

The Old Forge and The Blacksmith's Arms

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The old smithy near the northern end of Church Street in Effingham existed at least as far back as the 1840s and probably well before that. The former cottage that stood immediately north of it, and which was so long associated with it, was certainly very old, dating back perhaps to c1600. In this article we trace the history of both smithy and cottage as far as our sources allow, discussing their uses as well as their owners and occupants.

Introduction

The smithy that is today referred to as The Old Forge and its neighbouring cottage once known as The Blacksmith's Arms stood near the northern end of Effingham's Church Street, on its western side. Figure 1 offers the earliest known representation of these buildings, as portrayed in Plot 248 on the 1842 Tithe Map. The same figure appears identically in ELHG's article *Arthur Archibald Stovell – Boot Repairer and Harness Maker* [in *Studies in the History of Effingham*, Vol 4, Article No. 32]; Mr Stovell's family had occupied the buildings for many decades.

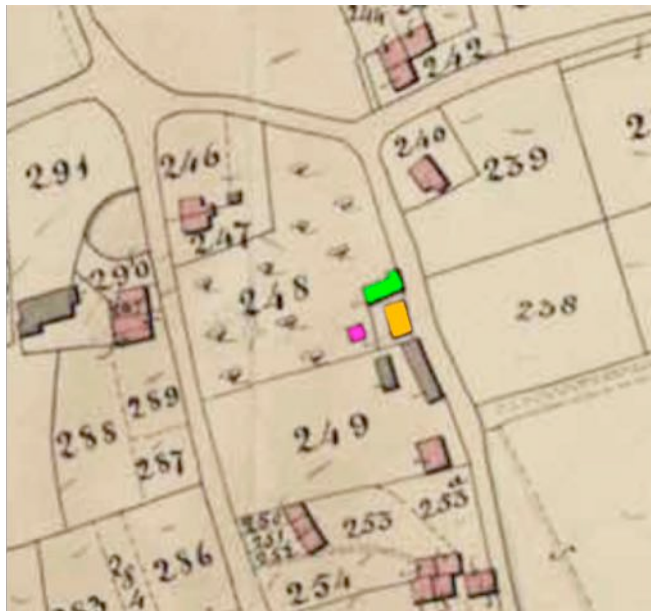


Figure 1 Tithe Map of 1842 showing Plot 248;

- The Blacksmith's Arms;
- the smithy;
- presumed shed or workshop.

In this period the northern section of the land between Church Street and The Street was largely free of buildings. Plot 248, which the Stovell family then occupied, had a large amount of open land. Plots 246 and 247 contained a pair of semi-detached houses, known later as Yew Tree Cottages and long since demolished. Just over sixty years after this map had been made, a hotel would be built on the western part of Plot 248.

Among its records of Lesser Secular Monuments, Historic England has a file for The Blacksmith's Arms consisting of a handwritten page of architectural details with a simple sketch plan of the building (but bearing an incorrect compass direction). The details include the opinion that the original two-bay cottage was probably built in about 1600 and extended in the 19thC with an additional bay.

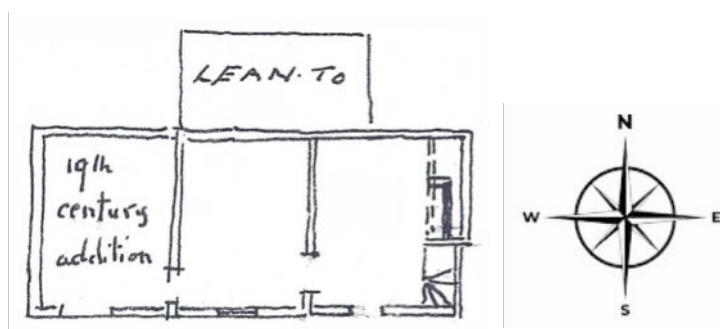


Figure 2 Historic England's sketch of The Blacksmith's Arms, with correct compass directions added.

When the schedule of Tithe Apportionments was drawn up for Effingham in 1843 it was recorded that Plot 248 (having an area of 2 roods and 28 perches – that is, two thirds of an acre) was then owned by William Polter [sic – Poulter] and occupied by blacksmith Thomas (II) Stovell (who, by his second wife Mary Ann (née Charlwood), would later become the father of Arthur Archibald). The account of this schedule entry given by Monica O'Connor [*The History of Effingham in Surrey, 1973*] is evidently in error (among several errors in this paragraph on page 93 of her book) in stating that the owner was 'John Polter'.

Poulters and Stovells

William Poulter had been born in about 1795 and in his census returns for 1851 and 1861 he had given his birthplace as Farnham, Surrey; however, no baptism record for him in that part of Surrey has yet been found. He evidently moved to Bookham quite early in life, as he married there at St Nicolas on 28 May 1818 to Effingham-born Hannah (née) Chippen. They were married by Rev William Farley, then Vicar of St Lawrence, Effingham, in his role as Curate of Great Bookham for which he been licensed just a month earlier, on 23 April [*Some Account of the Post Reformation Clerics at St Lawrence Church, Effingham* by Bryan Sherwood and Susan Morris, ELHG, 2023].

In early 1829 Hannah's father John Chippen died and was buried on 8 February at St Lawrence. In his Will, which he had made on 27 January 1826, he left a property to Hannah in the following words:

'I give to my Daughter Hannah wife of William Poulter and her heirs for ever my House Orchard and Garden with a Carpenters Shop now in the occupation of Thos Carpenter being part of the Manor of Little Bookham'.

We do not currently know which property this was. A potential candidate can be identified in a document of 1832 giving the particulars of a sale by auction on 30 October of the Manor of Effingham, by the direction of Thomas Fitzherbert-Brockholes; he had inherited the estate following the death in that year of his mother Mary (née Heneage). In this document, which includes an estate map, Lot 11 is described as:

'A Very Eligible Dwelling House, in Effingham Street, Surrounded by a large Garden, with Offices, Well of Water, &c. and used as a Carpenter's Premises ...'

This house and land were held at that time under lease by Sir Thomas Hussey Apreece of Effingham House for an annual rent of 10 guineas and occupied an area of 1 acre and 19 perches. The document does not, however, indicate that the property lay within the Manor of Little Bookham (which it probably did not). At present, therefore, we can only say that early in her married life Hannah had become possessed of property in her own right.

By the time of the 1841 Census William and Hannah were living in Bookham's 'Eastwicke Street', later called Eastwick Lane but today Eastwick Road. Their home was the beautiful 17thC cottage and coach house, now Grade II listed and named Woodcote, standing at the corner of this road with Lower Road, opposite The Anchor public house. Here, William had his business as a coal merchant and carrier. In Pigot's *London and Provincial Directory* for 1826 one of the carriers listed under Bookham was 'William Poulter from his own house, on Monday and Thursday', whilst Robson's *Commercial Directory of the Six Home Counties* for 1838 noted that William provided carriage 'to London on Monday and Thursday, and to Guildford every Saturday'. In 1841 William and Hannah already had ten children living with them.

It seems likely that William had purchased Plot 248 from Robert Fish (senior), an Effingham gentleman owning several properties in the parish and beyond. Thomas (II) Stovell's father Thomas (I) had also been a blacksmith in Effingham and from 1824 until at least 1830 he had been Robert's tenant [Quarter Sessions Land Tax Records for Effingham, Surrey, 1780-1831]. It is reasonable to suppose that Thomas (I) had occupied the same site – as did Thomas (II) subsequently.

Thomas (II) held the tenancy of the smithy and cottage in Effingham's Church Street from about 1836 until his death on 23 December 1887, after which it was taken over briefly by his widow Mary Ann. For many years they had been licensed to run their cottage as a beerhouse. The earliest evidence we have so far for this is in their family's census return for 1861 in which Thomas (II) is described as 'blacksmith (empl 1 man) beerhouse kpr [keeper]'.

The occupations of blacksmith/farrier and beerhouse keeper often went together. In many cases the blacksmith's wife and children would run the beerhouse as a means of supplementing his income while he was engaged in his smithing work. Customers bringing horses for shoeing, or requiring repair of items they brought to the smithy, could pass their time in his house while waiting and relaxing with a drink. Smithing was thirsty work for the blacksmith too. In earlier centuries the running of alehouses was

undertaken mostly by women. There had been a long history of attempts to ensure the proper regulation of alcohol-selling premises through licensing arrangements. An Act was introduced in 1552, in the reign of Edward VI, requiring all alehouses 'to have a licence from the justices of the peace'. Many further Acts followed, often aimed at controlling the sale of spirits as well as of beer. A significant Act was passed in 1830, the 'Beerhouse Act', which sought to liberalise the constraints upon beer selling in the hope that this would ameliorate the acute and growing social problems arising from excessive gin consumption. It eliminated duty on beer and enabled people to run beerhouses for a relatively inexpensive licence fee of two guineas and without requiring them to submit formal applications to the Licensing Justices. With such a licence the holder was permitted, on their own premises, to brew and sell ale, porter, beer and cider, but not fortified wines or spirits. However, nearly forty years later and after the passing of several further pieces of legislation concerning alcohol, the sale of beer, cider, wines and spirits, whether for consumption on one's own premises or off them, was made permissible by a new licensing system under the Wine and Beerhouse Act of 1869. This restored the necessity of obtaining a licence from the Licensing Justices, although the latter could not refuse such a licence to the applicant of an already-licensed beerhouse.

