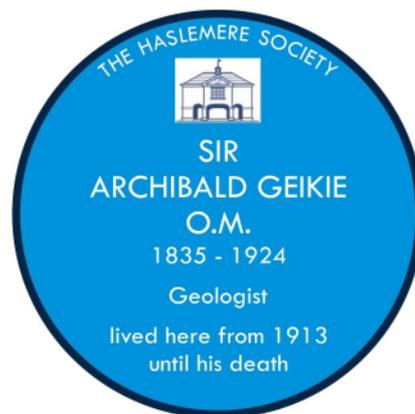


THE
HASLEMERE
SOCIETY



Blue Plaque Scheme





Blue Plaque Scheme

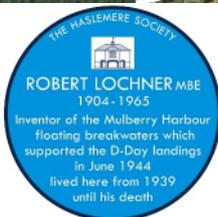
The Haslemere Blue Plaque scheme was introduced in 2007

To qualify for a plaque, if it is dedicated to an individual, that individual must:

- have been deceased for twenty years or have passed the centenary of their birth, whichever is the earlier.
- be considered eminent by a majority of members of their own profession; have made an outstanding contribution to human welfare or happiness; have resided in a locality for a significant period, in time or importance, within their
- be recognisable to the well-informed passer-by, or deserve national recognition.
- not be commemorated by the society with more than two plaques

Plaques can only be erected on the actual building inhabited by a figure, not the site where the building once stood

Where to locate our Blue Plaques





Traffic

More...

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY



JOHN WORNHAM
PENFOLD
 1828 - 1909
 Surveyor & Architect
 Designer of the Penfold
 Pillar Box
 Lived here for most
 of his life

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY



SIR
ARCHIBALD GEIKIE
 O.M.
 1835 - 1924
 Geologist
 lived here from 1913
 until his death

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY



WALTER TYNDALE
 1854 - 1943
 Artist, illustrator
 and diarist
 Lived here

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY



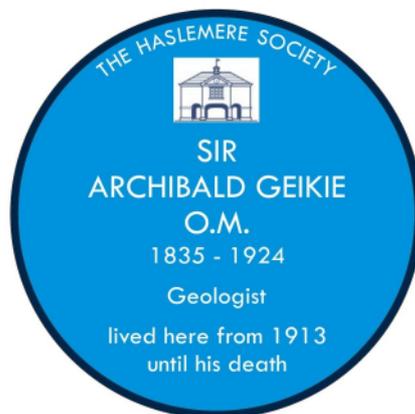
ONCE THE RED COW INN
ON COW STREET
 This freehold notoriously subdivided
 in this formerly 'Rotten Borough'
 for the parliamentary elections
 of 1754
 "At one strange birth this cow
 Cast forth eight calves
 In human shape"

Sir Archibald Geikie O.M.

Blue plaque at Shepherd's Down, Hill Road



Sir Archibald Geikie OM KCB, FRS
1835-1924
A portrait by Reginald Eves 1914
With thanks to The Royal Society



Sir Archibald Geikie OM KCB, FRS

1835-1924

Sir Archibald was born in Edinburgh, and was educated at the Edinburgh Royal High School. At the age of 15 he entered a lawyer's office in Edinburgh but in 1852 he met Hugh Millar, (a well known Scottish geologist) and abandoned his legal career to enter Edinburgh University. Although studying Classics and Literature he continued his interest in the Highlands and met with Professor Ramsay, Director of the local Geological Survey. A family financial crisis forced Geikie to abandon university and following an introduction to Sir Roderick Murchison he, in 1855, eagerly joined the Survey.

His industry in the following years was prodigious and his professional standing grew enormously and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1865 at the age of just 29.

His geological achievements are documented below but Geikie was also a most prolific author of many books and papers on a variety of subjects - not the least being "The Birds of Shakespeare."

1867 Director of the Geological Survey of Scotland

1871 Murchison Chair of Geology, Edinburgh University

1879 Visits and lectures in the USA

1882 Director General of the Geological Survey

1890 President of the Geological Society

1908 President of the Royal Society

In 1913 Geikie, newly appointed to the Order of Merit, retired from London to live in Haslemere in a house, "Shepherd's Down", designed by his wife and daughters. In that year Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, a former president of the Royal College of Surgeons and founder and owner of Haslemere Educational Museum, died. He left no Museum endowment and it faced closure.

Geikie came to the fore and agreed to head up the management committee and to start fund raising. Although the endowment fund attracted only £2,000 it was enough to keep the Museum going during the hardship of the war years. Under Sir Archibald's leadership the Museum in 1919 decided to seek better and more central premises and this they successfully achieved, and remain on the same site today. The Museum today flourishes and is forever grateful for Sir Archibald's considerable leadership in those difficult times.

In 1924 Sir Archibald Geikie died, aged 88 and is buried in St Bartholomew's churchyard, Haslemere. On his tombstone are the words,

**"Wisdom is a treasure that never faileth : which they that use become the friends
of God."**

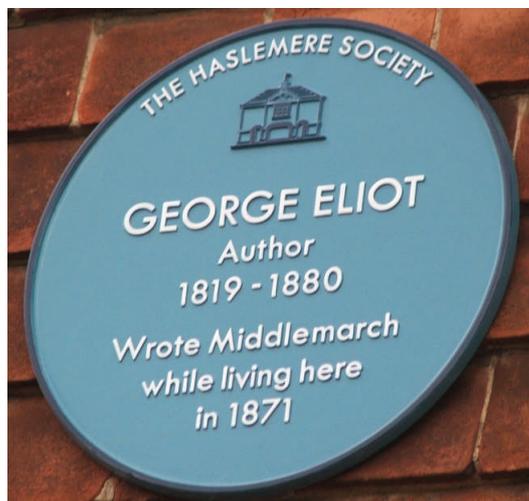
GEORGE ELIOT

ALIAS MARION EVANS

Blue plaque at Brookbank, Liphook Road

*George Eliot created much of her great novel Middlemarch
at Brookbank during the summer of 1871.*

*Other Victorian literary stars such as
Tennyson, Dante Gabriel, William and Christina Rossetti
also visited and wrote at 'this queer little cottage'*





Mary Ann (Marian) Evans better known by her pen name George Eliot, was one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. Her novels, largely set in provincial England, are well known for their realism and psychological perspicacity.

She used a male pen name, she said, to ensure that her works were taken seriously. Female authors published freely under their own names, but Eliot wanted to ensure that she was not seen as merely a writer of romances. An additional factor may have been a desire to shield her private life from public scrutiny and to prevent scandals attending her relationship with the married George Henry Lewes.

Her first complete novel, published in 1859, was *Adam Bede* and was an instant success, but it prompted an intense interest in who this new author might be, and there was even a pretender to the authorship, one Joseph Liggins.

