

Finchampstead

• IN OLD PICTURES •



*Compiled by Members of the
History and Heritage Group of
The Finchampstead Society*

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Back Cover: 'The Thatched Cottage'

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Preface

The History and Heritage Group is a sub-committee of the Finchampstead Society. The Finchampstead Society was formed in 1975 when it was realised that there were several development programmes planned for Berkshire, the Blackwater Valley and for specific areas such as The Rides. The Society's objective was to find out how these plans would affect Finchampstead and to influence the planners with recommendations, so that the interests of the community were taken into account.

Members of the working party, for *Finchampstead in Old Pictures*, included: Shirley (Vass) Burroughs, Wally Chapman, Michael Curling, Anne Howitt, Dallyn Salter, Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin, and Joan Betts O.B.E. whose generous funding made this project possible. We are indebted to Michael Curling for access to his collection of postcards.

Today the objectives of the society are to promote the interests of a balanced community. Every resident of the Parish is entitled to become a member to make the Finchampstead Society as representative as possible. The Society also promotes a varied programme for residents including an annual cricket match and Christmas carol concert, as well as walks on May Day and New Year's Day. More specialised groups like the Wildlife Group and the History and Heritage Group cater for specific interests. Social occasions like the annual Cheese and Wine evenings allow residents to mingle on a more informal basis.

October, 1998

Dedication



Mrs. Nellie Bird (nee Goswell)
(1911-1996)

Nellie Goswell Bird was a native of Finchampstead village who helped her family to run the Thatched Cottage Store until 1973. For forty years the store was the main provider of groceries and goods essential to local residents. After Nellie, and her husband, Graystone Bird (a noted local photographer) retired in 1973, the shop located between the smithy and forge in the village, was converted into a private dwelling. Mrs. Bird, however, continued her devotion to the village of

Finchampstead by working in the new village shop at Park View Motors. She resided at the 17/18th century 'Thatched Cottage' until her death in 1996.

After her death, Mrs. Bird willed a legacy to the Finchampstead Society to help preserve the unique character of this Berkshire village. Her generous gift helped to fund this book and the members of the society would like to express their gratitude to Mrs. Bird by dedicating this book to her memory.

A History of Finchampstead Village



It has been suggested that *Finc* or *Fyng*, as is occasionally seen in documents, was the name of the tribe who resided in the area before Roman times. After the invasion and conquest by the Romans, Finchampstead was on the Roman road that ran between London and Silchester. This Roman road is known locally as the Devil's Highway and it crosses the parish from East to West. In 1841, a farmer located one of the original Roman milestones while ploughing a field. Today the milestone is in the garden of 'Banisters' – listed as a Grade II monument.

There was supposed to be a Roman camp located around St James Church at Finchampstead, possibly on the site of an Iron Age hillfort. In Victorian times, there remained a rectangular plateau with a steep escarpment on all sides.

In early medieval times, Finchampstead was under the rule of Cynegils, King of the West Saxons, and a convert to Christianity. His daughter married King Oswald, later St Oswald, who succeeded to the kingdom of Northumbria in 633. A medieval well located off Fleet Hill, known as Dodswells or Dozell's Well was thought to be a corruption of 'St Oswald's Well'. Its existence was noted in the tenth and eleventh centuries, when the Saxon *Chronicles* described how a well in Finchampstead boiled up and steamed with blood to the great amazement of the recorder. The water of Dozell's Well was reputed to have miraculous properties for the cure of failing eyesight and blindness. Supposedly pilgrims came to the well from great distances to draw water to bathe afflicted eyes. In 1872, the well was accidentally destroyed by a farm labourer who was deepening the ditch alongside it.

By 1066, Finchampstead was the personal holding of Earl Harold at the time he was killed. As part of the spoils of war, the property came into the possession of William the Conqueror. Harold's shires had been divided into 'Hundreds' – parcels of land that contained 100 'hides' (each 'hide' was the amount of acreage that could be ploughed and cultivated by one man during a year). The 'Hundreds' were further divided into Manors by William I. Each Manor had a lord who held his own court.