There is a perception that beerhouses were 'lower' in tone than inns and hotels (which provided meals and accommodation, stables, etc) and as such had different clientele and arrangements. Beerhouses, alehouses or public houses were more for locals, whereas inns were more for travellers passing through.

Changes of ownership, occupancy and licensing

Mary Ann probably did not relish the task of continuing to run her Church Street beerhouse. At the point she became a widow she was 44 and had seven offspring under the age of 19. We know from newspaper reports that in late 1888 she had felt it necessary to prosecute two Bookham labourers for being drunk and disorderly there on the evening of 6 November [*The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser*, also *The Dorking Advertiser*, 10 November 1888].

"ON THE DRINK."
George Kemp and Thomas Greathurst, labourers, of Effingham, were summoned for being drunk and abusive at Effingham on the 6th ult.
P.C. Wratten proved the case.
Mrs. Stovill, landlady of a beerhouse at Effingham, said that the defendants came to her house at about half-past six in the evening, and made a disturbance.
Kemp:—Yes; we were trying to sing (laughter).
In reply to the Bench Mrs. Stovill said the men were a little the "worse for drink" when they came to the house.
Fined 5s., and 8s. costs each.
Greathurst asked for time, stating that he had no work to do at the present.
Captain Scovell asked him how he could afford to spend money at a public house, if he was out of work.
Greathurst replied that he was "treated."
They were ultimately given until Tuesday evening to pay the fine.

Figure 3 Drunkenness at The Blacksmith's Arms,
The Dorking Advertiser, 10 November 1888.

By the following spring she had had enough and decided to relinquish the business, arranging for the Dorking auctioneers White & Sons to organise a sale of her household furniture, her horse and cart and various other trade articles [*Surrey Times and County Express*, 6 April 1889]. Although lacking formal proof we may reasonably infer that her beerhouse licence was transferred to a man named Thomas Carpenter, since it was reported as being transferred in the following year from him to George Etheridge [*Sussex Express*, 9 September 1890]. This Thomas Carpenter was clearly not the same as the person of that name who had been occupying the property inherited by Hannah Poulter half a century earlier, but may well have been related to him. His identity remains to be determined – there seem to be no candidates for him in Effingham or neighbouring parishes in this period. The best (but by no means convincing) candidate is the Byfleet-born Thomas Carpenter who in 1889 was a licensed victualler running the Barley Mow public house in Mill Lane, Kingston-upon-Thames, where he had been since about 1885 and would remain until about 1895; perhaps he had wanted another string to his bow so had decided to acquire the Effingham licence as well when it became available from Mary Ann.

By MESSRS. WHITE AND SONS

EFFINGHAM, four miles from Leatherhead and one from Bookham Railway Station.

Messrs. White and Sons

WILL Sell by Auction on the premises adjoining the Blacksmith's Shop, Effingham (under instructions from Mrs. Stovell, relinquishing business), on **MONDAY NEXT, APRIL 8TH, 1889**, at 1 for half-past 1 o'clock, the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** in the bedrooms and sitting-rooms; kitchen requisites, earthenware and useful miscellaneous items; a five-stop 'Mozart' harmonium, by Murdoch, a useful and active gray nag mare, saddles, harness, horse clothing, stable utensils, tools, etc.; a light and well-built spring cart, with double seats, sundry cart axles, springs and trade articles, firewood, faggots, manure, etc.

Catalogues of which may now be obtained at all the usual Inns in the neighbourhood, or of the **AUCTIONEERS, Dorking.** [3907]

Figure 4 Mary Ann Stovell auctioning her goods, from *Surrey Times and County Express*, 6 April 1889.

LICENSING BUSINESS.

The following transfers of licenses were granted:—
 Bricklayer's Arms, Dene-street, Dorking, from Wm. Newman Bull to **ALEXANDER MARDEN**; Sun Inn, Dorking, from Chas. Worsfold to **THOS. WM. WORSFOLD**; the Blacksmith's Arms, Effingham, from Thos. Carpenter to **GEO. ETHERIDGE**; the Surrey Yeoman, Dorking, from Thos. Penfold to **WM. CHAMLTON**; the Falkland Arms, Dorking, from Mary Louisa Reynolds to **MURRAY COLLYER**.

Figure 5 Licence transferred from Thomas Carpenter to George Etheridge, from *Sussex Express*, 9 September 1890.

The above-cited publication of 9 September 1890 is the earliest source found so far citing 'The Blacksmith's Arms' as the name of the Church Street beerhouse. It is tempting to think that this name had long been in use, but we can find no evidence for that. Even in Mary Ann's advertisement of April 1889 the auction was stated to take place not at 'The Blacksmith's Arms' (which name received no mention) but at 'the premises adjoining the Blacksmith's Shop, Effingham'.

Meanwhile, there had been some changes in the ownership of the house and the smithy, as William Poulter had died in Bookham on 23 November 1869 and been buried at St Nicolas on 29 November. Probate over his estate had been granted on 4 February 1870 to his executors, these being his son William (junior, born in 1827) and his friend William Balchin (born in 1824), a long-standing resident, carpenter and land owner of Effingham; Balchin had been living in Ruffinshaw (today's Church Cottages) just a stone's throw from the smithy. William Poulter's Will, made on 28 May 1866, directed that his widow Hannah was to have the use during her remaining lifetime of his household goods and furniture and that, after a few legacies and expenses had been paid, the rest of his estate would be used to generate funds for her benefit until her death, after which the residue would be shared between their children – six sons William (junior), James, Charles, John, Henry and Edward, and three married daughters Emma, Mary and Lucy; their shares would be equal except that John would receive £100 less and James £50 less than the other siblings on account of their having previously received money from their father 'for their advancement in life'. Hannah outlived William by only a few years. She died on 20 November 1872 and was buried at St Nicolas on 25 November. Her Will (transcribed in Appendix I) had been made on 16 February 1871 and probate over her estate had been granted on 1 May 1873 to William Balchin. It directed that her moneys, rents etc should be collected up and, after the payment of the usual expenses, the residue was to be shared out among her surviving five sons (Charles had died in 1869) and the three daughters; additionally, she bequeathed to her son John:

‘... my copyhold messuage with the Smithy orchard garden and premises appertaining thereto lying and being in the Manor of Little Bookham and situate in the Parish of Effingham now in the occupation of Thomas Stovell Smith upon the conditions that he my said son John Poulter shall pay to his brothers and sisters herein before mentioned the sum of thirty seven pounds each or in the case of the prior decease of either of his said brothers or sisters leaving lawful issue to the child or children of such deceased the like sum of thirty seven pounds the share to have been paid to his her or their deceased parent if living ...’



Figure 6 The Poulter family home, Woodcote in Eastwick Road, photographed in about 1870; on the carriage at the left can be seen the logo of William, who had died in 1869.

John had left the Poulter's family home in Bookham by the age of 18 and moved to Albury to become apprenticed to a blacksmith, and soon established his own business there as a blacksmith and wheelwright; by 1881 he was employing seven men and had raised a large family. One might have expected that after execution of his mother's Will in 1873 John would have straightforwardly inherited the Effingham smithy and cottage and perhaps sold them. However, this appears not to be the case, as an entry in the volume *Detailed Return of Fully-Licensed Houses & Beer Houses* for the Dorking Petty Sessional Division, February 1892, names 'The Blacksmith's Arms and records that its owner was 'Executors [sic] of H. Poulter, deceased'.

66	EFFINGHAM	Blacksmiths' Arms, Effingham	...	Yes	...	Yes	Executors of H. Poulter, deceased	Messrs. Moore & Co., Leatherhead	George Etheridge Yes
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Figure 7 Part of the entry for 'The Blacksmith's Arms in the *Detailed Return of Fully-Licensed Houses & Beer Houses*, 1892.

By then, twenty years had passed since Hannah's death, and yet the Effingham premises, bequeathed by her to John, still rested, it would seem, in Balchin's hands. Perhaps John had been unable or unwilling to raise enough money to pay his siblings in accordance with Hannah's wishes. On page 93 of her book [*The History of Effingham in Surrey*, 1973] O'Connor states, without citing her source, that

‘... in 1889 Mr John Polter [sic] leased “The Blacksmith's Arms” and the Smithy ... for 21 years’

We do not yet know how to interpret this remark. The above-mentioned *Detailed Return* for 1892 recorded that The Blacksmith's Arms was at that time held under lease by 'Messrs Moore & Co, Leatherhead' (who had built the Swan Brewery to whom the beerhouse was tied, obliging it to purchase beer from them) and that the licensee was George Etheridge. Perhaps John had leased it to the brewery in 1889.

