood. When the Crumps came to the house this conservatory was already 50 years old and because it was dilapidated was demolished to make way for a terrace which was built all round the house.

On entering the front door there was no inner windbreak of any sort, but an enormous hall, the floor of which was made of Italian black and white marble pieces with the word 'Welcome' worked into it. The ceiling was pale green and around the light pendant there was a large ring of flowers and cherubs, said to have been painted by an Italian artist, some ten feet across. The staircase was a typical Victorian pretension, about ten feet across for the first flight, then reducing at the half landing to about three feet in width. All the rooms were large, cold and draughty, the windows being of the sash type. David Crump's recollection is that there was only one bathroom, but that his father made a second one out of one of the smaller first floor rooms. There was of course accommodation for the staff.

The original lavatories were interesting. Passing from the hall one came upon two doors, the one ahead leading to a passage to the kitchen, the other to the butler's pantry, and off this was the entrance to the ground floor lavatory, which was in fact at the bottom of a small tower. The first floor one was immediately above, between the first and second floors. The tower was separate from the house, being connected only by an angled passage. Higher up was the bell tower and from this projected an arm on which was a wheel for a rope. The lavatory buckets were emptied through traps in the outer wall of the tower and lowered by rope and pulley, so that the contents did not have to pass through the house. The change to flush water closets took place about 1906 and hand basins and pans of high class material dated from that time. The bell was used to call in the young family for their lessons etc., for they were taught at home.

The kitchen was an enormous room with a huge range built into a chimney breast. Later an early electric stove was installed. From here, to the left and right of the chimney were two doors - that on the right into the servants' hall, a smallish room, and on the left into the scullery. In both cases steps led down to these rooms. The scullery had a composition stone floor, an outside door to the yard and two large stone sinks with huge brass taps. Above one sink was the water pump, the handle of which was over three feet long. Water came via a two inch lead pipe from the well under the round flower bed in the south lawn. (This was opened up by the Wagstaffs to make a garden feature.) Along the back wall of the scullery was a fixed wooden bench with divisions under it, much like a sports changing room. Upon this bench would sit 'itinerants' to be fed, for anyone passing in need of food would be fed by Mr. Goldberg's cook. From the kitchen, too, was dispensed the bread and soup sent to the village school each day for the children's midday meal, long before a school canteen was established. The Goldbergs purchased sacks of peas, beans and lentils for this purpose. The late Roy Wooltorton, whose father came from Norfolk to work on the Goldberg's farms, and who himself worked at the house, told how the food would be delivered by pony and trap each day except in snowy weather when the pony could not get along and when the soup would have to be carried a mile across the fields by a man using a shoulder yoke.

The scullery door led into an enclosed yard, to the right of which was a small game larder and to the left the boiler house, which used over twenty tons of anthracite a year with apparently little effect on the temperature of the rooms. In addition to this central heating each room had its own fire place, which were presumably the original method of heating.

In 1937 Dudley Crump had some alterations made to the house. The conservatory (already mentioned) was demolished and the whole interior was repainted. One room was made into a bathroom and the roof had to be repaired. The south-west ground floor room was made into a library, using mostly black walnut. All the door furniture was changed for originally the heavy twisted brass handles worked, not in the conventional manner by turning but, by being pushed in and out - pulling to open on the inside and pushing to get into the room from outside.

The water supply for the estate came from three wells, one of which supplying the scullery has already been mentioned, The second well was just north-west of the kitchen and supplied the remainder of the house. The water went into the house through two inch lead pipes and was fed into two very large tanks in the Tank Room at the top of the house. The wellhead had a hand-operated pump with a large cast iron wheel with a wooden handle. Roy Wooltorton, when he was the garden boy, had to turn this pump so many hundreds of times to fill up the house tanks each morning. Later, when mains water was connected, this well was enclosed in a six-sided ornamental house, but the pump support timbers rotted and both pump and house were removed.

