Newdigate Society Magazine

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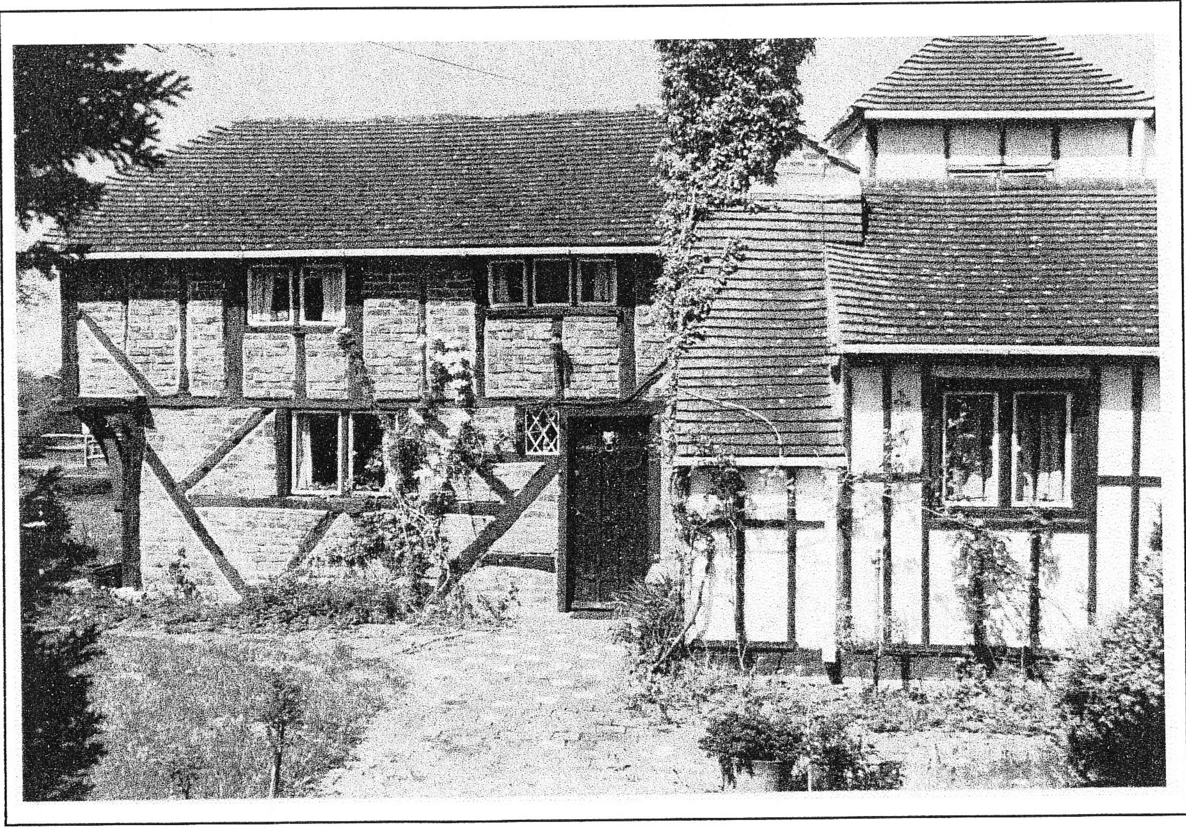
CONTENTS

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY & FUTURE EVENTS
THE BOOK OF NEWDIGATE – AN UPDATE
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SURREY'S LANDSCAPE THROUGH THE MILLENNIA
TANGLEWOOD & WOODSIDE COTTAGES



Tanglewood

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY & FUTURE EVENTS

It has been a quiet time within the Society over the Christmas and New Year period but members of your committee have been busy and Donald Thwaites and Jane Lilley have both come up with substantial articles.

Donald presents an historical overview of the history of England with particular emphasis on the development of Surrey from the time when much of the country was covered in ice and was joined with the rest of Europe right up to the current day.

Jane Lilley is conducting a study of the houses of Newdigate and with her brilliant eye for observation she has extracted much interesting information from such dry documents as the census return. Those who heard her recent talk in the Village Hall will realise how much knowledge she has of Newdigate.

We have a lot of dates for your diary for 2003 and we hope that you will try to attend as many events as possible.

18th February	Talk by Dr Rob Humphries about early nineteen-century education in Dorking
1st April	Talk by Pam Hunter about William Mullins, the Do**rking Pilgrim who sailed on the** Mayflower
6th May	Jane Pennington will talk about Inn signs
13th May	We have a coach trip organised to the Bank of England Museum and the London Museum – more details from Pam Keeble (01293 862386)
9th September	AGM, speaker to be arranged
11th November	Talk by Christopher Pringle about nearby English Country Houses

In the last magazine we expressed our fears over the second runway at Gatwick and the incinerator at Capel. The cheers from the residents of Capel could be heard throughout the area so this was a victory for the little person over the conglomerate when the decision was made not to build the incinerator in Capel. The airport problem, however, does not go away so we still continue to have this potential blight over our heads.

We had a call from Rex Wells of Burgess Hill who has traced his family back to Slaugham. He suspected that sometime in the early 1720s Henry Wells married and had children in Newdigate. We were able to confirm this, much to his delight, as they married at St. Peter's and had three children baptised there, Harry, Benjamin and John.