It was recorded also that the house had been licensed prior to the 1869 Act, that it offered no accommodation or stabling, that it stood 100 yards from The Plough Inn and that 'the character of the persons frequenting' it was 'working men'.

The premises were acquired at some date prior to 1903 by the Friary Brewery Company. By then the licensee had changed yet again. George Etheridge had departed in about 1895, and taken his family to live in Bromley, Kent where he set up in business as a chimney sweep. His successor at The Blacksmith's Arms was a blacksmith Arthur Edward Dilley with his wife Clara (née Clapshaw). His family had moved to Bookham in the 1880s and taken up residence in one of the two attractive 16thC Slinfold Cottages on Lower Road, not far from the intersection with the High Street. Dilley first appears in Effingham's Electoral Registers in 1896, residing at The Blacksmith's Arms, and at the time of the 1901 Census he and Clara had two children with them there together with a young servant employed as their barmaid; Dilley gave his occupation as engineering smith.

The Blacksmith's Arms – its demise as a beerhouse

Significant change for this part of Effingham, at the northern end of the main village, was looming by early 1903. Dilley had made efforts to improve his establishment's facilities, as evidenced in the volume *Detailed Return of Fully-Licensed Houses & Beer Houses* for the Dorking Petty Sessional Division, December 1903.

64	EFFINGHAM	Plough, Effingham	...	Yes	...	...	Yes	...	27	0	Fk. A. Crooke, Guildford	Fk. A. Spencer. Yes
65	..	Blacksmith's Arms, Effingham	...	Yes	...	...	Yes	...	14	10	Friary Brewery Co., Guildford	Arthur E. Dilley. Yes
39	EFFINGHAM	Prince Blucher, Effingham	Yes	...	...	...	...	...	45	0	C. E. Lambert, Esq., Effingham	Sydney H. Challis. Yes

Figure 8 Parts of the entries for The Plough Inn, The Blacksmith's Arms and The Prince Blücher in the *Detailed Return of Fully-Licensed Houses & Beer Houses*, 1903.

In the return for The Blacksmith's Arms (as probably recorded in early 1903 or even a little before) it was noted that the house now had three bedrooms available as public accommodation together with stabling for one horse. The owner was entered as the Friary Brewery Company of Guildford and Dilley as the licensee residing on the premises. Strangely, the house was now deemed to be situated only 60 yards from The Plough Inn. In the 'Remarks' column it was stated that 'This licence will be surrendered when the new Hotel at Effingham is completed'. The context of this remark had been made apparent in the Press [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 7 February 1903] when a letter from solicitor Arthur Bird of The Grange in Bookham had been read out at a meeting of the Dorking Rural District Council on 5 February. Bird's interest was in getting Effingham's roads widened, in two places: outside the school on Lower Road and outside The Prince Blücher on the Guildford Road. His motive was to improve public safety. He had already heard of the Council's desire to widen the road outside the school and he now urged the Council to arrange with Charles Edward Lambert, tenant of the Manor House (Effingham House), to have the Blücher – which Lambert had 'recently purchased' – pulled down. Council member Rev Ernest Frederic Bayly, the Vicar of Effingham, responded that 'there was not the slightest idea on the part of Mr Lambert of pulling down the Blücher'. The Council's Surveyor stated that he had 'received a plan for a new hotel, which would be almost opposite the schools at the point where the road to Effingham Junction Station began'. He added that the Friary Brewery Company 'were doing away with an old house [referring to The Blacksmith's Arms] and proposed to give nearly as much space as there was already, making it nearly 24ft wide'.

A longer article on this matter followed in *The Surrey Advertiser* on 18 February 1903, reporting the deliberations at the Dorking Licensing Sessions on 14 February. The principal point was that the Friary Brewery Company was offering to surrender three licences, one in Dorking and two in Effingham, in exchange for being granted a full licence for a new hotel which they proposed to have built on the eastern side of The Street on Plot 248, that is, on the land belonging to The Blacksmith's Arms; the latter's beerhouse licence would be surrendered as also would the full licence held for The Prince Blücher. Evidently it was in Friary's power to surrender the latter licence, implying that the company was at that time the Blücher's licensee, although in the above-mentioned *Detailed Return* ... for 1903 its licensee was recorded as 'Sydney H' [Sidney Herbert] Challis; perhaps the licence had been transferred from him to Friary. The Chairman of the Bench said that a provisional full licence for the proposed new hotel would be granted subject to progressing the offered surrenders.

The Bench had also discussed, in tandem with this matter, an application for a full licence submitted by the licensee of The Plough Inn, Frederick Arthur Spencer. Spencer's barrister had claimed that the building of the new hotel would be very injurious to Spencer's business and that Friary's offer to surrender several licences had no great merit, especially as (so he claimed) the Blücher had changed hands at least four times in the past 8-10 years and was now doing virtually no trade at all. Dilley contended that in summer there was a high demand, currently unsatisfiable, for accommodation from persons wishing to stay at or pass through the village. He described The Plough dismissively, saying that it 'was in a bye-road and led to a blank wall, though there was a continuing footpath to Horsley'. Also, the proposal for the new hotel would be accompanied by a widening of the road next to the school. The latter point was particularly significant for the Bench, as was the welcome prospect of a reduction in the village's licences. Spencer's objections, as well as those of others, were reported at length in another article reporting on this same Session published by the *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser* on 21 February. The Bench was unmoved by these expressions of opposition and moreover refused Spencer's application for a full licence.

At a further Licensing Session in March, Friary's barrister was able to report [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 14 March 1903] that the promised surrenders would indeed come into effect, whereupon the Bench – being presented with no further statements of opposition – confirmed their granting of the provisional licence for the new hotel. The surrender of the licence for The Blacksmith's Arms would bring its business as a beerhouse to an end and thereafter its function would be wholly residential for many decades to come. Up at the crossroads the business of the Blücher as a public house and meeting venue would similarly meet its end, after centuries of service to the community.

By early January 1904 the new hotel had been built, as reported in the *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser* on 23 January. At the Dorking Petty Sessions it was confirmed that the offered surrenders had been completed and that the new premises had been built in accordance with the plans submitted and had received the sanction of the Council's Surveyor. On this basis the Bench now made the new hotel's licence permanent. The new hotel was named The Blücher Hotel and retained this name until 1917, when anti-German sentiment motivated its renaming as The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel; recently it has undergone a further renaming, now being called The Queen Stage. A fuller narrative about this hotel and its operation over more than 120 years will be laid out in a future ELHG article.

THE NEW HOTEL.—At the Dorking Petty Sessions, on Saturday, Mr. Percy St. Gerrans, on behalf of the Friary Brewery Company, applied under Section 22 of the Licensing Act of 1874 for the confirmation of the provisional license granted on the last occasion for an hotel at Effingham. The Bench, he said, would remember that the application was founded upon the willingness then expressed, and made a condition of the provisional grant, that the licenses of the Prince Blücher, a fully licensed house at Effingham, and the Rose and Crown, West-street, Dorking, should be surrendered, as well, of course, as the beerhouse license of the Blacksmiths' Arms, upon the site of which the new hotel had now been erected. The premises had been built in accordance with the plans approved by the Bench, and they had received the sanction of the County Surveyor. They had now in place of the three previous licensed houses one which he ventured to think would prove a great advantage to the locality, and would meet all the requirements of the district. Therefore he asked the Bench to grant the permanent license to the hotel, which was to be called the Blücher Hotel.—The application was granted.

Figure 9 Granting of a permanent licence to the new Blücher Hotel following surrender of other licences including that of The Blacksmith's Arms; *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 23 January 1904.

On 27 January 1904 the whole of the furniture and effects from The Prince Blücher were put to auction on the instructions of Mr Lambert, with a catalogue provided by Mr Dilley [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 15 January 1904]. ELHG's short article about the history of the Blücher in the magazine *Roundabout Effingham* [Issue No 2, September 2019] was in error in stating that the premises were also offered for sale. On the contrary, the old Blücher remained in Mr Lambert's hands and was made into a residence of fourteen rooms for his gardeners. It did not leave his estate until after his widow's death in 1917, when the Manor House and other properties were sold off. The Blücher has a very long and rich history which will likewise be documented in a full article by ELHG in due course.