In the end, the real George Eliot stepped forward: Marian Evans Lewes admitted she was the author. The revelations about Eliot's private life surprised and shocked many of her admiring readers, but this apparently did not affect her popularity as a novelist.



Brookbank, a small cottage in Shottermill played a pivotal role in initiating the literary migration to Haslemere and its surrounding hills during the Victorian era.

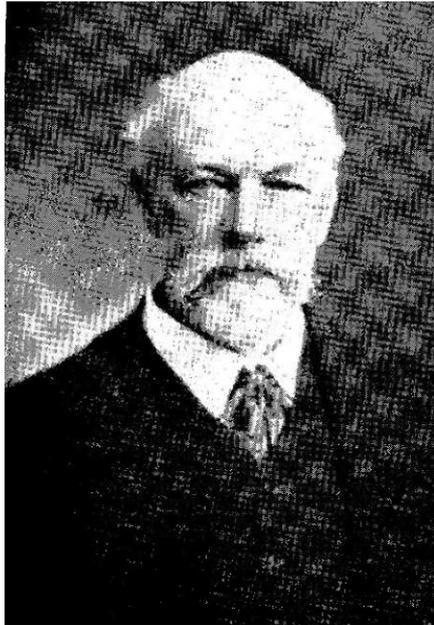
Ann Gilchrest moved out of London to Brookbank following the untimely death of her husband. Well-integrated into the London literary society, Dante Gabriel and William Rossetti helped her complete her late husband's 'Life of William Blake'. This led to Ann's friendship with Christine Rossetti who stayed and wrote at Brookbank.

Ann's friendships at the Royal Society brought Alfred Tennyson to Brookbank in 1866 and it was with her assistance that he found and secured the site on Blackdown for Aldworth. Tennyson moved in 1869. WR Trotter wrote in his local history book entitled 'The Hilltop Writers' that Ann Gilchrest's move to Brookbank in 1862 'was the seminal event that initiated the literary migration' to this area .

In 1871 GH Lewes and Marion Evans , alias GEORGE ELIOT, rented Brookbank for the summer months whilst their London home was being renovated. Her first letters to Ann grumbled about the poor local supplies. Yet her work progressed rapidly on *Middlemarch* and 2 months later she wrote "I did not imagine that I should ever be so fond of the place as I am now". She frequently referred to Brookbank as a 'queer little cottage'. Yet the peace she found enabled her to work faster than expected . Virginia Woolf .referred to *Middlemarch* as 'one of the few English novels written for grown-up people.'

William Cecil Marshall

Blue plaque at Leigh Heights, The Hindhead Music Centre, Hindhead Road.



William Cecil Marshall 1849-1921



*Runner-up's cup, All-England
Lawn Tennis 1877*

W C Marshall was a good all round athlete and played both real and lawn tennis, the latter for Cambridge against Oxford three years running in 1870, 1871 and 1872. In addition he was an amateur figure skater and even wrote a pocket book for figure skaters. He lost the very first Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Final in 1877 to Spencer Gore 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. The match took 50 minutes and was attended by a formally dressed crowd of about 200 people who paid a shilling each to stand and watch. A field of 22 competitors had assembled to play, and had to finish by Thursday because an important cricket match was scheduled for Friday.

Willie, as he was known in the family, had grown up in the Lake District and showed early promise as an artist. However, his father persuaded him that he would stand a better chance of earning his own living as an architect. His success in this field allowed him and his wife Margaret to bring up their family of six children in a large house in Bedford Square, Bloomsbury and to build "Tweenways" on the Hindhead Road as his weekend retreat in 1887. The house was later re-named "Leigh Heights" and is now the home of the Hindhead Music Centre. In 1908, when he retired, he came to live permanently at Tweenways. At that time the

house had William Morris wallpaper, Morris and Shaker furniture and a huge mural by Lawrence Turner over the mantelpiece.

He was very active in the local community, becoming a member of the Shottermill Parish Council, chairman of the Hindhead and District Electric Light Company, and served on the Hindhead Commons Committee.

He was also chairman of the School Care Committee inaugurating the Shottermill Dental Clinic. Being a friend of Charles Darwin he developed an interest in eugenics, at a time when the subject had not yet achieved its current notoriety, and founded the local branch of the Eugenics Education Society. His wife Margaret was one of the first active advocates of Women's Suffrage.

Their daughter Frances Partridge, who died in 2004 at the age of 103, was an eminent writer and literary journalist. She was the last surviving member of the Bloomsbury Group.

Precious little appears to be known about WC Marshall's career as an architect although he obviously made a comfortable living .

He was responsible for at least three buildings at Cambridge University and two at Trinity College Dublin. He also designed tennis courts: both lawn and real!



The most beautiful building on Corpus Christi college's Leckhampton site, which includes one of the largest Cambridge college gardens.

Robert Lochner MBE

Blue plaque at Rats Castle
Liphook Road



Robert Lochner

1904-1965

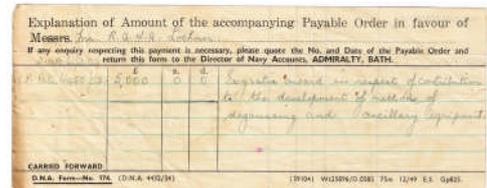
Robert Lochner was a truly remarkable man. Before the war, as a qualified engineer, he worked for 14 years for Crompton Parkinson Ltd in design, production and sales positions, before taking up an appointment as sales manager for Laurence, Scott & Electromotors Ltd, moving to Rats castle at about the same time. He was also a keen amateur sailor, and proud owner of his own sailing boat, the Odette. He is pictured here on board with his wife. Amongst other achievements, he successfully completed the 208 mile RORC race in 1939, although he does appear to have grounded his boat earlier in the year.

With war imminent, on 30 August 1939, he wrote to Admiral Lawrence volunteering his services of an experienced sailor and successful manager. Remarkably, he was commissioned within 18 days. Happily for the war effort his days at sea came to an abrupt end after a short period when he was spotted in his glasses on board ship, and reassigned to research efforts.

With the onset of war the admiralty was seriously concerned by Germany's magnetic mines, which attached to ships' hulls and sank 15 ships in short order.

However, the defusing of a mine dropped by aircraft at Shoeburyness in November allowed a solution to be developed within one week. Lochner was assigned to the research efforts. Together with a team of fellow scientists, he invented the de-gaussing girdle, a skirt fitted to the hulls of ships, and energised by a special electrical current which countered the threat from these mines securing the future of the north Atlantic convoys on which Britain's war effort depended.

As a reward for his efforts, he received the remarkable sum of £5000.



After the war, Lochner had a third career, qualifying and practicing as a successful patent and trademark barrister. He was due to take silk at the time of his premature death.

