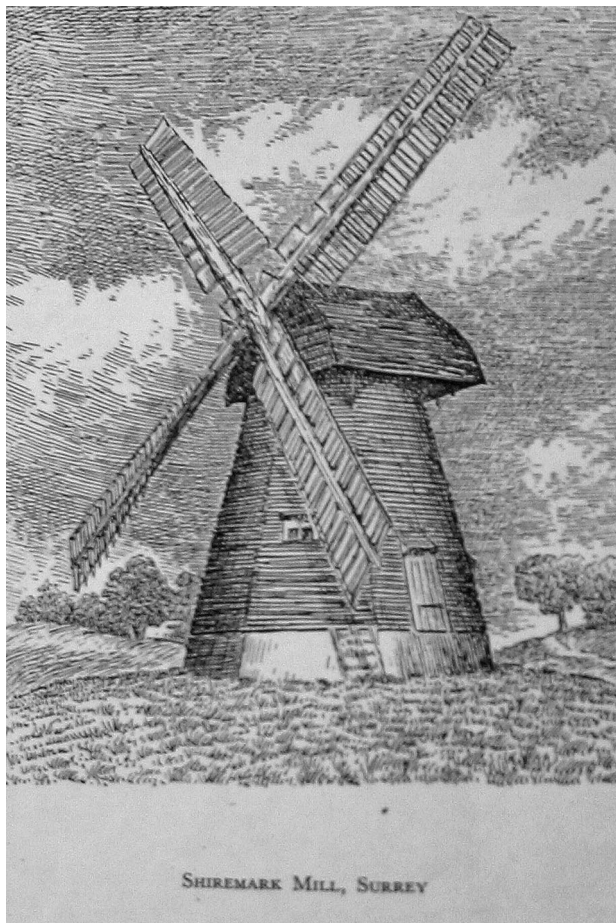


# About Capel

Fourth edition - 2011

Windmills, Farms &  
other essays



*From 'England of the Windmills', S.B.P Mais*

**Price £3.00**

## **Acknowledgements**

*Capel Local History Group got going in the autumn of 2007 and has worked to produce a booklet each year, this one being the fourth in the series. Each time we are dependent on individuals doing their own research. A lot of work has gone into researching the past history of the two windmills in Capel and this has been contrasted with two farms in the Parish. We are very grateful to Carol Cobb, Mary Day, Bernice Forsyth, and Bridget Patterson for all their input.*

*In the coming season, September 2011 to April 2012 we shall be looking at the sporting heritage of the Parish. Any information about the many clubs in the village will be gratefully received.*

*As always, we are grateful to Vivien Ettliger for her technical support and for the resources made available to us by the Surrey History Centre. This year, the editing has been undertaken by myself, greatly supported by Mary Day and Bridget Patterson to whom I offer my grateful thanks for spotting all the mistakes. Any others still there are mine, and I apologise in advance*

*Capel Local History Group will start holding meetings again after the summer recess at the Friends Meeting House, 144, The Street, Capel Surrey, RH5 5EN. Please do contact either Mary Day (email: [mary.day@virgin.net](mailto:mary.day@virgin.net)) or Chris Coke (email: [ze51@btconnect.com](mailto:ze51@btconnect.com)) for further information.*

*New members are always warmly welcomed.*

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# The Capel Windmills

## A brief history of milling

The first method of grinding grain to remove the husk and crush the germ inside was by grinding it between two stones or querns. The watermill was introduced to England by the Romans, and although the Domesday Survey records three mills in the Wotton Hundred, worth 15 shillings and 4 pence, these must have been watermills as the first windmill to be recorded in England was in about 1185. As Capel has no rivers or streams capable of turning a waterwheel, we can assume that none of the three mills was in Capel.

Prior to the Norman Conquest nearly every household would have ground corn for domestic use, but this was forbidden with the imposition of the Norman feudal custom called 'milling soke' whereby all corn grown on the lord's estate had to be ground at the lord's corn mill, built by the lord with a miller appointed by him. The miller retained a percentage of the flour, usually about one fifteenth, as a fee for himself and a tax going to the lord of the manor. During the medieval period milling was an important part of the manorial economy, so the life of the village depended on the mill, although not surprisingly millers were rarely popular and often accused of taking a greater percentage of flour, especially as their pigs were usually the fattest in the village. Capel lies in the Wotton Hundred of the Manor of Dorking, of which the Lord was the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel.

In the late 1300s, following the Black Death and consequent labour shortages, the feudal control of milling decreased, the peasants consequently gaining more freedom of movement and better wages. Some corn mills were abandoned and many of those that survived were rented out. By the 1750s millers started to buy grain direct from the farmers and sold the flour on to the consumers. White bread was becoming popular, and new equipment had to be installed to remove the bran. Many of the mills consequently had inadequate storage space and were enlarged or rebuilt.

A more efficient milling process, using steel rollers rather than millstones to crush the grain, was invented in Germany, automation was introduced from America, cast iron began to be used, and large steam engines, although more costly, were a much more reliable source of power than wind or water. Following the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 cheap grain began to be imported from North America, their very large farms producing corn more efficiently and economically than was possible in England. From the late 17th century a few turnpike statutes had been enacted, and during the 18th century a massive increase in road traffic and the build up to the Industrial Revolution later that century led to many more turnpike roads being established. A turnpike was a tollgate or tollbar set up across a road to enforce payment of a toll for the upkeep of the turnpike road. This tax enabled the replacement of the former rutted and often impassable tracks by good roads, opening up communication with other districts and enabling carts to transport many times the load carried by a pack horse.

In the early 1750s the construction of a turnpike road made Dorking a staging post on the route from Horsham to Ebbisham, near Epsom, via Capel. An article in the Gentleman's Magazine dated May 1763 says, '[Dorking] has a good market on Thursdays for all sorts of grain, the business of which has been very much increased since the completing of the turnpike road from Epsom, through the main street of the town to Horsham in Sussex. For by this road a much greater quantity of corn is brought out of that county than before.' An example of typical tolls charged on a turnpike road is given below.

The Rotherham to Pleasley Turnpike Road Act included the following Tolls		
For Every	Drawn by / Quantity	COST
Coach, Landau, Berlin, Chariot, Curricule, Calash, Chaise, Chair, Hearse, or Chaise Marine.	6 Horses or other Beasts of Draught	2/-
	4 Horses or other Beasts of Draught	1/6
	2 Horses or other Beasts of Draught	9d
	1 Horses or other Beasts of Draught	3d
Horse, Ox, or other Beasts of Draught, drawing Stone or Marble, or with Timber, or drawing any Mill Stone or Mill Stones.		4d
Waggon, Wain, Cart, or other Carriage,	5 Horses, oxen, or other Beasts of Draught	2/-
	Less than 5	3d
For every Horse, Ox, or other Beasts of Draught.	so drawing.	1d
Horse, Mare, Gelding, Mule, or Ass, laden or unladen,	and not drawing	1d
Drove of Oxen, Beats, or Neat Cattle.	Per Score, and so in proportion for any greater or less Number.	10d
Drove or Herd of Calves, Sheep, Swine, or Lambs.	Per Score, and so in proportion for any greater or less Number.	5d

Fig 1: Example of toll charges for turnpike roads

## Clark's Farm Windmill

It is not known when the Manor mill at Clark's Farm was first constructed, but Mill House was built in 1530, so it is possible that a mill existed on the site then. A fixed structure mill would only work if the wind was blowing in the right direction, so the post mill, which could be turned into the wind, was soon preferred. Windmills were often built on a hill top or on a raised mound to catch more wind, as at Clark's. The first pictorial evidence of Clark's Mill appears to be on a copy of a map dated 1783 from the 1649 Survey of the Manor of Dorking where it is depicted as a post mill, and all Clark's lands in the freehold of Henry Stone.

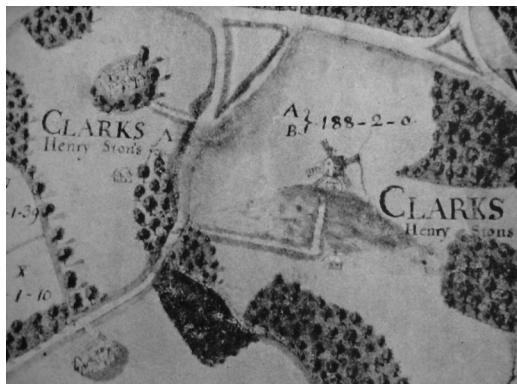


Fig 2: Earliest illustration of the windmill at Clark's Farm

(Courtesy of Arundel Archive Ref. MS.LM9)

The Stone family was associated with the Capel windmills for nearly 300 years, first Clark's and then Shiremark until it ceased operations in 1914 or 1915. Although some mills had a succession of occupiers, some rural mills, including Clark's mill, remained in the freehold or copyhold of a single family, in this case the Stone family. The mill is also shown on the map of Surrey in John Aubrey's *Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey*, begun in 1673 and published in 1719, and on other Surrey maps of the 18th century. According to an article published in the *Capel Magazine* in March 1968 (republished February 1988) there were two windmills on the site in 1774, one old, decayed and unused, and the other a working open trestle post mill. There was an apocryphal story that each year a late 17th century or early 18th century a portable windmill was erected on the site, involving as many as 20 wagons each drawn by as many as 16 horses, but no written evidence of this has been discovered. The older mill was apparently left standing until it fell or blew down, and the other was dismantled in 1774 and much of its material reused to construct the new smock mill at Shiremark. A map of 1789 marked both the Clark's Green and Shiremark mills at Capel.

