

**CHOBHAM ROAD
BUILDING BY BUILDING**

**A History of Chobham Road
in Woking, Surrey**

Trevor R Howard

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by

Trevor R Howard

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WOKING

ORIGINS

The Railway

The modern town of Woking in Surrey did not exist before the 1850s. When, in May 1838, the London to Southampton railway first opened, early passengers would have looked out of the train windows upon wide stretches of heathland. The railway station, originally named Woking Common, was built on the southern side of the line to serve the coaches from Guildford and Ripley which brought and collected the mail.

The Necropolis

In 1850, London had a problem; its ever growing population was filling all of the church graveyards.

The London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company was formed and proposed a solution. A huge cemetery would be built some distance from London, where everybody (and every body) in the country would be buried.

An Act of Parliament was passed which authorised the purchase of common land within the parish of the village of Woking (now Old Woking). The plan drew considerable criticism. Many thought that the 2600 acres authorised to be purchased was far in excess of what would be needed and that the whole scheme was no more than land speculation.

A cemetery of 400 acres was set out (in that corner of the land purchased farthest from London and the station of Woking Common), as a first phase. This cemetery is now Brookwood Cemetery and still one of the largest in Europe.

Before the first phase was complete, the Necropolis Company was petitioning Parliament for a second Act which would allow them to sell off any surplus land for development.

Some of the first land sold was for institutions: The Woking Prison for Invalid Convicts, later to become Inkerman Barracks and the Surrey County Asylum for Pauper Lunatics, better known in more recent times as Brookwood Hospital.

The Company, however, had plans for a new town to be built around the station at Woking Common. It was the land sales policy of the Necropolis Company which ultimately saw the commercial centre of the new town grow up sandwiched between the railway and the Basingstoke Canal. Their company architect, Henry Abraham, drew up a rough scheme which made no attempt to produce a sensible road network. It merely added to the existing tracks which had crossed the common, despite these having been cut and diverted by the canal and railway. North of the railway, the land

was divided into small plots which were relatively attractive for commercial use, whereas south of the railway the plots were larger, allowing expensive houses to be built where they had nice views across towards Guildford and the Hogs Back. There was of course no local authority at this time to oversee matters, the Woking Local Board not being established until 1893 and Surrey County Council only created in 1889.

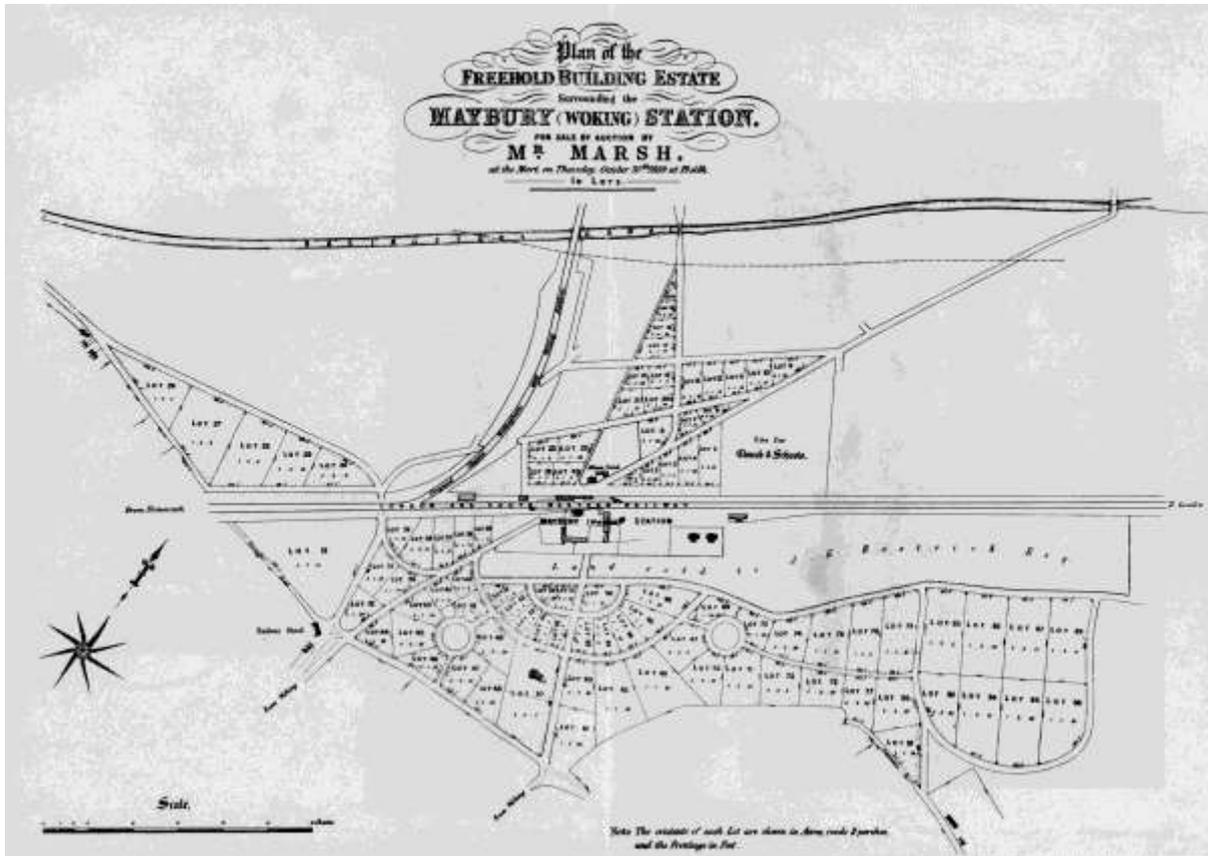


Figure 1. 1857 plan for land sales by the Necropolis Company

CHOBHAM ROAD

Introduction

The first building to be built north of the railway was the Albion Hotel in 1856. This was followed by the development of a line of businesses along High Street. However, as High Street was bounded on one side by the railway, it never became the focus of the town. That role was assumed *de facto* by Chertsey Road.

Chobham Road, intersecting with Commercial Road and with its southern end joining Chertsey Road became an important shopping street in its own right. It was previously known as 'Bridge Road', since it headed from the station to the Wheatsheaf bridge over the Basingstoke Canal; it is listed as such in the 1861 and 1871 censuses.



Figure 2. Chobham Road north end 1971

House numbering

The somewhat piecemeal development along Chobham Road meant that there was no coherent house numbering until about 1910¹.

In order to provide a consistent reference throughout this work, the house numbers as of 1964/5 have been used. The 1965 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan was the first to show house numbers and they tie in with the 1964 Street Directory published by the *Woking News & Mail*.

This work generally concentrates on the ground floors of the buildings, most of which were three or four stories high. In the early 1900s, some of the proprietors of smaller businesses lived over their shops. Others rented the upper floors to individuals or as office space.

The aim has been to produce a comprehensive chronology of occupants for each building. In many, if not most, cases this has not been possible.

- There are some gaps in the 1860-1890 period due to the paucity and/or ambiguity of the surviving records. The Ordnance Survey produced 1:1,250 scale plans, surveyed in 1870 and 1895; Most of

¹ The old system of numbering was used in the 1908 street directory and the new system in the 1911 census

the development of Chertsey Road (like the rest of Woking town centre) took place almost entirely during the intervening period.

- During the first and second World Wars, maps and directories were not produced, partly because of the shortage of paper and partly due to the risk of information coming into the hands of enemy agents. Electoral registers were not maintained as there were no elections during the fighting.
- Street directories were not produced after 1980, being replaced by the much less useful (for the historian) yellow pages and other trade directories. These have in the main not been preserved by libraries and record offices. In turn these directories have been replaced by online directories which are constantly updated and do not provide a historical record. Coupled with the faster turn-over of businesses, there are almost certainly gaps or omissions in the 1990-2010 period.

WEST SIDE (ODD NUMBERS)

CHERTSEY ROAD TO COMMERCIAL ROAD

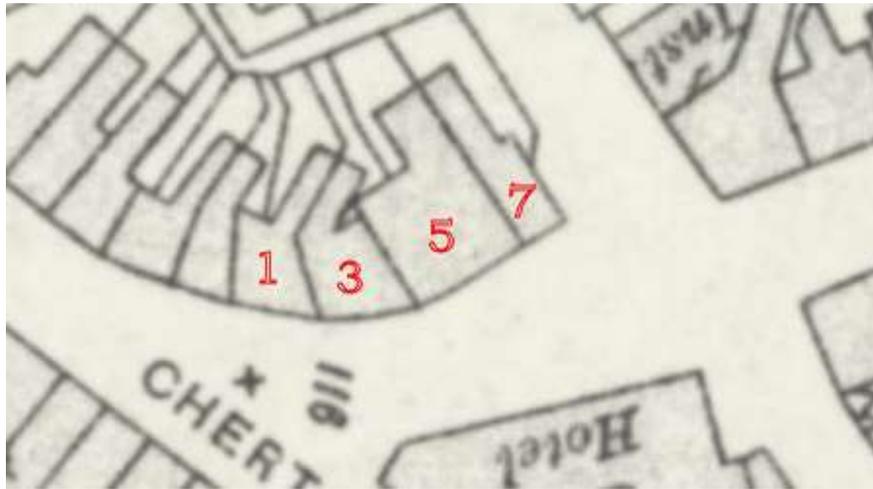


Figure 3. Chertsey Road to Commercial Road 1912

No. 1

No. 1 and No. 3 Chobham Road were built in 1907/8, filling the gap between No. 5 and the shops in Chertsey Road. The first occupant of No. 1 was Lipton's grocery store. The Lipton chain had been established in the 1870s.

Lipton's was bought by Home & Colonial Stores in 1931; the Chobham Road branch was closed some ten years later.

The firm of James Walker Goldsmith and Silversmith Ltd was originally established in 1823, but considerably expanded from 1920 onwards to be the second largest retailer of jewellery and silverware in Britain.

The Woking branch was opened in the mid-to-late 1940s. The shop's clock was a prominent feature of the town centre.

James Walker was taken over by H Samuel in April 1984. H Samuel moved into the Peacocks and closed the Chobham Road store in about 1995.



Figure 4. James Walker's shop

The shop has since then been home to People's Phone, Pizza Express and, since 2008, to Nando's.

Occupants of No. 1	
1908-37	Lipton's Ltd.
1941-84	James Walker, jeweller
1984-1994	H Samuel, jeweller
1996	People's Phone
2004-05	Pizza Express
2008-	Nando's



Figure 5. No. 1 (part of Nando's) 2020

No. 3

No.s 1 and 3 Chobham Road were built in 1907/8.

No. 3 was first occupied by White & Cole, drapers, from 1908 to 1909. From 1905 to 1908 Edward Edwin John White had been in Commercial Buildings, Commercial Road, trading as a 'general & fancy draper'. He married Edith Mary Cole in 1906. The business was presumably not a success; in the 1911 census, he no longer had his own business, was living in Maybury Road and was employed as a draper.

William Barnett Bayliss, fruiterer & greengrocer, moved in, in about 1911. He had previously been trading in Chertsey Road since 1894.

Ada Trevarthen Hill was born in Cornwall in 1860. After the death of her first husband, James Madden, she married Walter Meeks in 1891.

By 1900, Walter and Ada had moved to Woking and Walter was running a china and glass dealership in the Broadway, Maybury Road. Following Walter's death in January 1907, Ada carried on the business.

In 1926, the business moved to new premises at 3 Chobham Road. This was now run by Edith Maud Brasher but traded as 'A Meeks'.



Figure 6. Edith Maud Brasher (1881-1967)



Figure 7. A Meeks advertising Poole Pottery in 1930

Edith seems to have retired sometime during the Second World War (perhaps hastened by the loss of her son in 1941² or due to her husband falling ill – he died in March 1946). The business then moved into Walton Road.³



Figure 8. Belle Baker attracting a crowd, c1960

In 1943, Belle Baker, ladies fashion shop, opened. There were several Belle Baker ladies fashion shops in the south-east of England and so it may have been a franchise; The Woking shop was run by Belle Baker (Staines) Ltd, for more than thirty years. The business was dissolved in 1976⁴.

² Lt Harold H Brasher was killed 22 May 1941; *HMS Greyhound* was dive-bombed by Stuka aircraft off Crete

³ Woking street directories, 1948, 1957, 1964, 1968

⁴ *London Gazette* 6 April 1976

Farnham-based travel agents, Sovereign Travel, opened a Woking office, in 1976, in No. 3 Chobham Road. They are still trading from the premises today.

Occupants of No. 3	
1908-09	White & Cole (Edward Edwin John White), drapers
1911-25	William Barnett Bayliss, fruiterer & greengrocer
1926-39	A Meeks, fancy goods (Edith Maud Brasher)
1943-76	Belle Baker (Staines) Ltd, costumier, ladies fashion
1976-	Sovereign Travel



Figure 9. No. 3 Sovereign Travel 2020

No. 5a

No. 5 Chobham Road was built in about 1875. In 1882, it was owned by a Mrs R Daws, who also owned the Red House Hotel⁵.

ELIZABETH PLUMER DAWS

Elizabeth Plumer Stedman was born in Wotton, Surrey, in 1826. At eighteen, she married Robert Daws of Ripley, Surrey, a farmer and brick-maker, thirteen years her senior.

When Robert Daws died, in 1870, Elizabeth inherited the farm and brickworks. The farm was 550 acres and employed 20 men and 6 boys; the brickworks employed 9 men [the 1871 census states 99 – surely an error] and 1 boy⁶.

At the time of the 1881 census, the farm had been reduced to 300 acres and, together with the brickworks, employed a total of 16 men and 3 boys⁷.

In 1882, Elizabeth owned the Red House Hotel and the two houses and shops opposite (now 5 & 7 Chobham Road). She later also owned the Corn and Grocery Exchange (14-16 Chertsey Road)⁸.

Elizabeth Plumer Daws died in 1897.

Henry William Gloster was one of early Woking's most significant figures in terms of both commerce and local governance. He moved his business from Penge in Kent, to Chobham Road, opposite the Red House, in 1876. The shop was originally known as the South-western Service Supply Stores.

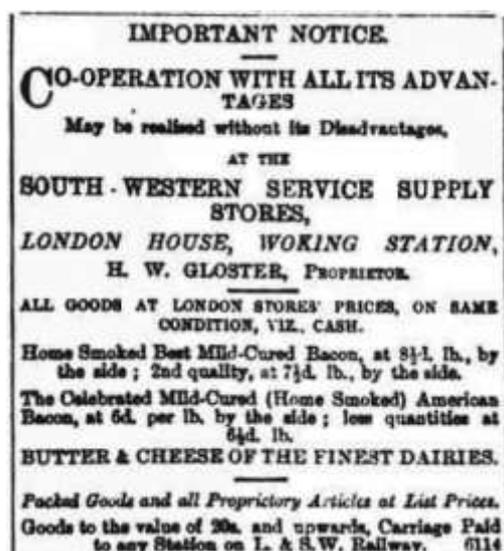


Figure 10. Gloster's ad, 1880

In 1888, Henry Gloster opened his Corn Exchange in Chertsey Road. Two years later, he extended it and opened a grocery store as well. The Chobham Road stores were converted to an ironmonger and furnishing ironmonger (pots, pans, cutlery etc.). Henry's son, Charles, managed the ironmongery business.

By 1900, there was a one-storey extension on part of the site, for a china & glass department (Figure 11). This was pulled down in 1907⁹, for No. 3 to be built on the site.

⁵ SHC 6198/13/1 *Parish of Woking: Valuation, Rating and other Parish Records (1843-1936): Valuation list 1882*

⁶ *1871 England Census*; Piece: 809; Folio: 34; Page: 20

⁷ *1881 England Census*; Piece: 774; Folio: 32; Page: 7

⁸ SHC 6198/13/4 *Parish of Woking: Valuation, Rating and other Parish Records (1843-1936): Valuation list 1891*

⁹ SHC 6198/13/29 *Parish of Woking: Valuation, Rating and other Parish Records (1843-1936): Supplemental valuation list (September 1907)*



Figure 11. Gloster's ironmongery store, c1900

William Robert Skeet had started his ironmongery business, in 1891, at No. 1 High Street (where NatWest Bank now is). In 1901, he opened a second shop at No. 5 Chobham Road.¹⁰

In 1907, the lease on the High Street shop was expiring and the premises were bought by Westminster Bank. At about the same time, William joined up with Charles Job Fooks and they opened a new store at No.s 10 and 12 Chobham Road (see page 63).

In 1910, Skeet and Fooks were joined by Hartley Davey Jeffes. Fooks left the partnership in around 1920 and it became the well-known 'Skeet & Jeffes'.



Figure 12. Stoneware jars with Skeet & Fooks and Skeet, Fooks & Jeffes brands

¹⁰ SHC 6198/9/74 *General district rate book, parish of Woking, 1901*

The shop at No. 5 was closed in around 1922 and No. 5 was divided into 5a and 5b. The next occupants of 5a were G E Bateman opticians, who traded there for over thirty years.



Figure 13. Bateman's c1930

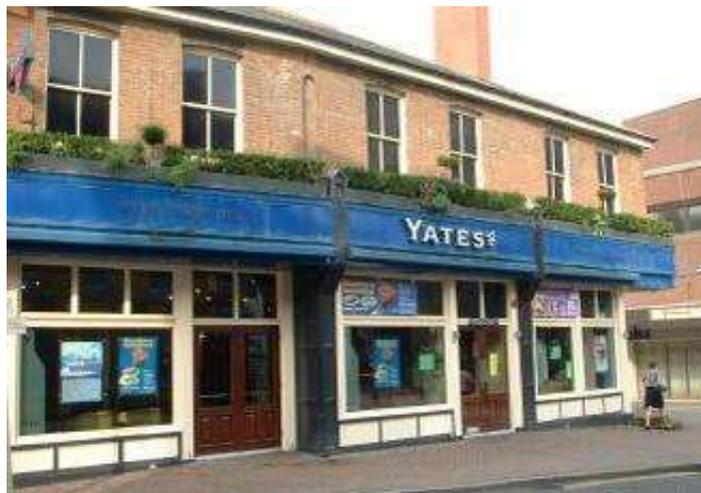


Figure 14. Yates

In 1961, Bateman's moved into Chertsey Road and were replaced in 5a by Radio Rentals.

Radio Rentals moved into Commercial Way, in 1976/7 and were replaced in Chobham Road by Domestic Electric Rentals (DER). In 1990, DER also opened a store in Commercial Way, but maintained the Chobham Road shop into the 1990s.

The shop was vacant in 1995 and occupied by the Birthday Company in 2000.

In 2002 No.s 5a, 5b and 7 were converted into a wine bar, trading as Yates. In 2016, this became the Slug & Lettuce.

Occupants of No. 5a	
1876-1890	South-western Service Supply Stores (Henry William Gloster)
1890-1901	Gloster, ironmongers
1901-21	W R Skeet / Skeet & Fooks / Skeet, Fooks & Jeffes / Skeet & Jeffes
1923-61	Bateman's opticians
1962-76	Radio Rentals
1977-91	Domestic Electrical Rentals (DER)
2000	Birthday Company
2002-15	Yates
2016-	Slug & Lettuce



Figure 15. No.s 5a, 5b & 7 - Slug & Lettuce 2020

No. 5b

After William Skeet's shop closed in 1922, No. 5 was split into 5a and 5b.

5b, after standing vacant for a year or so, was then taken over for a branch of Flinn & Son Ltd, dyers, in 1925. Flinn & Son Ltd was a regional company based at Portslade, Brighton. The sign for Flinn and son can be seen in Figure 13.

In January 1943, the Woking Food Control Committee received an application from Stanley Rose of Maidenhead, to open a café in No. 5b. The application was refused, the vice-chairman stating that he thought "Woking was exceedingly well served with restaurants and that another was unnecessary".¹¹

In May 1944, the Woking Trustee Savings Bank opened in 5b. This was a branch of Reading Trustee Savings Bank.¹² Local savings banks went through a continual process of amalgamation; the Woking TSB became a branch of the Thames Valley Trustee Savings Bank in 1948.