THE BOOK OF NEWDIGATE

Our book was formally launched on the 27th November 2002 at the Six Bells. To date nearly 650 copies have been sold which has exceeded our expectation.

There is a possibility that a second print run may be made so we would like to take the opportunity of 'writing the wrongs'. So far the following errors have been spotted:

Inside front flyleaf	Scott's Hole should read Sot's Hole
Page 12	Ringed Dove should read Collared Dove
Page 12	Rosebay and willowherb should read Rosebay Willowherb
Page 24	Coombers Farm in the 1890s and not 1990
Page 41	Chuch should be spelt church
Page 43	Kingfold should read Kingsfold
Page 49	Came to town should read came to the village
Page 49	Ralph Beedle should read Beadle.
Page 53	Should read Lance's Cottages
Page 80	Sargeant should be spelt Sergeant
Page 109	Medlars Court should read Medlar Court
Page 109	Darrels should read Darrells
Page 114	Henry Hackwood wrote the double s as fs
Page 120	Photo of B Norman/G Green should read outside Newdigate School
Page 120	Should read Dorothy May Geake and not Peake
Page 136	Should be Oliver Slade and not Sam McGill
	Should be James Trotter and not Ben Trotter
	Should be Ben Trotter and not Adam Trotter
Page 141	Good Companions, second from left, third row J. Beer omitted and front row, second from left is E. Beedle and not L. Beedle

Jim Elliott has kindly notified us of several errors in the piece concerning the Elliott family:

Pages 145-7, paragraph 5 should read James (4) not James (5) and paragraph 6 should read, his son Frederick, not brother.

Jim also comments that the picture on page 46 shows William Farnell-Watson and his gamekeeper. All Farnell-Watson's gamekeepers were Elliotts at the time of his death so Jim will undertake some more researching but he thinks the picture shows James Elliott (3) aged 28.

If anybody spots any further mistakes please let us know.

The book has brought correspondence from a number of people.

Captain T D Shorland Ball RN is living at Langport, Somerset and his grandmother was Ada Ethel Goldberg.

Pamela Welton sent an email from Australia (weltonpj@bigpond.com) telling us that her husband John's grandfather worked for Col. French who made the famous cider.

Daphne Spinks (nee Boorman) said that the book brought back many happy memories. She used to live in Six Bells Cottages and her cottage was called 'Parch Cottage' (we didn't know that). She was May Queen in 1940 and they could hear the Dunkirk bombs and guns. When she was 15, the headmaster at Newdigate School, Mr Gurr, asked her what she wanted to do for a living. She said that she wanted to be a nurse, so he picked up the phone to Dorking Cottage Hospital and one month later she found herself working as a student nurse in the children's ward.

Audrey Spinks from Tewkesbury recalled 'The Stores' (now the Ali Raj) where her grandparents lived. She wondered if the quince tree was still in the back garden along with the stables where Henry Horley kept is horses 'Duke' and 'Blossom'. She also recalled her brother visiting Captain Woods of Little Cherryhurst and insisting that his dog was always sitting in a chair in the corner smoking a pipe!

It is nice that Newdigate always seems to evoke happy memories even for people who live far away.

Sir Martin Wedgwood from Pixham Mill contacted me because he suspected that the man, second from the right, in the top picture on page 68 was his great uncle Josiah C. Wedgwood who was first Liberal and then Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme from 1904 to 1941.

He contacted his cousin, Josiah's grandson, who replied as follows:

'It is an intriguing picture. The line gun is of course the one regularly used in 1940 if not much before for firing a line from ship to ship. The line was sent across and followed by successively larger ropes until a pipeline or hawser could be sent over. It is slightly odd that it turned up in Newdigate in 1926. It looks too as if it will be most uncomfortable for the gentleman firing it between his legs.

It can't be JCW. He is smoking a pipe. I think it maybe Lord Stansgate (Wedgwood Benn); he was in charge of the Air Force and often mistaken for JCW – note the chin. The tall chap on the left is of course Stafford Cripps and the bowler hated one Clement Atlee. Wo is the young man on the extreme right? Perhaps the young Aneurin Bevan. Where is MacDonald? It is a lovely piece of history, particularly the naivete of the day, only 80 years ago.'

This throws up a number of questions.

Clement Atlee was Prime Minister from 1945-1951 and Labour MP for Limehouse from 1922. At the time the picture was taken in 1927 he was Under Secretary for War in Stanley Baldwin's government so it is clear that he would have been an interested party. Less clear is the reason for the presence of Lord Stansgate and Stafford Cripps.

Lord Stansgate was Anthony Wedgwood Benn's (Tony Benn) father who served in both Ramsay MacDonald and Clement Atlee's governments. However, he only joined the Labour Party in 1927 so it is difficult to see why he should appear in the picture.

Even more confusing is to know why Stafford Cripps would be there. Richard Stafford Cripps (1889-1952) was a barrister and as he was a pacifist he served in the Red Cross during the First World War. After the war he amassed a considerable fortune as a barrister

specialising in company law. He was elected to the House of Commons as MP for East Bristol in 1931 and during the 1930s he was converted to Marxism. Along with other socialists he founded the left wing journal The Tribune but he, together with Aneurin Bevan, was expelled from the Labour Party in 1939.