The Court Rolls of the Manor of Dorking first refer to the property called Clark's in 1433, when it was held by Alice Clerk and her son William. On William's death his widow Joan held '1 messuage and 1 virgate called Clerkes' among other properties in Capel, and she subsequently married John Ster. By 1483 the Rolls show Thomas Stere as holding Clerk's, and by 1585 through marriages and deaths Clarks had eventually passed to Robert Stone as the freeholder. The will of Ralph A Stone in 1606 left his lands in Capel to his brother Henry A Stone, and refers to Henry's 'dwelling house in Capell called Clark's.'

Records give us the names of some of the millers at Clark's Green, tenants of the owners of Clark's Farm. In 1677 the miller was Richard Dalton, from 1700-1750 John Lucock, from 1750-1800 William Batchelor, and from 1758-1764 Richard Bax. In January 1701 John Stone of Nunnery, Rusper, leased the Windmill and Wind Mill House standing upon the lands called Clarks, now in the tenure or occupation of John Lucocke or of his assigns, to James Budgen of Dorking, and the following day re-leased the property to James Budgen forever. By 1839 the tithe map shows Lee Steere as the owner of the Mill House, tenant Jos. Nash, the tithe being 2s 6d for the cottage and garden. In 1868 Lee Steere's tenants were Henry Weller and George Rowland.

In 1891 Clark's Green Farm estate was offered for sale by auction by the Lee Steere family. The northern part (Lot 3) comprising 135 acres of land, including 'Mill Field' of just over 19 acres, and a brick built, tile-healed cottage (Mill House) was offered for sale separately. It contained 3 bedrooms, living room, pantry and wash-house with oven, with a good garden, orchard and well of water. It was probably bought by William Vaughan who purchased the rest of the estate and renovated the Old Clark's Green Farmhouse which became a 'Gentleman's house'.

The 1901 census shows it was tenanted by Edwin J Featherstone, general smith, a widower with two daughters. At some time, perhaps in the 1920s, the Ockenden family lived there. He was the Capel blacksmith with a forge where the Old Forge





*Fig 3: James Sadler*

Surgery is located. It was subsequently bought by a Mr Chislett and his housekeeper Mrs Robinson, when an extension was added and electricity and water laid on, the well on the property having been used previously as the water supply. It was then run as a smallholding. It was later tenanted by Joseph Stone, who kept pigs and a few cows while his wife sold butter and cream. On his death the owner sold the property.

When Peter Ede was born in 1930, Mr Sadler lived there, sharing the property with his daughter Charlotte, John Tobitt, and the so-called 'Duchess of Buckland'. The photograph below of James Sadler was taken at the entrance to Mill House, where he ran a thriving wood business with Johnny Tobitt. James Sadler died in 1933 aged 99 years.

A visit to the site in November 1955 reported that there were no remaining signs of a mound or the mill, and a hedge then crossed the summit of the hill. Mill House has had several owners since the 1930s, its most recent sale being in 2002, about the date of the aerial photo beside.



*Fig 4.  
Aerial view  
of Mill House about 2002.*

## Shiremark Windmill

The Shiremark mill was so named as it stood just inside Surrey on the boundary with Sussex. It was a smock mill, the name 'smock' coming from the resemblance to a farm worker's smock. Smock mills first appeared by the late 16th century; they gave height and were entirely timber-built, and therefore more likely to deteriorate than brick or stone tower mills. Shiremark mill was octagonal and three storeys high built on a single storey red brick base, with an earth bank around it to form a mill mound. The mill body was fairly squat in appearance with a large boat shaped cap, which was hand winded via a wheel and chain at the rear. There were two pairs of double-shuttered patent sails, which drove two pairs of stones. From the upper storey there was a view across the Weald as far as Chanctonbury Ring on the South Downs.

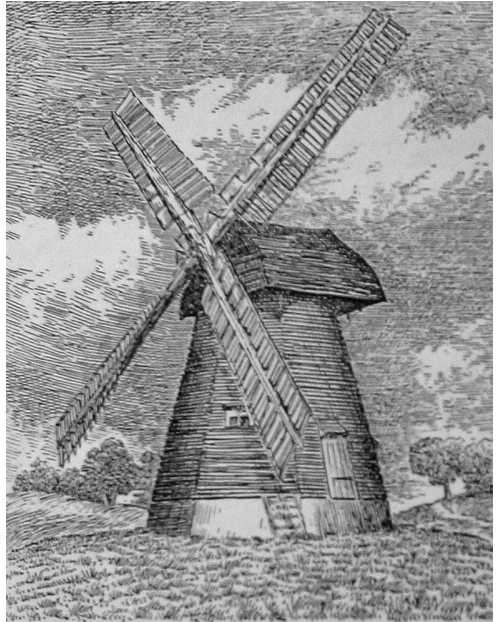


Fig 4: Shiremark Mill. Copied from 'England of the Windmills', S.B.P. Mais

This mill was built on land leased in 1774 to David Southon of Fletching, near Uckfield, by John Budgen of Dorking, being one acre taken from a field called Sandpit field in Capel, 'lying near and adjoining to the Turnpike road and Kings Highway that leads from Dorking to Horsham [...] and upon which acre of land the said David Southon intends to Erect and Build a Windmill and other buildings together with all the ways passages hedges ditches pales fences Waters Easement profits commodities advantages and appurtenances whatsoever to the said one acre of Land [...] for the term of ninety-nine years and paying every year during the said term of ninety-nine years [...] the yearly Rent of Three pounds of Lawful money of Great Britain free and clear of the Kings Tax Quit Rent and all other Taxes Rates Impositions and Assessments.'

Obviously land adjacent to the new turnpike road was a far more commercially advantageous site for a windmill than that at Clark's – down a long track off an unmade road. It was completed by 1777, when David Southow [sic] offered for sale 'his new-built Wind-mill with all her Gears and other utensils fit for Business'. Between 1780 and 1800 it had five different owners whose names and the names of the millers appear in the Capel Land Tax Assessments for the period. One of the millers was Michael Lassam, an inventory of whose 'utensils of Shiermark' survives. The most expensive item was 3 French Stones valued at £25, the next a hog pound valued at £4.4s.0d. Among the cheapest were 2 old chairs, 2 chests, 1 pair of bellows and 1 pair of tongs, total value 4s.0d. The total assessment of all the mill fittings came to £48.13s.5d.



In December 1801 it was offered for sale at the Crown Inn, Capel, on a lease of 99 years of which 72 were unexpired, renewable by payment of £20, and subject to a ground rent of 3 shillings per annum. It was described as 'A Capital Well-Built Wind Mill, called Shire-Mark Mill, with all the internal Works belonging thereto, together with a Cottage, [...] particulars available from Samuel Tully at Plaistow Farm, Capel.'

**PARTICULARS**  
AND  
**Conditions of Sale**  
OF  
*A Desirable Estate,*

Held on a Lease of NINETY-NINE YEARS, of which SEVENTY-TWO are unexpired at Lady Day 1802, subject to a Ground Rent of 3*l.* per Ann. and renewable at the expiration of the latter Term on paying the Sum of Twenty Pounds to JOHN SMITH BUDGEN Esq. his Heirs or Assigns;—

SITUATED ON AN EMINENCE  
In the Parish of CAPEL in the County of SURREY,  
Eight Miles from DORKING and Five from HORSHAM, and Skirting the Turnpike Road  
from LONDON to BRIGHTON;

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
BY  
**John Leete,**  
At the CROWN INN, CAPLE, SURREY,  
On TUESDAY the 15th Day of DECEMBER, 1801,  
At Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, in One Lot.

**A Capital Well-Built Wind Mill,**  
Called SHIRE-MARK Mill, with all the internal Works belonging thereto.  
Together with a COTTAGE,

Containing a Kitchen, Pantry, Brewhouse, Two Chambers, a Stable, Pigstye, Garden, and about an Acre of Land.

*The Estate is now in the Occupation of Mr. WILLIAM READ on Lease, whereof Twelve Years are unexpired at Lady Day next, at Twenty Pounds per Annum, and paying the Ground Rent and Land Tax of the same, who will give immediate possession on agreement.*

For Particulars apply to SAMUEL TULLY, at Plaistow Farm, Caple.  
\* If Sold by Private Contract Notice will be given if Time permits.