Figure 16.
Woking TSB

¹¹ *Surrey Advertiser* 16 January 1843

¹² *Surrey Advertiser* 1 April, 6 & 27 May 1944

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Trustee savings banks (TSBs) originated to accept savings deposits from those with moderate means. Their shares were not traded on the stock market but, unlike with mutually held building societies, depositors had no voting rights; nor did they have the power to direct the financial and managerial goals of the organisation. Directors were appointed as trustees (hence the name) on a voluntary basis.

In 1887, the Trustee Savings Banks Association was established, with two aims: to protect the interests of depositors, and to increase co-operation among savings banks. To give the savings bank movement a national profile, the TSB Association adopted an emblem in 1922. All TSBs were encouraged to use it.

Historically, individual savings banks had been largely independent of one another. However, this all changed with the TSB Act of 1976. The Act stipulated that the 73 existing savings banks should merge into 20 (later 16) regional institutions. Crucially, the Act also allowed TSBs to offer similar financial services to those of the clearing banks, such as personal loans.

TSB Group was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1986. For the first time, it had shareholders and could compete with other high street banks on an equal footing.

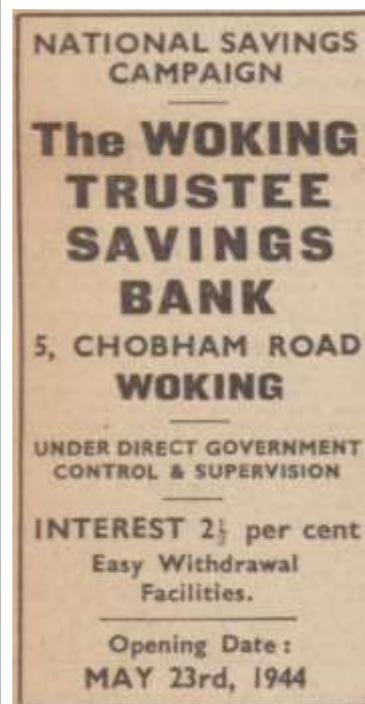


Figure 17. TSB advertisement

In 1972, TSB moved out of No. 5b and into new premises in Commercial Road. The shop was taken over by the Beit Trust.

The trust was established in 1906, by the will of Alfred Beit, a financier and philanthropist. On his death, at the age of 53, he left a substantial legacy to a wide range of charitable causes.

Alfred Beit had many interests, including the development of the railway system in Southern Africa. His will specifically established The Beit Railway Fund, to promote the development of regional communications. It also provided if, at a later date, the trustees should decide that the fund was no longer needed for its primary purpose, that the income could be applied to "education, public or other charitable purposes". The trust is still based in Woking.



Figure 18. Alfred Beit

In the early to mid-1980s, the shop was home to Terry's Card Shop.

The premises were taken over by Challenge Trophies, in 1987, who were there for about five years. In 1990, they also incorporated a branch of Red Balloon.

From 1995 to 2000, it was occupied by Sole Man.



Figure 19. Red Balloon advertisement, 1990

No.s 5a, 5b and 7 were converted into a wine bar, in 2002, trading as Yates. In 2016, this became the Slug & Lettuce.

Occupants of No. 5b	
1876-1890	South-western Service Supply Stores (Henry William Gloster)
1890-1901	Gloster, ironmongers
1901-21	W R Skeet / Skeet & Fooks / Skeet, Fooks & Jeffes / Skeet & Jeffes
1923	<i>vacant</i>
1925-37	Flinn & Son Ltd, dyers
1944-72	Trustee Savings Bank
1973-81	Beit Trust
1985-86	Terry's Card Shop
1987-91	Challenge Trophies (1990 also Red Balloon)
1995-2000	Sole Man
2002-15	Yates
2016-	Slug & Lettuce

No. 7

No. 7 Chobham Road was built in about 1875 (at the same time as No. 5) and was situated on the south-west corner of Chobham Road and

Commercial Road. In 1882, it was owned by a Mrs R Daws (see page 9), who also owned the Red House Hotel¹³.

Herbert Hart was a butcher and poulterer, who had a business and shop in Horsell High Street. In about 1880, he opened a second shop in Chobham Road, Woking; it was probably run by his son, Hosea.

Herbert Hart died in 1894 and Hosea took over the business, carrying it on for the next forty years. The Woking shop was situated on the corner of Chobham Road and Commercial Road (Figure 20).

When Hosea retired, in 1934, the business was taken over by Arthur Herbert Tanner, a butcher in Chobham. Arthur Tanner traded there for nearly forty years. He died in 1970.

The shop was then briefly home to Camera Equipment Ltd.

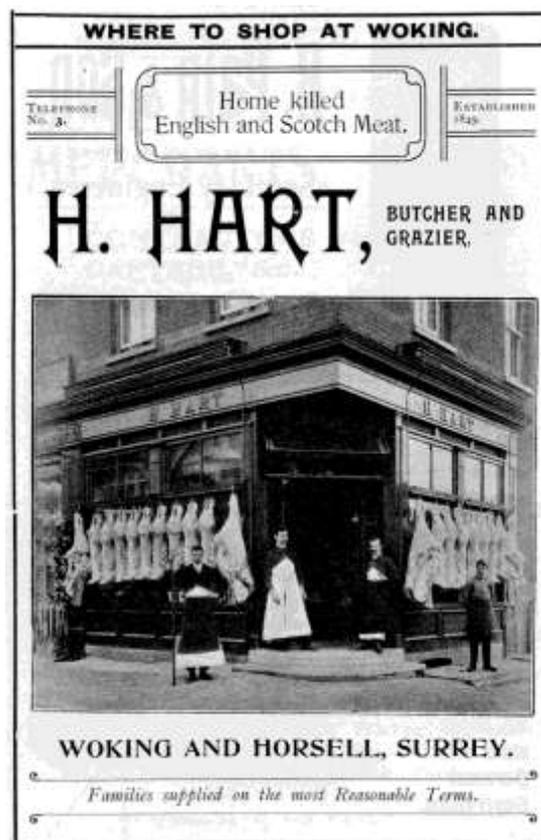


Figure 20. Hosea Hart advertisement 1908

Trumps, a Woking-based, family-run, dry cleaning business, opened their first shop in 1982. In 2000/1, they moved to Albion House. They are now in No. 6 Chertsey Road.

In 2002 No.s 5a, 5b and 7 were converted into a wine bar trading as Yates. In 2016, this became the Slug & Lettuce.

Occupants of No. 7	
1885-92	Herbert Hart, butcher
1893-1934	Hosea Hart, butcher
1934-71	Arthur Herbert Tanner, butcher
1972-74	Camera Equipment Ltd
1982-2000	Trumps, dry cleaners
2002-15	Yates
2016-	Slug & Lettuce

¹³ SHC 6198/13/1 *Parish of Woking: Valuation, Rating and other Parish Records (1843-1936): Valuation list 1882*

COMMERCIAL ROAD TO CHURCH STREET

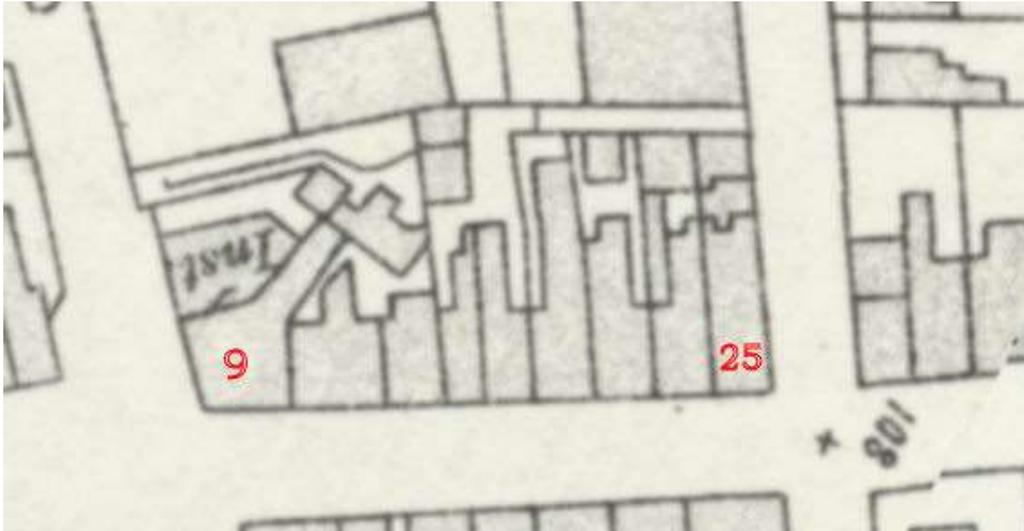


Figure 21. Commercial Road to Church Street 1912

This section of Chobham Road, previous to the 1960s, is unrecognisable today, both sides of the road having been completely demolished and rebuilt in the 1970s. Crown Life House was constructed on the east side and British Home Stores on the west.

Figure 22 shows the construction of Crown Life House, with Chobham Road running from right to left in front. In the foreground, most of the buildings where British Home Stores was later to be built have already been demolished; the two buildings each standing in isolation are that of John Clarke, fishmonger (see page 18) and The Boys Shop (page 25).



Figure 22. Crown Life House development c.1975

No. 9 - Guildford House

Guildford House was built on the corner of Commercial Road and Chobham Road, in the 1880s, by James Fielder Gammon, a draper from Godalming.



Figure 23. James Fielder Gammon (1841-1916)

Woking 844 Noted for Value

HOLIDAY
BARGAINS
FOR MEN

Gammons, Ltd.

GAMMONS CORNER

WOKING

MEN'S
FLANNEL
TROUSERS

3/11, 4/11 to
10/11

Also at GUILDFORD, COBHAM and CRANLEIGH

SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFERS

Great Whitsun Show COMMENCES 22nd MAY

PURE SILK HOSE for holiday wear at 33 1/2% off regular prices. Made by the well-known "BEAR BRAND" factory, and offered as slightly substandard.

Usual standard price 1/11 1/2, 2/11 1/2, 3/11 1/2
Holiday Bargain price 1/3 1/2, 2/-, 2/11 1/2

Reinforced **FIBRE ATTACHE CASES and SUIT CASES**
in Brown or Blue, fitted two locks and patent clasps.

Size	16"	18"	20"	22"	24"	26"	26"
Price	1/6	1/11	2/3	2/6	2/11	3/11	4/11

Figure 24. 1933 advertisement

After James's death in 1916, the business was carried on by two of his sons (James had 17 children by two wives), Harold and William Archie.

The store later grew by taking over adjacent buildings in each road.

In 1962 Gammon's was taken over by Debenhams, following Harold's death in 1961, although it retained the Gammon's name for trading.

GAMMONS WOKING

WOKING'S LEADING DEPARTMENT STORE

FASHIONS
FURNISHINGS
LINENS
HARDWARE
MENS ETC.

Your Debenham Store

OPEN ALL DAY WEDNESDAYS FREE CAR PARK
PHONE 60844

Figure 25. 1968 advertisement



Figure 26. Guildford House c.1905

In the late 1960s, Gammons also took over No.s 15-19 for their hardware department (see page).

After Gammon's closed in 1973, the building was vacant for most of the 1970s, before being demolished to allow for the construction of British Home Stores.

No. 11

No. 11 Chobham Road, was built in about 1885. The first occupant was Charles Dorset, sadler, who traded as The Golden Boot Store.

In 1903, Charles Dorset gave up the boot trade, moved to Maybury Road and became a 'riding master'.¹⁴

The Golden Boot Store was taken over by Arthur David Lamdin of Guildford. Arthur Lamdin traded, in a couple of businesses, in Chobham Road (see below and page 35) for almost 50 years.

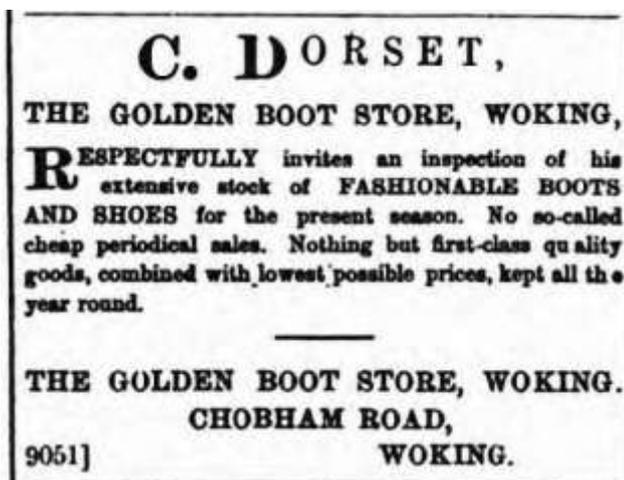


Figure 27. 1893 advertisement

Arthur Lamdin died in May 1952. Following his death, the shop was taken over by a branch of Peter Lord, shoes retailers. Peter Lord occupied the premises until they moved into Wolsey Place in 1974, thus ensuring a continuation in shoe retailing throughout the life of the building.

The shop was demolished in the late 1970s for the building of British Home Stores.

Occupants of No. 11	
1881-1903	Charles Dorset, sadler, Golden Boot Store
1903-52	Arthur Lamdin, Golden Boot Store
1954-72	Peter Lord

No. 13

No. 13 Chobham Road was built in around 1898, filling in the gap between No. 11 and Commercial Buildings (No.s 15-25).

Charles William Tucker Hogben was the first occupant. He had arrived in Woking in about 1896. By 1899, he had opened an ironmongery shop at 13 Chobham Road.

¹⁴ Woking District Electoral Lists 1902-1904; 1911 UK Census

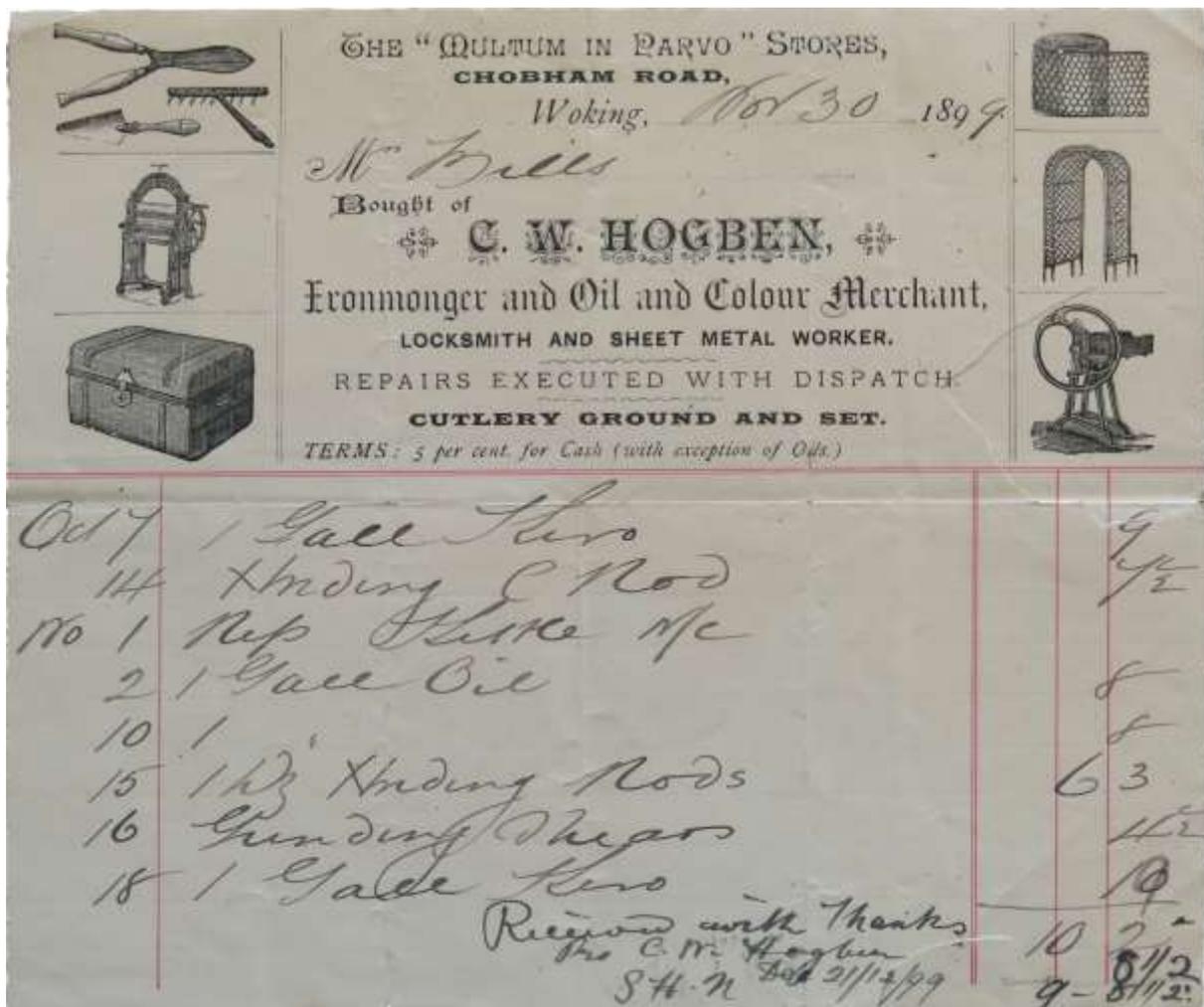


Figure 28. Hogben receipt dated November 1899

Two years later, the shop was closed and the stock, fixtures and fittings auctioned off (Figure 31).¹⁵ Charles Hogben became a builder's foreman.

Stanley Edgar Steer was born in London in 1876. He moved to Woking, from Aldershot, in 1903 and opened a stationery business in No. 13 Chobham Road.



Figure 31. Hogben auction 1902

¹⁵ West Surrey Times Apr 5 1902

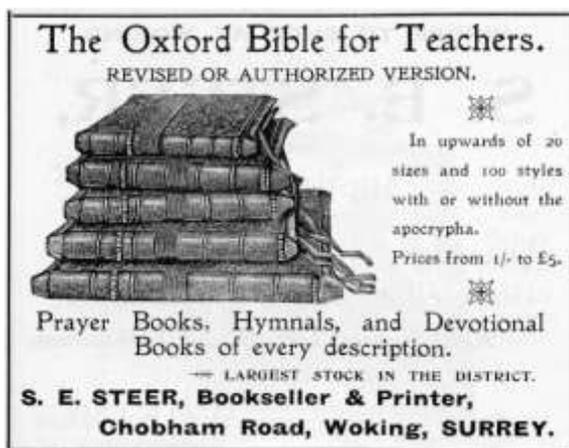


Figure 29. S E Steer advertisement



Figure 32. S E Steer advertisement

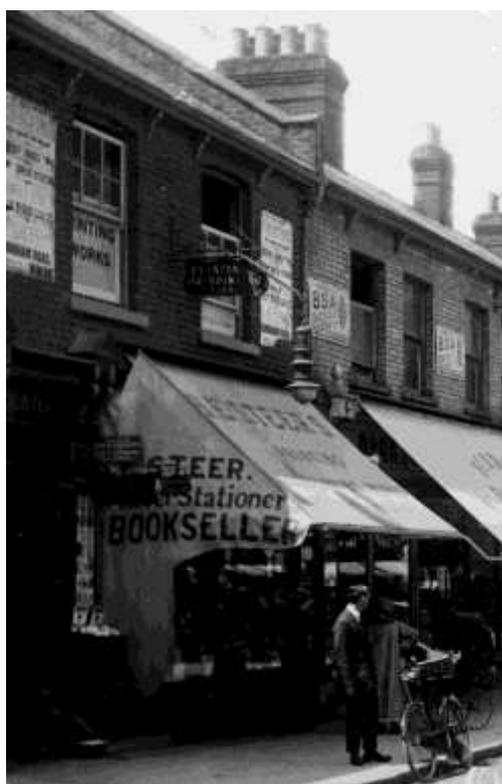


Figure 30. Steer's shop c1915

In 1916, Stanley joined up for the First World War, serving with the Royal Flying Corps.¹⁶

The shop was taken over by Joseph Clarke & Co., stationers of Guildford; Joseph's son, William Goddard Clarke managed the shop.