During the Second World War a poll was held to see who should succeed Churchill as Prime Minister and Stafford Cripps was second only to Anthony Eden. Churchill concerned that one of his main critics was so high in the polls, appointed him as a Minister for Aircraft Production.

In 1945 he became Minister of Trade in the Atlee government eventually rising to become Chancellor of the Exchequer.... But none of this explains what he is doing watching a demonstration of a rocket line thrower at Schermuly's factory before he was even an MP. More investigation is required.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on the 10th September 2002 and was attended by 44 people.

All the officers were elected en bloc and as a reminder we list them as follows:

Chairman	Donald Thwaites	01293 871681
Treasurer	Susan Brind	01306 631115
Minute Secretary	Diana Salisbury	01306 631435
Programme & Membership Secretary	Pam Keeble	01293 862386
Committee:	John Callcut	01306 631148
	Barbara Capel	01293 871541
	Jane Lilley	01306 631368
	Peter Monk	01306 631289
	Rosemary Thompson	01306 631248

The Chairman reported on all the society activities during the past year which have been reported in the magazine and Susan Brind gave the Treasurer's Report, which showed the financial position of the society to be healthy.

In any other business the Chairman thanked Gina Mitchell for producing such excellent posters and putting them up around the village. Two old chestnuts were brought up with Pam Keeble reminding members that subs were due and John Callcut requesting more articles for the magazine.

SURREY'S LANDSCAPE THROUGH THE MILLENNIA

Donald Thwaites

The following notes are drawn in part from "Surrey's Landscape Through the Millennia", an article by Jay Doyle published in 'Nature Line' (the magazine of Surrey Wildlife Trust) No 114, Winter1999/2000. Permission to use Mr Doyle's article was given by Surrey Wildlife Trust in whom the copyright is vested.

Open Tundra

In the period roughly 40000BC to 8500BC a great ice sheet covered much of Britain, extending as far south as Norfolk. The land south of the ice sheet, including what is now Surrey, was open tundra. The British Isles were then still attached to mainland Europe and it is almost certain that hunters entered southern England from neighbouring lands to exploit the bison, wild horse and reindeer herds which roamed the area. The hunters would have established seasonal hunting camps like that found at Church Lamath, near Staines. It is thought that birch woodland occurred in southern England, perhaps with some Scots pine. Towards the end of this period (the Upper Palaeolithic) there was a time of intense cold just before the ice sheet and its glaciers began to retreat. It was then, so fossil records suggest, that the Irish elk disappeared from the area.

The Wildwood

From 8500BC to 4250BC (the Mesolithic Period) the retreat of the ice and the rise in temperatures encouraged the development in Britain of warmth-loving vegetation and forest. Certainly by about 7000BC hazel joined birch and pine and an increased range of animals (wild cattle, wild boar, red deer and roe deer) inhabited the area. Wolf and brown bear were widespread. Hunter-gatherers moved into the region and there is evidence of permanent occupation, the use of fire for land clearance and flint working. Oak and elm joined the woodlands and then by the end of the period, about 4500BC, small-leaved lime was dominating the forests of lowland England, including Surrey. Land clearance, even if limited, helped create the environment for game species; but increasingly dense woodland conditions prevailed. The bow seems increasingly to have been used as a hunting weapon. An important event was the separation of the British Isles from mainland Europe. As the ice melted, sea-levels rose, the waters encircled the country and by 6500BC the area was cut off from the mainland.

Farming Arrives

The Neolithic Period covers the years from about 4250BC to 2000BC. It marked a fundamental shift from the seasonal hunter and the hunter gatherer regimes to the regime of the farmer. The transition was, of course, gradual but "domesticated" plants and animals began to appear in Britain as the culture of farming migrated from the Near East across Europe to the British Isles. Polished stone axes have been found and there is evidence of a trade in flint as well as of community life. The arrival of farming was uneven in place as well as time, and there is little to suggest that Surrey changed from its hunter gatherer regime at an early stage. Certainly, elsewhere, elm leaves were used as fodder, some woodland was being coppiced and forest clearance continued, albeit slowly. The rise in sea levels ceased at some stage during the Neolithic Period and approximated to those we know today.

The Bronze Age

The years from 2000BC to 700BC form the Bronze Age. Trends identified in previous periods continued. Major clearances took place and the deciduous woodlands on upland chalk largely disappeared, leaving downlands in their place. Woodlands on heavier soils, such as Weald clay, remained largely undisturbed. River valleys, because of their liability to flood, were marginal. In parts of Surrey, as elsewhere, repeated burning and cultivation resulted in low-nutrient soils and so led to heathland. Forest clearance affected soil drainage and could result in wet and dry heath and in some cases soil erosion. Thursley Common heathland and the "mire" habitat near Ockley reflect Bronze Age forest clearance. In China, the Middle East and South East Europe, the Bronze Age is associated with the increased use of the wheel, the development of bronze implements, the growth of 'urban' societies and trade networks. These reached Northern Europe later.