Forge House and smithy during the first half of the 20th century

Mr Dilley, having obtained his licence for the new Blücher Hotel, promptly moved into it as its landlord in early 1904 and had his name painted on its sign. His previous abode at the cottage (the former Blacksmith's Arms) became occupied by mid-1904 by another blacksmith, Henry George Woods. We know this because the admission register of Effingham's National School records the date on which his child Arthur Woods was admitted there, namely 6 June 1904, his address given as The Forge. This is the name by which the cottage would be known until the early 1930s, since when it has generally been called Forge House (or, in a few sources, such as the 1911 Census, Forge Cottage). Henry George had been born in the Highfield area of Southampton in 1861 and married there in 1887 to Elizabeth Ann (née) White.

After marrying they settled in Eastbourne where they produced children – Nellie, Bessie, Minnie, Henry (junior) and Arthur. At the time of the 1901 Census they were living at 4, Stock's Bank Cottages in Eastbourne, Henry George being described as a shoeing smith. Both his sons Henry (junior) and Arthur became blacksmiths, although in 1911 the former (and older) boy was working as a motor cleaner.



Figure 10a Mr Dilley's new hotel sign; c1904-05.



Figure 10b The newly-built Blücher Hotel at the lower end of The Street, bearing Mr Dilley's sign, on a Francis Frith postcard: the earliest instance of this postcard held by ELHG was franked on 30 October 1905.

A few years later, with the First World War underway, Henry (junior) enlisted at age 20 for service in the Army for the duration of the War and was then described as a blacksmith. By 1918 he was serving in Bangalore and then in Salonika. His service record papers have survived (among the 'burnt records') but are sparse and only partially legible; however, it appears from them that he left the Army in 1919. His whereabouts thereafter are unknown until he appears with his parents at Forge House in the Electoral Register for 1926. Henry George and Elizabeth continued at Forge House until about 1931 but then moved back to Eastbourne to live with their married daughter Minnie. Minnie had married at St Lawrence on 29 October 1918 to Louis Henry Cox. (His sister Laura Annie Cox had married in 1908 to become Mrs Essam who in 1970 would be interviewed and tape-recorded by Monica O'Connor.)

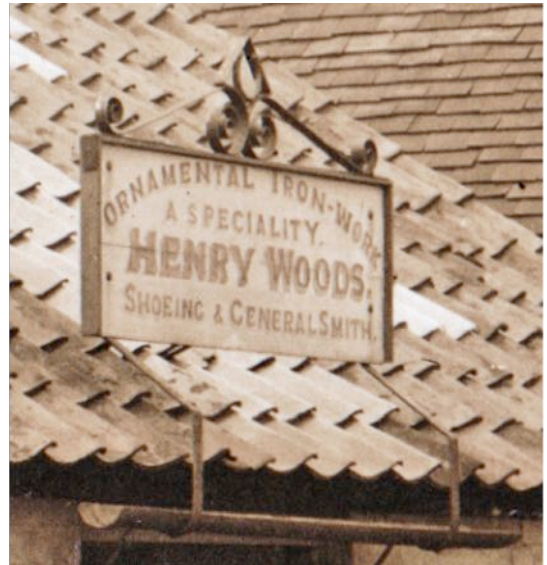


Figure 11a Henry George Woods' sign.



Figure 11b The smithy and Forge House in Church Street, the man shoeing the horse being almost certainly Henry George Woods; at far right is a sign pointing to The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel, the new name assigned in 1917 to The Blücher Hotel; the photograph was therefore taken in the period 1917-31.

Henry George died aged '70' on 2 December 1931 at the Brighton County Mental Hospital. His death certificate [GRO Ref: Lewes 2b 216, 1931 (Q4)] stated that he had been living at 7, Percival Road in Eastbourne and gave his occupation as a master general and shoeing smith. The cause of death was certified as arteriosclerosis and myocardial degeneration; no clue was given as to why he was in a mental hospital. The informant was his son-in-law Ephraim Thomas Saunders who had married his daughter Bessie at St Lawrence, Effingham on 15 June 1912; Bessie and Ephraim were living at the house named Sunnymede in Magham Down near Hailsham when Henry George died.

We should note *en passant* that the 'Henry Woods' who was buried aged '73' in Effingham at St Lawrence on 23 June 1936 and who had been living briefly in Mount Pleasant, was not related to the family of Henry George, this having been established clearly from his death certificate and other sources.

Henry George's widow Elizabeth was still at the Percival Road address with Minnie at the time of the 1939 National Register. Although that remained her place of abode, she died on 17 August 1940 at Bessie's

home Sunnymede, administration of her estate being granted on 14 October to her daughter Nellie. Nellie, who had signed as a witness on the wedding certificates of both her sisters, remained unmarried and died in Eastbourne in late 1947 aged '59'.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Registers from 1929 onwards show Henry (junior) no longer at Forge House but at 7, Victory Cottages on the Guildford Road in the company of a woman Eva 'Woods' who was eight years older than him. Her maiden name is unknown and we can find no evidence of them having married.



Figure 12 (a) left – Forge House; (b) right – Arthur Archibald Stovell (at right) outside the smithy with blacksmith Henry (junior) Woods; both views taken probably in the 1930s.

The 1939 National Register finds them still at 7, Victory Cottages, both purporting to be married, his occupation given as master blacksmith and hers as housewife; her date of birth was entered as 29 January 1887. There were no children. Our assumption is that Henry (junior) rented, or held a lease upon, the smithy in Church Street to use as his workplace from the late 1920s until his retirement. He and Eva remained at 7, Victory Cottages until a few years after the War and then moved in about 1950-51 to 19, Norwood Close. He died in 1972 [GRO Ref: Surrey SW 5g 1158, 1972 (Q2)] and she in 1975 [GRO Ref: Surrey Mid E 17 0066, 1975 (Q3)].

Returning now to the matter of ownership of Forge House and the smithy, we do not know with certainty how long that was retained by the Friary Brewery Company after 1903. The title (Title No SY699696) to these premises, as registered in February 1959 at the Land Registry, gives the owners of the freehold as Heritage Trustees Limited (now seemingly dissolved or renamed) and Martin Lionel Watson at a single address in Ampthill, Bedfordshire. It includes details of a covenant dated 20 July 1906 made between the Friary brewery (as Vendors) and Arthur Edward Dilley (as Purchaser). It has three paragraphs whereby Dilley was (1) prohibited from allowing the windows of any building, including sheds, on the site to overlook the new Blücher Hotel, (2) prohibited from allowing alcohol to be stored in any buildings on the site and from operating an offensive trade or a livery stable there, whilst not prohibiting the business of a blacksmith, and (3) to have no right of drainage over the adjoining property of the Vendors.

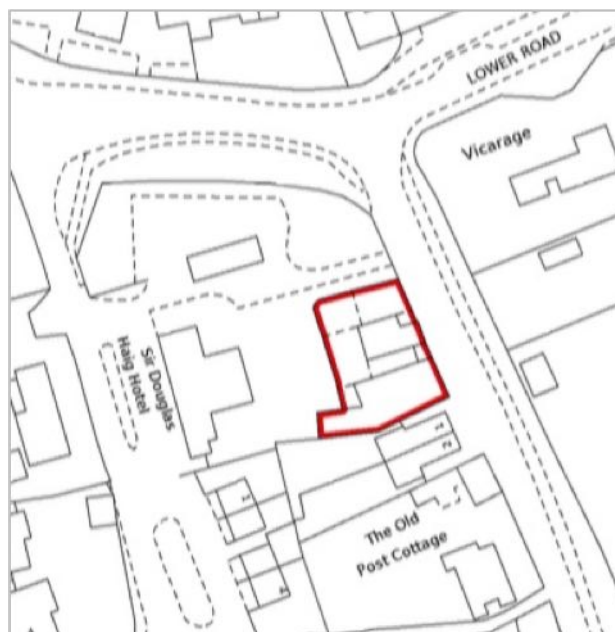


Figure 13 Land Registry's plan showing the land on which the smithy and Forge House stood.

From this it appears that in 1906 Dilley had purchased from Friary at least the smithy and possibly also the cottage and all the other hereditaments on the site. However this may be, Dilley did not remain long in Effingham. In late 1905, via the Dorking Petty Sessions, he transferred the licence of The Blücher Hotel to Charles William Dodman [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 4 December 1905], soon afterwards moving out of it and returning to his old home Slinfold Cottages in Bookham, at which address he then remained, working as a blacksmith on his own account, until his death in April 1917. The nature and status of Dilley's interjection into the ownership of the Church Street site remains unclear.

What is certain is that the smithy and the cottage became part of the estate of George Craig Saunders Pauling, owner of The Lodge. Mr Pauling

died in early 1919, and so that is the latest year in which he could have acquired those premises. We know that they came into his ownership because a newspaper advertisement [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 23 September 1922] announced that, by direction of his widow 'Mrs Booth', The Lodge and other Effingham properties remaining in the estate were to be sold by auction on 3 October – these other properties were stated to include the Post Office (in Church Street) and the smithy.