The Story of the Mulberry Harbours

It is as the inventor of the floating breakwaters for the Mulberry Harbour that Lochner is best known.

One of the principal challenges facing the Allies in mounting the invasion of Europe was that Hitler had secured all of the Northern European mainland ports, and had plans to defend and then blow them up in the event of an invasion. For the invasion to succeed, the Allies therefore concluded that it would be necessary to create temporary harbours to ship supplies to support the invading troops. Without this Harbour there could be no invasion.

The big challenge was to create a breakwater to secure the concrete landings that were to be towed across the English Channel. Lochner led efforts by a group of scientists known by the somewhat 'Boys Own' name of 'The Wheezers and Dodgers' to solve the challenge. Early experiments with a device called a bubble breakwater proved disappointing: but what was the alternative?

The bubble break water had experimented with the preposterous notion that pipes could be laid on the seabed and blow bubbles to calm the waves.

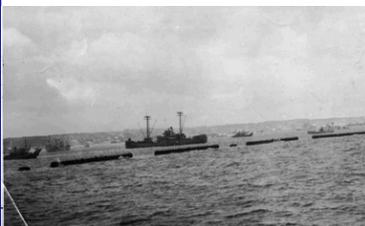


Lying in bed at Rats Castle recovering from flu in the spring of 1943 Lochner realised from his holiday experiences that waves have little strength below the surface. Jumping out of bed, he went to the attic to find an old Lillo rubber mattress, and with the use of an iron bar he bent the mattress lengthways and sewed the two sides together with the bar forming a rough and ready keel. After experiments all day in the pond in his garden, he realised that he had the basis of the solution. His realisation that waves only exert their force to a relatively shallow depth completely revolutionised the approach to the solution.

By July 1943 a mathematical theory to support the approach had been evolved, and in August 1943 experiments began in Portsmouth. The breakwaters were 200 feet long and 12 feet wide with gigantic airbags divided into three compartments running the full length and separated from each other by canvas walls proofed with rubber.

In August 1943, Lochner and his fellow experts flew to Canada to report to the Anglo-American invasion planning conference in Quebec on progress with the harbours. The decision to go ahead with the harbours was taken.

Full-scale trials of the floating breakwater commenced in April 1944. An onshore gale produced heavy seas, and the bombardons calmed the waves effectively.



Assembling two Mulberry harbours, which commenced on D-Day +1 was one of the most remarkable engineering feats in history. In all, one and a half million tons of harbour equipment had to be brought across the Channel in an operation involving 150 Allied tugs. Yet by D-Day +12 most of the Phoenix caissons were in position. However disaster was to strike. A major Atlantic storm destroyed the Mulberry

A harbour on the American beach at Omaha. Lochner was sent to assess the damage. He concluded that the American harbour could not be saved but that certain of the equipment could be redeployed to the British beach at Arromanches. The enlarged harbour was completed by D-Day +40, a harbour 2 miles long by 1 mile broad. On July 23, Churchill visited Mulberry B, and on his return stated ' This miraculous port has played, and will continue to play, a most important part in the liberation of Europe.'

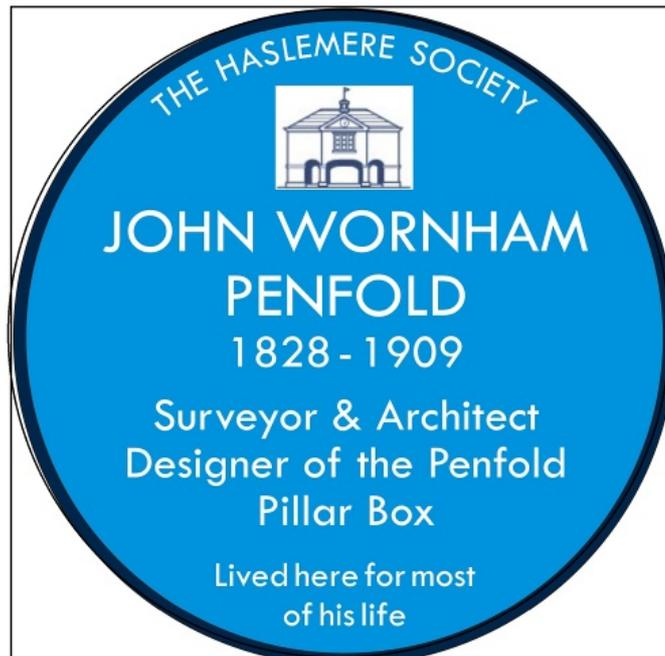
The Wheezers and Dodgers under Lochner's leadership had played a critical role in winning the war.

John Wornham Penfold

Blue plaque at Penfolds, Sandrock,



JW Penfold 1888



John Wornham Penfold

J W Penfold was born the son of a farmer at Courts Hill, now Penfolds on 3 December 1828. He attended school successively at Petersfield, Rogate and Wandsworth Common. On leaving school, he studied architecture and surveying in London, setting up his own practice after qualification. He initially set up offices near the Mansion house in Charlotte Road, later moving to Parliament Street and ultimately Great George Street.

His most significant project seems to have been to in his capacity as surveyor to the Goldsmith company, to oversee a vast construction project in Cripplegate, around Jewin street following a destructive fire in 1889. Sadly, this area was again destroyed by bombs during World War II and is now the site of the Golden Lane estate . He also designed the former naval training school in New Cross, a site taken over in 1890 by the Goldsmith company, and now part of Goldsmiths, University of London.

Throughout his career, he seems to have been an active participant in a number of professional bodies. He was a fellow of *The Royal Institute of British Architects*, an early supporter of *The Architectural Association*, a member of *The Old Surveyors Club*, *The Surveyors Association* and *The Land Surveyors Club*. Apparently he rarely missed any of their social gatherings and he also had some connections with *The Honourable Artillery Company*, although it is unclear what these were.

It is for his connection with *The Surveyors Institution* (today *The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors or RICS*) for which he is most noted. When the establishment of *The Surveyors ' Institution* was first mooted in the early part of 1868, he threw himself at once into the movement, and according to the obituary which appears in the Institute's *Transactions*, threw himself zealously into the project. At the first ordinary general meeting in 1868, he was elected honorary secretary, an office in which he served for a further 36 years. On retiring from this position, due to failing health, he nonetheless remained as a vice president until his death in 1908.

The Surveyors Institution's obituary gives us the greatest insight that we have into Penfold the man.

In truth, reading between the lines it is not altogether a flattering picture.

Penfold and Haslemere

The Penfold family has been in Haslemere since 1650, when Francis Penfold of Petworth purchased land from the Court family in the area where Penfolds now stands. Courts Mount Road is of course named after this family. The house that is now Penfolds, was owned by the Penfold family until around 1800, and then repurchased by Mr. Thomas Penfold in 1814, thereafter remaining in the family until after Penfold's death. J W Penfold was born in the house, and grew up there, before moving to London to assume his career.