In about 1924, the shop was taken over by Arthur David Lamdin, who had the boot shop next door at No. 11. Lamdin continued the stationery business, employing managers to run it.

In 1955, the shop became one of the several that would be home to Elton's office equipment and commercial stationery store. In 1962/3, this moved to No. 31 Chobham Road.

The shop was briefly West, the butcher's, before becoming home to John Clarke's, fishmonger's, in about 1965. It was demolished in the late 1970s for the building of British Home Stores.

¹⁶ AIR 79 Royal Air Force Airmen Records, 1918-1940

Occupants of No. 13	
1899-02	Charles William Tucker Hogben, ironmonger
1903-16	Stanley Edgar Steer, stationer & bookseller
1918-23	Joseph Clarke & Co., stationers (William Goddard Clarke)
1924-49	Arthur Lamdin, stationer
1955-62	Elton's, stationery and office equipment
1963-64	West, butchers
1967-77	John Clarke, fishmonger

Commercial Buildings

No.s 15 to 25 Chobham Road were built in the mid-1880s, as a terrace of six commercial units, known as Commercial Buildings, although rarely referred to as such in any references. They were owned by Charles Spanton, a timber merchant of Horsell. No.s 15 and 17 were both taken up by John Ashley (see below) and together were 1 Commercial Buildings. At the corner of Chobham Road and Church Street, Frederick Pullinger's confectionery shop was 5 Commercial Buildings.

No.s 15 & 17

No.s 15 and 17 Chobham Road were built in the mid-1880s. The first occupant, from 1883, was John Ashley, a sadler. In 1887, John Ashley's business was listed as 'sadler, china, & musical instrument warehouse'.¹⁷

John later latched on to the late-Victorian craze for cycling – in the 1901 census he describes himself as 'cycle manufacturer'.

In 1903 John Ashley moved away to Hove, Sussex and the shop was split in to two. No. 15 was taken over by Arthur Samuel Dark, hairdresser. In Figure 33, the photo of Dark's shop in 1915 shows the advertising signs of Ashley's business still evident on the wall and sun shade.



Figure 33. Arthur Dark's shop c1915

¹⁷ *Althorp's Illustrated Almanac and Directory for Woking and District for 1888* (compiled 1887)

Arthur Dark had previously had his business in No. 27 (see page 31). He traded here until 1922. In 1921, he is shown as ‘hairdresser and umbrella maker’.

No. 17 was taken over in 1905 by Walter Frederick Pearce, a motorcycle dealer and repairer. In 1923, he expanded his premises into No. 15 and later expanded his business range into radio, gramophones and records.

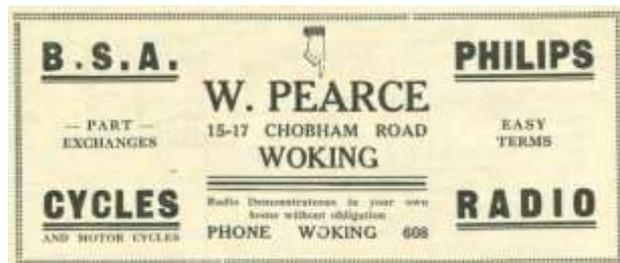


Figure 34. W Pearce 1933 advertisement

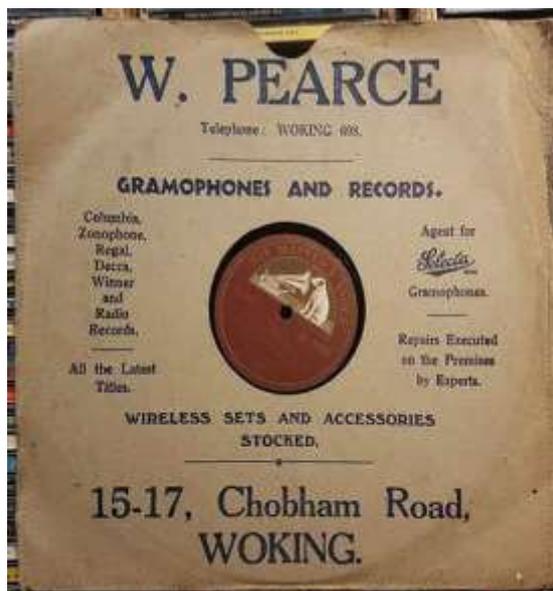


Figure 35. W Pearce record sleeve

The shop was demolished in the late 1970s for the building of British Home Stores.

Occupants of No. 15/17		
1883-1903	John Ashley, sadler, cycles	
1903-22	Arthur Samuel Dark & Co., hairdressers	Walter Frederick Pearce, motorcycle dealer & repairs
1923-64	Walter Frederick Pearce	
1968	Gammons Hardware dept.	

No. 19

The first occupant of 2 Commercial Buildings (later No. 19) was possibly an E Hook, who is listed as being a greengrocer in Chobham Road in 1887¹⁸; there are no other obvious candidate buildings where he may have traded (conversely there are no other records of an E Hook).

In 1890, Frances Palmer and her sisters, Harriet and Emily, were running a drapery business in the shop.^{19,20} Frances and Harriet were still there in 1895.

In 1901, Frances and Harriet were running a boarding house in Swanage, Dorset.

¹⁸ *Althorp's Illustrated Almanac and Directory for Woking and District for 1888* (compiled 1887)

¹⁹ *Woking District Electoral List 1891*

²⁰ SHC 6198/13/4-5 Parish of Woking: Valuation, Rating and other Parish Records (1843-1936): Valuation list 1891, 1895

James Frederick Gibson opened his drapery business in the shop, in 1899. He traded for 12 years as The Linen Warehouse, before moving to Purleigh, Essex in 1910.



Figure 36. J F Gibson's shop

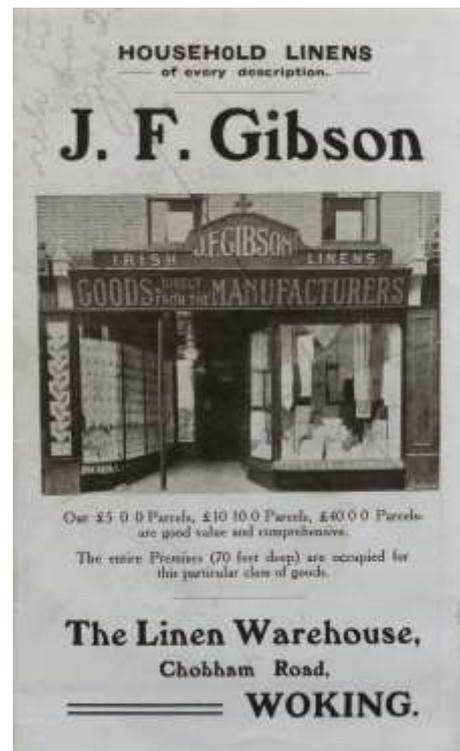


Figure 37. 1908 advertisement

Michael Harry Westgate was born in Romford, Essex where, in 1891, he was an ironmonger's assistant. He moved to Woking in 1900 and set up on his own account, in the Broadway, Maybury Road. He moved into No. 19 Chobham Road, in 1913.

In 1920, Michael opened a second shop in Chertsey Road, taking over the business of Charles Watkins.

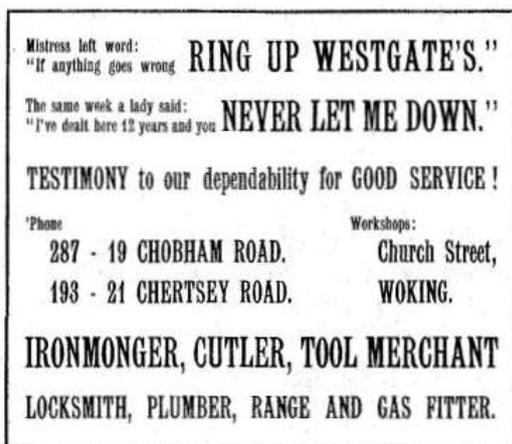


Figure 38. 1925 advertisement

When Michael Westgate retired in 1926, Ernest Cardwell Dutton took over the business, trading as Woking Ironmongery.



Figure 39. Westgate's shop c1915

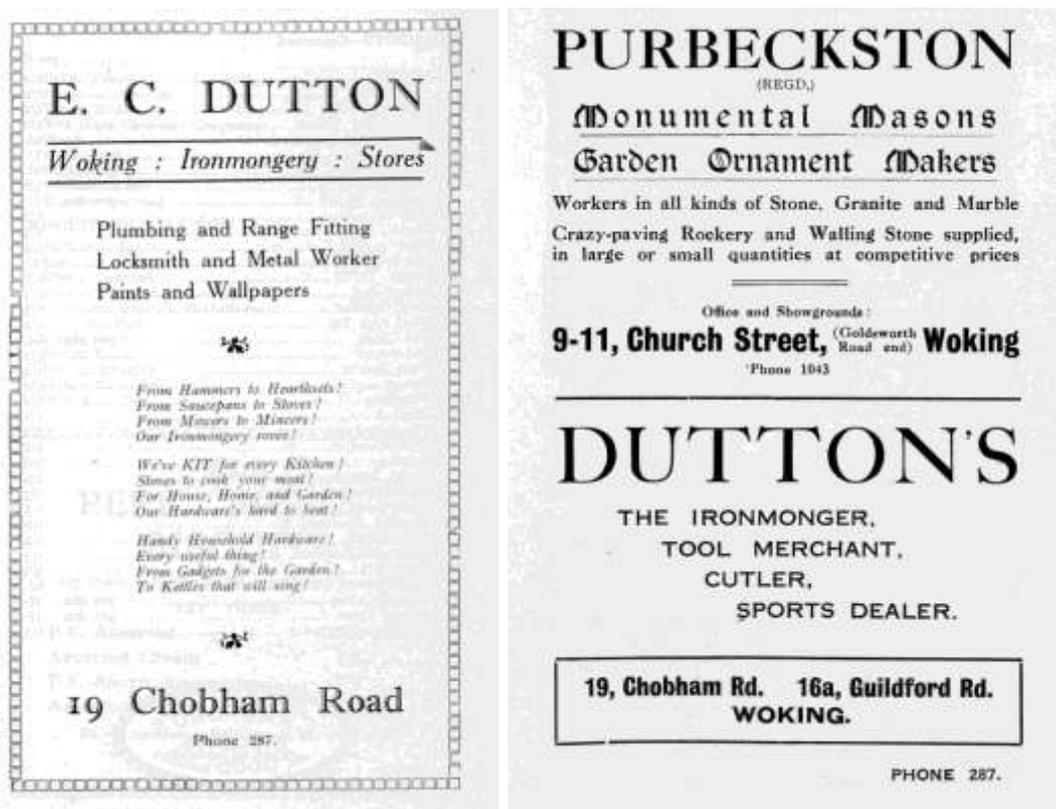


Figure 40. Dutton's advertisements 1930s

Ernest Dutton learnt his trade in Bolton, where he grew up, before moving to Woking and setting up his own business.

Dutton ran his shop for almost twenty years before retiring at around the end of the war. He was replaced by the firm of Francis Trevanion Greet and Ernest Dudley Sperring. Ernest Sperring was Francis Greet's brother-in-law, having married his sister, Ora.

Ora died in 1953 and Ernest Sperring seems to have left the partnership within a year. Francis's wife died in 1966 and the shop closed soon afterwards.

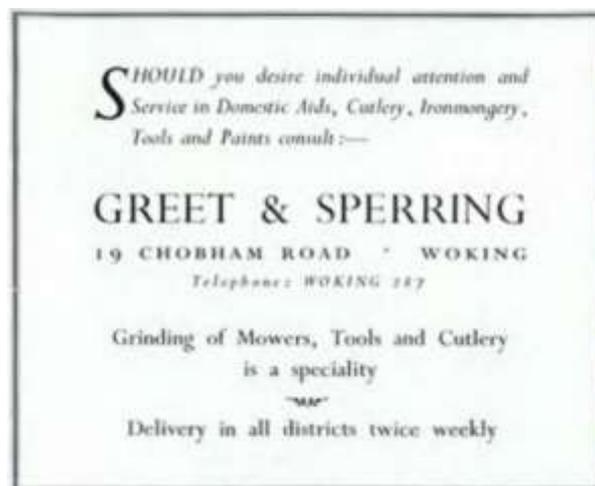


Figure 41. Greet & Sperring advertisement 1956

The shop was briefly used by Gammons for their hardware department but was demolished in the mid-1970s for the eventual building of British Home Stores.

Occupants of No. 19	
1887	E Hook, greengrocer ??
1890-95	Harriet & Frances Palmer, drapers
1899-1910	James Frederick W Gibson, draper

1913-27	Michael Harry Westgate, ironmonger
1927-47	Woking Ironmongery (Ernest Cardwell Dutton)
1947-64	Greet & Sperring, ironmongers
1968	Gammons Hardware dept.

No. 21

In June 1888, J B Loe and Son, Great Grimsby Fish Stores, of Guildford announced that they had opened a branch shop at Commercial Buildings, Chobham Road, Woking.²¹ The manager of the shop was presumably George Winlove Smith, who is recorded at 3 Commercial Buildings (later No. 21) from that date. In 1885, George had married James Barbey Loe's daughter, Frances.

In 1904, George moved to Maybury Road and turned his hand to confectionery. The new manager of the fish and poultry shop was William Henry Paige.

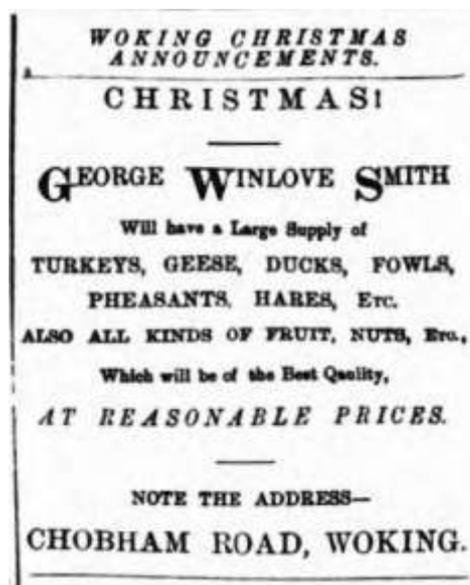


Figure 42. Advertisement Xmas 1893

In 1937, Sydney Bailey – who had a menswear shop in Chertsey Road and had recently expanded into a second shop at 27 Chertsey Road (see page 31) – opened 'The Boys Shop' in No. 21.

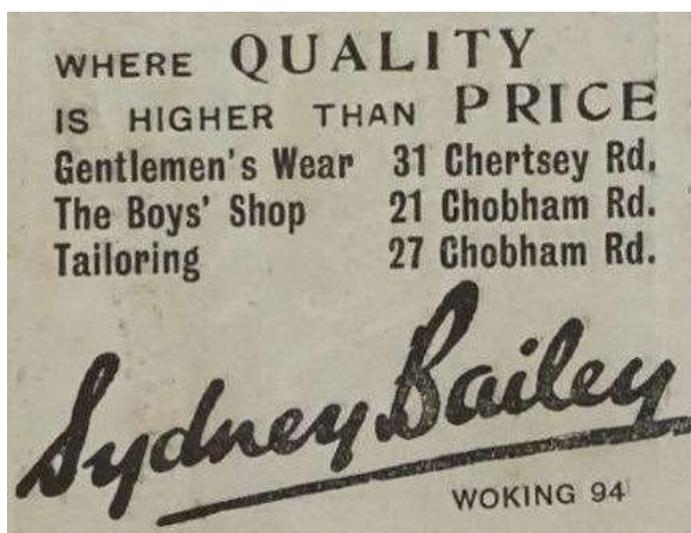


Figure 43. Boys Shop advertisement 1946

The manager of the shop was Eric Alfred M Darking, who lived above.

By about 1960, the Boys Shop was being managed by Harry Hall.

²¹ *Surrey Advertiser* 9 June 1888

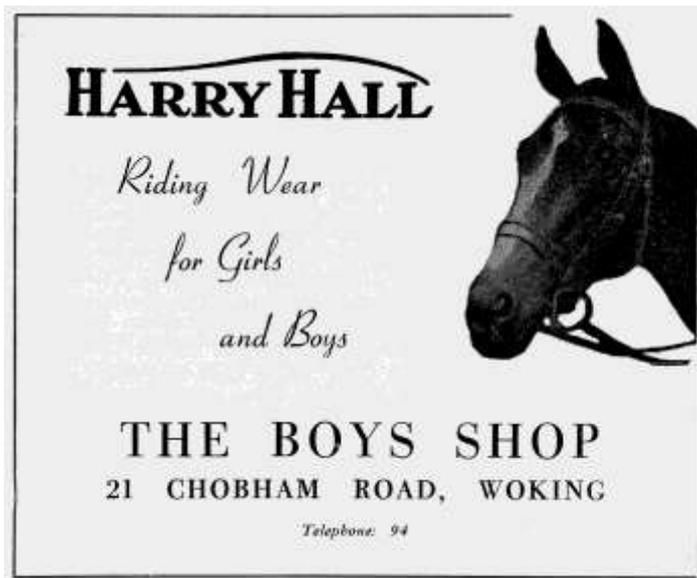


Figure 44. Boys Shop advertisement 1960

The shop was demolished in the late 1970s for the building of British Home Stores.



Figure 45. Eric Darking 1908-80

Occupants of No. 21	
1888-1904	George Winlove Smith, fishmonger & poulterer
1905-13	William Henry Paige, fishmonger & poulterer
1917-37	Henry Gubbins, fishmonger; Harold Bertram Gubbins, fruiterer & greengrocer
1937-66	The Boys Shop

No. 23

William Clinton was an auctioneer who established his business in Aldershot in 1866.²² In 1889 he opened in Woking at 4 Commercial Buildings, Chobham Road; William's son, Albert George Clinton, was the manager.