George's widow Dolores ('Lola') López (née Guibara) had remarried in Effingham to Captain Frederick Charles Booth VC on 12 April 1921 at Our Lady of Sorrows, the Catholic church on Lower Road that had been built by George eight years previously. Not long after remarrying, Dolores and Booth decided to make their principal home in Kensington at 34, Phillimore Gardens near Holland Park, and were already living there in October 1922 when The Lodge estate was put to auction. However, The Lodge itself went unsold at this time, although some of the other estate properties may have found purchasers. It was not until May 1928 that Dolores was able to sell The Lodge, with 14 acres of land, to the Corporation of the Royal School for the Blind. By then her marriage to Booth had become a highly troubled one, the unsavoury details of which had been extensively articulated in the Press.

Three years after selling The Lodge, Dolores together with George's other trustees – his former friend John Scott and the Public Trustee – put up some of the estate's remaining properties in Effingham for sale by auction at The New Bull Hotel in Leatherhead on 30 June 1931 [*The Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 26 June 1931]. These were Fir Tree Cottage on Chapel Hill and, in Church Street, Forge House, the smithy, the neighbouring pair of semi-detached cottages and the Post Office. On 19 July the same newspaper reported that all these had been sold.

Forge House and the smithy had been occupied, according to the advertisement, on a lease expiring on 24 June and we may reasonably conjecture that this lease had been held by Henry George Woods and that its approaching expiration had played a part in his moving from Effingham to Eastbourne.

DORKING.
PETTY SESSIONS.

SATURDAY.—Before Messrs. A. C. Powell (chairman), R. Barclay, R. C. Mortimer, J. Carr Saunders, J. W. Arbuthnot, L. Salomons, H. C. Lee Steere, F. de la Garde Grissell, and L. Pledge.

LICENSES TRANSFERRED.
Applications were granted for the transfer of the licenses of the Blücher Hotel, Effingham, from Mr. Dilley to Mr. C. W. Dodman; the Jolly Farmer, Capel, to Mr. C. E. Christian; the Abinger Arms, Abinger, to Mrs. Louisa Rich; and the Ram Inn, High-street, Dorking, to Mr. F. W. Meadows.

Figure 14 Transfer of the licence from Mr Dilley to Mr Dodman in late 1905.

By direction of Mrs. Booth.
SURREY.
About one mile from Bookham Station, one and a-half miles from Effingham Station, three and a-half miles from Leatherhead, and eight miles from the County Town of Guildford.

THE FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL ESTATE,
known as
THE LODGE, EFFINGHAM,
in one of the prettiest parts of the country, and comprising

A FINELY-EQUIPPED MANSION,
which contains two halls, four reception-rooms, billiard-room, conservatory, private chapel and sacristy, 21 bed and dressing-rooms, day and night nurseries, governess's room, tower-room, five bathrooms, and offices.

Company's gas, water, and electric light.
Central heating.
Two Garages, Stabling, Swimming Bath.
Two Lodge Entrances. Farmery.
Grounds and Gardens include Pleasure and Terraced Lawns, Dutch and Rock Garden, Kitchen Garden and Glasshouses.

PARK-LIKE LANDS.
VALUABLE VILLAGE PROPERTIES,
including the Post-office and Smithy.
The whole covers an area of about
74 ACRES.

To be offered for Sale by Auction, as a whole or in nine lots by Messrs.
K**NIGHT, FRANK AND RUTLEY,**
in the Hanover Square Estate Room, on
THURSDAY, 5th OCTOBER, 1922,
at 2.30 p.m. (unless previously sold privately).
Solicitor: P. R. CHRISTIE, Esq., 6, Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2.
Auctioneers: Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. 17864

Figure 15 The Lodge advertised for sale in 1922.

Forge House now became occupied by the family of Arthur Archibald Stovell. His daughter Winifred Annie stated, during ELHG's recorded interview with her in 2011, that 'Eventually Mum and Dad bought the old forge that used to be a pub.' Arthur perhaps felt a strong sense of *déjà vu* upon reinhabiting the house in which he had been born and raised. Taking Winifred's assertion at face value, it appears that the purchaser of the house in the Pauling trustees' 1931 sale had been her father. Arthur first appears at Forge House in the Electoral Registers in 1933, together with his wife Gertrude and Winifred. In the following year Winifred moved out of the house after marrying George Hall. The registers show Arthur and Gertrude remaining there up to 1951, in which year Gertrude died, after which Arthur remained until about 1953. The bellows from the old forge were sold by him to Guildford Museum for £1 in September 1954 and remain there to this day. After 1953 the registers show him living at 17, Strathcona Avenue with Winifred, now widowed (George had died of tuberculosis in 1943) until the 1960s, when they moved to a council house in Norwood Road. Arthur died in 1966 and was interred with Gertrude at St Lawrence.

We surmise that, during his time at Forge House, Arthur had made the smithy available, perhaps under some lease or rental agreement, to Henry (junior) Woods to enable the latter to continue working there as a blacksmith. If so, this arrangement probably came to an end when Arthur left Forge House, at which time Henry (junior) was aged close to 60 – he may have retired at that point. He died in 1972 and Eva in 1975.



Figure 17 Arthur Archibald Stovell, 1940s/50s.

By order of the Trustees of the late G. C. S. Pauling, Esq.

EFFINGHAM.

Small Freeholds for Occupation or Investment.

FIR TREE COTTAGE.
Pleasant Position. Detached Residence. Six Rooms. Bath. Good Outbuildings. Lean-to suitable for Garage. Large Garden. Let at £26 p.a.

POST OFFICE PREMISES.
Detached Cottage Residence. Brick and Timber Workshops. Garden. Let at the low rental of £25 4s. per annum.

NO. 2, CHURCH STREET.
Cottage of 6 Rooms and Scullery, producing a gross rental of £26 p.a.

NO. 3, CHURCH STREET.
Similar Cottage, adjoining, producing a gross rental of £20 16s. p.a.

FORGE HOUSE AND SMITHY.
Old World Cottage. Garden and Smithy, at present occupied on lease expiring 24th June, 1931. To be Sold by Auction, in Five Lots, by Messrs.

ARNOLD AND SON.

At THE NEW BULL HOTEL, LEATHERHEAD, on 30th JUNE, 1931, at 4 p.m. Particulars from the Solicitor, P. R. Christie, Esq., 6, Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2, or the Auctioneers' Leatherhead Office. db235

Figure 16 Freeholds advertised for sale in 1931.



Figure 18 The bellows from the smithy, now in Guildford Museum having being donated by Arthur in 1954.

Forge House and smithy transformed for new business use

Lionel William John Watson (the father of the above-mentioned Martin Lionel Watson) became the owner of Forge House and the smithy when, or soon after, Mr Stovell had vacated it. At that time Lionel was living with his wife Teresa (née Elson), whom he had married in 1953, at 30, Norwood Road where the Electoral Registers show him during 1954-57. During 1958-59 the registers show Lionel and Teresa at 40, Northcote Crescent in West Horsley. By early 1954, however, he had already established a garden contracting company, Mid-Surrey Garden Co, at the Church Street smithy [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 6 February 1954].

MID-Surrey Garden Co., Effingham;
General Garden Contractors, including tree work of all descriptions and log sawing on site. Prompt, personal attention.—Phone Bookham 2714.

Figure 19 Early advertisement for the new Mid-Surrey Garden Co, in *The Surrey Advertiser*, 6 February 1954.



Clear leaves the EASY way
with the
ALLEN SWEEPER

£13-10-0
Carriage Paid.
Supplied in stout carton completely erected ready for use.

To empty, turn machine over as shown.

When not in use can be hung flat against a wall.

WHEN autumn leaves fall and litter the garden, clearing them is a long and strenuous job, unless you use an Allen Sweeper. This simple machine with its fast revolving brush, and large capacity container, collects leaves and litter at walking speed and solves the leaf clearing problem once and for all. It is so easy to use, strongly built and has nothing to go wrong.

Illustrated leaflet on request.

Order Yours Now!

For free demonstration phone

MID-SURREY GARDEN CO.
EFFINGHAM
BOOKHAM 2714

Figure 20 Allen sweeper advertised by Mid-Surrey Garden Co, in the *Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 5 November 1954.



Figure 21a The Mid-Surrey Garden Co in 1954, its sign saying 'Landscape & Garden Specialists Sales Service Hire of all Machines & Appliances'.



Figure 21b (close-up, left to right) Jack Elson, Teresa (née Elson) and Ron Whiteman, with baby Catherine.



Figure 22 Inside the old forge in 1954; the company sold garden tools, fertilizer, seeds and bedding plants; the floor, which remained in its original state consisted of wooden blocks.



Figure 23 The company displaying its wares on the King George V Playing Fields in the summer of 1956; Lionel Watson seated at the table.