It is fascinating to reflect that in his youth the house would have been in a remote inaccessible corner from London, so when the railway arrived in 1859, and the station was built a mere five minutes' walk from his childhood birthplace, it must have been a source of great excitement to him to realise that he could visit his childhood home from London in little more than an hour.

He moved to the house on the death of his fa-



ther in 1873, treating it as his home or headquarters, although it is doubtful that he was a daily commuter.

His obituary in *The Times* notes that his more intimate friends would associated him with Haslemere. He became a significant figure in the community, and demonstrated an enthusiasm for the preservation of the town, and the capturing of its past life. Amusingly, the *Times* obituary notes that it was largely due to his taste and ingenuity that Haslemere has been saved from 'the rawness and garishness too often characteristic of a growing place'. In similar vein, The Surveyors Institution obituary notes ' he had a large and, probably, a predominant share in its development (of Haslemere), and it was owing in a great degree to his good taste and sound judgement that it was saved from the hand of the architectural Philistine who has done so much to destroy the natural charms of so many of the picturesque neighbourhoods within 50 miles of London'. The Haslemere society would have been proud of him, and one wonders whether he was an active member, although sadly the records of the society from this period have been lost.

His interest in and contribution to Haslemere was significant. He restored and made significant alterations to Penfolds and was largely responsible for the house we see today.

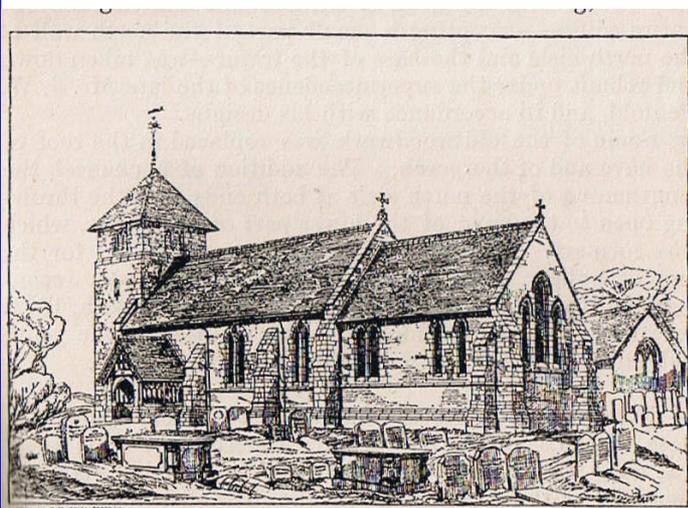


Fig. 31.—The church as rebuilt in 1870. From a drawing by the late J. W. Penfold, F.R.I.B.A.

His principal local work was the reconstruction of the parish church of St Bartholomew's, and he was responsible for the replacement of the old Saxon Church, and the construction of the structure which we largely see today. Another important work was the hospital on Shepherds' Hill, now a block of flats. The first hospital in Haslemere, this was built and presented to Haslemere by Mr. Penfold and his two sisters in 1898 in memory of their father and mother.

He also helped James Stewart Hodgson build the working man's club in the High Street.

He was a diligent collector of Haslemere history and gave a number of lectures on bygone Haslemere. He also wrote a paper

on the curates of Haslemere for the parish magazine in 1996.

During the latter years of his life, he shared a particular interest in the rotten borough struggles of mid-18th century Haslemere, but sadly his plans to go to press did not come to fruition. In 1907 he fell ill, dying at Sheringham in Norfolk on July 5, 1909. He is buried in the new portion of the Haslemere churchyard

Penfold and the Hexagonal Pillar Box

Penfold is probably best known for the design of the Penfold hexagonal postbox, painted green, a replica of which can be found outside the Georgian hotel. The picture to the right shows the posting of the first letter in the replica box in 1993.



In 1866 Penfold submitted his design for the pillar box. The Post Office had been attempting to standardise letterboxes throughout the country for some time and made several attempts to produce a national standard. Penfold's design was accepted, and a further attempt was made to create a national standard. The box, hexagonal in shape, was adorned with acanthus leaves and balls and although far less ornate than some of the earlier designs, it was nevertheless expensive to produce, and was mainly replaced by cheaper and plainer boxes within about 13 years of its design .

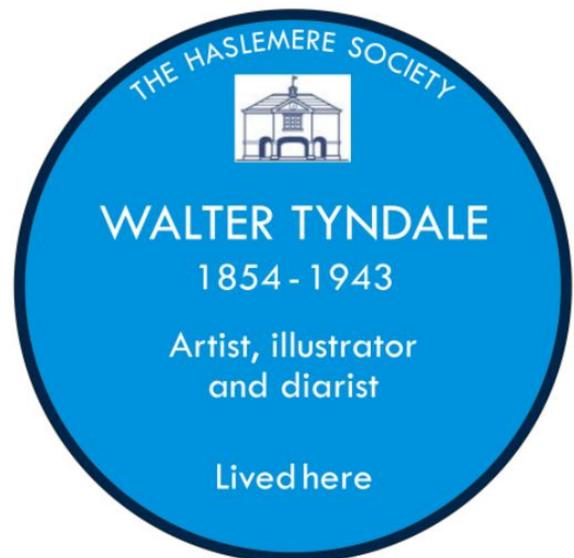
The box again achieved a degree of modest fame in the cartoon series danger mouse. Danger mouse's sidekick was named Penfold after JW Penfold since the duo's secret hideout was in a postbox in BaPosting the first letters in the Penfold postbox on Tuesday 27th of April 1993 the then Mayor of Haslemere, William Bailey and Colin Childes from the Royal mail, assisted by 'Victorian' postman Malcolm Bray. The site is under the 200 year old horse chestnut tree in the High Street, Haslemere ker Street. Unfortunately the hide out was not a genuine Penfold postbox.



Posting the first letters in the Penfold postbox on Tuesday 27th of April 1993 the then Mayor of Haslemere, William Bailey and Colin Childes from the Royal mail, assisted by 'Victorian' postman Malcolm Bray. The site is under the 200 year old horse chestnut tree in the High Street, Haslemere

Walter Tyndale

Blue plaque at Broad Dene, Hill Road, Haslemere



Walter Tyndale

The son of a barrister, Walter Frederick Roope Tyndale was born and brought up in the medieval town of Bruges in Belgium, and trained initially at the "Bruges Academy of Art". When he was 16, his family returned to England, settling in Bath in Somerset for several years. At the age of 18, he returned to Belgium, studying art first at the Academy in Antwerp, then moving to Paris where he studied under Léon Bonnat and Jan Van Beers.