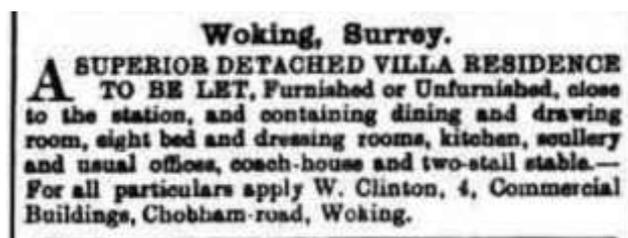


Figure 46. Clinton advert 1890

²² Aldershot Military Gazette 18 January 1890

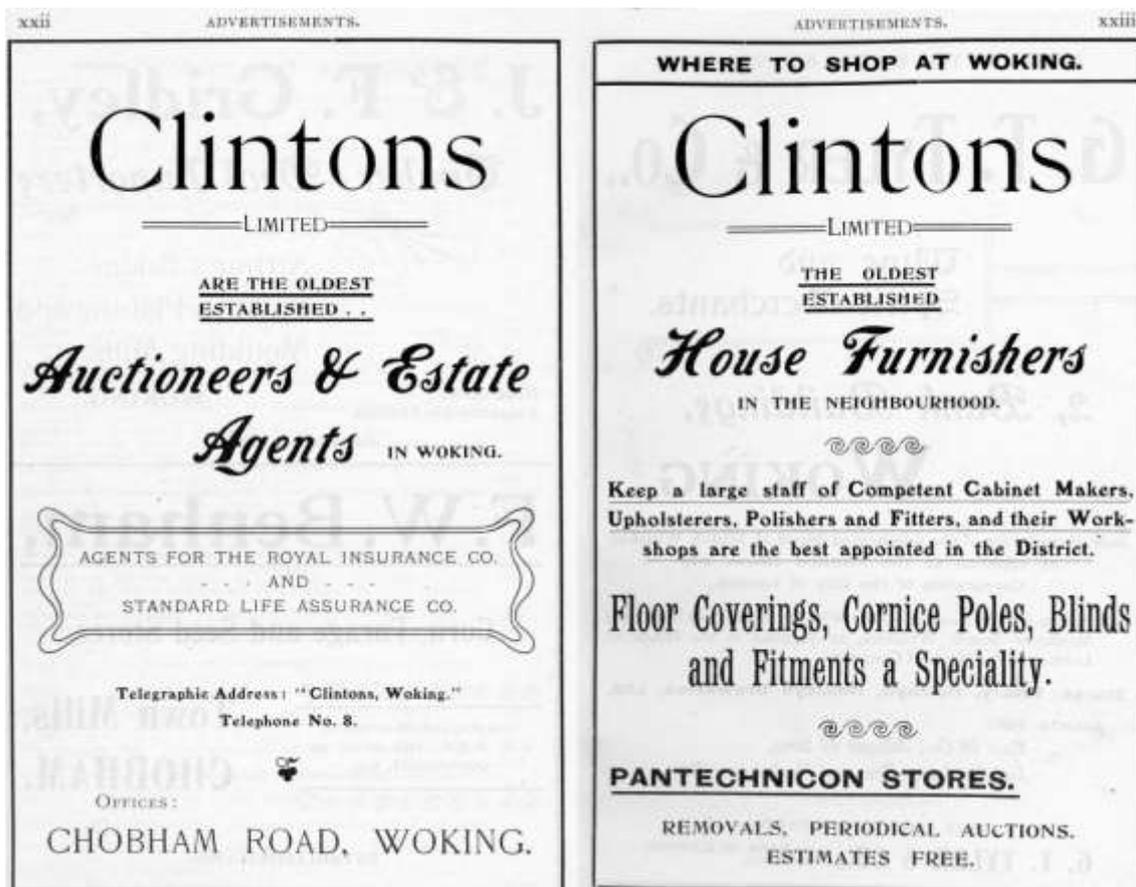


Figure 47. Clinton's advertisements 1905

In about 1907, Clinton's closed. The building was taken over by Frank Augustus Parsons, watchmaker and jeweller. Frank Parsons traded from No. 23 until his death, in 1924.

The shop was split into two, in 1925; Frank Parsons's widow, Elizabeth, ran a tobacconist, whilst the jewellery business was taken over by Herbert George Weeks.

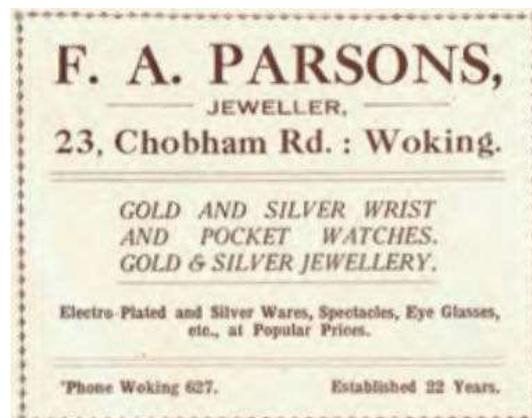


Figure 48. Parsons advertisements c1920

Herbert Weeks remained trading at No. 23 Chobham Road until 1975, when the business moved down the road to No. 41a. Elizabeth Parsons retired in 1928 and was followed by a succession of tobacconists until about 1975. The most notable were probably spinster sisters Dorothy Alice and Phyllis Irene Waters, who ran their confectionery and tobacconist business for almost thirty years.

In the mid-1970s, the shop was demolished for the eventual building of British Home Stores.

Occupants of No. 23		
1898-1905	Clintons Ltd, auctioneers (Albert George Clinton)	
1908	<i>vacant</i>	
1909-24	Frank Augustus Parsons, watchmaker & jeweller	
1925-28	Elizabeth Parsons, tobacconist	
1929-33	Freeman Munday, railwayman	
1933-61	Herbert George Weeks, watchmaker & jeweller	
1963-64		Misses Dorothy Alice & Phyllis Irene Waters, confectioners & tobacconists
1967-68		R & E Kennard, tobacconists
1969-74		D & M Taylor, tobacconists
		J & W Pettit, tobacconists

No. 25

In June 1888, the London and Woking Bakery advertised their shop at Commercial Buildings, Chobham Road, Woking.²³ It was probably Frederick Pullinger - who is recorded at 5 Commercial Buildings (later No. 25) from 1891 - who was manager of the shop; his 1893 advertisement refers to five years trading in Woking.

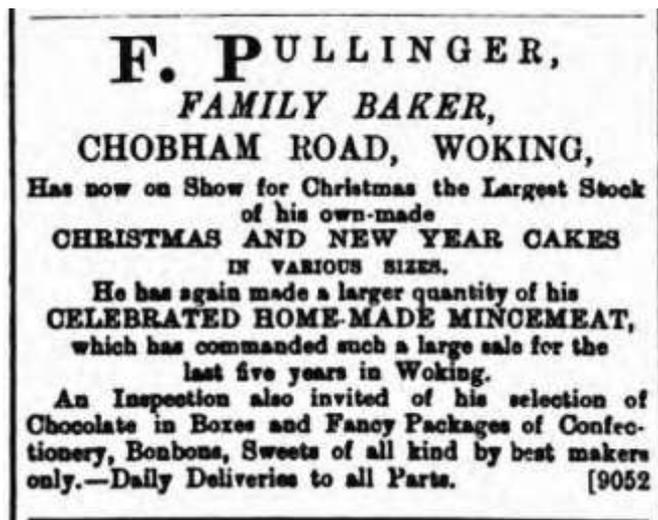


Figure 49. Pullinger advertisement 1893



Figure 50. Frederick Pullinger

In 1910, Pullinger opened a shop and restaurant in Chertsey Road. He continued to run the Chobham Road shop until about 1920.

In 1921, the shop became a fishmongers; it was run by a couple of different people until taken over by Charles Edward Stubbs in 1925. Stubbs had previously had a shop in Chertsey Road.

²³ *Surrey Advertiser* 9 June 1888



Figure 51. Stubbs's shop c1955

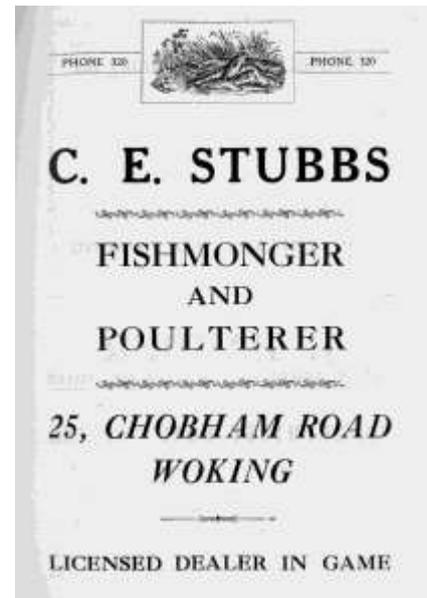


Figure 52. Stubbs advertisement

By 1939, Stubbs had retired²⁴. The business was taken over by J Lascelles & Co. Ltd, but continued to trade under Stubbs's name until about 1970²⁵.

The shop was demolished in the mid-1970s for the building, in 1980, of British Home Stores.

Occupants of No. 25	
1891-1918	Frederick Pullinger, baker & confectioner
1909-10	William Henry Budge (Pullinger's)
1921-23	Harold Bertram Gubbins, fishmonger
1925	Joseph Robert Lewis
1925-70	Charles Edward Stubbs, fishmonger & poulterer

British Home Stores (BHS)

The large plot on the west side of Chobham Road, stretching from the junction with Commercial Road (where Gammon's was) to the junction with Church Street (where Pullinger's shop was), was a 'problem site' for Woking's 1970s development. Most of the shops had been closed in the early 1970s and demolished by the mid-1970s. Tesco, Bentalls and Marks & Spencer were all rumoured to be interested. Eventually British Home Stores (BHS) became the main contender.

In March 1978, plans were announced for a 60,000 sq ft store, to be opened by 1981. Work did not begin until early 1980 and the store was officially opened in May 1982. The store had entrances on Commercial Road and Church Street, but just a blank wall facing onto Chobham Road.

²⁴ 1939 England and Wales Register

²⁵ Woking street directories 1948, 1957, 1964 & 1968



Figure 53. BHS, Church Street entrance

BHS was bought by Sir Philip Green in 2000 and became part of Green's Arcadia Group in 2009. Following a number of loss-making years, the company was sold to the consortium Retail Acquisitions Ltd, in March 2015, for the nominal price of £1. The company entered administration, in April 2016, and all its stores were closed by late August 2016 (the Woking store closing in August). The store was then taken over by the British Heart Foundation.



Figure 54. British Heart Foundation store 2020

CHURCH STREET TO BOUNDARY LANE

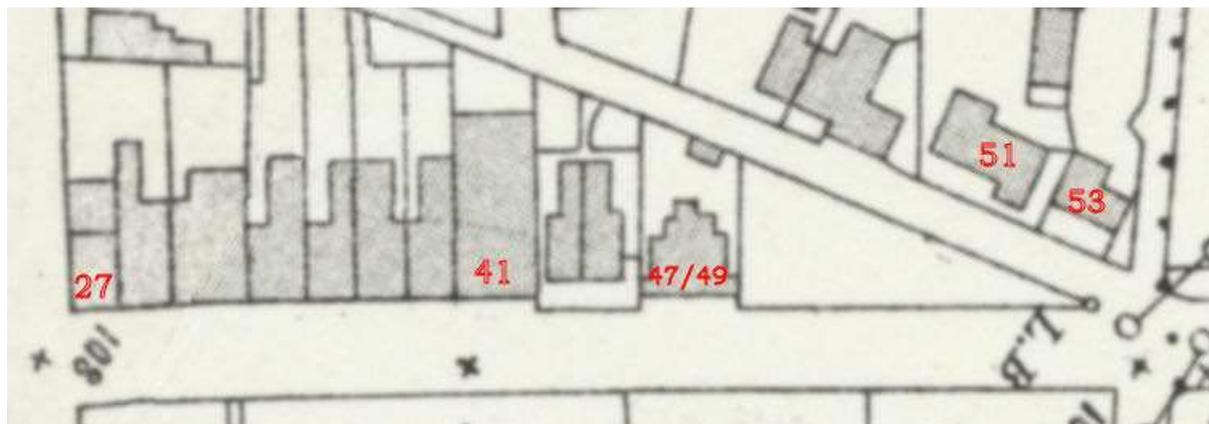


Figure 55. Church Street to Boundary Lane 1912

Queen's Parade

The first five shops on the west side of Chobham Road, heading north from the corner with Church Street, (now No.s 27-35) were known as Queen's Parade. They were built in the mid-1890s; two of them (No.s 31 and 33) appear on the 1896 OS Plan, which was surveyed in 1894-5. They were originally numbered 1-5 going from north to south, but this was later reversed in line with the official street numbering.

No. 27 – 5 Queen's Parade

The first occupant of 5 Queen's Parade was Arthur Samuel Dark, hairdresser. He traded here for five years before moving, in 1903, to No. 15 Chobham Road (see page 21).

From 1905 to 1923, the shop was home to Bushnell's Stores (seen on the corner in Figure 57). The proprietor was Mrs Jane Bushnell, although the shop was run by her son (from her first marriage), Joseph Walter Bennett.

The stores are variously described in directories as a 'tobacconists', a 'tobacconists & confectioners' and a 'fancy



Figure 56. 1905 advertisement

bazaar'. It probably sold a variety of goods. Jane Bushnell already had a shop in Church Street, described as a toy shop.

In 1908, Jane Bushnell also took over No. 29, next door (see below). Here her confectionery business was run by a Mrs Julia Payne.

Bushnell's stores in Chobham Road closed in 1923. William Pitcher & Co., who had had a bakery in Chertsey Road since 1914, subsequently opened a branch in No. 29.

Sydney Arthur Bailey was assistant to the draper, Reuben Fincham, whose shop was in Chertsey Road. After Reuben Fincham's death in 1915, Sydney assisted Reuben's wife Emma for three years before taking over the business himself.

Sydney Bailey ran his business at the Chertsey Road premises for almost 50 years. By 1925, he had a boys shop across the street. In 1933, he diversified into women's tailoring too, with a shop at No. 27 Chobham Road.



Figure 57. Bushnell's Stores c1915



Figure 58. Sydney Bailey's Chobham Road shop



Figure 59. Sydney Bailey Ladies' Tailors 1934 advertisement

Robert Wasley, well-known butcher of Woking, owned numerous properties in the town. Following his death in 1944, much of his property was sold off in January 1945. No.s 27 and 29 Chobham Road, together with 171c Church Street, fetched £5,950.²⁶

Sydney Bailey's Chobham Road shop closed in c1965. Sydney died in 1979.

The next occupant of No. 27 was Aerco's record shop. Aerco was formed by Thomas Ricketts of Addlestone. The name was formed from Addlestone Electrical Radio Company, as Thomas originally sold and repaired radios. From 1978 to about 1980, the store even had its own recording label.

In about 1982, the store moved into new, larger, premises in the Broadway. The building, along with No.s 29 and 31, was demolished and replaced with the current building (shown in Figure 63).

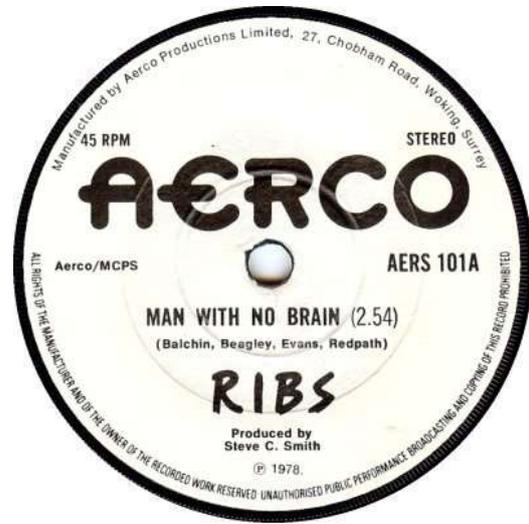


Figure 60. Aerco produced record www.7tt77.co.uk/AERCO.html (Robert Lyons)



Figure 61. Aerco c1970



Figure 62. Advertising carrier bag

Since 1985 No 27 has been home to Images Haircare.

Occupants of No. 27	
1896-1901	Arthur Samuel Dark & Co., hairdressers
1905-23	Bushnell's Stores (Jane Bushnell)

²⁶ *Surrey Advertiser* 27 January 1945

1925-32	William Pitcher & Co., bakers
1933-64	Sydney Arthur Bailey, ladies' tailors
1967-82	Aerco Records
1983/4	<i>Redevelopment</i>
1985-	Images Haircare



Figure 63. No.s 27/29 Images 2020

No. 29 – 4 Queen’s Parade

The first occupant of 4 Queen’s Parade was Mrs Jane Flowerday, confectioner. Her husband, Henry, was manager of Tyler’s boot shop in Chertsey Road. This was the start of a series of people running confectionery businesses in the store.

From 1905 to 1908, Miss Fanny Ross ran a confectionery shop in No. 29. During this period the YMCA was occupying, presumably, the upper floors. In 1908, Jane Bushnell (who already had a store in No 27, next door) took over No. 29; her confectionery business was run by a Mrs Julia Payne.

Bushnell’s stores closed in 1923. The confectionery business was then run by Ernest Alfred Blake for five years and then Mabel Ellen Russell for a year.

Miss Ellen Elizabeth Waterman took over the shop in 1929. Also a confectioner, she traded there until 1936, when she moved ten doors down the road to No. 49.

In 1937, the shop was occupied by British Boot & Shoe Repairs Ltd, who traded there for over thirty years.

The building, along with No.s 27 and 31, was demolished and replaced with the current building (shown in Figure 63) in about 1983. Since 1985, it has been home to Images Haircare.

Occupants of No. 29	
1899-1901	Mrs Jane Flowerday, confectioner
1905-08	Miss Fanny Ross, confectioner / YMCA (upstairs?)
1908-23	Bushnell, confectioners (1911-13: Mrs Julia Payne)
1923-28	Ernest Alfred Blake
1928-29	Mabel Ellen Russell
1929-36	Miss Ellen Elizabeth Waterman, confectioner
1937-72	British Boot & Shoe Repairs Ltd / Super Shoe Repairs Ltd
1983/4	<i>Redevelopment</i>
1985-	Images Haircare

No. 31 – 3 Queen’s Parade

No. 3 Queen’s Parade was first occupied by Arthur David Lamdin in about 1897. He was born in Hampshire and moved to Woking in about 1896/7.

In 1904 he took over the Golden Boot Store at No. 11 (see page 18). In 1924 he took over the stationery business next door at No. 13 (page 18).

Arthur Lamdin died in May 1952 and his three stores all closed shortly afterwards.

Colmans, house furnishers, who had their main store at 8-10 High Street, briefly opened a furniture shop in 3 Queen’s Parade (by then No. 31)



Figure 64. Arthur Lamdin 1864-1952

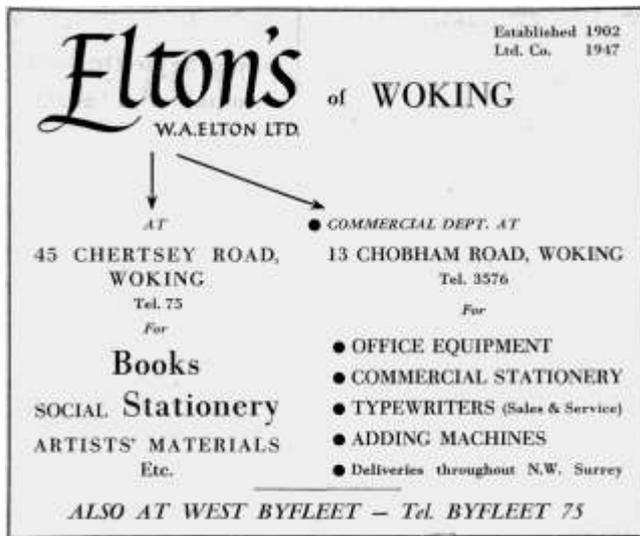


Figure 65. Elton's advertisement 1960

No. 31 was taken over by William Arthur Elton, in 1962, when he moved from No. 13.

William Elton had established his stationery business in 1902 and had been trading in Chertsey Road since 1905. His store in Chobham Road specialized in commercial stationery and office equipment.

The building, along with No.s 27 and 29 was demolished and replaced with the current

building (shown in Figure 66) in about 1982. Elton's moved along the road to No. 39.

Occupants of No. 31	
1901-52	Arthur David Lamdin, boots
1956-57	Colmans, furniture
1962-81	Elton's Office Equipment
1983/4	<i>Redevelopment</i>
1996-2019	Rino's



Figure 66. No. 31 2020

No. 33 – 2 Queen’s Parade

Ernest Bond, butcher, was the first occupant of 2 Queen’s Parade, in about 1898. In 1901, his younger brother, Caleb, was his assistant.



Figure 67. Bond’s advertisement 1905

Ernest died in 1908, aged 40. The business was

continued for a couple of years, presumably by Caleb and Ernest’s widow, Bessie (Caleb had opened his dining rooms (later Temperance Hotel) in Commercial Road in about 1904). The shop was then taken over by Akhurst Brothers.

Frederick Charles Akhurst had previously had his butcher’s shop in The Broadway, Maybury Road. Despite the trading name of Akhurst Bro.s, Frederick’s brother, Thomas, was apparently not involved in the business, being a meat surveyor in Wimbledon²⁷.

Frederick died in 1940, but the shop was still trading under the name Akhurst Bro.s in 1948. Frederick’s wife, Annie, died in 1950 and the shop was then taken over by another butcher, Albert Nelson Turnbull. Albert kept the shop until he retired in about 1972.