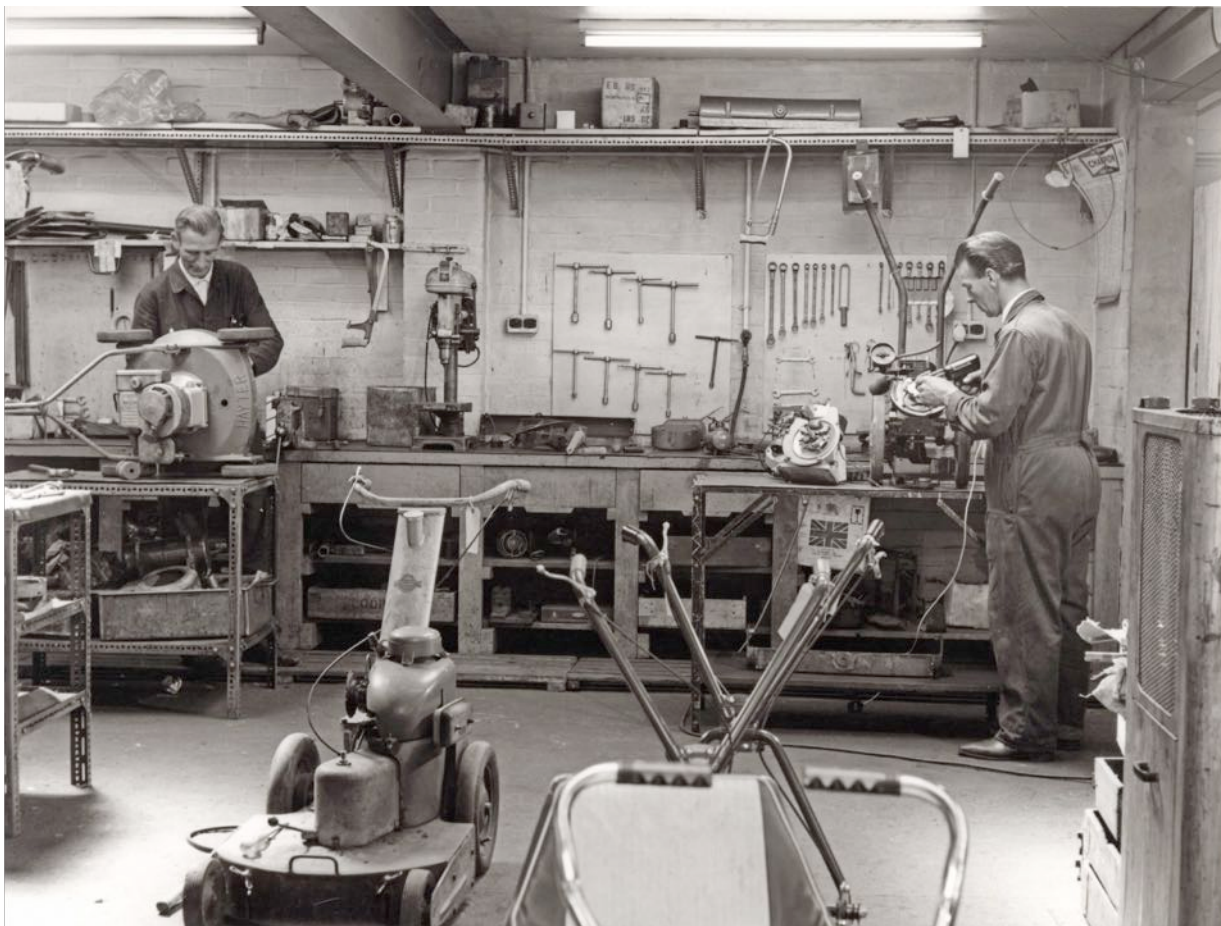


Figure 24 Jim Nunn and Ken Broomfield in the old forge workshop; about 1958.

In early August 1959 Mid-Surrey Garden Co submitted plans to Guildford Rural District Council showing proposed alterations to the site, primarily the replacement of Forge House by a new building to accommodate stores, showroom and offices. The plans are somewhat primitive by modern standards and are not entirely clear. They are shown in Appendix II.

The company staged a demonstration of its Shay power gardening machines at Effingham's King George V Playing Fields at the charity's annual fair on 12 September 1959. The fair was discussed briefly in a meeting of the charity's Committee of Management held a few weeks afterwards on 16 October, when it was noted that the fair 'had been very successful considering it was held on a reduced scale compared with other years'.

HOWARD ROTAVATOR.

A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF
**SHAY POWER
GARDENING MACHINES**

WILL BE HELD AT THE
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS
ON
SATURDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER, 1959
Admission and Car Park Free
ALL ARE WELCOME

•
Mid-Surrey Garden Co.
THE OLD FORGE, CHURCH STREET
EFFINGHAM
Phone: BOOKHAM 3543

Figure 25 Advertising a demonstration at the King George V Playing Fields; *The Surrey Advertiser*, 5 September 1959.



Figure 26 The company's Ford 10 van and Morris J2 pickup; about 1959-60.



Figure 27 The poor state of Forge House as photographed by D Yellan on 2 June 1959.



Figure 28 Another view of Forge House by D Yellan on 2 June 1959.



Figure 29 Forge House photographed for Historic England on 26 August 1959.



Figure 30 John Matthews (left) and Teresa Watson; perhaps late 1950s or early 1960s.

From 1960 the Electoral Registers associate Lionel and Teresa with Forge House but annotated with the code LCR, signifying that they were not entitled to vote from that address in Parliamentary, County Council or Rural District Council elections; they meanwhile continued to reside in Northcote Crescent.



Figure 31 Lionel Watson next to Forge House; about 1960.



Figure 32 Lionel Watson (left) and Jack Elson outside the smithy; about 1960.

By 1960 Forge House was in a ruinous state and was finally demolished in May 1962, being replaced by a new building – constructed, according to Lionel, by Arthur William ('Bill') Biles – to serve as the company office. The former gap between the smithy and Forge House was bridged by a roofed passage.



Figure 33 Stan Rowlett and John Wilson outside the smithy after the rebuilding of Forge House; 1960s.

The Mid-Surrey Garden Company became a thriving business for many years, its attractive signboard on the roof of the smithy replacing the former one for Henry George Woods. It advertised extensively in the newspapers throughout the period 1954-71, the premises being referred to as the Mid-Surrey Garden Centre. The firm offered sale, hire and exchange of many kinds of machine, including cultivators, mowers, rollers, scythes, hedgecutters, leaf sweepers, chain saws, concrete mixers, vibrollers, pumps, power barrows and mini-tractors. Services included garden design and construction of lawns, drives, walls, rockeries and pools as well as land clearance, tree work and log sawing.

**MID-SURREY
GARDEN CENTRE
LTD.**

Church Street, Effingham

Phone BOOKHAM 4747

**SALES, SERVICE AND
HIRE OF**

**MOWERS, CULTIVATORS, SCYTHES,
PUMPS
CHAIN SAWS, CONCRETE MIXERS,
DUMPERS, HEDGE TRIMMERS, Etc.**

**Distributors and Service Agents
for leading makes**

SPARES, NEW & USED MACHINES

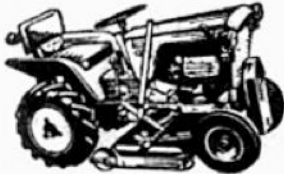
PART EXCHANGES - TERMS
Free Demonstrations

Figure 34 *Essex New and Mail*, 13 August 1965.

**Mid-Surrey Garden
Centre**

CHURCH STREET, EFFINGHAM

**Sales Service and Hire of Cultivators, Mowers,
Scythes, Hedgecutters, Chain Saws, Concrete
Mixers, Vibrollers, Pumps, Power Barrows,
Mini-Tractors, etc.**



**Surrey's Mini-Garden Tractor Specialists,
Distributors and Service Agents
for ALL Leading Makes**

**COMPREHENSIVE STOCKS OF NEW AND USED
MACHINES, SPARES AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT**

Part Exchange Terms Tel. BOOKHAM 3411

Figure 35 *The Surrey Advertiser*, 3 October 1969.



Figure 36 The company preparing for the Surrey County Show to be held in Stoke Park, Guildford on 29 May 1966.

From 1971 onwards the company was rebranded or reformulated as Multipower Equipment Limited, and a new Multipower signboard on the smithy's roof replaced the former Mid-Surrey Garden one.

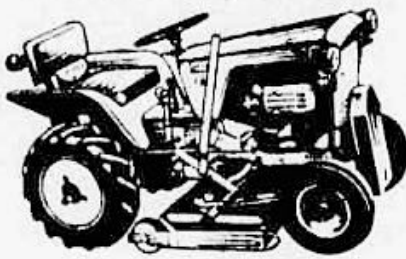


Figure 37 The smithy now bearing a Multipower sign; photographed probably in the early 1970s.

In its new guise the company placed particular emphasis in its numerous newspaper advertisements upon its status as mini-tractor specialists.