In the 1870s, at the age of 21, circumstances obliged him to return to England in order to make a living from his art. He painted portraits and genre works in oils, and first exhibited at The Royal Academy with a portrait of Sarah Bernhardt. Financially aided by a number of commissions to paint deceased people from photographs, - a craft he regarded with some distaste, calling it a funereal form of art-he was able to marry Evelyn Barnard, the daughter of the Rev. Thomas M Bernard and granddaughter of Sir Edmund Carrington.

Until about 1890, he was known mainly as a portrait painter, but then moved to Haslemere, when he started to teach art and switched to watercolour painting.

Tyndale travelled to Holland with friend and fellow artist Claude Hayes, then to Portugal, where he held a successful exhibition in Oporto. Subsequently he painted in England in a sketching group organised by Helen Allingham near Maidstone in Kent, and abroad in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Sicily, Italy and Rothenburg, Bavaria a town he described as "a little paradise for sketchers".

Tyndale painted landscapes and buildings in the west country of England, some of which had inspired Thomas Hardy's "Wessex" novels. Some of these locations were suggested by Hardy himself, who praised the "fidelity, both in form and colour" of Tyndale's work. "The Studio" magazine commented on the "excellent draughtsmanship and the care with which architectural details are rendered".

Illustrated books

Tyndale was one of the first illustrators to benefit from new developments in colour printing in the early 20th century, which led to a surge in demand for illustrations for travel books. He wrote and illustrated several volumes as well as providing pictures for other authors. His first commission was from Methuen for "The New Forest" (1904), and work on subsequent books led to him travelling extensively in England, Italy, the Middle East and Japan, painting landscapes, street scenes and architecture. It is tempting to think that his contact with Methuen may have stemmed from local acquaintance with Sir Algernon Methuen, who lived at Honeyhanger in the Hindhead Road, before building New Place in Farnham Lane in 1903.

Societies, Exhibitions And Legacy

Tyndale was a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours (RI), a founding member of the "Haslemere Art Society" and president of the latter between 1930 – 1932. Tyndale exhibited his works at various venues including the Royal Academy, the RI gallery in Piccadilly and Dowdeswell Galleries in London. His main artistic influences were his friend, the watercolourist Claude Hayes and, to a lesser extent, Helen Allingham.

Tyndale left three sizeable diaries, in which he recorded his travels, including correspondence with friends and family, postcards, photographs and some self-portraits. We have

been unable to find out what has happened to them.

Military service

During the First World War, Tyndale held a commission as a member of the military censorship staff in Le Havre, later Boulogne.

Tyndale and Haslemere

Tyndale moved to Haslemere in around 1890 and the 1891 census records him as living in East Street (now Petworth Road) with his wife Evelyn (aged 33), Mother Charlotte (aged 75) , two sons Arthur and Geoffrey (aged 5 and 4 respectively), and three servants. Ten years later, and now living at Broad Dene, His Mother was perhaps dead by this time, and Arthur is away, perhaps at school, but the Tyndales have another son, Oliver, aged 8. Two of the servants in 1891 came from Belgium and it is reasonable to assume that they came with the family in the 1870's. The cook, one Marie De Schepper was still with Tyndale ten years later, although she appears to have aged by 28 years in the intervening decade!

In 1894, Tyndale joined a committee under the chairmanship of the Hon. Rollo Russell, son of the Prime Minister to form an exhibition of Arts and Crafts. Among those on the committee were Charles Whymper, Rayner Storr, Axel Haig, and Herbert Hutchinson. The committee produced annual exhibitions from 1894 to 1930 when the name of the Society was changed to the Haslemere Art Society in which name it thrives to this day. Tyndale served as the society's first president.

Tyndale outlived his wife by 10 years, dying in 1943 at the age of 88.

Illustrations by Tyndale

Until the age of 35, Tyndale was known as a portrait painter. After settling in Haslemere, Tyndale started to give painting lessons. One day, visiting a new pupil, he found that he was expected to give a lesson in water colours, rather than oil, the medium with which he had hitherto worked. The young lady in question said to him “I wish you would dash off a landscape, and I am sure I shall learn more by looking at you doing it than by other means. There is a fine view from our drawing-room window, and I have often thought what a pretty picture it would make.”

Unimpressed by his efforts, which nevertheless pleased his pupil, Tyndale immediately visited his friend, the water-colourist Claude Hayes, who lived in Milford, in search of advice.

He never touched oil again!

From “Wessex Scenery”



Cerne Gateway

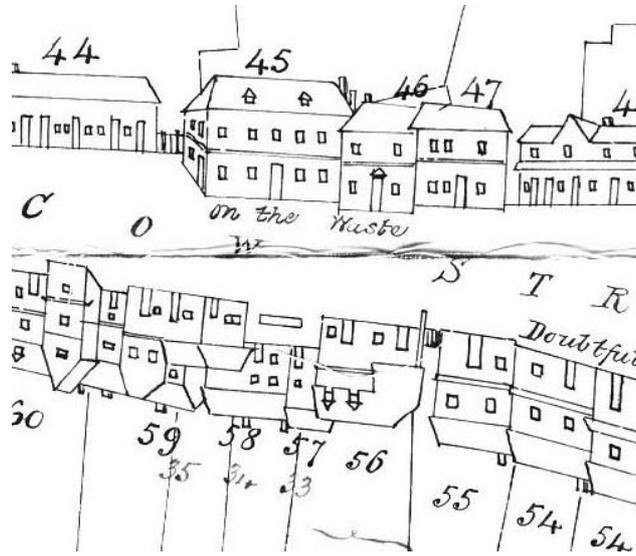


From “An Artist in Italy”



The Red Cow Inn

Blue plaque at The Poachers Pocket, Petworth Road, Haslemere



The Parliamentary Electoral System in 1754

In the eighteenth century very few people had the right to vote. A survey conducted in 1780 revealed that the electorate in England and Wales consisted of just 214,000 men - less than 3% of the total population of approximately 8 million. Large industrial cities like Leeds, Birmingham and Manchester did not have a single MP between them, whereas 'rotten boroughs' such as Haslemere with a population estimated at around 600 in 1754 were still sending two MPs to Westminster. Others were more rotten. Dunwich, which had largely disappeared into the North Sea had a population of 32 in 1832 and Old Sarum, an uninhabited hill, had no population at all!

How had this unrepresentative system come about? The House of Commons evolved long before the modern theory of democracy. In mediaeval political theory it was believed that sovereignty flowed from God, not from the people, and that monarchy was the form of government ordained by God. The King (or Queen) was "the Lord's anointed," and it was the duty of the people to obey the King as God's representative. Nevertheless, it was always recognised that the King had a corresponding duty to rule wisely and for the people's benefit, and from an early date it was accepted that this included the duty to listen to the advice of the people, as expressed by their chosen representatives through Parliament. To this idea was added the practical consideration that it was easier for the King to collect the taxes he needed if the people consented to pay them. Over the centuries, the power of Parliament had steadily increased, most notably through the period of the Interregnum and after the Glorious Revolution of 1688 when William III came to the throne following the eviction of James II by Parliament. Nevertheless the constitution of Parliament changed little.