Fig 5: Sale Bill for Shiremark Mill.  
Courtesy of Surrey History Centre

It was bought by John Stone, and then passed to his son Thomas Stone, who held it for many years as owner and miller, together with Bonnetts Farm and Osbrooks Farm. He was a parish officer and for several years served as Surveyor of the Highways and Overseer of the Poor. An assessment of the inhabitants of Capel at 10d in the pound, made by him in December 1837 in his capacity as Surveyor of the Lower End part of Capel for the Surveyors of the Highways, shows that he was assessed at £3.19s.7d., 15s.11d. for tithes, plus 10s. for the mill. Later in his life Thomas Stone retired to Horsham, and handed over to his son George Stone, who managed Shiremark in partnership with his wife Eliza. The partnership was dissolved in 1869 when their first child was born, and George took over sole charge of the farms and mill. He was also a parish officer at Capel and served as Overseer of the Poor and Parish Constable in the 1860s.

One of John Stone's descendants, Janet Lee, has contributed the following:

'Thomas Stone (1787-1869), son of John Stone, married Susan. Thomas Stone had two sisters but I don't know if there were any brothers. He had 2 children, a daughter born in 1815 and a son, George, born in 1817. Thomas Stone was a very hard man especially to his workmen and family. Tommy Stone as he was called made a fortune during the Crimean War [1853-56], having the farm in wheat. England was starving and 2 gallons of bread (8 large loaves today) was a man's wage.'

(From her uncle's notes, grandson of George Stone): 'There was a party at Streets [Osbrooks Farm] and my Granny was about 17 then. It was late when she started to go home to Wattlehurst Farm and they said "Look out you don't see Polly Street the ghost". She laughed and started off, but going up through Path Field the ghost glided by her through the standing corn. What frightened her more was the fact there was no rustle of the corn although it was in ear and ripe. Terrified she ran to Bonnets and asked George Stone if one of the carter boys would see her home through the woods to Wattlehurst. He replied that he would take her home. Six months later they were married. She was 18 and he was about 49. She was only too glad to get away from being a virtual slave at Wattlehurst. George was hard man like his father but a good man. He read the Bible every day and never turned away anybody hungry. His son George was born 1869, Thomas 1870, John 1872, Susan 1874, Kate 1876, Albert 1877 and Walter 1879. My grandfather George died about 1885 (I think), a year before the Mill ran away in a gale and smashed the sweeps and broke the shaft. The Miller was drunk and hadn't pinned it down. Eliza was left with 7 children and the farm to run and the mill with no sweeps. However, my grandfather George had sold the mill to Fowler Broadwood, as steam was now coming in.'

The Stones employed various millers to work Shiremark, one of whom, William Rapley, was the miller when in 1886 during a violent storm the cap and sweeps were blown off completely, one of the sails being found the next morning at the gate by the main road. It was said at the time that the miller was drunk. The mill was repaired the same year by Messrs Grist and Steele, millwrights, of Horsham.

After George's death in 1886 Eliza managed the farms and the mill with her sons, none of whom married, until her death in 1916. Her son George was the last mill manager, and the mill was used regularly until 1914 but only occasionally after that date, pig food and farmer's grist being almost the only products, until it was finally abandoned just after World War I.

The small two-storey brick cottage on the south-east side, out of the main wind line, had barely six feet of headroom up and down; it was occupied until 1955, but shortly afterwards became a ruin. As far back as Peter Ede remembers, Mr and Mrs Flint lived in the cottage, Mr Flint being the last miller, and subsequently Polly Flint. Mary Ede was born in Shiremark Cottages opposite the mill.

The mill remained locked and unused, but during the 1920s and 1930s public concern about the disappearance of Britain's heritage of mills began to be voiced, and various interested individuals joined forces with the Society for the Protection of



*Fig 6: Shiremark Mill 1934 renovations.*

Ancient Buildings to begin Britain's mill preservation movement, spearheaded by the engineer Rex Wailes. In 1933 he visited the Shiremark mill accompanied by George Stone, to record the deterioration. It was estimated that £100 would be enough to put the mill back into good repair, and the then owner, Captain Evelyn Broadwood of Lyne House, had the defective cap boarding made good. The picture below shows the rear view of the mill during renovation in July 1934.

However, by 1950 the mill had further deteriorated to such an extent that Capel Parish Council approached the owner and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to see what could be done to preserve this picturesque and historic survival. In 1952 detailed drawings of the mill were prepared, and an architect's report was produced. Eventually a millwright was found and quoted £2,500 as an estimated cost. Surrey County Council had by now listed the mill as an antiquity, and the owner, still Captain Broadwood, agreed to save the structure, but very little actual work was carried out.

By 1965 all the sails had fallen off, the cap covering, spars and large areas of the body boarding were missing. Inside the dust floor and beams had fallen and the machine drive gear was on the point of collapse. By the summer of 1972 it was in very poor condition, and finally it was burned down on 5 November 1972, supposedly during Bonfire Night celebrations.



*Fig 7: Shiremark in 1953*



*Fig 8: Shiremark October 1955*



*Fig 9. Shiremark 1966*

George Stone was still living at Bonnetts Farm in 1956, and in an interview with the authors of *The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London*, published in 1966, 'spoke of the old mill with affection and enthusiasm. He said that she drove well and was reliable [...] but that the increasing difficulty of winding was very trying. Asked about east wind working, he agreed that this gave the steadiest running, a view expressed by wind millers in Sussex, Kent, Essex and Suffolk.'

Shiremark was squat, her frame mainly of oak, 'Sussex weed', and beautifully built, with a large base, underdriven stones, and hand winded. She was described as standing 'four square'.

All that now remains are a set of detailed drawings made in 1952 and an exact model of the mill made from these by Denis Sanders. The windshaft was salvaged in the 1980s and was used in the restoration of Ripple Mill, Ringwould, Kent in 1994. The mill base itself was purchased in the 1990s, and there have been two recent planning applications citing 'the future reconstruction of Shiremark Mill', so who knows?

*Bridget Paterson, 2011*

Many thanks to Mary Day, Peter Ede, Janet Lee, Vivien Ettlinger, Christopher Coke, The Arundel Archive and the Surrey History Centre.

## Aldhurst and Henfold – contrasting capel farms

Many will have heard of Aldhurst Farm and the Dale family, who have farmed there since early in the 19th Century. Likewise, Henfold is well known as the home of the Wates family whose expertise in breeding and training racehorses, in more recent times, produced the Grand National winner, Rough Quest, in 1996. . The Surrey Union foxhounds still meet at Henfold – an echo of the sporting activities which, in earlier centuries, attracted London businessmen into the countryside.

These farms lie on different soils. Aldhurst is situated on lower ground, on fertile alluvial and clay soil near a stream, whereas Henfold sits on an elevated patch of well-drained plateau gravel, more suitable for the raising of game. Despite the fact that Henfold is closer to Newdigate village, it has always been inside Capel parish boundary. Henfold was once described as a separate Manor but was later included in the Manor of West Betchworth, a narrow band of properties which begins at the foot of Boxhill and stretches southwards as far as Knowle near Newdigate.. The early histories of Capel landholdings can be traced back to the 13th century from manorial records and other sources and long lists of owners and occupiers can be extracted. However, these lists can be somewhat sterile. Occasionally, as I hope to show, documents reveal a more interesting human story.



HENFOLD HOUSE

Fig 10. Henfold House. (Illustration in 'The Surrey Hills' By F.E. Green 1915)



## The Sporting Heritage of Henfold

The Holmwood was once reputed to have been home to red deer and in the days of King James II 'the largest stags here that have been seen in England'. According to a local resident, deer poachers have been active in recent times. The origin of the name, 'henne' and 'falod' is thought to have denoted a place where game birds were protected rather than an enclosure where domestic fowl were kept. In 1307 Hugh de Henfolde, son of Walter, owed 2s. 3d (approximately 12p) a year for his tenement in Capel. This interpretation of the name was still appropriate in the early 19th century when the Duke of Norfolk became the owner.

The Duke of Norfolk's account books include a memorandum in which his steward instructed the gamekeeper to record the numbers of the different sorts of game which were sent from Henfold either to Norfolk House in London or to his Castle in Arundel. Large quantities of woodland produce, furze fagots, house fagots and kiln faggots (for brick burning) were also recorded. Grazing rights were leased out and the income from this so-called 'agistment' was in excess of £150.00 for the year 1809.

Charles Howard, 11th Duke of Norfolk, intended living here, halfway between London and Arundel, where he acquired several properties, including Henfold, between 1807 and 1812. In 1815 he died and his half built mansion was demolished. 'This sizeable building was sited to the east of Henfold Lane, overlooking Ewood pond. On the other side of the lane stood a 'recently erected neat cottage and sporting box', which was apparently incorporated later into the present Henfold House. After his death, the Duke's heir owed heriots to the Lord of the Manor, Henry Peters of Betchworth Castle for each of his holdings in Capel and Dorking. 'Twelve live beasts were seized and retained...viz. Seven Horse, one bull, one cow, one calf and two Spaniels of King Charles the Second's breed'.