MULTIPOWER EQUIPMENT

CHURCH STREET - EFFINGHAM



THE MINI-TRACTOR SPECIALISTS

Cultivators - Mowers - Scythes
Lawn-care Equipment - Hedge Cutters
Chain Saws - Pumps - Rollers
Mixers - Power Barrows - Space Heaters
Industrial Cleaners - etc.

★ HIRE	★ SALES	★ SERVICE
	★ SPARES	★ PART EXCHANGES

Tel. Bookham 3411

Figure 38 Advertising as Multipower in *Esher New and Mail*, 23 September 1971.

In 1986 the company was appointed as a charter member of the Wheelhorse UK Dealer Council and Lionel was photographed being presented with the certificate by the president of Wheelhorse Products, an important American manufacturer of lawn and garden tractors [*Leatherhead Advertiser*, 15 May 1986].



Figure 39 Award of charter membership, *The Leatherhead Advertiser*, 15 May 1986.

In 1995 Multipower Equipment became insolvent [*The Leatherhead Advertiser*, 8 February 1995] and was dissolved.

MULTIPOWER EQUIPMENT LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
 pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a **MEETING** of the **CREDITORS** of the above-named company will be held at: **Cork Gully, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7PL** on **20 February 1995** at **11.00 am** for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
 A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge between **10.00 am and 5.00 pm** at: **26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7PL** on **16 February 1995** and **17 February 1995**.
DATED - 30 January 1995
By order of the Board
Signature
Director

Figure 40 Insolvency of Multipower, *The Leatherhead Advertiser*, 8 February 1995.

The company was rebranded as MPS Garden and Estate Machinery Ltd under the management of David Charles Belsham and Adrian Silvey [*Leatherhead Advertiser*, 26 April 1995]. This was dissolved in turn in 2011 and replaced by the company as it operates today, Garden Solutions (Surrey) Limited, incorporated on 22 January 2010 and trading under the name MPS Garden Machinery. The company currently holds a lease on the premises, which remain in the ownership of the Watson family.

MULTIPOWER Equipment, a well known and long established family garden equipment company based for over 40 years in Church Street, Effingham has been re-launched. Brothers-in-law, David Belsham and Adrian Silvey, both experienced local garden contractors, have rebranded the company and called it **MPS Garden and Estate Machinery Ltd.**

The new company will provide a complete range of services:

- The sale of all leading makes of garden and estate machinery
- A superb after sales service located in a specialised repair and servicing workshop
- The most comprehensive spare parts department in the area
- A small tool hire service aimed at both the garden contractor and domestic market.

Also involved in the MPS venture will be David and Adrian's father-in-law Fred Tutt, mother-in-law Gill and wives Rachel and Emma, who all have specialised sales, marketing and accounts skills and experience to support

the new company.

David Belsham believes that well

run family firms ensure a real commitment to customer service, which is MPS' number one objective to achieve success.

The launch of MPS will also mean that the Toro Wheelhorse range of lawn tractors, ride-ons and pedestrian mowers will continue a 30 year relationship with the many new and existing customers in Surrey.

Adrian Silvey, who will run the MPS business day to day, says "Whilst we aim to supply any of the leading makes of equipment, our core product will be Toro Wheelhorse who have been in business for over 80 years.

They have a quality

image amongst our discerning customers and are at the forefront of lawn care development with their range of environmentally friendly recycling machines."

Accountant and fellow director Ray Lamb says "The launch of MPS has attracted the interest of a number of businessmen as financial backers, and we look forward to being an investment led company which will soon be well established again in the Surrey area."

For more information contact: Adrian Silvey, Operations Director, MPS Garden & Estate Machinery Ltd., The Old Forge, Church Street, Effingham, Surrey KT 24 5LY.

Telephone: 01372 453411 or Fax: 01372 451818.

NOW OPEN Under New Ownership



**GARDEN AND ESTATE
MACHINERY SPECIALISTS**

SALES - SERVICE - HIRE - SPARES

Toro Wheelhorse main dealer
All leading makes supplied & serviced

Collection and Delivery
Free consultancy

for a fast, efficient and professional
service call:

MPS Garden & Estate Machinery Ltd
The Old Forge, Church Street, Effingham, Surrey KT4 5LY

01372 453411

Under New Ownership NOW OPEN

Figure 41 MPS established, *The Leatherhead Advertiser*, 27 April 1995.
(Segments of this article have been rearranged on this page to assist formatting.)



Figure 42 MPS premises as currently displayed on the company website.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1: adapted by C J Hogger from the 1842 Tithe Map of Effingham
 Figure 2: from Historic England, Lesser Secular Monuments, File Ref: BF035368
 Figures 3, 4, 9, 14-16, 19, 20, 25, 34, 35, 38-41 by kind permission of Reach plc / Mirrorpix
 Figure 5: British Newspaper Archive, © The British Library Board
 Figure 6: from *The story of two villages – Great and Little Bookham*, S E D Fortescue, 1975
 Figures 7, 8: from *Ancestry*
 Figures 10, 11: Mary Rice-Oxley Postcard Collection, Album 3
 Figures 12, 17: from the late Winifred Annie (née Stovell) Hall
 Figure 13: from the Land Registry
 Figure 18: from Guildford Museum
 Figures 21-24, 26, 30-33, 36: from Lionel William John Watson
 Figures 27, 28: Surrey History Centre, Refs: CC1101/3/55/1-2
 Figure 29: from Historic England, Image Ref: MLM 1674
 Figure 37: Mary Rice-Oxley Slide Collection: Slide No. 346
 Figure 42: from the MPS website (<https://mpsgardenmachinery.co.uk/>)
 Figures 43, 44: from Guildford Borough Council, Service Delivery Directorate

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Historic England for providing us with copies of their photograph and building record of Forge House. As ever, we thank Reach plc/Mirrorpix for permission to reproduce many articles from the scans of their newspapers in the British Newspaper Archive. We thank Sarah Leary, Collections Manager of the Guildford Heritage Service, Guildford Borough Council for photographing for us the bellows from the old smithy. We are indebted to Susan Morris for much useful input enabling improvement of this article, including conveying to us copies of 1959 plans held by Guildford Borough Council. Finally we are especially grateful to the late Lionel Watson for making his many excellent photographs of the smithy and Forge House available for copying.

APPENDIX I

Will of Hannah (née Chippen) Poulter, made in 1871 and proved in 1873

This is the last Will and Testament of Mrs Hannah Poulter of Great Bookham in the County of Surrey widow.

I Hannah Poulter of Great Bookham aforesaid do hereby make and ordain this as my last Will and Testament in form and manner following that is to say I leave my body after my decease to be decently interred at the discretion of my executor

I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint Mr William Balchin of Effingham in the said County of Surrey Carpenter whole and sole Executor of and to this my Will and I do hereby give to him my said executor for and in consideration of his acceptance and his charge of the trust I have hereby imposed on him the sum of two pounds ten shillings

I do hereby devise and give to him my said executor all and every the ready monies or securities for money I may have in my possession at the time of my decease and also all and every the rents and other ones then owing and coming to me upon trust for him my said executor to receive and collect together the same and within six calendar months from and after the date of my decease to make full payment and discharge of all and every my funeral and testamentary costs and charges and also full payment of all my just debts together with reservation and repayment to himself of my aforementioned bequest and of all reasonable costs charges & expenses incurred by him in the prosecution and discharge of his said executorship and trust and to divide the residue of the monies then remaining in his hands amongst my children namely my sons William Poulter James Poulter John Poulter Henry Poulter and Edward Poulter and my daughters Emma Crockford wife of William Crockford Mary Wyatt wife of Charles Wyatt and Lucy Standingford wife of Stephen Standingford equally share and share alike but in case of the decease of either of the aforesaid before such distribution of the residue may be made then the share of such deceased shall fall to the survivors unless he she or they the said deceased shall have left lawful issue in which case the child or children of such deceased shall be entitled to his her or their deceased parents share

I do hereby give and bequeath unto my son John Poulter now or late of Albury in the County of Surrey Smith all and every that my copyhold messuage with the Smithy orchard garden and premises appertaining thereto lying and being in the Manor of Little Bookham and situate in the Parish of Effingham now in the occupation of Thomas Stovell Smith upon the conditions that he my said son John Poulter shall pay to his brothers and sisters herein before mentioned the sum of thirty seven pounds each or in the case of the prior decease of either of his said brothers or sisters leaving lawful issue to the child or children of such deceased the like sum of thirty seven pounds the share to have been paid to his her or their deceased parent if living

But in case of the death of my said son John Poulter before he may have become entitled to the property hereinbefore bequeathed to him I do hereby direct that such my copyhold messuage and premises situate at Effingham shall be sold by public auction and the proceeds arising from such sale to be equally divided amongst my surviving sons and daughters and the lawful issue of either of them deceased as is hereinbefore directed viz the child or children of the deceased parent reserving only in the whole to the amount to be paid to his her or their deceased parent if living

and I do hereby revoke and make void all and every other Will or Wills at any time by me heretofore made and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy one

[signed]

Hannah Poulter

Signed sealed and published and declared by the above named Hannah Poulter the testator as and for her last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in her presence at her request and in the presence of each other at the same time have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto

[signed]

Richd Horley Smith Great Bookham

Benjamin Wexham Eastwick Great Bookham

Lucy Barnes Eastwick Great Bookham

Proved at London 1st May 1873 by the oath of William Balchin the sole Executor to whom admon was granted

APPENDIX II

Plans for alterations submitted by Mid-Surrey Garden Co in August 1959

The plans submitted to Guildford Rural District Council by Mid-Surrey Garden Co were of two kinds – one showing the site in the large context of surrounding streets and buildings, and the other showing more detailed layout of buildings on the site itself. Figure 43 below shows a representative instance of the first kind.