Throughout this period the House of Commons consisted entirely of men, most of them men of substantial property, and entirely of Anglicans as, except in Scotland, Catholics were excluded. Women could neither vote nor stand for election. Members of Parliament were not paid, which meant that only men of wealth could take the time to serve. In any case, candidates had to be electors, which meant that in most places they had to have substantial property, usually in the form of land.

There were two types of seats: county seats and borough seats. Virtually all members representing county seats were landed gentlemen. Many were relatives or dependants of peers, others independent squires who did not have titles. These independent country gentlemen, sometimes called "the country party" although they were not an organised party, were often the only source of opposition to the government of the day, since they had no need to gain government favour through their votes in the House.

Members for borough seats were sometimes also local squires, but were more frequently merchants or urban professionals such as lawyers. A large number of borough members were placed in their seats by the government of the day in order to provide support to the government: these were known as "placemen," and it was a long-standing objective of parliamentary reformers to get the placemen out of the House of Commons. Some borough members were men of little means, sometimes in debt or insolvent, who agreed to become placemen in return for government funds. All 18th century governments depended on this corrupt element to maintain their majorities. Some boroughs were under the control of particular ministers or government departments. The members representing the Cinque Ports, for example, spoke for the interests of the Royal Navy.

Each county elected 2 MP's accounting for 92 seats in total. In order to be either a candi-

date or an elector for a county seat, a man had to own (not rent) freehold property valued for the land tax at two pounds a year. This was known as "the 40 shilling freehold." County members were usually elected without an actual ballot taking place. Only at times of acute party strife did many counties see contested elections. In every county there was a group of landowning families, usually with a peer at their head, and these families would informally agree on who would stand for the county at a given election. They were frequently relatives or allies of the leading peers of the county.

Even in mediaeval times a significant proportion of the King's revenue came from taxes paid by people living in towns, and thus the House of Commons had representatives of boroughs –towns with Royal Charters-from an early date. Each typically elected two members.

Mediaeval kings could and did grant and revoke charters at their pleasure, often to create seats in the House for supporters, and frequently regardless of the size or importance of the town. Thus there were "rotten boroughs" (boroughs with very few voters) from very early times, but they increased in number over the years as many old towns lost population. The number of English boroughs fluctuated over time, until the last new borough charter was issued in 1674. From then on the number was fixed at 203, electing 405 members.

The franchise for borough seats varied enormously. In some boroughs, virtually all adult homeowners could vote. In others, only a handful of landowners could vote. Another model was that no-one could vote and the borough's members were chosen by its corporation (council), which was usually elected by a small group of property-owners. There were in total 10 different franchise models, mostly linked to property rights, although Oxford and Cambridge – University Boroughs- offered another model and restricted votes to holders of doctoral and masters degrees.

Haslemere was what was known as a burgage borough, meaning that voting rights attached to designated burgages – specified properties or fields in the borough. Because these burgages could easily be bought and sold, these types of boroughs were often the easiest to control and the most corrupt, although, as we shall see, the wheeze of subdividing burgesses deployed in Haslemere introduced a new element of contest and opportunity for corruption into the election of 1754.

Calls for Reform

This system was never in any sense fairly representative of the electorate. What's more, as the 18th century progressed, many seats were not even contested, Haslemere being, as we shall see, an exciting exception. At the Putney Debates of 1647, representatives of various factions of the victorious Parliamentary army debated whether to adopt a more democratic franchise. The radicals led by Thomas Rainborough argued for manhood suffrage. The conservatives, led by Oliver Cromwell and Henry Ireton, argued that since the great majority of Englishmen were peasant tenants, if given the vote they would vote as their landlords directed, and this would lead to the restoration of the monarchy.

In the circumstances of the time, this proved a persuasive argument, and proposals for a wider franchise or a redistribution of representation were rejected. But no other acceptable basis could be found for electing the House of Commons, and there was no functioning legislature during most of Cromwell's regime. The Restoration of 1660 restored the pre-revolutionary system in its entirety.

Following the Restoration there was a long period during which any challenge to the system of representation was equated with republicanism and treason. Even at the time of the Glorious Revolution of 1688 there was no attempt to re-open the question.

A reform movement began in the mid 18th century. Although the Whig party as a whole was ambivalent in its attitude to reform, some Whig leaders like Fox and Earl Grey raised the issue many times, but nothing was achieved in the face of Tory resistance.

After 1789 the English reaction against the excesses of the French Revolution stifled all attempts to raise the issue until the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815. Not until the Great Reform Act of 1832 did the march towards the representative system that we know today begin.

The Cow of Haslemere or the Conjuror's Scrutiny at Oxford. Printed in London for the Author and sold by C. Corbett: 1754

It is to the title of this anonymous poem published in 1754 that The Red Cow Inn, shown as property number 47 on the extract from a 1775 map on the front cover, owes its infamy. The poem which runs to 62 stanzas is not reproduced here but can be read in Anthony Doolittle's excellent pamphlet on the poem, published in 2008. The poem, which Doolittle argues persuasively may have been written by Rev. Dr Benjamin Butler of Oxford, parodies the elections of 1754 in Oxford and Haslemere, focusing its attention on Haslemere around The Red Cow Inn which as we shall see, was divided into several freeholds to secure votes for the successful candidates. Referring to the cow giving birth to 8 calves, the poem goes on 'Each Calf did draw, Against all Law, A Freehold from her Belly'. Each calf did vote And swear by Rote, He was a good Freeholder.'

Events in Oxford, also parodied in the poem, were in addition caricatured in some of Hogarth's most famous prints which are reproduced here for a real sense of the 'election experience' in 1754.

The Oxfordshire seats had been held, uncontested, by the party of 'Old Interest', the Tories, since 1710 but in 1752 they were contested by the Whigs, each side spending at least £40,000. The respective allegiances of characters can be gleaned from the colours of the ribbons and banners: orange for the Whigs, blue for the Tories.

An Election Entertainment

The scene is an election 'treat' given by the Whigs to gain voters' support. The guests are arranged around two tables with the two candidates seated at the far end to the left of the picture.

One candidate is suffering the attentions of an old hag (pushed toward him by a man who is also contriving to burn his wig with a pipe), and the other has been collared by a pair of drunks. At the opposite end of the table the Mayor has collapsed after consuming a surfeit of oysters.



and the election agent has just been struck by a brick thrown by the Tory mob outside. In the foreground (from left to right) a Quaker is carefully examining an I.O.U. (clearly a bribe); a boy adds more alcohol to the punch, and a butcher pours wine or gin over the head of a bruiser who has been fighting with the crowd outside.