In the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s, there was a fast turnover of numerous occupants. In 1981, Northcroft, Neighbour & Nicholson, quantity surveyors moved in from next door at No. 35 (see below). They were followed, in 1985, by Dace Raines, who had previously been in Ryde House for a year. They, in turn, were succeeded by Wilson, Right, Shaw in 1988.

Balloons & Party World had a brief occupancy in the mid-1990s, before they gave way to Abbot Property Services.

From the late 2000s until 2019, the building was home to Bright Dental Surgery. They moved to new premises in St Johns.

The building, along with 35, is now home to Jackson-Stops, estate agents.

Occupants of No. 33	
1898-1910	Ernest Bond, butcher
1911-51	Akhurst Bro.s, butchers (Frederick Charles Akhurst)
1951-72	Albert Nelson Turnbull, butchers
1981-84	Northcroft, Neighbour & Nicholson, quantity surveyors
1985	Dace Raines
1988-91	Wilson, Right, Shaw

²⁷ National Census for England and Wales 1891, 1901, 1911

1995-96	Balloons & Party World
1996-97	Abbott Property Services
2009-19	Bright Dental Surgery
2020-	Jackson-Stops, estate agents



Figure 68. No.s 33 and 35 2018

No. 35 – 1 Queen’s Parade

From 1898 until 1901, the short-lived partnership of Henry Stepney and Sydney Solley were drapers at 1 Queen’s Parade. In the 1901 census, Sydney Solley, aged 40, was living in Kent; his occupation was given as ‘retired’. Nothing is known about Henry Stepney. Stepney and Solly probably also occupied No. 37.

By 1905, (probably earlier) Arthur David Lamdin (see page 35) had taken over the shop and had his own outfitter’s business. The business closed following Arthur’s death in 1972.

The firm of Northcroft, Neighbour & Nicholson, quantity surveyors, had moved in, by 1974. They occupied the building until 1981, when they moved next door into No. 33.

For the next twenty years, the shop was occupied by, firstly, an employment agency and then by an estate agents.

Pronuptia, bridal outfitters, were established in 2003; from at least as early as 2008, they were trading from No. 35. In 2009, they were succeeded by Aurora Bride, apparently retaining most of the original staff. Aurora Bride were replaced by Crystal & Lace (Figure 68), in September 2012. Crystal and Lace Wedding Creations Limited was dissolved on 26th May 2015²⁸.



Figure 69. Pronuptia, 2008



Figure 70. Aurora Bride, 2012

The building remained unoccupied until 2021; along with 33, it is now home to Jackson-Stops, estate agents.

Occupants of No. 35	
1898-1901	Stepney & Solley, drapers
1905-72	Arthur David Lamdin, outfitters
1974-81	Northcroft, Neighbour & Nicholson, quantity surveyors
1981-91	Elite Employment
1995-2003	County Property
2008-09	Pronuptia, bridal dresses (est. 2003)
2009-12	Aurora Bride
Sep 2012-20	Crystal & Lace Wedding Creations Ltd
2021	Jackson-Stops

No. 37

No.s 37 to 41a were built in the late 1890s, as a single development of three retail units. No.s 37 and 39 were two bays each; No. 41 was of three bays, the third of which later became 41a.

²⁸ London Gazette 26 May 2015

The first occupants were probably Stepney and Solley, drapers, followed by Arthur Lamdin (see above).

From 1908 to 1910, the shop was briefly occupied by Frederick Charles Holdstock & Son, drapers, before they moved to No.s 47-49.

Even more briefly, in 1910-11, Peark's, whose grocery shop was in Chertsey Road, opened a branch in No. 37.

In 1912, the shop became home to Bernardine Ltd, ladies tailors.

At the end of the first world war, the building was being used for 'refreshment rooms', the proprietor being John Longley. From late 1918 until 1921 the shop was occupied by Helena Lynch (possibly managing the business on behalf of John Longley or maybe on her own account). From 1921-24, the proprietor was Mrs Lily Savagar, trading as St James's Tea Rooms.²⁹

From 1925-27, No. 37 was a milliner's shop, trading as Gay. The occupants were Richard Hunter and his wife, Grace. In 1928, the shop was a café once again – this time, the Blue Bird Café.

Daisy Mary Romeril was born in the Channel Islands in 1888. She trained as a dressmaker and, in about 1930, she moved to Woking and opened her costumiers shop, in No. 37.

In January 1945, following the death of Robert Wasley, well-known butcher of Woking, much of his property was sold off. No. 37 Chobham Road fetched £1,800.³⁰

Daisy Romeril died in 1950 and her business closed at about the same time.

The building was then taken over by Clark Eaton Ltd, who traded as Guildford Glass & Metal Works Ltd and then as Guildford Glass & Decor.

In 1985/6, the shop was occupied by Solaglas, a subsidiary of Saint-Gobain Glass, one of Europe's leading manufacturers of flat glass for the construction industry.



Figure 71. Solaglas, 1985

²⁹ *Woking District Electoral Lists 1918-30*; Woking directories, 1921, 1925, 1927

³⁰ *Surrey Advertiser* 27 January 1945

In 2005, Penny Kristian opened a store in Woking High Street, selling beauty products catering specifically for African-Caribbean Women.



Figure 72. Penny Kristian

Penny moved her shop to No. 37 Chobham Road in 2011, which has been its home since.



Figure 73. Penny Kristian, 2018

Occupants of No. 37	
1898-1901	Stepney & Solley, drapers
190?-05	Arthur David Lamdin, outfitters
1908-10	Frederick Charles Holdstock & Son, drapers
1910-11	Peark's, grocers
1912-13	Bernardine Ltd, ladies tailors
1918	John Longley, refreshment rooms
1918-21	Tea Room (Helena Lynch)
1921-24	St James's Tea Rooms (Mrs Lily Savagar)
1925-27	'Gay', milliner (Richard Hunter/William Henry Pain)
1928	Blue Bird Café (W H Pain)
1930-47	Daisy Mary Romeril, costumier
1954-71	Guildford Glass & Metal Works Ltd
1981	Clark Eaton Ltd, glass merchants / Guildford Glass & Decor
1985-86	Solaglas
1995-2003	Parking Shop
c2006	Claudia's Emporium, cards & gifts
2011-	Penny Kristian, hair & beauty products

No. 39

Thomas Bishop Allnutt and his brother, John, were born in Oxfordshire in 1852 and 1855 respectively. They followed in their father's business as farmers and seed merchants.

In about 1898, Thomas and John opened a wholesale and retail outlet in 39-41a Chobham Road. Neither of the brothers lived in Woking; Thomas lived in Basingstoke, whilst John lived in Clapham. Their shop manager was Henry John Caines.

Thomas Bishop Allnutt became a JP and was Mayor of Basingstoke from 1915 to 1919.



Figure 74. Thomas Bishop Allnutt 1853-1932

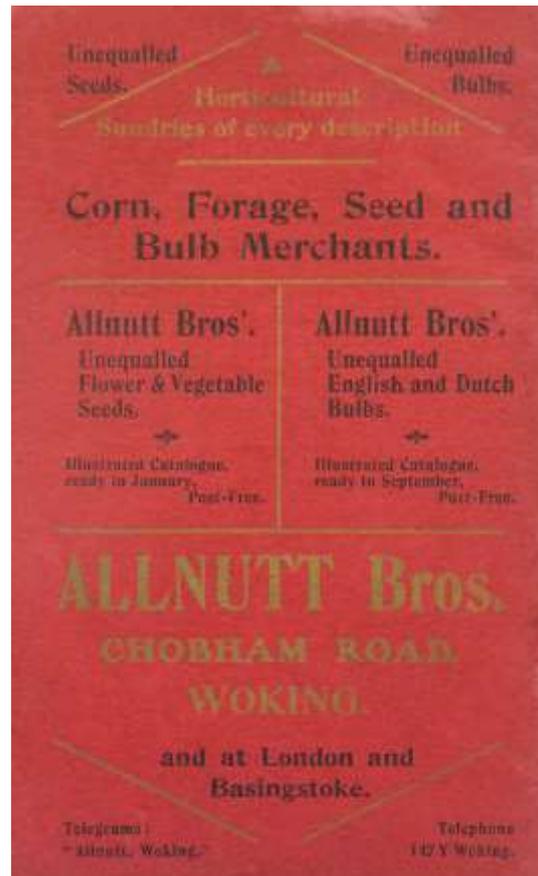


Figure 75. Allnutt advertisement

The shop closed sometime during the first world war. At this time the building was divided and No. 39 became a separate unit. Alice Maud Mary Hayley opened a fancy stationery shop, which she ran until her death in 1922.

From 1923 to 1938, the shop was occupied by Alfred Thomas, hairdresser.

Robert Wasley, well-known butcher of Woking, owned numerous properties in the town. Following his death in 1944, much of his property was sold off in January 1945. No. 39 Chobham Road was bought by the tenant, Model Craft, for £2,650.³¹

Model Craft occupied the premises until the mid-1950s, when the shop was taken over by the Jewellery Counter.

In the 1970s the shop was home to T J Graham, insurance and, in the 1980s, to Elton's, commercial stationers & office machines.

Since 1992, the shop has housed, the CSL Partnership, an accountancy firm.



Figure 76. Model Craft 1953



Figure 77. No.s 39-41a 2018

³¹ *Surrey Advertiser* 27 January 1945

Occupants of No. 39	
1898-1914	Allnutts Brothers, seed & bulb merchants (Henry John Caines)
1918-22	Miss Alice Maud Mary Hayley, fancy goods
1923-38	Alfred Thomas, hairdresser
1944-54	Model Craft
1957-70	The Jewellery Counter
1973-81	T J Graham, insurance
1983-91	Elton's, office machines
1992-	CSL Partnership, accountants

No. 41

Thomas Bishop and John Allnutts (see page 42) occupied No.s 39, 41 and 41a from 1898 to 1914. Their name can still be seen on the wall of 41a.

After Allnutts closed their store, No. 39 was divided off. 41 and 41a were taken over by W Hopkins & Co., also seed merchants.

In 1924, 41 and 41a were also divided into two separate units.

Until 1930, No. 41 was occupied by William and John Spooner. In the mid-1930s, it was occupied by Cuthbert Underhill, coal merchant and in 1938/9 by Weston and Phillips.



Figure 78. Wall-painted Allnutts sign

Sometime during the Second World War, the shop was taken on by Freeman's Ltd, fruiterers. They traded from the premises until about 1965.



Figure 79. Weston & Phillips 1939

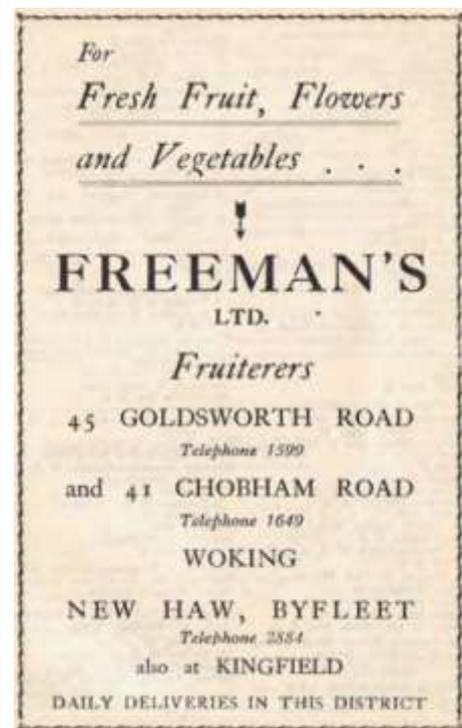


Figure 80. Freeman's 1948

Robert Wasley, well-known butcher of Woking, owned numerous properties in the town. Following his death in 1944, much of his property was sold off, in January 1945. No.s 41 and 41a Chobham Road were bought by Mr J W G Truman for £4,050.³²

Since 1967, the shop has been home to the various partnerships of Maurice L Fielding & Associates, chartered architects. In 2000, they merged with BBF Consultancy Group to form BBF Fielding Limited.

Occupants of No. 41	
1898-1908	Allnutt Brothers, seed & bulb merchants
1911-14	Henry John Caines
1918-1923	W Hopkins & Co., seedsmen
1925-28	William & John Spooner
1934-37	Cuthbert J Underhill, coal merchant
1938-39	Weston & Phillips
1943-64	Freeman's, fruiterers
1967-	Maurice L Fielding & Associates / BBF Fielding Ltd

No. 41a

In 1924, following the closure of W Hopkins & Co., 41 and 41a were divided into two separate units. 41a was taken on by the Weldone Valet Service, also known as the Woking Valet Service, which operated until the late 1960s.

³² Surrey Advertiser 27 January 1945

George Packe Ltd, tea & coffee merchants traded from No. 41a between 1972 and 1975.

In 1976, Herbert Weeks, jewellers moved in from No. 23, which was about to be demolished (see page 27). The business was probably run at this time, by Herbert's son, Herbert William Weeks. The business had closed by the mid-1980s.

From 2005-2007, A-Type Business Machines, office equipment retailers occupied the shop.

In 2008 it became Myles Nails and, since 2012 has been Hangly's Nails.



Figure 81. Hangly's Nails 2018

Occupants of No. 41a	
1898-1914	Allnutt Brothers, seed & bulb merchants (Mgr: Henry John Caines)
1918-1923	W Hopkins & Co., seedsmen
1925-68	Weldone Valet Service (Woking Valet Service)
1972-75	George Packe Ltd, tea & coffee
1976-83	Weeks, jewellers
2001-07	A-Type Business Machines, office equipment (retail)
2008-09	Myles Nails
2012-	Hangly's Nails

No. 43 - Langola

No.s 43 'Langola', and 45 'Brooklyn' were a pair of houses built in the early 1890s. The first occupant of No. 43 was Arthur Snowden, who lived there from 1895 until 1899. He was followed by John Chowney who lived there for two years, from 1899 to 1901.

In 1901, Cuthbert John Underhill moved into Langola. He lived there for thirty years, before moving to Brewery Road, Horsell. Cuthbert was married to Laura Louise Sherlock, daughter of William Sherlock, a baker who also owned several properties in the area, including Langola and Brooklyn.

After Cuthbert Underhill left, Langola was split into two commercial units. No. 43 had a frontage of just 4 feet and measured 14 feet 9 inches deep with access to a store and WC at the rear. 43a measured 16 feet 3 by 17 feet 9 and included accommodation above and to the rear (with access in Church Path and a '12 Church Path' address)³³.

Norman Asquith Houlton, a tobacconist, moved into No. 43. Ernest A F Stent, a wireless and electrical engineer, had a shop in Percy Street which sold components and accessories; he established a service and repair department in 43a.

Ernest Stent moved to Godstone in 1937, but Norman Houlton

remained selling tobacco until 1961, when his lease expired.

Horace Donald Smith was born in Cornwall in 1912. By 1936 he was living in Woking and working as an ironmonger's assistant.

Having served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, Horace set up business on his own account in 1947, with the aid of a £200 loan from a charitable trust. He took a 14 year lease on 43a.

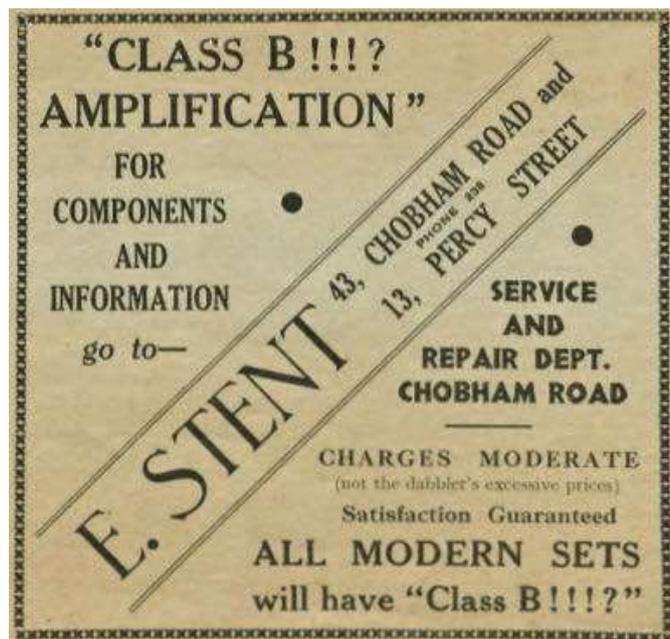


Figure 82. Ernest Stent advertisement 1933



Figure 83. Horace Smith advert 1960

In 1961 Horace took over the whole of No. 43 following the retirement of Norman Houlton.

The firm is operated closely with another family-run firm, Fortress Security. Horace died in 1998, but the company is still trading under his name in the same premises in 2021. It is now run by his son, Chris.

³³ Moldram, Clarke & Edgley auction catalogue 1958

Occupants of No. 43 and 43a		
1895-1998	Arthur Snowden	
1899-1901	John Chowney	
1901-1932	Cuthbert John Underhill	
1932-33	Norman Asquith Houlton, tobacconist	
1833-37		Ernest A F Stent, wireless accessories
1938-47		
1947-61		Horace Donald Smith,
1961-	ironmongers & locksmiths / Fortress Security	



Figure 84. No.s 43 and 45 in 2018

No. 45 - Brooklyn

No.s 43 'Langola', and 45 'Brooklyn' were a pair of houses built in the early 1890s. The first occupant of Brooklyn was Cuthbert John Underhill who lived there from 1895 until 1901, when he moved next door into Langola.

For a couple of years, James Steer lived in Brooklyn, then, in about 1905, it became the home of Charles Beaks, painter and decorator. Charles was married to Elsie Annie Sherlock, daughter of William Sherlock, a baker who also owned several properties in the area, including Langola and Brooklyn. In 1926, Charles and his family moved to Brewery Road, Horsell.

Brooklyn was then converted to commercial use and occupied by Albert Bright, court hairdresser, for the next thirty years.



Figure 85. Bright's hairdressing c1930

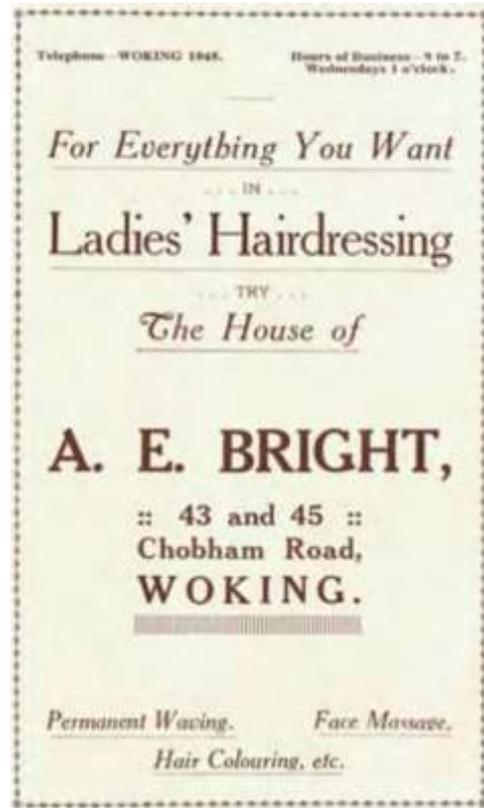


Figure 86. Bright advertisement 1926

Edward Bright died in 1957. The next business trading from the property was Vanity Fair, ladies hairdresser. Vanity Fair continued until the mid-1970s.

By 1977, S. K. Radio, in-car entertainment specialists, were occupying the premises. They traded there for about thirty years.

Since 2018, No. 45 has been home to Maria, a Polish delicatessen (Figure 84).



Figure 87. S. K. Radio 1986

Occupants of No. 45	
1895-1901	Cuthbert John Underhill
1902-03	James Steer
1905-26	Charles Alfred Beaks
1927-58	Albert Edward Bright, court hairdresser
1961-73	Vanity Fair, ladies hairdresser
1977-2002	S. K. Radio, in-car entertainment
2008-20	Maria, Polish delicatessen

No.s 47/49 – Beau Monde

'Beau Monde' was built in the early to mid-1890s as a residential house (it appears on the 1896 OS plan, surveyed in 1895).