Tribal Living

The Bronze Age gave way to the Iron Age, roughly 700BC to AD43. Increased population pressure seems likely to have increased the rate of land clearance and there is evidence of intensive arable cultivation on chalk using a terrace/lynchet system. Improved tools facilitated woodland clearance on areas of clay-with-flints and plateau gravels, but on slopes soil erosion was the all too frequent result of stripping away the tree cover. Iron Age field systems are widely distributed across the Downs, supporting the idea of cereal cultivation. Hill forts and fortified enclosed settlements (as at St Anne's Hill near Chertsey and Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon) were a major feature of the Iron Age and are associated with tribal groupings. Surrey is rich in hill forts and in the heathlands associated with land clearance although data from the south of the county is relatively thin. It seems probable that land clearance was leading to loss of the previously dominant small-leaved lime.

Roman Britain

A vivid local reminder of the period of Roman occupation (AD43 to AD410) is Stane Street, which ran north east through Surrey from Chichester to London and which can easily be seen on the ground near Ockley (where the A29 follows its course) and near Mickleham (where it runs as a distinct track from near Juniper Hall across Mickleham and Leatherhead Downs, over the M25, to Epsom). The Romans introduced a highly organised, well-ordered landscape of roads, fields, country villas, farmsteads and towns into Surrey. The civic demands of Roman society would have required increasing amounts of timber, fuel and wood products and as a result large areas of woodland, including the Weald, were under active management regimes. Advanced agricultural methods facilitated the working of even the heavier soils like the London Clay between Farnham and Guildford but the poorer, very heavy soils of the Weald with their sticky, deep clay remained largely unworked, and away from major routes the population was small, scattered and isolated. In the north of the county particularly, and along major routes, there is evidence of tile and pottery kilns, villas, temples and homesteads. A major villa was found at Ashtead and a tileworks near Reigate. Staines was a major river crossing carrying the Roman road from London to Silchester and Dorking may well have been a staging post on Stane Street. Roman materials have been found at Pixham, Burford Bridge and in Dorking town centre. The villas were farm centres and some were richly decorated (eg mosaics at Walton Heath) and many with under-floor heating (as at Ashtead). Many of the "Romans" were not of Roman birth but were soldiers, traders and settlers from Gaul and the Iberian Peninsula; equally many administrators were drawn from the native Celts who seem to have welcomed the arrival of Roman rule. The pottery industry included sites at Leatherhead, Farnham, Tilford and Farley Heath. The pottery was coarse, grey and utilitarian. During the fourth century increasing threats

to the Roman Empire from tribal incursions across the long borders and from internal strife led to the contraction of Roman interests and to the withdrawal of Rome from Britain. By AD410 Britain reverted to self-rule.

An Agrarian Society

With the departure of the Romans, England entered what are commonly called 'The Dark Ages' (although it should be noted that more recently some historians have questioned the use of this term, claiming that this was actually a period of inventiveness and progress). This was the time when Britain was under increasing pressure from raiders such as the Picts, Saxons and Scots (Irish) but also when the Saxons settled in Surrey - and elsewhere - introducing a highly organised agrarian society which included the seasonal movement of stock between the Downs and the Weald and the controlled management of woodland with enclosed woods for timber and fuel, wood commons and wood pasture for stock feeding. Saxon settlement in Surrey began in the fifth century although it was well into the sixth century before Saxon influences moved from the north to the county as a whole. There is evidence that the transition from Roman to Saxon agricultural practices was largely gradual and continuous but that in the towns the Roman settlements fell into decay and were replaced by uniquely Saxon towns. Christianity reached Surrey in 666 when an abbey was founded at Chertsey. At the time, Surrey seems to have been a sub-kingdom of Mercia and permission to endow the abbey had to be sought from Wulfhere, the ruler of Mercia. A seventh century Saxon cemetery was excavated at Leatherhead and iron spear-heads and knives, and amethyst, glass and panther cowrie beads found. As panther cowrie is found only in the Red Sea this is evidence certainly of travel and perhaps of trade. The people lived in timber-framed rectangular huts with thatched roofs, often grouped into small hamlets. Smaller huts often accommodated weavers and their tools of the trade and had sunken floors, perhaps dug 2 or 3 feet into the ground. Few such buildings have been found in Surrey, although remnants have been found at Farnham and Shepperton. The hut dwellers wove their own cloth, made crude pottery, and had a way of life which altered little until well beyond the Norman Conquest.

From 823, when King Egbert of Wessex defeated the Mercians and the Men of Kent in battle, the whole of southern England, including Surrey, submitted to the rule of Wessex. The Saxons needed this unity as they were increasingly subject to raids by the Vikings. In 851 a large army of Danes invaded southern England, entering Surrey from the north and east. The Danes were defeated by the Saxons in a major battle at Aclea, believed by some to be Ockley, and Wessex and Christianity were saved. Viking/Danish incursions continued, however, and by mid-800s Surrey and much of south and east England were effectively under the invader's control. The Danes were eventually driven from Surrey and adjoining areas by Alfred the Great (after battles at Farnham and Staines) and a period of peace and prosperity ensued. Settlements expanded, including Dorking, Guildford (which had a mint), Croydon, Epsom, Banstead, Leatherhead and Farnham. Kingston was particularly important as a royal residence, a trading centre and the place where six Saxon kings were crowned. During the tenth century the administration of Surrey through Hundreds was developed. Each Hundred had a court, levied taxes and was divided into Tithings. At the same time the Shire system grew and Surrey had its first sheriff over 1000 years ago. The Danes returned after 980 and ravaged Surrey and the south east. Over thirty years of warfare followed until a Dane, Cnut, ascended the throne of England in 1017. Edward the Confessor eventually replaced Cnut as King and when he died in early 1066 the stage was set for the Norman Conquest.