## Escape to the country?

The occupant of the Henfold 'sporting box' in 1820 was Frederick Arnaud Clarke, Esq., aged 24, of Battersea Rise in London, who had been granted a lease of 'Henfold Farm, 305 acres in Capel, three and a half acres in Coldharbour and coppices in Dorking amounting to 352 acres' by Bernard Edward, 12th Duke of Norfolk. Frederick's father, John Alden Clarke, owned Moorhurst and several other properties in the area. We do not know what brought this young man to Capel but whilst here Frederick gained a somewhat doubtful reputation. His young servant, Elizabeth Tilt, became pregnant whilst in his employ and gave birth to two 'baseborn' sons. They were baptised 'Thomas and Frederick Arnaud Clarke Tilt' in Dorking, on Christmas Day, 1823. Shortly after this Frederick apparently left the area, since in 1824 the contents of his house were distrained (confiscated and put up for auction) for non-payment of Poor Rates to the parishes of Dorking and Capel. The documents supporting this event throw an interesting light on the contents of a modest sporting estate. Among the possessions, which were to be confiscated, were copies of 'The Farmers Dictionary', and 'Taplin's Sporting Dictionary in two volumes'. The rooms containing the goods included 'Entrance and Passages, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Bedroom, Best Bedroom, and Back Chamber'. The

furnishings were quite refined, including a mahogany table, gilt cabriole chairs, paintings and portraits in rich frames, bordered Brussels carpets, a wheel barometer, four post bedstead, etc. However, no farming implements or stock were included, these may have been housed elsewhere.

The 12th Duke also had a legal dispute with Frederick over 'wilful waste' on the farm and about his abuse of sporting rights in the manors of Dorking, Shellwood and Brockham. The outcome is not known, nor is the later career of Frederick, but he was said by John Attlee to have supported one of his sons, Frederick Arnaud Clarke Tilt, who became an acclaimed artist, favoured by Queen Victoria. No trace of the other child, Thomas, has been discovered.

**HENFOLD,**  
**NEAR DORKING.**

*To be SOLD by AUCTION,*

**Mr. James White,**

*On SATURDAY next, JANUARY 17th, 1824,*  
**Punctually at Twelve o'clock,**  
*ON THE PREMISES,*

**Henfold, in the Parish of CAPEL,**  
**NEAR DORKING,**  
*PART OF THE*  
**HOUSEHOLD**  
**FURNITURE,**  
*Eight Day Clock, a few Paintings,*  
**AND OTHER EFFECTS THE PROPERTY OF**  
**FREDERIC ARNAUD CLARKE, ESQ.**

UNDER DISTRESSES FOR PARISHIAL RATES, COMPRISING  
Neat Four-post and Tent Bedsteads with White Dainty Furnitures; Clean Seasoned Goose Feather Beds; Wool Mat-  
tresses; Blankets and Counterpanes; Japanned Dressing Tables and Basin Stands; Excellent Mahogany Chests of Drawers;  
Neat Japanned Chamber and Sitting Room Chairs; Oval Pier Glasses in Gilt Frames; a Capital Eight Day Clock in a Water-  
proof Case; Wheel Barometer; Mahogany Dining Table; Restored Brussels Carpets; a few fine Paintings and Prints;  
Cottage Grates; Kitchen Requisites and other Effects.

To be Viewed the Morning of Sale when Catalogues may be had.—The Lots must be Removed on the day of Sale.

LANGLEY, PRINTER, DORKING.

Fig 11. Sale handbill for Henfold House 1824.

By 1835 Henfold Farm was occupied by John Farnell, Esquire, a London Brewer. He was a friend of John Attlee, whose family were millers and corn merchants in Dorking, and whose grandmother, Harriet Cheesman, owned Hillhouse Farm in Capel, which was also a favoured spot for game. In his memoirs, written in 1907, Attlee describes the local shooting parties to which he was invited, including those held at Henfold. He writes: 'about 88 or 90 years ago [c.1817] the shooting over the Duke of Norfolk's Manor was let to a syndicate of four men and the house at Henfold was then a farmhouse, the tenant of which used to board and lodge these four shooters on inclusive terms'. The appeal of land suitable for sporting activities is indicated in contemporary Sale Particulars. Beare Farm was advertised in 1828 as being 'within a convenient distance of two packs of foxhounds' the land was 'well stocked with Game which has been carefully preserved'.

John Farnell's descendants would retain ownership of Henfold for many years. His wealthy granddaughter, Amelia, married William Watson, who subsequently became a partner in the Isleworth Brewery and adopted the surname 'Farnell Watson'. A portrait of William Farnell Watson with his gamekeeper, dogs and guns (painted in 1854 by Thomas Musgrove Joy), shows this affluent brewer enjoying the sporting life at Henfold. Three fields on the estate bore the name 'Rabbits', another indication of the nature of the soil? His son, (another William) was Master of the Surrey Union Hunt in 1882-4 and their records include descriptions of hunting across the Henfold estate.

In The Newdigate Society Magazine, Charles Thompson wrote extensively about the later history of the Farnell Watsons at Henfold, who bought the estate from the Duke of Norfolk in 1868 but Charles seems to have been unaware that the Farnells were farming there earlier.

William Farnell Watson junior was a great benefactor to the inhabitants of Newdigate. His sporting interests included cricket and he laid out a cricket ground where matches were played with the Surrey Club. However, he caused a scandal when he was divorced by his first wife and married soon afterwards Bessie Catherine Coles, 'a beautiful young village girl of humble origin' He died prematurely, at the age of 44. She outlived him by many years but although she moved away from Henfold, she retained an interest in the locality and gave land for the Newdigate Village Hall in 1901.

In 1910 Henfold was owned and occupied by S. Neumann, Esq., the estate was valued at £17,270 and comprised House, stables, garden, Farm buildings, Park, Woods and 150 acres of agricultural land. Sales particulars for 1918 describe the property as an 'Attractive Residential, Agricultural and Sporting Estate', which included 'stables for hunters' and 'kennels for hounds'. The woodlands and parks provided 'excellent shooting'. By this time the 'neat cottage' had been enlarged to become a handsome mansion with sixteen bed and dressing rooms. The land comprised 216 acres. The Surrey Union Hunt records describe a hunt, which passed nearby in 1927.

The sale of the estate in 1918 was abortive and the house stood empty for ten years. In 1928, Charles Blake bought the house and grounds for £1,000, and spent another £1,000 in renovating it. He stayed there with his family until he died in 1935. His daughter, Rachel, has written a delightful memoir of her childhood there. The small remaining area of farmland, (62 acres), was let to F.L. Crow but apparently was not very profitable at that time. The wartime survey of 1940 graded it 'C' and the comments on the farmer were critical: 'Lack of organising ability...' and 'left to the Horseman to manage'. The mansion was later divided into three apartments until it was acquired by Andrew Wates, whose family fortune was recently estimated at £115 million. It has now been restored to its former glory with beautiful gardens overlooking the parkland, now converted to a racetrack.

The National Hunt Race-horse training yard is run from Henfold House Cottage and the Surrey Union Hunt held a Meet there in January 2011. Grand National winner

Rough Quest, in his retirement, was out to pasture when Capel Local History Group passed by on a beautiful April morning this year, en route for Henfold Lakes. The lakes, created by damming the Beare Green Brook, have been developed as a thriving fishery, so another sporting activity is flourishing on the land which once belonged to Henfold.

## Aldhurst Farm

By contrast with Henfold, Aldhurst has always been a working farm. The name derives from a very early owner, one Aldous de Clerhole, and has transmuted over the years. The ownership can be traced from 1282 to the present day in the Court Rolls of the Manor of Dorking (with Capel). The Dale family, took on the lease of Aldhurst from the Broadwoods of Lyne in 1826. The previous tenant was Samuel Crews and a Sale of his Farming implements and household goods took place on 9th October, 1826.

John Dale bought a considerable number of lots at the sale, amounting to £41.8s.4d, but only one horse and ten store lambs. Since he had previously been farming nearby at Stone Farm in Warnham, he brought much of his livestock with him, including seven cows. Sales of butter featured in his accounts in the first year's trading.

*No. 190.*

ALDHURST FARM, CAPEL.