Beau Monde was occupied by Russel Coles in 1895, by Mrs Zillah Carter, a widow, from 1898 until 1902 and then by Thomas John Bircumshaw until 1910.

In 1910 Beau Monde was taken over, and converted to commercial use, by Frederick Charles Holdstock & Son, drapers, who had briefly been at No. 37.

Figure 88. Holdstock advertisement 1933



Figure 89. Holdstock's store c1930

Frederick was born in Brighton in 1867. He had been living in Kent for almost ten years when he moved to Woking in around 1908. Frederick ran his shop for 25 years, retiring in 1935.

Frederick's son, Owen, had opened a wool shop in Commercial Road in the 1920s. When Frederick retired the drapery business closed. Following the closure, Beau Monde was split into two.

No. 47 became a grocery store run by Charles Gardiner, for about 20 years.

No. 49 was taken over by Ellen Waterman, confectioner. Ellen had previously been in No. 29 (see page 34). Ellen occupied the premises until at least 1939, but was probably unable to continue after rationing started during the war.

By 1948, No. 49 was home to Martin's Café. In 1949, it became the Floral Café, run by Herbert J Dean.

The Floral Café expanded into No. 47 following the departure of Charles Gardiner, in about 1955. Thus the two parts of Beau Monde were reunited.

Sometime between 1959 and 1963, the Floral Café became the West End Restaurant. The West End Restaurant traded until about 1972.

In about 1972, the building became home to the Adelphi Restaurant, serving Greek and Cyprian cuisine. This was fairly short-lived as the building was demolished in around 1975.

Following nearby development and remodelling of the junction of Chobham Road with Church Path (the northern end of which is now called Christchurch Way), a new building sits on the site of Beau Monde. With address 2 Christchurch Way, it is now home to Flying Pan, a South-Asian restaurant.

Adelphi Restaurant

**47 – 49 CHOBHAM ROAD
WOKING, SURREY**
(Opposite A B C Cinema Car Park)
Tel. Woking 4747

FULLY LICENSED
Open seven days a week

BUSINESS HOURS

	Lunch	Evening
Monday ...	12—2.00 p.m.	6— 8.30 p.m.
Tuesday ...	12—2.00 p.m.	6—11.00 p.m.
Wednesday ...	12—2.00 p.m.	6—11.00 p.m.
Thursday ...	12—2.00 p.m.	6—11.00 p.m.
Friday ...	12—2.00 p.m.	6—12.00 p.m.
Saturday ...	12—3.00 p.m.	6—12.00 p.m.
Sunday ...	12—2.30 p.m.	6—11.00 p.m.

OVER 50 ITEMS ON THE MENU
35 Main Dishes to choose from
Grills, Curries, Omelettes, Poultry, Pilaffs, Fish, etc., etc.

Also we have the house speciality dishes from Greece and Cyprus (Kebab, Aphelia, Mousaka, Taramosalata Houmous, etc.)

Also available in the wine list excellent wines from Cyprus and Greece

**WEDDING RECEPTIONS AND PARTIES
CATERED FOR**

Figure 90. Adelphi advertisement

Occupants of No. 47 & 49		
1895	Russel Coles	
1898-1902	Mrs Zillah Carter	
1903-10	Thomas John Bircumshaw	
1910-1935	Frederick Charles Holdstock & Son, drapers	
1937-45	Charles Gardiner, grocer	Ellen Waterman, confectioner
1945-46		
1947		Martin's Café
1948-58	Floral Café (Herbert J Dean)	
1964-72	West End Restaurant	
1972-73	Adelphi, Greek restaurant	

Occupants of 2 Christchurch Way	
2008	Heaters Bakery
2012	Woking Print Shop / Holiday Tees
2014	<i>Vacant</i>
2015-16	Go Sushi
2017-	Flying Pan, South Asian restaurant

----- Church Path crosses here -----

Part of Church Path

In the 1861 census, four houses at the northern end of Church Path were listed under Bridge Road, the former name for Chobham Road. Thereafter they were consistently listed as part of Church Path.

From about 1960 (probably following some widening or change in the road layout) two of these buildings became redesignated as part of Chobham Road – No.s 51 and 53 (see Figure 55).

No. 51 – The Studio

George Gande was born in Send in 1836; he joined the Royal Navy in 1855. In 1869, having left the navy, he established a coal business at what would become No. 51 Chobham Road.

James Steer was born in Ripley in 1849. In the 1871 census he is living in Horsell and described as ‘coal labourer’, presumably working for George Gande. Ten years later he is a coal merchant in Chobham Road, employing 3 men – having taken over from George Gande.³⁴ It is unclear from the early records, whether James lived at No. 51 or next door at Bridge Cottage.

James died in 1899 and his widow, Sarah, took over the business, assisted by their eldest surviving son, George. By 1911, Sarah and family are residing in Bridge Cottage. Sarah retired in 1917 (George moved into furniture despatch) and the coal business was taken over by Barry & Co., who were established in Guildford Road.

George Emberson was a photographer who had a studio in Guildford Road, Chertsey. In 1891 his daughter, Elizabeth, married Wilhelm Schuth (also a photographer) who went on to run a studio in Woking High Street. At the end of the first world war, Schuth’s studio was in the possession of Elizabeth’s sister, Emma Emberson, who had probably taken it on in about 1915 when Wilhelm (who was German) was almost certainly interned for the rest of the war.

³⁴ UK Census for England and Wales, 1871, 1881

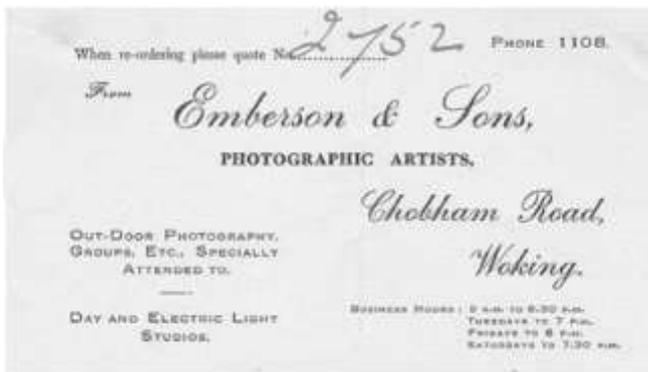


Figure 91. Reverse of Emberson photograph

In 1923, Emma Emberson moved the photographic business into The Studio, then considered to be in Church Path but later listed as 51 Chobham Road.

Emma died in 1934 and the studio was taken over by her younger brother, John. When John died in 1948 the studio passed to his son, also John.

The studio was demolished in about 1972, to allow for the construction of Victoria Way.

Occupants of No. 51	
1869-c1880	George Gande, coal merchant
c1880-1918	James Steer/Sarah Steer, coal merchant
1918-21	Barry & Co., coal merchants
1923-68	Emberson's Studio, photographers

Victoria Way

Victoria Way was conceived as a relief road for Woking town centre as part of the Woking Central Area and Comprehensive Development Area. It absorbed Percy Street and Boundary Road, divided Chobham Road and incorporated a new roundabout near the junction of Chertsey Road and Boundary Road.



On 13th November 1972, the first stretch of Victoria Way was opened. The same day, Chobham Road was closed and work started on completion of that section of Victoria Way where it crossed Chbham Road, and on the pedestrian subway.

No. 53 – Bridge Cottage / Walland Cottage

Bridge Cottage was built sometime between 1870 and 1895 (not appearing on the earlier OS plan but on the later one). The first occupant was James Steer who had his coal business next door (see page 52).

Clement Hayden Barry renamed Bridge Cottage to Walland Cottage, presumably in 1923 when he moved in. Even though Barry & Co. closed the Chobham Road site in 1921/2, the cottage remained as a manager's house until 1931.

Walland Cottage remained a residential building until about 1972, when it was demolished to allow for the construction of Victoria Way.

Occupants of No. 53	
18??-1899	James Steer
1899-1917	Mrs Sarah Steer
1918-23	Gilbert Follett
1923-28	Clement Hayden Barry
1928-31	Frank Dodd Leppard
1931-34	Leslie William Young
1934-37	Sidney Robert John Howard
1937-60	Albert Edward Bullmore
1960-68	Mrs Elsie Turner

EAST SIDE (EVEN NUMBERS)

THE RED HOUSE

The Red House Hotel was first built in 1869 at a cost of £690. It was then in Chobham Road, towards which its entrance faced. The owner/proprietor was Ellis Spenceley.

When, in Spring 1870, the hotel applied for a beer house licence, it was refused due to the proximity of several other licenced premises (including the Railway Hotel, Albion Hotel and the Railway Refreshment Room) and the fact that ‘the only habitations near the Red House are four cottages’³⁵.

From 1871, until his death in July 1888, the tenant landlord was Charles Wright. During this period, the hotel was a venue for auctions, meetings and coroner’s inquests. In the early 1870s the Red House became the property of Mrs Elizabeth Daws (see page 9).

The Red House was enlarged in 1896 by the addition of a saloon bar, a coffee room and a billiard room. The architect was Robert Clamp of Woking³⁶.

This alteration resulted in the entrance of the hotel fronting onto the junction of Chobham Road and Chertsey Road; the hotel gained a ‘26 Chertsey Road’ address when the road was renumbered in c1910.



Figure 92. The Red House Hotel 1898

Following the death of Elizabeth Daws in 1897, the Red House Hotel was purchased by Friary, Holroyd & Healy’s Brewery.

The Red House Hotel was demolished, in 1936, and a new Red House public house built on the corner of Chobham Road and Commercial Road. At this time the address reverted to Chobham Road, although some references listed it as in Commercial Road.

³⁵ *West Surrey Times* 5 March 1870 (licences were granted or renewed only annually)

³⁶ *The Building News* 27 March & 25 September 1896

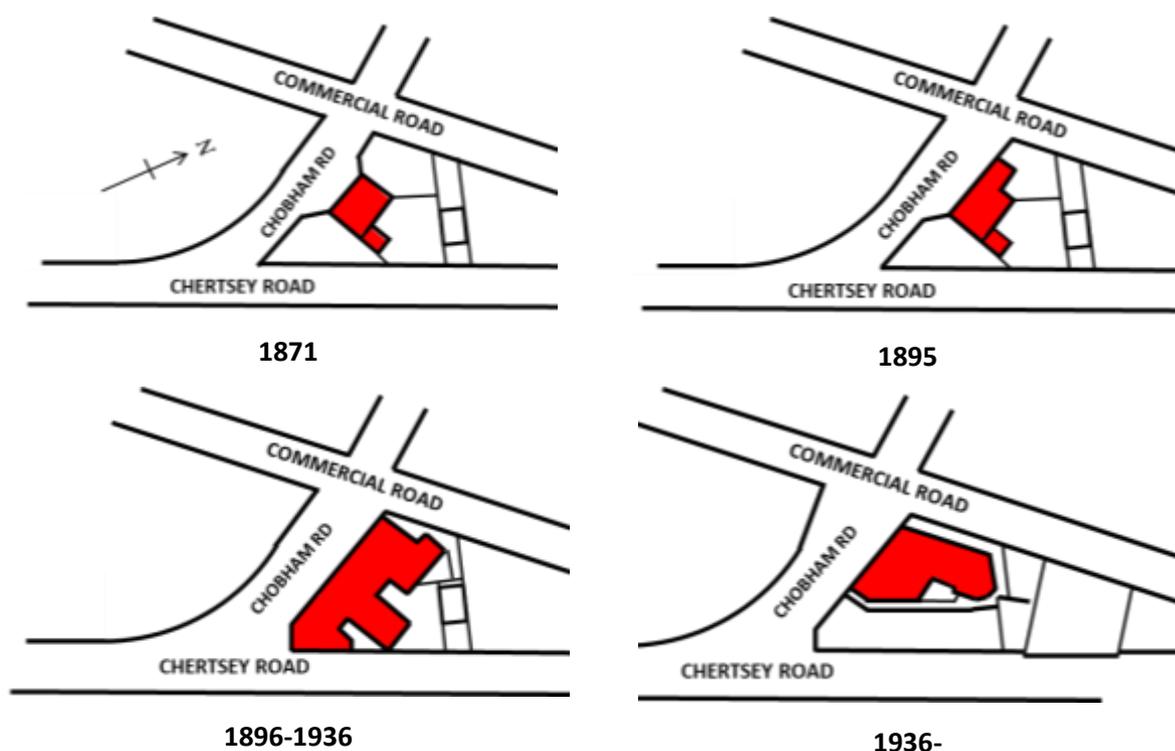


Figure 93. The changing footprint of the Red House

In 1991, when Allied Domecq bought the Firkin chain of pubs, Friary Meux (as it then was) was also owned by Allied Domecq. In 1996 the Red House was rebranded as the Fahrenheit & Firkin, brewing its own beer on the premises³⁷. Brewing ceased in 1999 following the purchase of the pub chain by Punch Taverns.

Friary, Holroyd & Healy

The Friary (Guildford), Holroyd (Byfleet) and Healy's (Chertsey) Brewery had come into existence in 1890.

The merger of Friary, Holroyd & Healy's Brewery and Meux (of Nine Elms in London) created Friary Meux in 1956.

In 1963, Friary Meux was taken over by Allied Breweries, which later became Allied Domecq.

Firkin

The Firkin pub chain was established in 1979 by David Bruce as Bruce's Brewery; the Firkin Brewery grew as a chain of mostly brewpubs offering cask ale. It was acquired by Midsummer Leisure in 1988, by Stakis Leisure in 1990 and then by Allied Domecq in 1991.

In 1999, Punch Taverns bought the entire chain and the rights to the Firkin brand; they then sold 110 of the pubs to Bass, leaving 60 Firkin pubs under Punch ownership. The brewery side of the chain was wound up, and in March 2001 Punch announced that the Firkin brand was to be discontinued.

³⁷ For a short space of time, Woking had claim to having the two breweries in Britain with the shortest distance between them – The Planets also had an on-site micro-brewery, just 10 feet away.



Figure 94. Fahrenheit & Firkin



Figure 95. O'Neill's



Figure 96. Beermat

The Fahrenheit & Firkin was one of the pubs sold to Bass by Punch Taverns in around 2000. Bass rebranded the pub as O'Neill's³⁸.

Landlords of the Red House			
1869-71	Ellis Spenceley	1911-21	George Richard Godley
1871-88	Charles Wright	1923	D Chapman
1889	John Wood	1925-34	Arthur Ernest Smith
1891	Harry P Green	1937-45	Francis G Wakeford
1895-99	Alfred Isted	1948	C Jupp
1901-08	Harry Hart Norton	1948-50	F E Hurley
1908	William Giles	1968	T Woods & R E Young

COMMERCIAL ROAD TO CHURCH STREET

No. 2

The Woking Drug Stores were opened at No. 2 Chobham Road in April 1887 by Arthur Althorp³⁹. In the 19th century, as Chobham Road was not yet

³⁸ The first O'Neill's was opened in Aberdeen in 1994 by Bass, the largest pub company in the UK at the time. A second O'Neill's opened at Covent Garden in 1995 and by 1996 there were 52 and it was Bass's most successful pub chain. By late 1996, Bass was opening a branch of O'Neill's every week.

³⁹ Arthur Althorp produced the first guide and directory of Woking, published and distributed for free, in 1888, 1891 and 1895.

developed over much of its length, it was usually advertised as in Commercial Road.

In about 1902, Arthur who was born in Yorkshire, retired and moved back to Yorkshire.



Figure 97. Althorp's shop 1888

After Arthur Althorp's retirement, the shop was taken over by Edward Taylor, in 1904. He ran the shop (also a chemists) for just four years.

WHERE TO SHOP AT WOKING.

High-Class Store Chemist.

Edward H. Taylor,

Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain,
Medallist of the Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy

Formerly with Messrs. SQUIRE, Chemists on
the Establishment of His Majesty the King.

*Prescriptions accurately dispensed with Drugs
and Chemicals of guaranteed Purity.*

FOREIGN PRESCRIPTIONS.—French, German, Italian, etc., dispensed in
strict accordance with the Pharmacopœias of the respective countries.

The Largest
Stock in the
District of

♣♣♣♣

**Photographic Materials
and Appliances. . . .**

Developing and Printing for Amateurs.

STORE PRICES FOR CASH.

COMMERCIAL ROAD AND CHOBHAM ROAD, WOKING.

TELEPHONE No: 6184.

Figure 98. E H Taylor advertisement

In 1911, John Wearing took over the shop, continuing the business of a chemist.

The building was demolished, in about 1975, when the section of Commercial Road from Chobham Road to Chertsey Road was cleared for the building of Crown Life House and the Fine Fare superstore, which then blocked off the eastern end of Commercial Road (Figure 99 shows the shop wearing a sign for 'Proposed New Development').

Occupants of No. 2	
1887-1901	Arthur Althorp, chemist
1904-08	Edward H Taylor, chemist
1911-72	John Wearing, chemist

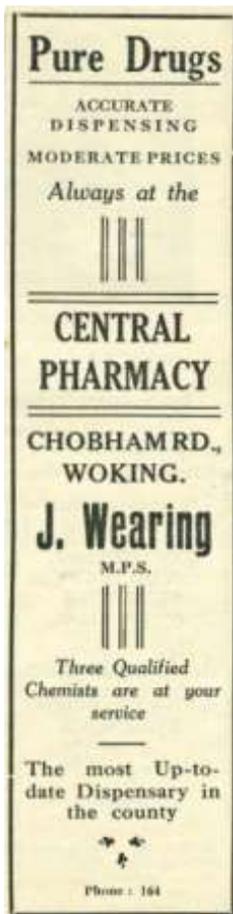


Figure 99. John Wearing's shop 1970s just before demolition

Figure 100. John Wearing advertisement 1933

No. 2a

In 1934, Ian Cecil Longstaff Watson and his wife, Phyllis, opened a flower shop in No. 2a, trading as Andor⁴⁰. A couple of years later they were living in Churt. Ian Watson died in 1938, aged just 28; was illness the reason for closing the business?

In 1937, Horstmanns, the opticians, opened up in No. 2a. They traded there until the early 1970s.

The building was demolished in about 1975 along with John Wearing's chemist shop.

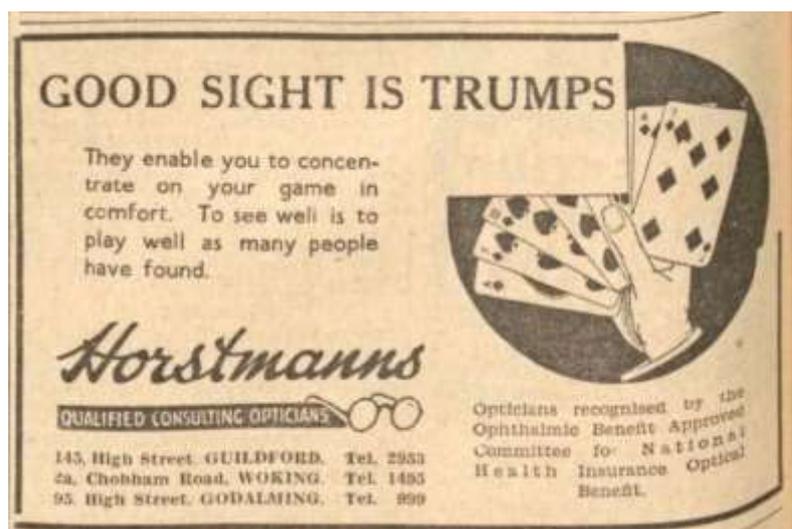


Figure 101. Hortsmanns' advertisement 1939

⁴⁰ Woking Year Book and Directory 1934

Occupants of No. 2a	
1934-35	Andor, florist (Ian Cecil Longstaff Watson)
1937-64	Horstmans, opticians
1967	Chequers Agency

No. 4

The Woking Electricity Supply Company Limited was formed in 1889 and was authorised to supply power to domestic premises in the following year. The company built a power station in Board School Road, which was commissioned in 1890.