The Middle Ages (1066 - 1536)

With the arrival in England of William the Conqueror in late 1066, and his accession to the throne on Christmas Day of that year, England became a country with a ruling Norman elite. Surrey's first mediaeval hunting forest (an expanse of woodland, heathland and open country enclosed by fencing or a bank and ditch system) was created, holding deer, wild cattle and boars. It was part of a forest extending from Windsor to the south coast and ensured the preservation of semi-natural habitats. Rabbits were introduced and, kept in warrens, were an important source of food. Wolves roamed in Surrey well into the thirteenth century - a bounty was paid for their capture. To ensure that their rule was unchallenged, the Normans built many castles: in Surrey they set up castles at Guildford, Farnham, Abinger, Bletchingley, Reigate, Ockley and elsewhere. Apart from a few substantial towns, mediaeval Surrey contained villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads - markedly different from the Midlands where the many typically nucleated villages were separated by open fields. An iron industry developed, using iron ore from the Weald and charcoal, usually from "managed" woodland, with water used to drive hammers. Surrey south of the Downs remained heavily wooded, all but impassable in winter, and generally isolated and poor. Its scattered and isolated population was saved from the worst effects of the fourteenth century Black Death, which killed almost one third of the population of England, simply because the disease could less easily spread. The Norman feudal system began to show signs of breaking under the impact of the Black Death, which reduced the supply of labour and increased prices at markets, and indirectly led to the growth of a wage economy. Unrest spread and there was rioting in, for example, Guildford, Chertsey and Southwark (then part of Surrey). The period saw the growth of the church: the Abbey of Waverley was established in 1128 and Chertsey Abbey, founded in 666, was rebuilt and enlarged in 1110. Newark Priory (late 12th century) and monastic houses at Tandridge, Merton, Reigate and Ripley indicated the power and importance of the church. Markets, like that at Farnham, whose charter dates to 1216 and Dorking (said in 1278 to be from 'time immemorial') as well as the fairs at Bletchingley (1283) and elsewhere give evidence of thriving trade. Large houses were built to accommodate the wealthier landowners and merchants.

The Late Mediaeval Period

The early 1500s saw the birth of the English country house. Prior to this the rich and influential had lived in castles or fortified manor houses, but with a settled and peaceful economy and strong systems of law and order, it was safe for "open" houses to be built, often in parklands. From 1550 the country house came into its own. Clandon Park, near Merrow, is a prime example; built for the Onslow family it employed a Venetian architect to design the house and Capability Brown to design the garden. In Surrey generally the woodland cover diminished and John Evelyn made a plea for afforestation taken up by many landowners. Only on the Weald did change occur very slowly and well into the seventeenth century an early mediaeval visitor would have felt quite at home. The enclosures typical of the midlands largely passed Surrey by, mainly because a form of enclosure (of forests and parks) had been introduced by the Normans five or six centuries earlier. Trade expanded, the Wealden iron industry grew and large timber-framed houses were built. Surrey, in relative terms, became more prosperous.

The Modern Period

Changes in Surrey over the past 250 to 300 years have been well documented. For Surrey as a whole John Janaway's "Surrey, A County History" (Countryside Books, 1994) gives a detailed and interesting account of developments while at the micro level publications such

as "The Book of Newdigate" compiled by John Callcut & the Newdigate Society (Halsgrove, 2002) and "Around Dorking" by Alan Jackson (Alan Sutton, 1989) provide more intimate portraits of essentially local areas. The nature and accelerating rate of change make generalisations across the county as a whole difficult, but a few themes may be recognised. An obvious one is transport. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in particular, Surrey experienced improved roads, the introduction of turnpikes and the building of canals (eg, Wey Navigation, 1653, Basingstoke Canal, Surrey section 1794). These together increased the prosperity of towns like Guildford (supplying corn, timber and beer to London). The arrival of the railways had an enormous impact: the first public railway in the world was the Surrey Iron Railway from Wandsworth to Croydon (1803), later extended to Godstone and Merstham. In 1838 fare-paying passengers travelled from London to Woking Common and the new town of Woking began. As the railways spread across Surrey, Redhill grew as a railway junction town (as did Woking). Both attracted light industry and commuters. Other towns, using the railways, became commuter areas, with the increase in populations putting a great strain on utilities and in Guildford and Godalming leading to outbreaks of typhoid and cholera - but leading also to greatly improved water supply and sewage disposal systems. The railways carried people and goods to London but the traffic was not just one way. Raw materials were brought to the burgeoning industrial estates and "city gents" bought land and created estates an hour or so's travelling time from London. In the 1930s a road-building programme was initiated, in part to cater for the demands of the internal combustion engine. The Mickleham by-pass on the A24 is an example of this. In the first half of the 20th century, at Brooklands, the aeroplane was making its mark. Alcock and Brown crossed the Atlantic in a Vickers Vimy built at Brooklands, and later the Wellington bomber was built there. Croydon became an international airport until replaced by Heathrow but now Surrey's attention is focussed on Gatwick airport which, although in Sussex, has a profound effect on Surrey south of Dorking and Reigate. The prospect of a second runway there raises fears of heavy construction traffic, despoliation of the countryside and traffic jammed roads. Roads, too, exercise a baneful influence over much of the county. The M25, M23, A3 and other major routes are already used to capacity and at some times are almost unusable. The building of more houses in the area, or the expansion of Gatwick, would place an even greater strain on the road system.