Canvassing for Votes

The second scene takes place in a village street in front of three Inns,

How do these compare to The Red Cow Inn, or indeed the other 13 ale houses in Haslemere at the time? The landlady of the Royal Oak is counting her 'treat' money. Behind her the figurehead of a lion is about to consume the French fleur-de-lys, a reference to the continuing war between Britain and France.

Images of bribery abound, even on the new Inn sign in the foreground where a shower of gold flows from the Treasury into the wheelbarrow of 'PUNCH' the candidate for 'GUZZLEDOWN'.

In the middle of the picture an innkeeper is being solicited by representatives from the two parties and is happily taking bribes from both.

To the right of the picture two drinkers discuss the decline of Britain's naval fortunes; the man with the pipe is a blind cobbler who obviously cannot see his companion's complicated demonstration.



The Polling

The polling stand is adorned with the flags of the two parties and the candidates sit at the back.

The Tory candidate is scratching his head, seeming anxious, and the Whig candidate is looking smugly satisfied. The excitement has proved too much for the election agent who has fallen asleep between the two candidates.

The stand is being swamped by a motley collection of individuals. On the right a dispute is arising involving a soldier who has lost his hands - the Tory representative appears unhappy, taking issue with the man's attempts to take an oath with his metal hook. Two coachmen cheat each other at cards.



Chairing the Member

The successful Tory candidates are being chaired through the streets in triumph. One member is part of the central group and the other is only seen in shadow as he approaches the side of the church in the background.

Looking out from the window of the building on the left are the supporters of the defeated Whig candidates, some are clearly amused by the scene unfolding below. Even in defeat the feasting continues, as the procession of cooks towards the front door reveals.

A soldier, bleeding from a recent fight and stripped to the waist, takes solace in tobacco, unconcerned about the pandemonium breaking out behind him.

The chaired Member in the centre of the composition is about to topple, one of his bearers having been struck by the end of a flail wielded by one of his own supporters. The sense of collapse is heightened by the movement of the sow and her litter as they make a dash for safety.

On the side of the church wall is a sundial inscribed with the words 'PULVIS ET UMBRA SUMUS' - we are but dust and shadows. The goose above the Member's head is probably an allusion to a well-known painting by Le Brun, *The Battle of Arbelá*, in which an eagle is pictured above the head of the conquering hero.



Haslemere and the election of 1754

Haslemere, then part of the manor of Godalming, first returned two MPs to Parliament in the election of 1584, presumably through the influence of Viscount Montagu then steward of the manor. On his death in 1592 the manor was leased to the Mores of Loseley, who were also close to Elizabeth I, to whom in turn the Royal Charter for Haslemere was granted in 1596.

As the Royal Charter refers to the town as “greatly decayed and reduced to great poverty and want” it cannot have been any sense of importance or prosperity that gave rise to this right.

The Mores were already represented in Parliament through either Guildford or the County seat but Haslemere added further influence. The More family represented Haslemere throughout the 17th century.

There were two types of votes. Burgage voters earned their vote by paying rents to the lord of the manor. Freehold votes were confined to certain properties. The map on the next page, dated 1735 and prepared by the Surveyor and dedicated to the town’s 2 MPs shows that there were 85 voting properties at that time. In practice however, the picture was far less clear and even as early as 1679 lawsuits arose due to the ambiguity of burgage and freehold rights. An area known as The Waste—leased from the Lord of the Manor and including Shepherds Hill and the site of The Red Cow Inn—also held ambiguous rights.

In 1722 the then head of the More family, by then known as More Molyneux, standing alongside Lord Blundell was unsuccessful in the election, polling only 25 and 24 votes respectively against 46 for James Oglethorpe and 45 for Peter Burrell. This began a tenure of 30 years for Mr Oglethorpe, (later General Oglethorpe) and Mr Burrell as MPs representing Haslemere.

However, as the General set sail for America in 1732, having obtained a Royal Charter to establish the colony of Georgia, it is questionable as to in what sense he represented Haslemere. Nevertheless, both were successful again in the elections of 1734, 1741 and 1747.

The General was clearly a colourful personality. Two days after his first election, in a duel in Haslemere High Street he ran his opponent through the stomach! The General's popularity in the election of 1747, may have been helped by his role in quelling the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 even though Horace Walpole had remarked that he was not sure whether he was a Whig or a Jacobite’.

In 1754 the More Molyneux family determined to recover their historic sinecure. James More Molyneux, heir to the estate, stood with Mr Philip Carteret Webb, a London solicitor of some eminence, who was later to use his electoral success to successfully become the Treasury solicitor.

To win the 1754 election, Molyneux and Webb set about buying up freeholds and tenements, such that by election time Webb held seventeen properties and Molyneux 14, with 3 held jointly. In total the two spent £5,500 on properties and over £2000 on other costs. This expenditure was necessary to outplay the 21 freeholds and tenements held by Oglethorpe, Burrell and their agent.

The Molyneux faction also executed a concerted plan to change the Bailiff and Constable of the Borough Court Leet, who were in favour of the old regime, both influential figures in the subsequent Parliamentary election as they supervised the election and could rule on any disputed vote.

Elections in the 18th Century may have been corrupt, but they were not dull. Even if you owned a property you had to ensure that the resident would vote for you. We learn for example that on the day that they managed to get their man appointed as bailiff, Molyneux & Webb spent £9 15s on food and £25 10s on wine, beer and punch at The George Inn on the site of what is now Lloyds Bank. Quite a party! By the end of the campaign the George had run up credit of £110 10s 11d.

However, the real coup de grace, was the wheeze of splitting the freehold interests, a ruse deployed by both factions.

This was not a new idea and indeed, the Splitting Act of 1696 made this illegal, but in practice the law was unenforceable. A freehold could be leased for the period of the election to a so called faggot voter. A deed of release accompanying the lease entitled the tenant to vote. Haslemere's faggot voters were paid 1 guinea each.

In the event, despite nearly falling out at the last minute, Mr Molyneux and Mr Webb each polled 70 votes, against Mr Burrell's 46 and General Oglethorpe's 45. Compared to earlier elections, an additional 45 votes!

The Red Cow Inn was subdivided into many freeholds. The figure of 8 used in the poem is unlikely to be accurate and estimates vary from 7 to 11. Records of the vote show votes polled by The Red Cow Garden, Barn, & Gateway as well as the Inn. Further properties including 'the messuage adjoining the Red Cow' are likely to be part of the subdivision. The White Horse Inn was also split as was the White Hart on the site where Collingwood and Batchelor now stands.