The company could only supply electricity at night so it almost went into liquidation in 1898 and was threatened with being taken over by Woking Council two years later. However, the company managed to overcome its supply problems and, with an increased demand for electricity, from 1907 it supplied electricity to Old Woking, from 1908 to Knaphill and to Pirbright, Ripley and Bisley by 1914.

In 1904, the company opened a showroom and office in Chobham Road.

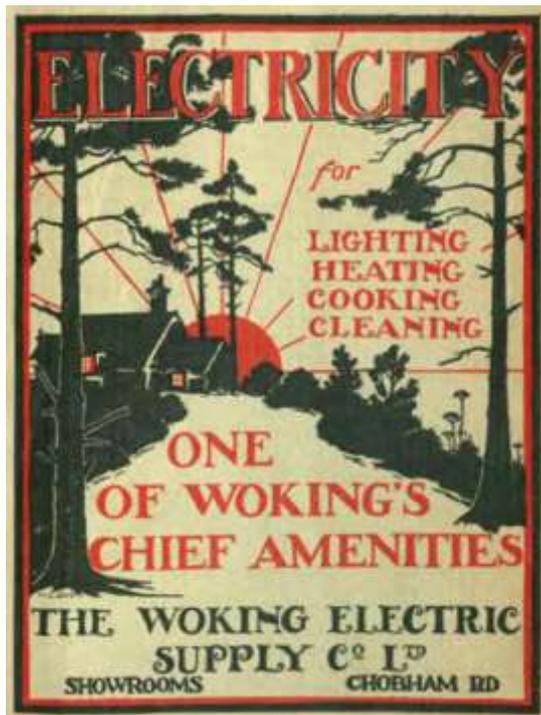


Figure 102. Woking Electric Supply Co. advertisement 1930

In 1947, the company was taken over by the South Eastern Electricity Board, which operated from the Walton Road premises



Figure 103. Woking Electric Supply Co. advertisement 1948

until about 1971.

The building was demolished, in the 1970s, for the Norwich Union (later Crown Square) development.

Occupants of No. 4	
1904-47	Woking Electricity Supply Co. showroom
1947-74	South Eastern Electricity Board (SEEBoard)

No. 6

Henry Dafter Quartermaine was born in Maidenhead, Berkshire in 1868, the son of a plumber and gas engineer. He married in 1890 and moved to Woking with his wife and first daughter in 1894.

In 1891, in Maidenhead, Henry was described as an oilman. In Woking he set himself up as a plumber and sanitary engineer, in Chertsey Road.

By 1901 he also had a cycle manufactory a few doors down.

Henry moved his plumber's yard to Chobham Road in 1903. In 1905 He was describing himself as an electrical engineer. The following year, he established the motor works and garage (for which he is probably best remembered) at 6-8 Chobham Road.



Figure 104. 1908 advertisement for Henry Quartermaine's garage

Henry Quartermaine was not just a tradesman or businessman, but a true entrepreneur. In about 1910, he built the Central Assembly Halls in Chertsey Road; a cinema installed in 1913 was the town's first. In the

1920s, he purchased the Woking Public Hall in Commercial Road, converting it into the Grand Theatre.

Henry Quartermaine was an active member of the Trademen's Alliance, becoming vice-president in 1902. The motor works was closed, in about 1920, as Henry went into politics full time. He was a long-time member of Woking Urban District Council and its chairman in 1925 and 1930⁴¹. He also became a Justice of the Peace.



Figure 105. Henry Quartermaine on the campaign trail

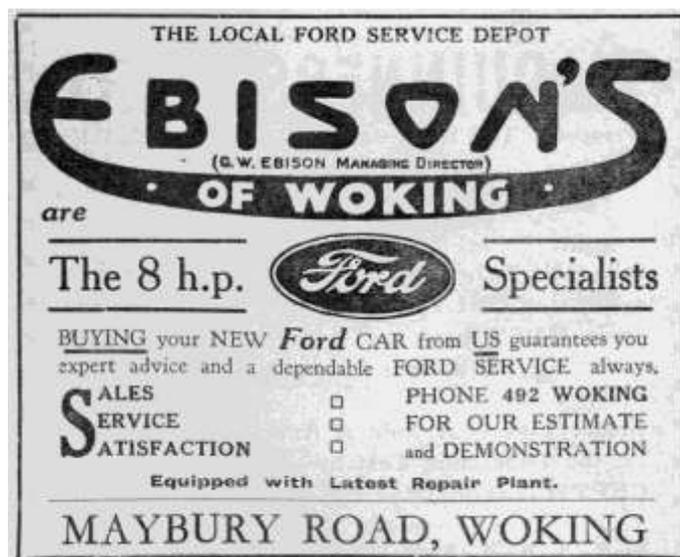


Figure 106. Ebison's advertisement 1934

After Henry Quartermaine's motor works closed, the building was briefly divided. No. 6 seems to have remained vacant until 1923.

The next occupant of No.s 6-8 was George William Ebison & Co., Ford agents.

In 1931, Ebison moved to new premises in Maybury Road.

The building was demolished, in the 1970s, for the Norwich Union (later Crown Square) development.

Occupants of No. 6	
1904-06	Quartermaine's plumber's yard
1906-18	Quartermaine's Motor Works
1921-23	<i>vacant</i>
1923-31	George William Ebison & Co., Ford agents
1967	<i>vacant (Skeet & Jeffes owners)</i>

⁴¹ Equivalent to today's mayor; the conferment on Woking, by Royal Charter, of Borough status in 1974 gave the Chairman of the council the right to use the title of mayor

No. 8

After Henry Quartermaine's motor works closed, George Stacey Baxter moved into that part of the building which was designated No. 8. He traded there from 1920 until 1923.

The building was demolished, in the 1970s, for the Norwich Union (later Crown Square) development.

Occupants of No. 8	
1906-18	Quartermaine's Motor Works
1920-23	George Stacey Baxter, motor & cycle
1923-31	George William Ebison & Co., Ford agents
1957-68	Skeet & Jeffes

No.s 10 & 12 – Hardware House

In 1891, William Robert Skeet had started his ironmongery business at No. 1 High Street (opposite the station, where NatWest Bank now is). In 1901 he opened a second shop at No. 5 Chobham Road (see page 8).

In 1907 the lease on the High Street shop was expiring and the premises were bought by Westminster Bank. At about the same time, William joined forces with Charles Job Fooks and, in 1908, they opened a new store at No.s 10 and 12 Chobham Road, at the corner with Church Street.



Figure 107. Hardware House pictured in a catalogue from 1950

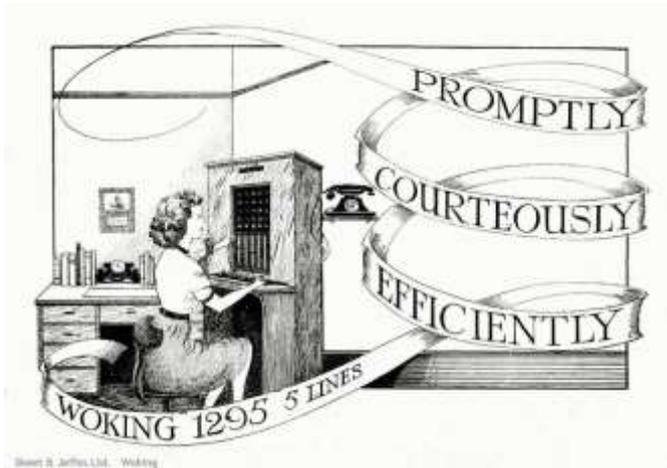


Figure 108. Skeet & Jeffes advertisement

By 1910 Skeet and Fooks had been joined by Hartley Davey Jeffes. Around 1920, Fooks left the partnership and it became the well-known company of 'Skeet & Jeffes'.

In the 1950s, the business expanded next door, into No. 8.

The building was demolished, in the 1970s, for the Norwich Union (later Crown Square) development.

Crown Life House

In the 1970s, Crown Life House was constructed on the eastern side of Chobham Road between its junctions with Commercial Road and Church Street. It was completed in 1978.

In 1986, that section of Chobham Road was renamed Crown Square and Crown Life House became simply Crown House. The building was given a face-lift in 2011/2 and renamed as One Crown Square.



Figure 109. One Crown Square

CHURCH STREET TO BOUNDARY LANE

The eastern side of Chobham Road, between Church Street and Boundary Lane was, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, home to four substantial houses on large plots (Figure 110).

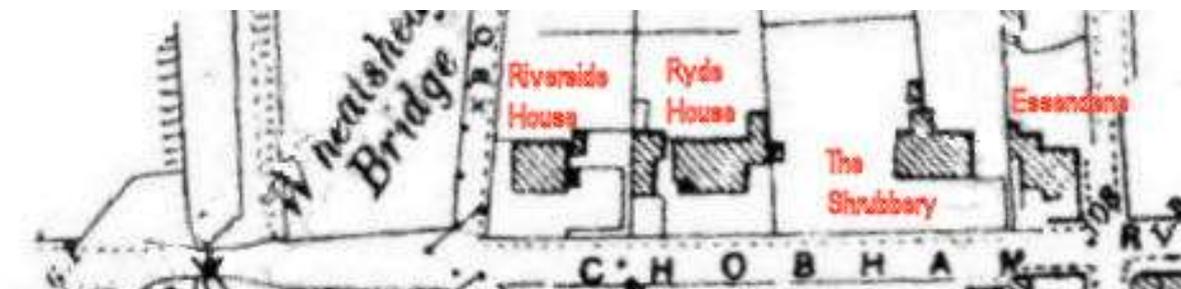


Figure 110. North end, east side, 1896

Essendene

Essendene was a detached house situated at the northern corner of Chobham Road and Church Street in a plot of about 1/6th of an acre⁴². It was built in the 1870s; the first record of occupation being in the 1881 census, when Elizabeth Susanna Soan (née Richardson) was living there.

Elizabeth was recently widowed, her husband, William, having died in November 1880. Elizabeth lived in Essendene for the next fourteen years; the house and grounds presumably then getting too much for her (aged nearly 80), she went to live with her daughter in Horsell. Elizabeth died in 1905.



Figure 111. Essendene
The rooftops of the house can be seen behind the advertising hoardings in this view from c1902

Apart from a brief period of occupation, 1899-1901, the house then seems to have stood empty until taken over in about 1910 by Dr John Morley Pomeroy, a dental surgeon. John Pomeroy practiced for 21 years in Woking before moving to Dorking in 1931. He was replaced by Arthur Henry Herbert and Paul Gerrard, also both dentists.

⁴² An acre is an imperial land measurement equivalent to 4,046.856 square metres

Essendene was demolished in about 1936 to allow for the construction of a cinema and Central Buildings; the 1937 *Woking Year Book & Directory* describes a 'building site for new Ritz Cinema and shops'.

Occupants of 'Essendene'	
1881-1894	Elizabeth Susanna Soan
1899-1900	Mary Annie Trist
1900-01	Wilfred Waller Norman
1904-05	Dr Richard Thorne
1910-31	Dr John Morley Pomeroy, dental surgeon
1931-35	Arthur Henry Herbert / Paul Gerrard, dentists

Ritz Cinema

The Ritz Cinema was built in 1941 on the grounds of Essendene (see above), the entrance being on the corner of Chobham Road and Church Street. The main body of the cinema stretched across the plots of 'Essendene' and 'The Shrubbery' (see below).



Figure 112. Ritz Cinema

By 1975, the Ritz had become the ABC; the space between the circle and the screen was made into a ceiling to a bingo hall below. The cinema - the last surviving cinema in the town - closed in September 1982.



Figure 113. Cinema building as Granada Big Bingo 1986

The cinema building was demolished and replaced by the current office block, Hollywood House, in the 1980s.

Hollywood House was refurbished in 2013, following which it won Refurbishment Project of the Year at The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) Building Performance Awards in February 2014.⁴³



Figure 114. Hollywood House

The Shrubbery

The Shrubbery (also known as Shrubbs Cottage) was a detached house set in a substantial plot of land (just over half an acre), built in the 1870s.

The first record of occupation is in the 1881 census when Lina Keyzor Sykes, a divorcee⁴⁴, was living there. A year later Lina was renting a house in Fulham, where she was involved (indirectly) in the murder of a man called John Carlisle.⁴⁵

From 1889 until 1894, James Harcourt Ivory had possession, although in 1994, it was listed under the name of his second wife, Marion. Coincidentally, James and his first wife, Emma, had also divorced, the final decree having been granted in February 1887⁴⁶.

The house then appears to have been acquired by the Victoria Hospital as it is used as accommodation by a succession of doctors from 1899 until 1930.

The Shrubbery was demolished in about 1936 to allow for the construction of a cinema and Central Buildings; the *Woking Year Book & Directory for 1937* lists a 'building site for new Ritz Cinema and shops'.

⁴³ <https://www.skanska.co.uk/>

⁴⁴ *Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, later Supreme Court of Judicature: Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Files*, J 77/282/8310

⁴⁵ *Gloucester Citizen* 29 May 1882 and *Worcester Journal* 10 June 1882

⁴⁶ *Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, later Supreme Court of Judicature: Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Files*, J 77/298/8863

Occupants of 'The Shrubbery'	
1881	Lina Keyzor Sykes
1889-94	James Harcourt Ivory
1899-1900	Dr Henry H Phipps
1901-03	John McOscal
1907-25	Dr Robert Watson-Reid
1927-30	Dr William Lionel Martland
1932	Woking Council for the unemployed
1935-37	<i>vacant</i>

Central Buildings

Central Buildings was a 1930s development of three stories, consisting of six retail units with residential accommodation above. It was built in 1937, on part of the grounds of The Shrubbery (see above) with the cinema (see page 66) behind it.

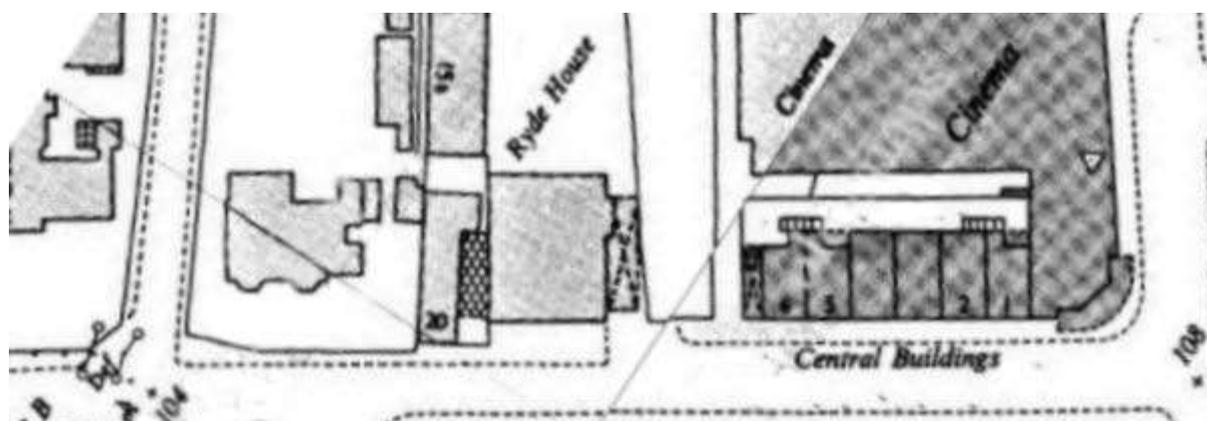


Figure 115. Central Buildings location

1 Central Buildings

John Bright (Outfitters) Ltd, tailors, moved into 1 Central Buildings following the bombing of their Chertsey Road store in 1941. Bright traded from the building until 1970.

In 1972, the shop was occupied by No 1 Boutique but, by 1979, was home to Griver Fashions (just visible in Figure 116). Griver Fashions stayed for almost twenty years and were followed, briefly, by Fine Wear.

On 27th November 1996, Woking Models opened its doors, staying until 2007.



Figure 116. Griver Fashions 1986



Figure 117. Woking Models 1997

Harveys, off-licence and grocery store, opened in 2007/8 and stayed for about five years.



Figure 118. Harveys 2008



Figure 119. PC & Laptop Repairs 2014

Since 2014, 1 Central Buildings has been home to a PC and laptop repair centre.

Occupants of 1 Central Buildings	
1943-70	Bright's of Woking
1972	No 1 Boutique
1979-91	Griver Fashions
1995-96	Fine Wear
1996-2007	Woking Models
2008-12	Harveys
2014-	PC & Laptop Repairs

2 Central Buildings

Richard Bondy opened his carpet wholesale business in No.s 2-5 Central Buildings in 1941. In 1954, he moved into Coronation House in Guildford Road.

The next occupant of 2 Central Buildings was Doris King's gown shop, which was present for about eight years. Doris King was followed by two wine and spirit merchants – firstly Henekeys, from 1964 to 1968, and then Unwins, from 1970 until 1981.

1983 saw the opening of, fashion boutique. Rani traded for twenty-five years, outlasting both Griver Fashions and Fine Wear, next door.

Action Bikes opened up in No.s 2 and 3 central buildings, in 2008. Action Bikes specialised in mountain bikes but also sold road bikes. The sport of mountain biking became popular in the 1970s in northern California, with riders using older, single-speed balloon tire bicycles to ride down rugged hillsides. It was not until, the late 1970s and early 1980s that road bicycle companies started to manufacture mountain bicycles using high-tech lightweight materials, such as M4 aluminium.



Figure 120. Action Bikes, 2016

Action Bikes opened up in No.s 2 and 3 Central Buildings, in 2008. Since 2017, Woking Interiors have been trading from No.s 2-4 Central Buildings.

Occupants of 2 Central Buildings	
1941-54	Richard Bondy, carpet wholesalers
1955-62	Doris King, gowns
1964-68	Henekeys Ltd, wine merchants
1970-81	Unwins, wine merchants
1987-2008	Rani Boutique
2008-16	Action Bikes
2017	<i>vacant</i>
2017-	Woking Interiors



Figure 121. Woking Interiors, 2020

3 Central Buildings

After Richard Bondy departed, 3 Central Buildings became home to Eve French, florist. Eve French was a constant presence in Chobham Road for almost fifty years.

Action Bikes opened up in No.s 2 and 3 Central Buildings, in 2008.

Since 2017, Woking Interiors have been trading from No.s 2-4 Central Buildings (Figure 121).

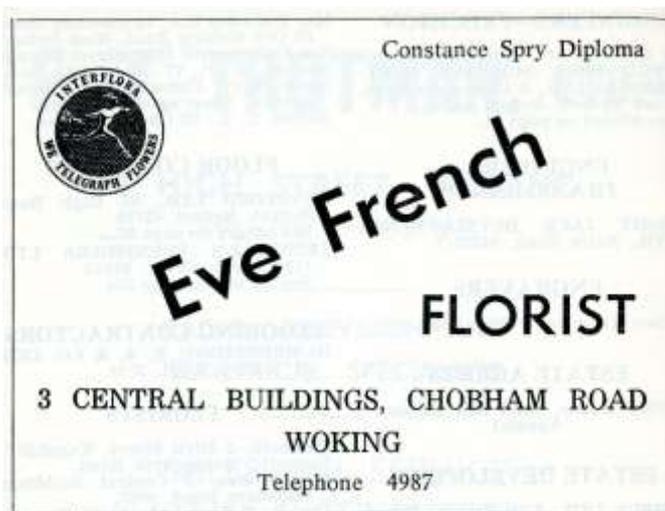


Figure 122. Eve French, advertisement

Occupants of 3 Central Buildings	
1941-54	Richard Bondy, carpet wholesalers
1957-2003	Eve French, florist
2008-16	Action Bikes
2017	<i>vacant</i>
2017-	Woking Interiors

4 Central Buildings

Richard Bondy opened his carpet wholesale business in No.s 2-5 Central Buildings in 1941. In 1954, he moved into Coronation House in Guildford Road.

After Richard Bondy (see page 70) departed, 4 Central Buildings became home to Woking Grocery Stores, which traded for about twenty years.