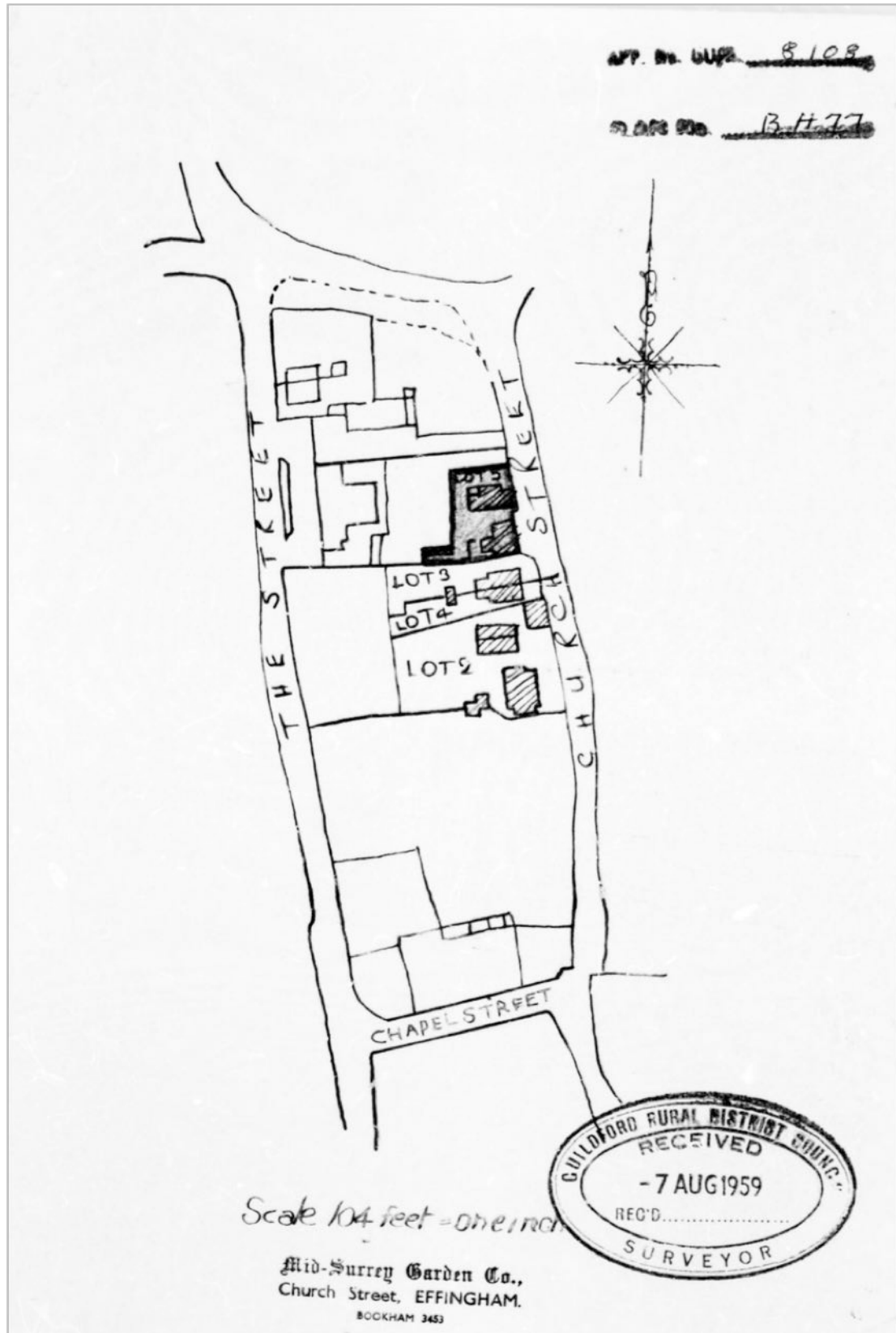


Figure 43 Plan submitted to GRDC showing the Mid-Surrey Garden Co site labeled as 'Lot 5', having apparently been adapted from an earlier auction brochure; August 1959.

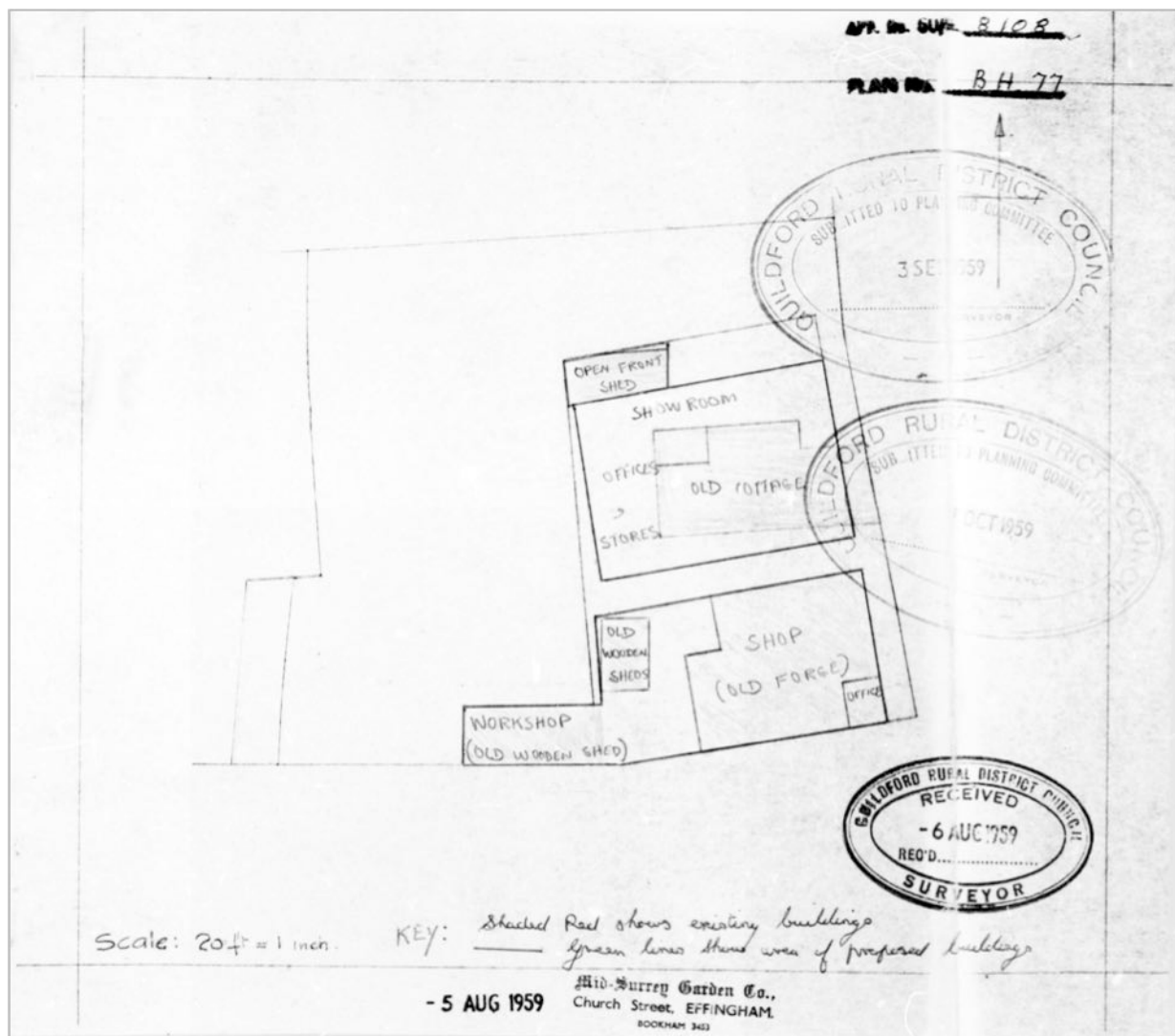


Figure 44 Plan submitted to GRDC showing details of the proposed alterations on the site; August 1959.