By the end of Victoria's reign Surrey was easily accessible to almost the whole of London. Orphanages, schools and asylums moved to Surrey and the London Necropolis was created at Brookwood. Hospitals moved to the healthy Surrey heathlands and a number of writers and artists took up residence in the Surrey Hills. Horse racing had long been established in Surrey (at Guildford, Egham and Reigate for example) but with improved transport systems Epsom, Lingfield, Hurst Park, Kempton Park and Sandown grew apace. Walkers came to the Surrey Hills and cyclists toured the county. Golf courses, leisure parks, hotels and gardens attracted more visitors so that now, in some respects, Surrey is the playground of London.

The Surrey landscape has changed significantly. In 1804 the county had 55400 hectares of heathland; today it has a mere 3000 or so hectares. Softwood plantations were introduced in the 19th century but planned afforestation and the conservation of older woodland areas is restoring the balance of native species. The need for agricultural self-sufficiency in World War II meant that farmers had to make use of marginal land to intensify production but since then the combined effects of European agricultural policies and declining farm incomes have meant that many of the smaller farmers have gone out of business while those

units that remain rely heavily on "diversification" for income. Paradoxically, while farmers' incomes remain relatively depressed, the value of land in the Surrey stockbroker belt is high. Competition from overseas, the strong pound and more recently BSE and the knock-on effects of foot and mouth do nothing to restore Surrey agriculture to health.

TANGLEWOOD

Jane Lilley

The first 1" Ordnance Survey map, which dates from about 1800, shows Broad Lane as an apparently uninhabited lane leading from the hamlet of Parkgate towards Leigh and Reigate. Between 1800 and 1840, three cottages were built on its wide verges. Two were at the Parkgate end, and have long since vanished, although there are modern houses on the sites (see the article on Woodside Cottages in this issue). The third, Tanglewood, is further down, almost opposite the northern entrance to Hammonds Copse. It may have been the first house built on Broad Lane, and is certainly now the oldest.

Few facts are known with certainty about its early history. It is always unwise to speculate too far on inadequate evidence, but in this case the known facts, both documentary and physical, fit together to make a coherent story. Future research may confirm or modify it, but it seems worth recording as it stands.

Surveying for the c1800 map apparently began in 1792, and it was finally published in 1816; at present I cannot be more accurate about when this area was surveyed. Although there are a couple of mistakes, it is generally very accurate about marking houses, and tells us that a number of cottages which existed in 1840 had not yet been built when it was surveyed. Unfortunately it is not always clear, and in the crucial part of Broad Lane the symbols for woodland are dense and black, and it is difficult to be certain that there is no little black square for a cottage tucked among then. But after looking at both a recent reprint of the original map and a photocopy of the original survey at a scale of 2" to the mile, I cannot see any sign of a cottage where Tanglewood should be.

The tithe redemption survey was apparently carried out in 1839 or 1840; the final map is dated 1841 and the schedule 1843, but there is good evidence that the survey was a year or two earlier. By that date, some forty years after the Ordnance Survey map, there was a cottage on the site of Tanglewood. This appears to have been the earliest part of the present house. The schedule lists a cottage and garden of 1 rood 29 perches in area, and a separate orchard of 16 square perches, making a total of just over half an acre (40 square perches = 1 rood = quarter acre). It was owned and occupied by a man called James Smith.

At this time, it was extremely unusual for a man to own his house. In the tithe award, there are only six owner-occupiers: the Broadwood family, who were big landowners at Lyne in the south of the parish; the schoolmaster John Chart, who was a man of substance and also farmed Hound House Farm; a small farmer at Tanhouse Farm; and three occupants of squatter's cottages built illegally not very long before.

James Smith was baptised at St Peter's Church, Newdigate on 4th February 1798, the son of John and Sarah Smith. We do not know where he grew up, or when and where he married his wife Jane. The next record I have found for him was when his son Peter, then eight weeks old, was baptised at Newdigate in March 1821. The entry is interesting because

James Smith is described as being 'of Horley', so he was not considered resident in Newdigate. There must have been some reason for the baptism being in Newdigate rather than Horley. If Jane Smith came from Newdigate, she might have gone to stay with her mother for the birth, but although a weak or sickly baby would be baptised at the first opportunity in case it died, the baptism normally seems to have taken place six weeks or more after the birth, in the parents' parish. So it is possible that James Smith was staying with relations while he looked for a job or a place to live. The family must have moved to Newdigate about then, as two years later, when their daughter Ann was baptised, he was considered a resident of the parish.