A CATALOGUE  
OF THE VALUABLE  
**LIVE STOCK,**  
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,  
PART OF THE  
**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,**  
AND OTHER EFFECTS  
**The Genuine Property of Mr. S. Crews, Sen.**  
*Who is retiring from Business;*  
**THE FIRST DAY'S SALE WILL COMPRISE**  
**THREE VERY SERVICEABLE DRAUGHT HORSES;**  
*A Useful Chaise or Saddle Gidding;*  
**Five Excellent Cows well-timed in-calf;**  
*A 4 years' old Barren ditto;*  
**TEN FAT SHEEP; 20 STORE LAMBS;**  
*A FINE YOUNG SOF WITH 11 PIGS;*  
**A Sow in Pig; 3 Store Hogs; a Single Horse Chaise with Head; Harness for ditto;**  
**2 good Rany-wheel Waggon; 2 good Ginch wheel Trug Carts; One 2-winch and 3-inch wheel ditto; a Market Cart, &c.**

**THE SECOND DAY'S SALE WILL INCLUDE.**  
Four-post and other Bedsteads; Three clean seasoned Feather Beds; Six Pair of Home-made Sheets; Ten Table Cloths; Large Brass Kettles, and other Kitchen Requisites; Dairy Implements in Excellent Condition; Brewing Utensils and Casks; and a great variety of Useful Effects;

Which will be Sold by Auction, by

---

**MR. JAMES WHITE,**

---

*On the Premises, Aldhurst Farm in the Parish of Capel,*  
**On MONDAY the 9th of OCTOBER, 1826,**  
**AND FOLLOWING DAY,**  
*Commencing each day Punctually at Eleven o'Clock.*

—♦—  
To be Viewed the Mornings of Sale, and Catalogues may be procured in due time, on the Premises; at the Black Horse and Swan Inns, HORSBAM; the Crown and King's Head Inns, CAPEL; the White Hart Inn, BIRCHLEY; the Bull's Head Inn, DORKING; and of JAMES WHITE, GLOBE FIRE OFFICE, DORKING.

—♦—  
*Langley, Printer, Dorking.*

Fig 12. Sale handbill for Aldhurst Farm 1826.

## Aldhurst Farm auction sale 1826

### Mr. Dale's Purchases

#### Farming Stock, etc. – Agricultural Implements

Chaff sieve, stable lantern, prong and shovel	2 6
2 prongs, 2 pitching prongs and 2 faggot forks	5 6
A fold pitcher, 2 dung spuds and an axe	6 0
A crosscut saw and 2 socket wedges	7 0
3 mud scoops, 3 hoes, a weed spud, a hop spud	2 0
2 bean dibblers, 2 sickles, 3 wooden dibbers and a garden line	4 6
6 Bee Hives	2 0
A caving ridder, an oat ditto, a chaff basket and a Brass wire sieve	15 0
A wheat ridder, a caving ditto and an oat ditto	11 6
A bushel measure, a gallon ditto, barn shovel and shawl	5 6
2 harvest bottles, 6 hay rakes and wood shovel	6 0
A ladder and a mow cutter	5 0
A stout oak meal bin	8 6
A capital 30 round ladder	£1 0 0
A sixteen round latter	2 0
A load of corn sacks	16 6

#### Harness, etc.

A pair of trace harness	11 0
A pair of trace harness	14 0
A pair of thill harness	15 0
A pair of thill harness	15 0
A stout timber chain and sundry pieces of ditto	6 6

#### Waggons, Carts, Ploughs, etc.

A good narrow wheel waggon with a tail ladder, skid pan & coupling	14 15 0
A three inch wheel dung cart	3 0 0
A set of three small harrows with pole and coupling	9 0
A set of ditto	8 0



## Livestock

Ten store lambs	10 0
A very useful black draught mare, STEAMER	8 0 0

## Second Day's Sale

### Store Rooms

A three fold clothes horse and four clothes props	1 6
Iron pestle , mortar, etc.	2 0
A beer stand, a tilter, 2 brass cocks and a tunnel	3 6
Four hanging cheese shelves and supporters	7 0
Two dozen glass bottles	4 6

### Kitchen

An oak chest, a form and a stool	5 0
A capital copper boiler with brass cock	18 0
A beaufet	12 0

### Chambers

A neat 30 hour clock in a painted case	2 15 0
A quilted coverlet	7 6
A stump bedstead	4 0
A pair of home made sheets	6 0
A large table cloth and a smaller ditto	6 6

### Dairy

Two milk pans and four lard crocks	3 6
Three milk pans and one lard crocks	2 0
Dutch oven, tin steamer, dripping pan, 1 skimming dish & a cullendar	6 6
A deal safe	4 6
Four stone of pickled pork	1 1 4
Four stone of pickled pork	1 1 4
Four pounds of pickled pork	2 8

### Brewhouse

Brass skillet and iron pot with cover	5 0
Iron bound mash tub and stand	9 0
Two small round coolers, a tun dish, and quart sieve	6 0
A sixteen gallon cask and stand	5 0

Total £41. 8s. 4d.

An inventory of the farm was made in 1832 when the value of the implements and livestock was £1,009. In 1839, more than half of the 148 acres of Aldhurst, together with Rushetts, were laid to arable crops. In 1884 the price of corn fell to the lowest point within memory causing anxiety to John Hewell Dale as he recorded in his 'Journal of Farm Operations'. Perhaps this led to the plan for increasing the farm revenue by taking in visitors. The Broadwood family supported this. The progress of the new building makes interesting reading:

*'2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1884. Carpenters began alterations to back bedrooms.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1885. Lyne carpenters finished work to back rooms and commenced preparing for new building at west end of house.*

*14<sup>th</sup> January, 1885. Carpenters put in joists to first floor of new rooms.*

*February, 1885. The bricklayers are making sure if not rapid progress with the new end of house, the walls are about ready for the roof.*

*17<sup>th</sup> March, 1885. The builders have today finished the roof (no tiles yet) of new building so far as to exhibit the flag.*

*9<sup>th</sup> May, 1885. Bricklayers rebuilding middle chimney. (Roof tiled in March).*

*18<sup>th</sup> March, 1885. Today the new rooms are occupied by lodgers for the first time. The electric bell being put up in the morning. Bricklayers are now engaged in pointing the roof.*

*6<sup>th</sup> October, 1885. Planted two Virginia creepers at west end of house.*

*November, 1888. Mr. Broadwood's men are engaged in converting the cellar into a sitting-room. Rebuilding porch, earth closet etc.*

*21<sup>st</sup> December, 1888. Whitewashed passages. Clearing up after carpenters, painters and bricklayers, the new sitting room about finished.....'*

In 1891 Lyne builders were again at work this time in the farmyard.

*'4<sup>th</sup> March, 1892. Cleared the sitting-room of corn [!] which was stored there some time ago. Went to Lyne and got some paint for the passages etc. In the afternoon painting in the front passage.'*

At the turn of the century there was a nostalgic interest in the rural way of life. Artists and photographers recorded the fine old timber framed buildings in the locality. Among the visitors who stayed at Aldhurst was Herbert Arthur Bone, 'artist and designer' who stayed there with his family in 1891. He exhibited his paintings at the Royal Academy and designed tapestries for the Royal Windsor Tapestry Factory. It would be interesting to know what brought him to Capel. Members of the Sutton

Photography Club visited in 1907 as did the photographers who produced postcard views for Francis Frith.

The agricultural activities went on regardless of the visitors. In 1889, of the 157 acres rented the majority was arable – only 59 acres were pasture and meadow. The livestock comprised 5 horses, 1 colt, 14 cows, 4 heifers and 4 pigs. John Dale described the farm operations in a letter dated 1935 to Bernard Thistlethwaite, author of the 'The Bax Family'. He wrote:

*'In the period we are talking about, roads were few and far between. Each farm was somewhat self-contained, and the women-folk had a busy time of it in making their own bread, curing their own bacon, butter-making, brewing and even spinning their own wool into blankets; but in doing this they had the help of a staff of maids. The single daughters had the wheat that was unfit for milling as their wages, and with it they kept poultry, the crammed chicken of the district-the Dorking fowl and the Surrey capons – being remembered even to this day. The district generally is Wealden clay, divided up into rather small fields; and at that period nearly all under the plough. The growth of wheat was the staple industry...'*

*'The motive power on the farm was entirely horses. Young colts were broken to the collar at about two years old; and good prices were made for the five or six-year-old horses in the towns. Another source of income was the underwood, which was cut into lengths and cleft and shaved into hoops, which went to London and were used in the making of barrels. The hazel plantations of Hatchland and Bregsells had a good reputation for this. Hazel underwoods were also used for the making of sheep-hurdles.....'*

*'Another important item was the provision on every farm for liming. The farmer at Aldhurst would send his team five times to Brockham for chalk to fill the lime kiln. It took three hundred furze-faggots to burn and was enough to lime one acre.'*

William Dale's daughter, Molly (Rhoda Mary born in 1920), wrote about more visitors to Aldhurst when she was young: The 'women-folk' were still busy!

*'The farmhouse seemed vast after living at Cootehill, there were nine bedrooms!' William's family moved there in 1924. I do not remember many children coming from the village to visit, but the house always seemed to be full of people – paying guests. The bathroom was a great improvement, and also the electric light.....however candles and oil lamps were still the order of the day for most of the time. After this the visitors started coming. They always seemed to be children, because they were at school in this country, but their parents were overseas.'*

In the wartime survey of 1940, the farm was called 'Oldhurst' (253 acres), it was rated 'A' with the comment: *'There is no doubt that the farm is being used to the best possible advantage'*. Evacuee children were lodged at the farm. The farmers, William and John (Jack) Dale would have been well pleased if they had been aware of it.