In 1937 the house was still largely as it had been built in 1884 and the estate was in very fine condition, except perhaps for the croquet lawn, which was a purpose built lawn surrounded by park railings and trees, some 100 yards to the east of the house, complete with its own summer house. A fine wood of fir trees, planted in the early years of the house extended some 100 yards wide down to the south lodge (Woodland Cottage). Cutting into the fir wood but surrounded by sweet chestnuts and flowering shrubs was the tennis lawn. The lawns were originally cut by a horse-drawn mower, the horses hoofs being protected by hoof covers, some of which still hung on a shed wall. Gas brackets were still on the walls in the house at this time, though possibly the original lighting was by oil lamps and candles. In 1937 there was an engine house near the north-west well which housed a small generator to provide electricity to the house.

The Goldbergs must have had a large staff of servants, both in the house and outside, in addition to all those they employed on the farms. In addition to the butler and cook there would have been lady's maids for the daughters, kitchen maids and footmen. Outside the staff would have included the coachman and the gardeners. David Crump tells us that the coach, which took Mr. Goldberg to the station to catch the train to London, was cleaned every day but only on the side that Mr. Goldberg would see as he got in and out. In 1937 the garden staff consisted of the head gardener, Mr. Scutt, living in the coachhouse, and Mr. Dickson the under-gardener in the south lodge. In the house were the butler and the cook, the chauffeur/handyman and parlour maid plus others who came in each day.

In 1939 the war brought many changes. Dudley Crump decided to close down the house and the staff were all given notice except the head gardener who was to be the caretaker. But then the house and estate were commandeered and before the fitted carpets and curtains could be removed the Army moved in, the East Surrey Regiment taking possession. A row of bucket lavatories were erected on one lawn and in the stableyard two mud ovens were built. The tin garden shed became the cookhouse. To this day the words 'Bones, Fat and Swill' can still be discerned on a wall. Because of the need for home grown timber the fir trees were cut down for pit props. Later the Canadian Army moved in, with the Dental Corps. The coachhouse became a dental laboratory for the making of false teeth. The wall of the little engine house became the back wall of a rifle range and live grenades were thrown in practice at trees bordering the croquet lawn. The croquet lawn itself was full of zig-zag trenches, as was a large area of the back of the fir wood.

By 1945 not a square foot of the grounds was left without lorry and AFV track marks, every door in the outbuildings hung in shreds and the viney and greenhouse were derelict. The Red House itself, remarkably, still had most of its window glass, but when it rained water poured in cascades all down the inside, for the roof lead had been removed. There was wet and dry rot everywhere. But the only momento of the enemy was one blade off a German aircraft propeller which had landed in the fields before the remainder crashed at South Holmwood. (Magazine 10 March 1988)

The Crumps decided to come back to Newdigate, but that the Red House would need to be rebuilt. Arguments with the Government about the level of compensation went on for a long time and eventually nothing further could be obtained. The amount of the compensation was insufficient to cover the costs of restoration and anyway they decided that a large Victorian mansion was unrealistic in post-war Britain. About this time, with universal shortages of materials, a number of the larger houses were being demolished for the high value of their timber, bricks and fittings. (Newdigate Place was one) Walter Hobbs and Sons of Mitcham approached Mr. Crump and a deal was struck to pull the house down except for one small part in return for much of the material which would not be needed in the reconstruction. (One door from the house is now incorporated into a house called Arnolds near the Beare Green roundabout.) A family friend and architect, Bertram Last, was asked to draw up a new design using the existing foundations. With the help of local builders like George Trower, the Crumps, father and son, did the rebuilding using bricks laboriously cleaned off by David, and salvaged timber. Some items were put back to their original purpose, like the front door, but items like window frames had to be completely remade.

When the house was finally finished in 1951, Dudley Crump, then in his sixties, decided to call it a day and sell the remodelled house with its eight acres of grounds and move to what is today the Clock House. They retained also the fields, which much later were sold to Henry Eggleton of Hound House Farm.