In 1821, James Smith was aged 23 or 24, a young man with a wife and baby. There is no direct evidence that he built his cottage then, but it seems unlikely that he would have done so if he had anywhere else to live. It is possible that he rented a cottage and was later evicted, or rented somewhere that literally collapsed around them. But my guess is that when he moved to Newdigate he could not find a cottage to rent, and in desperation built one for himself.

It was a difficult step to take. To build even the smallest cottage you needed a plot of land and some money, and a farm labourer like James Smith would have had neither. Newdigate was desperately poor at this time, and not even the farmers were building houses. Less than thirty years earlier, in 1794, the curate Thomas Duncomb commented that only one house had been built in the last forty years and two in that century.

But the population was increasing rapidly. The first census, in 1801, gives the population of Newdigate as 445. Only forty years later it was 541, an increase of over 20%. To put it another way, by 1841 there were an extra ninety-six people who had to live somewhere.

The 1841 census shows that unmarried men usually lived either with their parents or in the farmhouses of their employers. But a married man with a family needed to rent somewhere of his own, however small; and there was little available. The tithe redemption tells us that in c1840 there were only 84 houses in the parish, many of them tiny. The censuses show that by 1841 many houses were divided, and large families, often including a widowed parent as well as six or more children, lived in only two or three rooms. When anywhere remotely inhabitable became empty, it must have been re-let extremely rapidly. So it is quite likely that when James Smith and his family moved into the parish they were unable to find anywhere to live.

But no farm labourer, however desperate for a home, could buy the land to build a cottage, even if the farmer would consider selling it. He had barely enough money to feed his family and pay the rent. So in the early nineteenth century people began to enclose and build on land which they did not own, a practice known as purpresture. The verges of the roads were technically 'manorial waste', land which belonged to the parish as a whole, and by the first detailed census in 1841, several 'squatters' cottages' had been built on them, along the edges of the Brocus and on the verge of Broad Lane. Another, on the corner of a field in Blanks Lane, is recorded in the Cudworth Court Rolls as an 'encroachment', and a yearly rent to the manor of six shillings is specified.

Whether Tanglewood was the earliest of the cottages built on Broad Lane is not known, but it seems likely. One can imagine James Smith with his wife and baby son, having found a job but with no prospect of a cottage becoming available, desperate for somewhere to live

and driven to illegal measures. He built it some distance from the hamlet of Parkgate, on the west (left) side of the road, next to Ewood Lane (now a bridleway).

At the time this would have been a rather isolated site. Possibly he was worried about the reaction to his illegal building, and chose a site well away from the hamlet. But there may be a simpler explanation. He was a farm labourer, and Ewood Lane led directly to Ewood Farm, while almost opposite was Parkhouse Lane (now a footpath) leading to Parkhouse Farm, in Leigh parish but even closer than Ewood. If he was employed on either farm, Tanglewood was built on the closest available site, a mere half or three-quarter mile from his work. Certainly in 1851, when he was a widower without dependants, he had let Tanglewood and was living with a farmer in Leigh, although the census does not name it and we do not know at present if this was Parkhouse Farm.

Where the materials for the cottage came from we can only guess. Bricks were expensive, even for a tiny cottage with only one room, which is probably what he built. Timber framing had gone out of use by this date, but the oldest part of Tanglewood is very oddly framed with heavy timbers. The timbers are clearly reused, and many of them are in rather short lengths, as if the builder had made the best use he could of whatever material was available to construct a frame. Perhaps James Smith worked for a sympathetic farmer who allowed him to salvage the sound timbers from an abandoned barn. If he also adopted the old technique of making the walls between the timbers of wattle panels plastered with clay, and perhaps made a rough thatch for the roof, he could have built a tiny but fairly weatherproof cottage with considerable labour but at very little cost in money.

Apart from a brief letting after James Smith was widowed, Tanglewood remained in his occupation, and then his brother-in-law George Tobitt's, until George's death in 1898. We do not know whether they also continued to own it, but it seems probable. The original cottage seems to have been steadily enlarged, and a tenant would be unlikely to spend time and money enlarging a rented cottage, even if he was given permission to do so. At some time it became part of the Duke of Norfolk's estate, but this was most likely after George Tobitt's death.

According to the present owners, Richard and Sharon Jones, the oldest parts of the house appear to have been built one room at a time, none of them quite matching. The earliest were originally single storey, with upstairs rooms added later. How long this took is unclear. We can speculate that James Smith improved the original house fairly soon, replacing the wattle (if that was what he originally used) with bricks, and then adding either an upper storey or another room behind the first. He only seems to have had two children, and by the standards of the time, a two roomed cottage would have been perfectly adequate for his family. The 1891 census records the number of rooms in the smallest cottages, and at this date Tanglewood had four. A map of 1895 suggests that these were the front and back rooms at the left of the present house, with one or both being two-storied.