In 1989, when the Lyne Estate was split up, the Dale family were able to buy the freehold of the farm – a considerable achievement. The farm now concentrates on milk production. How proud the first Dale tenant would have been. All credit is due to the six hard working generations who have farmed at Aldhurst and made such a worthwhile contribution to the community..

### **Acknowledgments**

Arundel Archive, Dorking Museum, Surrey History Centre. Vivien Ettlinger, Jane Lilley, Rachael Lloyd, Pam Palmer. The late John Attlee, Joyce Banks, F.E. Green, and Charles Thompson.

### **Source documents**

Land Tax Returns, Tithe Apportionment and Map, Rate Books, Directories, Sale Particulars, Manorial Court Rolls, Census Returns.

### **Printed Sources**

Geological Memoir of Surrey, Manning & Bray, 'History and Antiquities of Surrey', Brayley's 'History of Surrey', 'The Place Names of Surrey', 'The Dales of Aldhurst Farm', 'The Book of Newdigate', Newdigate Society Magazine, The Surrey Magazine.

## Capel Recreation Ground

In 1911 there was talk of a recreation ground for the village and the Parish Council rented part of field 599, previously used as pasture, for £8.0.0 p.a. from Mr. W.A. Calvert of Capel House Farm, son of Colonel M. Calvert of Ockley Court. However there was 'a good deal of adverse criticism of the scheme, many thinking such a ground a piece of unnecessary extravagance. Time alone will show whether such criticism is justified.' In response to concerns of early pioneers of public health and enlightened industrialists, a government act in 1908 had imposed responsibilities on Councils to provide playing fields and allotments so the Parish Council, set up in 1894 and of which W. A. Calvert was the first Chairman, was moving with the times.

The Capel Rifle Club was founded at the beginning of the First World War in 1914 with 50 members, Sidney Mortimer was Chairman, J. Penfold took care of the miniature range and rifles. The concrete foundations can still be seen on the way to the playground from the car park. In 1917 the Parish Council mooted the idea of allotments and these were rented from Capel House Farm for £1.5s.0d (£1.25 nowadays) p.a. The school had allotments behind the Church Room. Sixth from the left is Win Wright's husband, Walter, and Win explained that only boys did gardening, girls did Domestic Science!



Fig 13: School allotment on Recreation Ground. (Courtesy Mrs. W. Wright)

The devastating effect of the First World War was keenly felt in Capel as it was all over Britain. 165 men left for the war, 35 lives were lost. The February 1919 magazine reported a public meeting, held in the Church Room, to discuss 'what form of memorial' there should be. Ideas were for a social centre for indoor recreation, acquisition of recreation ground, clock tower, club room for boys, electric light in the village. 'Whatever decision was taken the names and regiments of the fallen must be prominent.'



Capel House Farm came up for sale in 1919. On 14th June 1921 the gift to Capel Parish Council by Charles Mortimer of part of field 599 was formalised, 'as a Memorial Public Park and Recreation Ground for perpetual use of the inhabitants of the parish of Capel.' As well as being inscribed on the War Memorial in the churchyard, the names of the Fallen in the Great War are recorded on a board now hanging in the Memorial Hall corridor. The Rifle Range was to remain as long as wanted. Sheep were allowed to graze but no horses. A tethered cow grazed odd corners. A stone plinth records Charles Mortimer's gift. His twin sons were keen amateur sportsmen, Sidney was Chairman of the Rifle Club, Leonard captained the Cricket Team. A Recreation Ground Committee was formed the following October, meeting in the Rifle Range and Byelaws were agreed by the Parish Council, certainly no carpets were to be beaten thereon, or articles bleached or dried!

Neither must any person use obscene language or behave in a disorderly manner.

Soon the Recreation Ground was in great demand. In 1923 the Parish Council gave permission for the Flower Show, previously held in the meadow behind the Church. Both cricket, then played on Misbrooks Green, and football, then played in the field adjoining the School or behind the King's Head pub, also wanted to play on the new Rec.

In 1927 the school were asked to swap their allotment site behind the Church Room for allotments numbers 22-25. This enabled the ground to be cleared and levelled for cricket by heroic voluntary efforts. A pavilion, delayed for a year because of the General Strike, was built in 1928, again mainly through the generosity of the Mortimers. A shed was erected next to the Rifle Range to hold maintenance equipment.

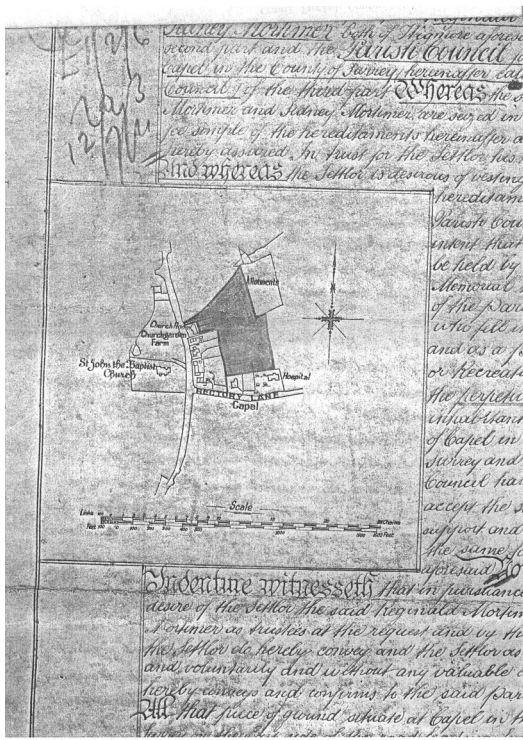


Fig 14: Part of original legal document for Capel Recreation Ground.

Cricket and football sharing the same ground caused enormous problems. The Council stipulated that the cricket season must be 1st May – 7th September, with football in the intervening times, but there were still complaints that the football season went on too long and the cricket square was damaged. Cricket scores were very low due to the unpredictability of bowling! The Bowling Club was formed in 1934 with grounds at the back of Charlotte Broadwood Hospital. Capel End swapped a section of the Recreation Ground for a piece of land behind the Hospital to achieve the space required.

Thought was given to enlargement of the Rec. but World War II intervened. At the outbreak of war, Mr. Mortimer asked the Parish Council to take over the running of the Rifle Range, the Parish Council let the local Air Raid Service use it and a siren was erected. After the war, it was used as a Fire Station.

At a special meeting of the Parish Council on 1st August, 1946, agreement was reached to purchase 5 freehold acres of field, known as Outfield, and, because it was so urgent, an initial deposit of £50 was put down by A.R. Carter. The village had to raise £500, which was paid off on 29th July, 1947. It was raised as follows: Wastepaper £110, W.I. Meat Pies gift £20, 4d rate £280, Precept £50.

The allotment holders were given notice to move to allow a new football pitch to be laid out. In 1951 the new allotments were measured up for wiring. However, by the following year, 16 allotments were vacant and were written off, allowing the Tennis Club to build two hard courts, opened in 1957. Previously the Tennis Club played on two grass courts in the field beyond the Glebe Field, frequently invaded by cattle! In 1952 a children's playground was established and, in 1960, in collaboration with the Parish Council, a new roadway to the Hall and Recreation Ground car park was made via Mortimer Road and the stone re-laid. The Byelaws were updated in 1956. The old Rifle Range finally met its end in the early 60s when it was demolished, not without a final bang, as it advertently caught fire and the remaining ammunition exploded; the heat was so great that it melted the paintwork on the closest house in Mortimer Road. A replacement brick Sports Pavilion was built in the 80s. Facilities on the Recreation Ground continue to evolve; the most recent is the Multi-use Games Area, opened in 2010. The Tennis Club now has 4 courts and a Practice Wall, one court available for hire to the public. There is a Boules pitch. Sadly the Bowling Club closed down in 2009.

The leadership of Archibald and Ray Carter, his son, and John Dale in the creation of the Memorial Hall and Recreation Field is forever remembered in the naming of the Carterdale Estate at the south end of the village, as is Charles Mortimer in Mortimer Road and Maurice Markham in Markham Park.

*Carol Cobb, May 2011.*

Information obtained from past copies of Capel magazine. Capel Memorial Fund Committee 1945-62 History Centre (H.C.). Recreation Ground Committee Minutes 1921-31 at H. C. Byelaws at H. C..

Capel Parish Council Minutes 1894-1913, 1913-36, 36-52, 52-59 at H. C. Parochial Church Council Minutes 1945-62 at H. C. Parochial Church Council Minutes Apl - Nov 1919 at H.C. Church Room list of subscribers 1909-12 at H.C. Correspondence re use of Church Room 1936-45 at H.C. Correspondence re sale of Church Room 1946-49 at H.C.