This election ended the tenure of General Oglethorpe, and the Molyneux/ Webb faction were again elected in 1759 and 1761. By 1761, Oglethorpe had retired from the fray having joined the services of Frederick the Great in Prussia, but Mr Burrell by this time was resorting to additional burgess subdivision to further his cause, to such an extent that he incurred a severe censure. Whatever went on in the elections of 1761, The Molyneuxs, now represented by brother Thomas, (James having died) appear to have fallen out with Mr Webb at around this time, such that in the subsequent election of 1768, Col Molyneux was elected with Mr Burrell who was obviously not too fussy about which side he was on! General Oglethorpe returned to the hustings, this time in alliance with Mr Webb, yet again losing. Mr Webb died a year later.

Mr Molyneux and Mr Burrell were again elected in 1774, although by this time the total votes cast had fallen to 101, as 47 votes were disallowed. In the subsequent elections of 1780, new dramatis personae enter the elections, ending this saga.

The last elections to be held in Haslemere were in 1831, Haslemere being subsumed into the constituency of Farnham as a result of the Great Reform Act of 1834, probably not a good day for property values in Haslemere!

A plan

of the Situation of the Ancient Borough of Haslemere in the County of Surrey distant from the City of London Forty two Miles, and hath the full power and Authority in sending two Members of Parliament to the Honourable House of Commons The present Members to whom this plan is Dedicated, are the Hon^{ble} James Oglethorpe and Peter Burrell Esq^r with all and singular the Names of the Freeholders and their and every of their Houses or Tenements in the said Borough, both Free and Lease hold taken this Fourth Day of May in the Eighth Year of the Reigne of our Sovereign Lord George the Second by the grace of God King of Great Brittain France and Ireland and so forth whose God preserve And in the year of our Lord God 1705. By me William Mosley of the Borough of Haslemere afores^d Surveyor

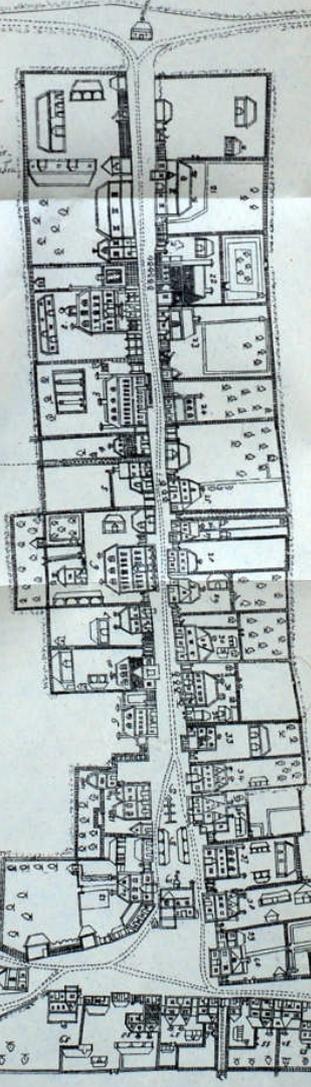
Leading to Hindhead the upper way to London.



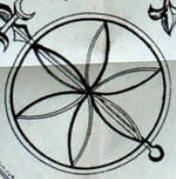
The Lower way to London
Free Hold

- Leasehold**
- 67 Town Hall
 - 68 Nathos Sambles
 - 69 The Millery
 - 70 John Clarke
 - 71 Rich^d Smith
 - 72 John Clarke
 - 73 Elizabeth Rids Widow
 - 74 John Widman Cordwainer
 - 75 John Berry German
 - 76 William Filly Jun
 - 77 Edward Rids
 - 78 James Eston
 - 79 John Berry 2 Tenements
 - 80 Edmund Baint
 - 81 Peter Waller 2 Tenements
 - 82 Robert Beeble
 - 83 A parryth house
 - 84 The Quilt House
 - 85 W^m Rids Blacksmith
 - 86 W^m Rids Blacksmith
 - 87 Jane Matthews 2 Tenements
 - 88 W^m Haslegrave
 - 89 Rich^d Taylor
 - 90 W^m Rids Blacksmiths Shop

- No. Free Hold**
- 37 Edward Rids past Master
 - 38 Nath Bunnham
 - 39 Edward Rids 2 Tenements
 - 40 W^m Baxter
 - 41 John Roberts
 - 42 John Jackson 2 Tenements
 - 43 W^m Baxter
 - 44 W^m Rich^d Billinghurst
 - 45 W^m Rich^d Billinghurst
 - 46 Burborah Court of W^m Rids
 - 47 W^m Rids Blacksmith
 - 48 John Roberts
 - 49 John Roberts
 - 50 Rich^d Whithall late Tigger
 - 51 Robert Clement
 - 52 Robert Clement
 - 53 William Rids
 - 54 William White 2 Tenements
 - 55 Thomas Emper 2 Tenements
 - 56 William B. Rids
 - 57 Robert Rids
 - 58 W^m Wm Billinghurst
 - 59 William Billinghurst
 - 60 William Haslegrave vic. Friths



- 1 John Ridd Gent. In the Occupation of W^m Rids
- 2 John Tomner Gent
- 3 John Widdowhills Tenements
- 4 James Goff old Tenements
- 5 Edward Wpton
- 6 William Goben Gent
- 7 William Goben 2 other Tenements
- 8 W^m Baxter In the Mortgage or Occupation of W^m Rids
- 9 Margaret Woods Widow
- 10 William Coleman
- 11 John Tomner Gent. In the Occupation of W^m Rids
- 12 William Wpton
- 13 John Taylor 2 Tenements
- 14 Joan Exton Widow
- 15 John Bradford
- 16 Richard Hamant
- 17 Robert Billinghurst
- 18 John Overington
- 19 William Gittley Senior
- 20 George Emper by Mortgage of W^m Billinghurst
- 21 John Tomner Gent. In the Occupation of W^m Rids
- 22 John Rids Gent
- 23 Thomas Billinghurst in the Occupation of W^m Widdowhills
- 24 Abraham Wpfield
- 25 Richard Widdowhills 2 Tenements in the Occupation of W^m Rids
- 26 The W^m Rids 2 Tenements in the Occupation of W^m Rids
- 27 John Widman & George Emper
- 28 John Hardy
- 29 Joseph Scoble
- 30 W^m Wm Billinghurst in the Occupation of W^m Widdowhills
- 31 William Rids at the 10th Station 2 Tenements
- 32 W^m Thomas Emper Chambers
- 33 William Goben
- 34 John Hall in a Mortgage title in the Occupation of W^m Rids
- 35 John Coleman Apothecary
- 36 John Widman



Leading to Portsmouth

Mithurst & Chichester Road.

Reverth Row