Unlike Woodside Cottages, which were also built on Broad Lane before c1840, Tanglewood has survived into the 21st century. Most of the present house seems to date from the twentieth century, but despite its eccentricities (or perhaps because of them) the original part was not replaced, although the house has been enlarged and updated at roughly thirty year intervals since around 1930 and perhaps before, as expectations and fashions changed. James Smith would have trouble recognising his one-roomed cottage, and would be staggered by its present size.

As has been described in the story of Tanglewood, there was an acute shortage of houses in the 1820s and 1830s, and people began to build illegally on the verges of the roads. On Broad Lane, two of the earliest cottages were built close together near the Parkgate end, roughly on the site of the present Willow Cottage, where the eastern (right-hand) verge began to widen. They were built some time before 1835, when the Cudworth Manor Court Rolls describe, 'An encroachment in Broad Lane...occupied by James Butcher'; a yearly rent of 6 shillings was set. James Butcher was a wheelwright at what is now the Surrey Oaks, and seems to have regarded the wide verges as an under-utilised resource, as he had also enclosed two adjacent sections opposite, just beyond Mill Lane, which he was using as 'gardens' (probably more like modern allotments) at the time of the tithe apportionment survey in about 1840.

As he lived just around the corner, the two cottages were probably built to rent out; certainly they were let in c1840. There was an acute shortage of housing at the time, so he is unlikely to have had trouble finding tenants. Most people took it for granted that they would rent their home; James Butcher was himself a tenant of the Duke of Norfolk. It is possible that he built the cottages as a source of income to fund his old age. He may have started the Surrey Oaks Inn for the same reason, after his son William took over the wheelwrighting some time in the 1840s, or it could have been started by his widow after his death in 1850. The cottages were left to their two sons, so Mary Butcher would have needed an income. Certainly she was running it by 1851.

The two cottages he built on Broad Lane can be identified with reasonable certainty in every census from 1841 to 1901. They are on roughly the site where it is known that two cottages were demolished by a V1 flying bomb in 1944, and I had assumed that the latter were those shown on the tithe map. But copies of the 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey maps, showing Broad Lane at a scale of about 25 inches to the mile, survive from 1895 and 1911/12 and tell a different story.

The 1895 map clearly shows the two old cottages at the Parkgate end of the road, a little beyond the entrance to Mill Lane and on the opposite side. They were adjacent and set slightly back from the road, exactly as shown on the tithe map. There is also a small rectangular building at the far end of the plot, perhaps a shed or a pigsty.

On the 1911/12 revision of the same map, the cottages have been replaced by another detached house in the same place, but so differently orientated that it is unlikely to be a remodelling of the original buildings. Additionally, a pair of neat, square, semi-detached houses have been built at the far end of its plot, close to the road. A well has been dug in the garden, replacing the pond which was almost certainly the previous source of water, and a strip of scrub along the back boundary has been incorporated into the gardens, slightly enlarging them.

There seems to be no doubt that the cottages shown on the tithe map were replaced between 1895 and 1911. Nothing in the 1901 census suggests that anything had changed then, so the new cottages were built between 1901 and 1911. They were probably plain, solid homes, and would have been regarded as a vast improvement on the old buildings. These were about seventy years old, and are likely to have been very cheaply and poorly built by James Butcher, otherwise they would have been repaired rather than replaced.

The cottages are not named on the maps, and no name seems to be remembered for them. But by the start of the twentieth century houses generally had their own names, rather than being known by their owner's name, and there is good reason to think that these were called Woodside Cottages or just Woodside. Both names are mentioned in the 1927 church registers, and one entry specifies Broad Lane. There is no house of that name there now, but many houses have changed their names over the years, so for a long time I had no idea where Woodside was.

However, the names also appear regularly in a number of rate books which survive from the 1930s, and they are mentioned during the Second World War. The rate books are not entirely consistent about the order in which houses are entered, or very accurate about getting names exactly right, but they list Woodside and/or Woodside Cottages at the end of Broad Lane, after Alfriston (now Garlands). In this position, they could only be the unidentified cottages. There are no other houses on Broad Lane unaccounted for in the rate books, and no other name known which could belong to these houses, so I am fairly confident about the identification. The detached house may originally have been called Woodside, and the cottages Woodside Cottages. The former was probably divided by the 1930s, as the rate books list four Woodside Cottages.

In 1944, one of the first V1 flying bombs landed in Broad Lane. It is reported to have demolished two or three cottages at the Parkgate end of Broad Lane, and blown the roof off Kiln Cottages and the windows out of Sots Hole on Partridge Lane. The names of the cottages on Broad Lane are not remembered, but they can only have been Woodside and Woodside Cottages; there was nothing else at that end of Broad Lane until Garlands and Oak Tree Cottages, which appear to have been unscathed.

As confirmation, the Newdigate Society records include the sale notice for a building plot which is described as the site of two four-roomed cottages demolished by a flying bomb. The plot, and the adjacent one which is also marked, are distinctively shaped and unmistakable. They were originally the tapering end of the verge of the road, then successively the sites of the old cottages built by James Butcher and shown on the tithe map, the cottages which replaced them in the 1900s and had been entirely forgotten, and the present Willow Cottage and End Gables, which were built in the late 1940s or 1950s.

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