# Capel Roll of Honour 1939-45

RANK	SERV NO	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	REGIMENT	AGE/ DOB
Flt Lieut	43246	*ADCOCK	Douglas	RAF Volunteer Res 544 Squad.	Age 30
Pilot Off.	106142	*ADCOCK	Reginald	RAF Volunteer Res 61 Squad	Age 30
G/man	6399253	BAKER	George Bertram	Grenadier Guards	Age 24
Pte	6151042	BUCKLAND	Arthur Reginald	East Surrey Regiment	Age 20
?	?	CLEMENTS	J.H.		
Pte	6101393	GARDNER	Albert Charles	The Queens Royal Regiment  (West Surrey)	
Capt.	67110	JICKLING	Charles Benjamin Kemp	Royal Norfolk Regiment	Age 29
Sgt	1282788	LUMSDEN	Eric Alexander Gordon	RAF Volunteer Res 50Squad.	Age 36
		MILES	E		
Pte	6101732	PAGE	Percy Spencer	The Queens Royal Regiment  (West Surrey)	Age 28
Corp.	6085116	RUMBOLD	Richard Cecil	The Queens Royal Regiment	Age 32
				(West Surrey)	
Pte	6087502	SUMMERFIELD	Godfrey James George	The Queens Royal Regiment  (West Surrey)	Age 22
Lieut		VERNERS-JEFFREYS	Robert David	Royal Navy Submarine Traveller	

\*Brothers - sons of Cecil and Violet Adcock of Redhill

George Baker is not included on the war memorial. He died in 1946, grave is on CWGC list. Albert Gardner who did not die

**Adcocks.** The brothers lived at Greenhurst with parents Cecil and Violet. Reginald died when his Manchester bomber blew up over the English Channel.

**George Baker** is not named on the War Memorial but his Commonwealth War Grave memorial is in Capel cemetery. He did not die until 1946. Why he is not on the War Memorial is not known. Albert Gardiner who died in 1947 is included.

**Arthur Buckland** was son of Charles and Annie Buckland who lived at Beare Green. Charles was a cab driver.

**Charles Jickling** was killed by friendly fire whilst being transferred between prisoner of war camps at the end of the war. He was among a large number of prisoners walking along a country road between Eickstatt and Moosburg when they were fire on by U.S. war planes. Jickling was one of eleven officers killed.

**Eric Lumsden** was the son of Richard and Martha Lumsden of Dorking.

**Percy Page** son of Sarah Ann Page, a kitchen maid. Husband of Florence who lived in Capel.

**Richard Rumbold** was born in South Holmwood the son of Charles and Ellen who lived in Vicarage Cottage, South Holmwood. He was married to Ellen who was living in Hampshire at the time of his death.

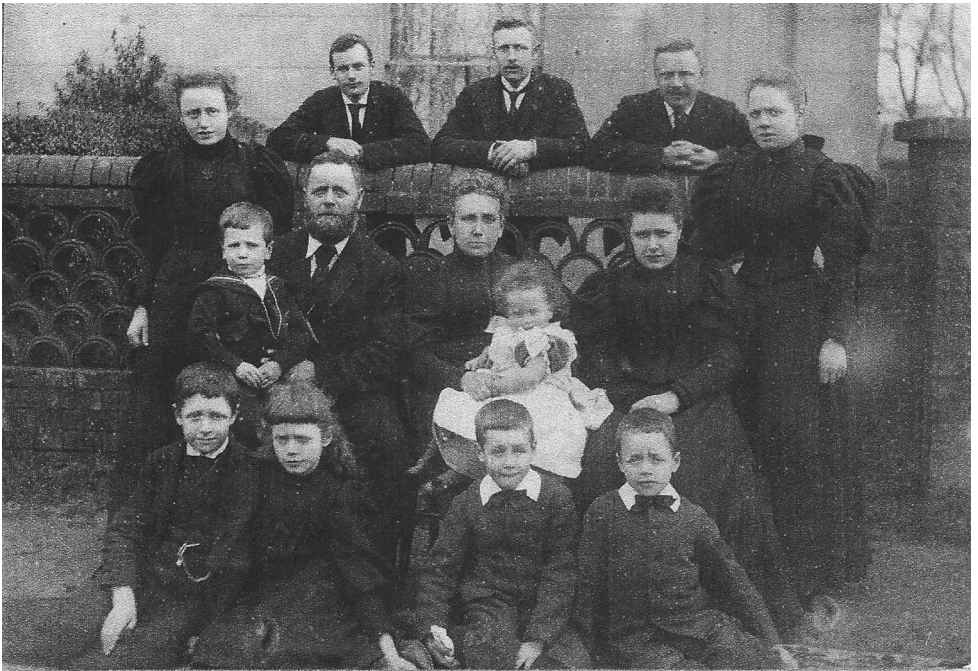
**Godfrey Summerfield**, son of James and May Summerfield. Born in Burton on Trent, living in Surrey at time of death.

**Robert Verner-Jeffreys** was born in Hampshire. He married Audrey Bray who was from Capel. Her mother was Evelyn Bray. The family lived at Hurst, Vicarage Lane and moved into the Old Hospital until 1947. The submarine he was serving in is thought to have been sunk by an Italian mine on or about 4th December 1942.

## David Mitchel - a Capel builder

Capel has always had its share of local builders. In 1885 one such builder was David Mitchell who kept a log of his daily work. It is a typically British male record, laconic, terse and to the point. In transcribing his log into a computer format that helps to make it easier to see what was happening, I have come to admire and really like him. He was a hard worker, often doing 60 hours a week, Saturdays included, a devoted father of no less than 12 children and able to turn his hand to all sorts of work. Most of the time he dealt with building work, but he also did whitewashing, mended stoves and cookers, replaced drains, was involved with paving and quite often refers to 'healing' roofs – in other words tiling and re-roofing.

David was born in 1848. His uncles were Joseph and Thomas Stone who farmed at 'Temple' (as it was called then, now it is usually referred to as Temple Elfande). In 1851 his widowed mother moved in to live with her brothers at Temple.



*Fig 15: David Mitchell & family about 1895*



David and Annie (Rice) were married in 1871 and their first daughter also called Annie came along in the same year that they were married, hopefully after they had gone to the Church. Their twelve children were:

Name	Year born	Notes
Annie	1871	Went away into service in London
George	1873	There is a picture of him at his marriage. He was quite often ill as a teenager
Alfred	1875	
May	1876	
Frank	1878	
Clara	1880	Birth not recorded in David's log
Harry Christmas	1882	His middle name suggests a possible link to the Christmas family who were bakers. Harry was killed in action 1917
Kate	1884	Birth not recorded in David's log
Charlie	1886	Birth recorded on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 1886
Herbert	1888	Birth recorded on 15 January 1888
Ronald	1892	After the close of the log book
Winifred Cissie	1894	Remembered as always being called 'Cissie' by Peter Ede.

## David's log

In the course of his log, 34 years later, David records going ferreting and rabbit hunting at Temple. These are mentioned most often in 1885 and 1886 but in the latter part of his log (which takes us up to the end of 1891) there are almost no references to this activity. Rabbits were a real menace in those days for the farmers and their crops as indicated by the 158 that were killed on February 10th 1885, and another 374 on 31st March, 7 weeks later. He obviously enjoyed a spot of ferreting and records going out to do that once or twice a year. But there was very little time for him to enjoy any sort of leisure activity because he was working all day, six days a week and hunting of any sort was not allowed on Sundays.

Most of the entries simply state where he was working with entries such as:

- 3 March 85 – Work at Brickyard, whitewashing.
- 4 March 85 – Work at Brickyard,
- later on
- 7 April 86 – Work at Rushutt (sic) draining  
(probably what is called Rushetts now)
- 8 April 86 – Work at Hospital & Crown
- 9 April 86 – Work at Hospital
- 10 April 86 – Work at Hospital, painting chimneys

Here is a sample of his log entries, starting on April 1st 1886 when he was working at Arnold's Laundry. He also records the death of G. Stone (of Bonnets to whom he was related through his mother's family).

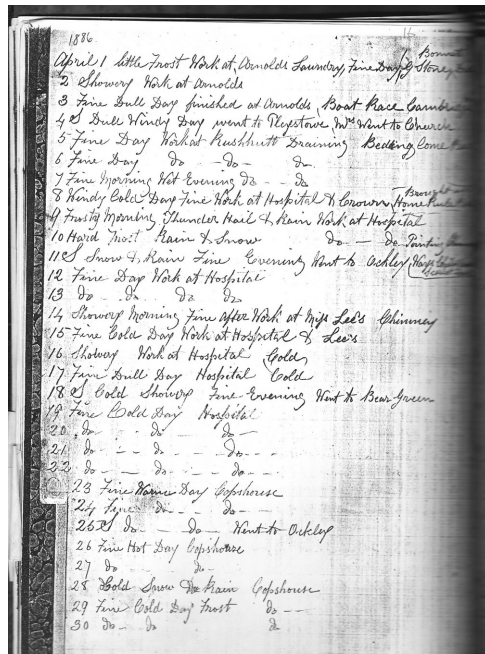


Fig 16. Extract of David Mitchell's log. (Log at Dorking Museum)

In addition to recording where he was working, David also logged a short description of the weather. Occasionally he also recorded other events about births, marriages and deaths in the village.