In 1975, Meeks, china and glass dealers, opened up in 4 and 5 Central Buildings. Meeks had started in the Broadway, Maybury Road, sometime shortly before 1900. The business then moved into Chobham Road, in 1926, and into Walton Road in the 1940s (see page 7). Meeks traded in Chobham Road for more than twenty-five years.



Figure 123. Meeks 1999



Figure 124. Jeans & Leather Passion 2008



Figure 125. Woking Learning Centre 2012



Figure 126. Bartinis 2015

In 2008, the shop was home to Jeans & Leather Passion, in 2012 to the Woking Learning Centre and, in 2015/6, to Bartinis, boutique and beauty bar.

Since 2017, Woking Interiors have been trading from No.s 2-4 Central Buildings (Figure 121).

Occupants of 4 Central Buildings	
1939-40	Elsie Bassouss, fruiterer
1941-54	Richard Bondy, carpet wholesalers
1957-72	Woking Grocery Stores
1975-2003	Meeks, The China Shop
2008	Jeans & Leather Passion
2012	Woking Learning Centre
2015-16	Bartinis
2017-	Woking Interiors

5 Central Buildings

Albert Shortland opened his first boot shop in Woking, in 1927, at 44 Chertsey Road. By 1960, he had three shops in Woking and three others in Byfleet, West Byfleet and Cobham. After Richard Bondy (see page 70) departed, Albert opened a shop at 5 Central Buildings, trading there until 1969.

In 1969, D W Hughes & Sons Ltd opened an audio centre, retailing hi-fi equipment. They already had radio and television rental shops in Knaphill

and St Johns. D W Hughes traded in Chobham Road for six years before moving, in 1975, to Commercial Way.

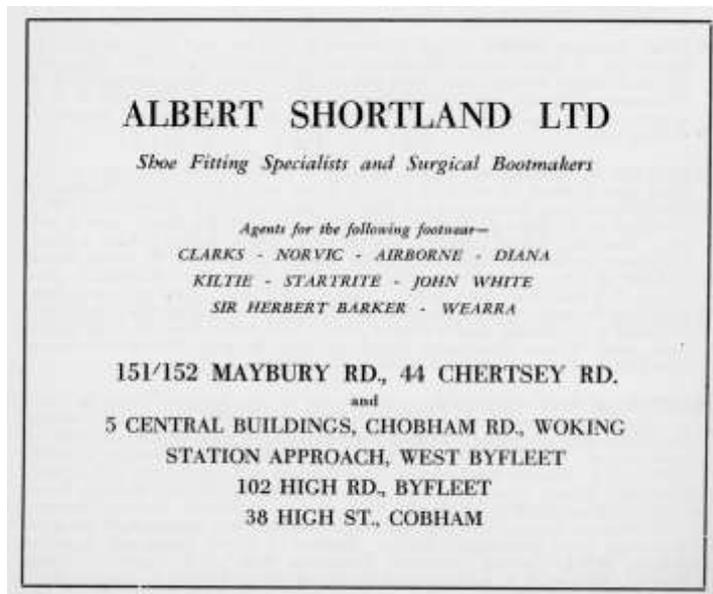


Figure 127. Advertisements, 1956, 1969

In 1975, Meeks, china and glass dealers, opened up in 4 and 5 Central Buildings. Meeks traded in Chobham Road for more than twenty-five years.

After Meeks, the shop was home to a series of short-lived enterprises: The Surrey Music Store, from 2008 to 2012; the Transylvania Grocery Store in 2014; Sweet Cloud, vape shop, 2014-2020.

In 2020, Brasileiro, grocers, opened.



Figure 128. Surrey Music Store 2008



Figure 129. Transylvania Grocery Store 2014



Figure 130. Sweet Cloud 2015



Figure 131. Brasileiro 2020

Occupants of 5 Central Buildings	
1948-54	Richard Bondy, carpet wholesalers
1955-68	Albert Shortland, footwear
1969-75	D W Hughes, TV & audio centre
1975-2003	Meeks, The China Shop
2008-12	Surrey Music Store
2014	Transylvania Grocery Store
2014-20	Sweet Cloud
2020-	Brasileiro

6 Central Buildings

6 Central Buildings was first occupied by John Allen Phillips-Perry, insurance brokers, who were resident until about 1955. They were followed by the Dominion Insurance Company.

In about 1960, Pamela Eileen Court started her hair-dressing business in 6 Central Buildings. She had married Stanley Hall in 1957, but traded under her maiden name.

Pamela Court died in 1991, aged 56, although the business had ceased by this time.

By 1994, the building was home to Terry's, confectioner & tobacconists. Terry's had previously been in the annexe to Ryde House (see page 79).

The *Surrey Herald* and *Woking Informer* newspapers moved their offices into 6 Central Buildings in the mid-2000s.

In 2014, media group Trinity Mirror closed seven newspapers as it shifted much of its business online. The *Surrey Herald*, the *Surrey Times* and the *Woking Informer* all went, ahead of the launch a new edition of the *Surrey Advertiser* in December, that year.



Figure 132. Herald & Informer 2008

Since 2017, the building has been home to Istanbul Barber.

Occupants of 6 Central Buildings	
1939-54	John Allen Phillips-Perry, insurance
1956-58	Dominion Insurance Co. Ltd
1962-87	Pamela Court, ladies hairdressers
1994-2000	Terry's
2008-14	Herald & Informer
2017-	Istanbul Barber



Figure 133. Central Buildings 2020

Ryde House

Ryde House was one of the earliest buildings to be built in Chobham Road. Whilst the Red House was built in 1869, Ryde House also is shown on the

1873 Ordnance Survey map (which was surveyed in 1869/70). A detached house, it originally sat towards one corner of a rectangular plot of about 1.6 acres. This was later divided up to provide for the building of Riverside House (see page 82) and two houses in Boundary Lane. Ryde House ended up in a plot of just under half an acre.

In the 1871 census, Ryde House was unoccupied. The first known occupant of Ryde House was Thomas Manning Hart Harding. A licenced victualler, who was also proprietor of the King's Head PH, Bloomsbury, London, Thomas moved into Ryde House with his wife and daughter in 1875. Thomas died in the house in June 1881.

In 1922-24, Ryde House was in use as temporary accommodation for the Victoria Hospital nurses' home.

Between 1927 and 1939 it became Ryde House Clinic.

Occupants of 'Ryde House'	
1875-81	Thomas Manning Hart Hardy
1885-88	Dr Percy Henry White
1891	Abraham James H Hoskins
1896-1905	Dr Robert M G Binnie
1905-1918	Dr John Lawrie
1923	<i>Nurses' Home (temporary accommodation)</i>
1937-57	<i>Ryde House Clinic</i>

Ryde House Office Block

In 1962/3, Ryde House was demolished and a six-storey office block with ground floor retail units was built on the site, constructed by local building firm W Deakin & Co. Ltd. This was also named Ryde House.

Occupants of the upper five floors included, at various times: NSS Newsagents, who took the first and second floors; Hockley & Dawson, engineers; Osbourn & Hollis, architects; National Motor and Accident Insurance Union; Surrey County Council Area Children's Office.

This new Ryde House was demolished in 1987, for the construction of Victoria Gate.



Figure 134. 1960s Ryde House office block

Ryde House Unit 1

The first occupant of Ryde House Unit 1 was W J Thornton, estate agents, who moved in, in 1964.

In about 1975, Thorntons, were replaced by Francis Dace Bradford & Co., insurance and mortgage brokers.



Figure 135. W J Thornton advertisement 1969

Occupants of Unit 1	
1964-74	W J Thornton, estate agents
1976-81	Francis Dace, Bradford & Co., ins, mortgage brokers
1980s?	Dace Raines & Co., estate agents
1996	Gee & Co.

Ryde House Units 2 & 3

Units 2 and 3 of Ryde House were occupied by HD Interiors Ltd, trading as Home Design, retailing carpets, furniture and lighting. Home Design moved

in shortly after the building was completed and stayed until 1987, when the building was demolished for the construction of Victoria Gate.

No. 20 - Ryde House Annexe

What later became No. 20 Chobham Road was constructed as an outbuilding of Ryde House. It was built after Ryde House (not appearing on the 1873 plan) but was extant by 1895. It may have been a coach-house.

In around 1920, it was converted to business use and used by F W Benham of Chobham to retail corn and forage.

In about 1936, Joseph Albert Hart took over the shop and opened a greengrocer's. Joseph was the son of James Hart, who had a greengrocer's and fruiterer's in Chertsey Road. Around the time of the Second World War, Joseph closed the shop, keeping the Chertsey Road store.

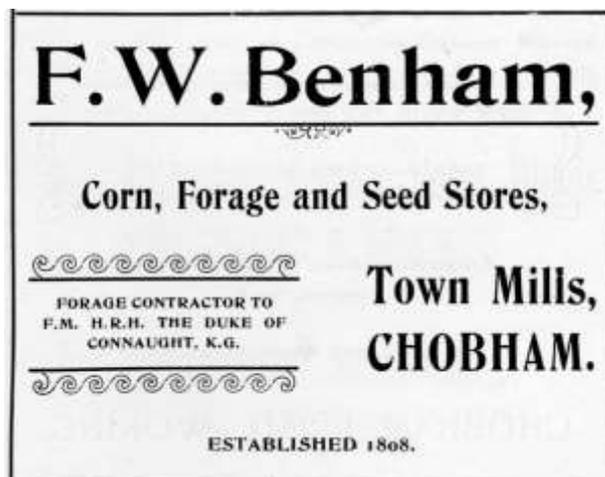


Figure 136. F W Benham advertisement



Figure 137. No. 20 Terry's

By 1942, the shop had been taken over by William Martin Victor Woodward, who was trading as a tobacconist and confectioner, under the name Terry's. William, at various times, went by his second or third names.

The building was demolished in 1987, along with the Ryde House block, for the erection of Victoria Gate.

After a brief hiatus, William Woodward, reopened Terry's in 6 Central Buildings.

Occupants of No. 20	
1921-25	F W Benham, corn & forage store
1927-37	Joseph Albert Hart, fruiterer
1943-87	Terry's tobacconist & confectioners / Card Shop

Victoria Gate

The 1960s Ryde House office block was demolished in 1987 and Victoria Gate was developed in its place.

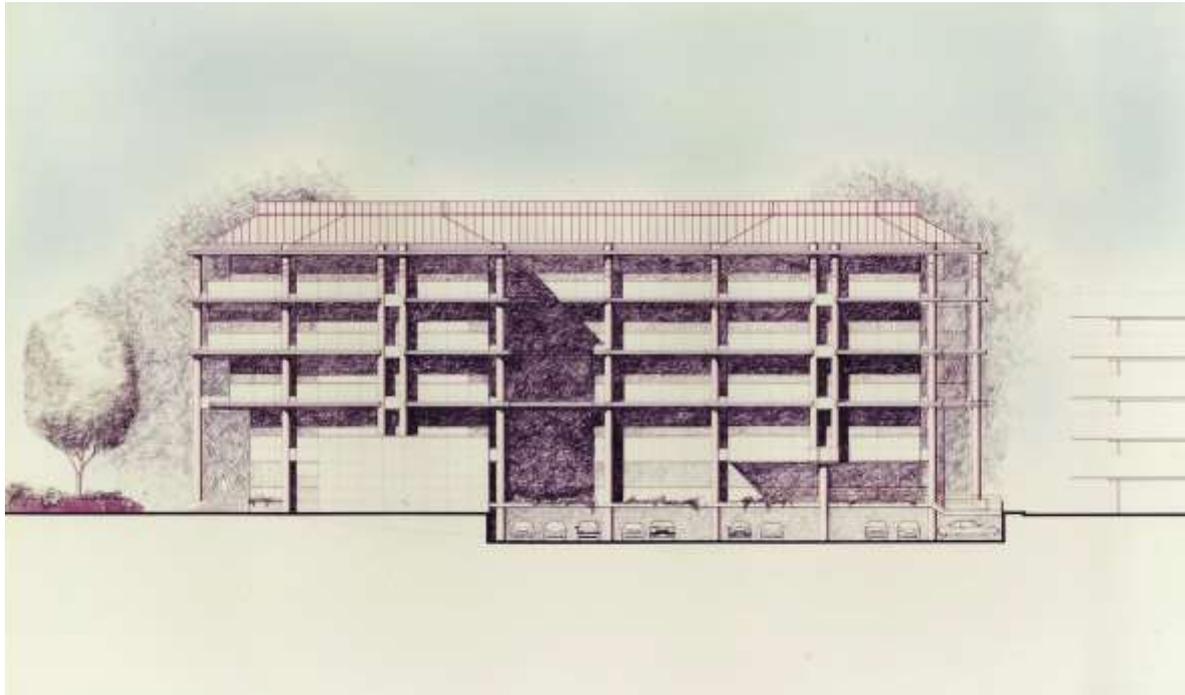


Figure 138. 1987 design for Victoria Gate

From at least as early as 2008 until 2015, a small café, called Haylee's Lunchbox, occupied a front-facing section of Victoria Gate.

In 2018, Victoria Gate was acquired by Aviva and was subjected to a refurbishment by Scott Brownrigg & Turners.⁴⁷



Figure 139. Haylee's Lunchbox 2008

⁴⁷ <https://www.scottbrownrigg.com/design-research-unit/articles-publications/retrospective-victoria-gate-working/>

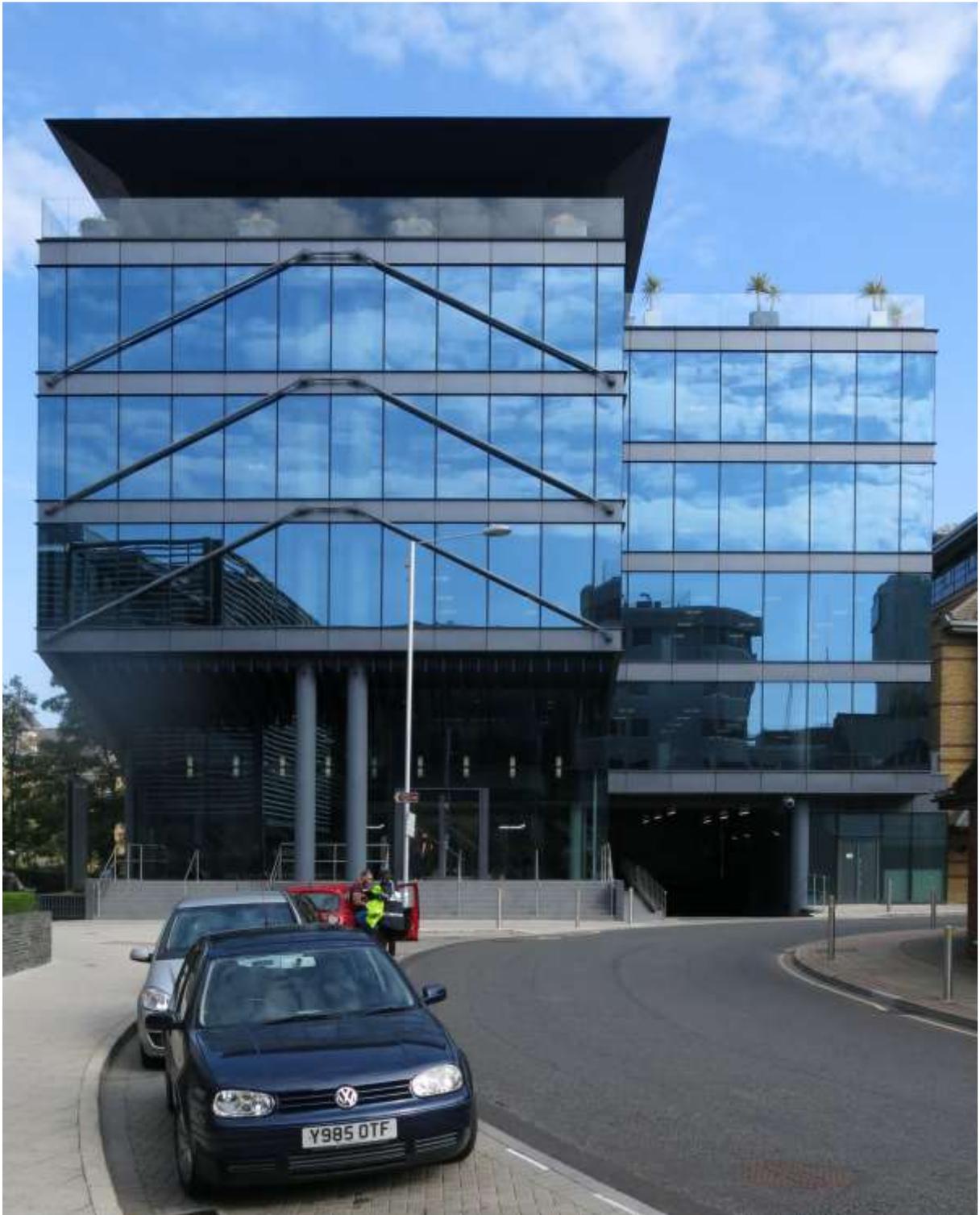


Figure 140. Victoria Gate 2020

Riverside House

Riverside House (presumably the name sounded better than 'Canalside House') was a detached house built in about 1880. It sat in a plot of 0.35 acres, between Ryde House (page 76) and the Basingstoke Canal.

The first occupant was Walter Freire-Marreco, an accountant⁴⁸. Walter Freire-Marreco was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1849. He moved to Woking in about 1880. Walter lived at Riverside House for about three years before moving to Horsell.

A couple of years later, John Warne Cathie moved into Riverside House. John Cathie was a wine merchant. A year after he moved in, his wife, Margueretta, died. John remarried in 1887 and he and his new wife, Charlotte, lived in Riverside House until his death in 1892.



Figure 141. Walter Freire-Marreco
1849-1929



Figure 142. Riverside House c.1950

After John Warne Cathie's death, there were a number of short-term tenants before the house appears to have been acquired by Victoria Hospital in about 1912. Thereafter it was used as accommodation for a series of

⁴⁸ UK Census for England and Wales, 1881

doctors. Following the Second World War, Riverside House was converted into an annexe to Victoria Hospital.

In about 1972, the house was demolished to make way for the construction of Victoria Way.

Occupants of 'Riverside House'	
1881-83	Walter Freire-Marreco
1885-92	John Warne Cathie
1894-96	Thomas Trimnell
1898-1905	Captain Lionel Erskine Hall
1908	Major John Kelso Tod (later Colonel Tod C.M.G.)
1911	John Woods
1913-19	Dr George Fourquomin Vincent
1920-29	Dr Robert William Lessell Wallace
1931	Dr E F Peck / Dr J Harley
1933-45	Dr James Alexander McElroy Shortt Evers
1948-68	<i>Hospital Annexe</i>

VICTORIA COTTAGE HOSPITAL

In February 1893, to mark the record reign of Queen Victoria, it was decided to erect new buildings for the Woking, Horsell and Woodham Cottage Hospital and to call it the Victoria Cottage Hospital.

The hospital, which was completed in 1899, was one of the very first buildings in Woking to be connected to the drainage system. It was designed with two wards, each of which would have six beds.⁴⁹ The architects were T Allen & Son of Adelphi and the building work was done by James Harris & Sons of Woking at a cost of £3,163. Viscount Midleton consented to become president of the hospital.

Inevitably, as the population of Woking increased, the hospital facilities became inadequate and additions and extensions were made. In about 1947, Riverside House (see page 82) was converted into an annexe to the hospital.

⁴⁹ *West Surrey Times* 22 July and 22 September 1899



Figure 143. Victoria Cottage Hospital c.1930

Victoria Cottage Hospital finally closed its doors at the end of 1987. The buildings were demolished to provide land for housing.



Figure 144. Housing on former Victoria Hospital site 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

British Newspaper Archive

Surrey History Centre

National Archives, Kew

London Metropolitan Archives

1:2500 Ordnance Survey Plans for 1871, 1896, 1914, 1935, 1965 and 1976 have been used extensively

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