David never recorded anything other than facts, but he gives the impression of being a devoted father. He was always buying his children, and his wife, new shoes. Another little glimpse into his personality is that in February 1888 he had a job at Pleystowe. On February 13th it was snowing in the evening, and he was still at Pleystowe the following day when it snowed all day, yet he still went to a school concert that evening. It must have been tough at that time because in January George (in his 17th year) had come home with rheumatic fever and had been admitted into hospital. On February 2nd David records that George had a new overcoat at a cost of 15/6d (the equivalent of two day's wages). On the 4th February Harry, aged 6 years, was not well and had shingles. Then his wife was unwell on Sunday 5th February. So it could not have been easy for him that winter.

## **Snow in Capel**

Looking in more detail at his record of weather in Capel, with particular reference to the incidence of snow. Just taking mentions of 'snow' or 'snowstorm' it appears that the year 1887 was the worst with 37 days falling into this category. The least number of days was 4 in 1885. There was an average of 17 days when David recorded snow over the 7 years logged in his book. In each of the years he recorded snow in March, quite often there was snow even in April. In 1891 he records that a snowplough was used on March 11. In 1890 he records that December 8th was a very wet day and that it was 'very rough'. There must have been very high winds that day because he also writes that; "The sails were blown off Shiremark mill". It would seem that the weather is as unpredictable and variable then as it is now, 120 years later.

## **The Crown Slate Club**

David notes that on 7th January 1885 "Started Slate Club at the Crown". It is not clear whether he meant that he personally started the club, or whether it was the start of this organisation, on balance it is probable that he was just recording his personal involvement.

Slate Clubs flourished in late Victorian times and were an early form of insurance. The principle was that individuals paid a weekly sum of a few pence (Seven pence per week per person has been suggested), so that when they were unable to work because of sickness they could then be paid to cover their weekly outgoings when not being in paid employment. If there was any money left over at the end of the year, members had a dinner. Interestingly, the organisation was based on the local pub, in this case the Crown. For example in 1909, Westcott had Slate Clubs operating in The Prince of Wales pub, The Cricketeers, and The Crown amongst others. The Slate Club supper started as a do at the Weeden's home on December 16th 1885, there is no mention of a supper the following year, but by December 14th 1887 it seems that the Slate Club supper was held as an annual event at The Crown about a

fortnight or so before Christmas. This did not necessarily happen every year, or David was not able to go since there is no record of the supper in 1888, but it does show up on December 11th 1889, then on December 10th a year later and a final entry for December 16th 1891.

David had recourse to use the Slate Club especially in early 1890. An epidemic of influenza swept through the village. For the Mitchell family it started with Frederick going down with 'heavy influenza' on 27th January, he was followed by Alfred who started being ill from influenza on the 31st and it caught up with David on 2nd February (a Sunday). David records starting "On the Club" on 3rd February. The next to succumb was George on 5th February, none of the daughters are shown to have had flu, but they may well have done. Many others across the area were affected by the virus because he says, on 19th February, that eight out of the 19 Capel Slate Club members were suffering from influenza in Capel and a further 8 were "on the Club" in the neighbouring village of Buckland.

David remained off work and "on the Club" for three weeks, returning to work on 23rd February. So it was quite a debilitating illness for him and showed all the characteristics of a viral infection by coming in waves. David said that he got up on 5th February, but had to go back to bed the next day. When he did start work he was only able to do light work to start with. Apart from these mentions and paying the first instalment for the Club each year, David only recorded the following as being members of the Crown Slate Club:

G. Brooker, T. Hall, A. Ethridge, G. Rice (possibly his brother-in-law), J Burchell, G. Pearce and himself. According to his record there were a dozen more but he does not record their names anywhere.

## Unusual events

On 1st March 1885 he records that "Decorators come to Wigmore" suggesting that the Mortimers were having more done to their new house that was built in the 1860's. David subsequently did quite a lot of work for them over the next seven years.

October 31st (1885) was a fine day, but poor J. Stenning was hurt at Ockley Station, and died in Capel Hospital the following day, a Sunday.

On January 16th (1886) while David was working at the Kings Head public house, there was (as he recorded it) a "Poaching affray in Denne Wood". In this affray, John Burberry had a broken arm, Lipscomb, broken arm, John Chennel broken collar bone and cut head. Dangerous dusky S. Fairbrother was also taken for poaching affray. Obviously there was a considerable bust up at the time, presumably Burberry, Lipscomb and Chennel were gamekeepers, because a few days later J. Davis, C. Aldridge and B. Isemonger were 'taken' for the poaching affray. They were committed for trial at Horsham on 30th January. On 15th February they were sentenced to 7 years' penal service each for their part in the affray. It is no wonder that they had a fight because they must have known what the penalty was likely to be.

Victorian landlords did not like poachers and protected their property in whatever way they could. However, on 25th November 1888 David records on that Sunday he and his wife went to Ockley Church Harvest Festival and that a “Keeper was shot by a poacher at Myers near Ockley”. No record was made of any subsequent follow up to this event, unlike the 'affray'.

## A Victorian Gamekeeper.



*Fig 17: A Victorian Gamekeeper.*

These entries were unusual for their length, indicating that the 'Poaching Affray' was a major topic of discussion. Compare this with an entry for the collapse of the Dorking tunnel in 1887; David wrote “Choir went to London. Dorking tunnel fell in.” on the 27th July. One wonders at the relative importance of these two events in 2010 and how they might have been written up in a modern journal.

Theft was not treated lightly. In March 1886 “H. Wright taken for stealing cake at Stents”, and again later on in March “Men taken for stealing at The Crown”. Three days later the men found stealing at The Crown were given the option of a fine of 10/6d or 14 days in prison.

Each year, David recorded the first three horses past the post for the Derby Day race and for 'The Oaks'. Perhaps he had a flutter, but he never mentions how or where he was able to place any bets.

David recorded marriages and deaths in the village. One that is slightly different was written on April 7th 1887, which said quite simply but very descriptively “J. Norwood and Emma Rapley married at Capel, both drunk”. The irony is that David was often working for the Rapleys either building or improving their cottages.

In 1887, Queen Victoria celebrated her Jubilee. Unlike the present day, each of the villages celebrated the event on different days of the week, according to David, so while he was working at Cox Farm in Warnham he recorded that Jubilee Day was on June 21st, and was then celebrated in Warnham on June 23rd while Capel did not celebrate the event until Saturday 25th June.

In May 1890 there was a fire at Ansell Brothers, who were builders in Ockley. Their (Work) shop and timber sheds were burnt down. On the following Sunday, David went over to have a look at the destruction.

## Shoes

One thing that occupied him was the purchase of new shoes. He paid between 3/9d (about 19p) and a maximum of 11/9d (about 55p). It is difficult to work out just how much he was earning, but my best guess is that the maximum he could have earned was between £2 and £3 per week, so a pair of shoes represented about a quarter of a week's wages. In today's terms that would equal £75 per pair, so it is not surprising that he made a record of it. The following entries were made in his logbook that covers the period January 1 1885 to December 27th 1891, when it ends.

Name	Date	Price
Not stated	23 Feb 1885	Not stated
DM	19 Sept 1885	11/9d
May	18 Sept 1885	Not stated
Harry	2 Oct 1886	Not stated
Wife	30 Apr 1887	7/6d
DM	11 June 1887	10/9d
Wife	9 July 1887	3/9d
Wife	24 Jan 1888	3/9d
Wife	25 Aug 1888	3/9d
Frank	30 Aug 1888	8/-
May	30 Aug 1888	6/3d
George	20 Apr 1889	Not stated
Bert	28 Mar 1891	3/3d
Alfred	25 Apr 1891	8/-
Frank	10 Aug 1891	Not stated
Harry	29 Aug 1891	Not stated
Charlie	5 Sept 1891	Not stated
George	5 Oct 1891	Not stated
Wife	10 Oct 1891	Not stated
Bert	17 Oct 1891	Not stated
DM	5 Dec 1891	9/11d

'DM' = David Mitchell

Thanks to Charles Edwards we have a few family photographs because of marriages between the Edwards and Mitchells. Here is one of David and Annie in old age





*Fig 18. Mr & Mrs Mitchell  
And another possibly taken in 1930*



*Fig 19. David Mitchell*



*Fig 20. George Mitchell's wedding 1912.*

It would not have been possible to write these notes without having access to David Mitchell's handwritten logbook that was donated to Dorking Museum by his granddaughter, and Mary Day's support & encouragement.

*Chris Coke.*