The *Domesday Book*, compiled in 1086, states that 'Finchamsted' was within the Hundred of Cerleton which had been given to the Norman Baron, Henry de Ferieres.

It read:

The King holds Finchamsted in demesne. Earl Harold held it (from Edward the

Confessor) for a fee then assessed at 5 hides. He not only paid this geld but rendered form (entertainment) in Radinges (Reading). There is land for 15 ploughs. There are 6 serfs and a Mill worth 7 shillings (6 pence in annual rent) and 4 acres of meadow and woodland to render 200 swine. It is and was worth 8 pounds.

The mill was not the present 17th century 'New Mill' but an even older one located a hundred yards or more upstream on the Blackwater river.

William the Conqueror introduced Forest Courts into the royal forests – an area which included Finchampstead. There were harsh punishments for poaching and other offences in the royal forests.

Henry I granted Finchampstead to the Lords of Aldermaston. Later, it came into the possession of William Banister, who died in 1276, without male heirs. Subsequently, the Manorial Rights were divided between his two daughters, Agatha and Constance, thus creating East Court (then located beside St James Church) and West Court.

Finchampstead Bailiwick was highly valued over the centuries by the English monarchs who used the Royal Forest for hunting. It was rumoured that herded deer would sometimes be driven below The Ridges in Finchampstead while the royal party fired down from their standing. Supposedly, Henry VII was hunting at Easthampstead Lodge when news came that the Spanish Infanta, Katherine of Aragon had arrived in the vicinity. Henry VII and his sons, Princes Arthur and Henry, rode out to glimpse the bride-to-be, as she approached Finchampstead.

During the English Civil Wars, the Rector of St James, Reverend Samuel Marsh, refused to swear Parliament's Solemn League and Covenant oath in 1645. He was expelled from the parish, having already been rector for 50 years. For the next 15 years St James was without a priest until Reverend Thomas Bright was appointed after the Restoration of Charles II.

Finchampstead village remained within the Royal Windsor Forest as open heath and woodland until 1752 when a portion of it was enclosed. The final completion of the enclosures was in 1817. Under this act, 400 acres were retained by the Crown, with 500 acres divided between the Lords of East and West Court; 50 acres was awarded to the Trustees for the Poor and 18 acres to the Glebe (church) with numerous small-holders as well.

Later, John Walter, founder of *The Times* in 1785, bought an estate at Bearwood and built a mansion. He expanded his lands as far east as Yateley, through the purchase of East Court Manor from Charles Fyshe Palmer. John Walter II was patron of Finchampstead village school (1854) and he constructed the road across The Ridges in 1863. He lined the new road, Wellingtonia Avenue, with sequoia trees brought from California as a memorial to the Duke of Wellington. In 1911, the third John Walter sold the Bearwood Estate which included most of Finchampstead. At the auction, a group of donors purchased The Ridges, including the sequoias, for the National Trust. Heath Pool and additional woodlands were given to the National Trust in the 1960's. In the 1980's the boundary of Finchampstead Parish was extended to include the new estates to the north of Nine Mile Ride and Barkham Ride and eastwards to the railway line between Wokingham and Crowthorne.

The Village



1

1 The Parish Church of Finchampstead is dedicated to St James, Apostle and Martyr. The first recorded date for the church and Advowson is 1120.

2 The Church of St James which may have been erected on the site of a Roman fortification. The church was enlarged in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries, with the tower built in 1720.



2



3



4

3 The interior of St James Church looking towards the rounded apse. The baptismal font on the left dates from Saxon times. This photo was taken shortly after restoration in 1914.

4 'Church Farm'; this house was previously known as 'Homestead'. The 1841 Tithe map shows that the original Church Farm was situated on the lower part of what is now St James' churchyard.



5

5 'Old Rectory', Finchampstead. Originally built for Rev. St John. Four members of the St John family were rectors and Lords of the Manor. In the 1930's it was replaced by 'Finchampstead House'.

6 One of the houses on 'Old Rectory Farm' at the turn of the century. Finchampstead had several mixed farms in the first half of the 20th century.



6

No.1 Platoon, 'F' Company,



Back row:

Ptes. J. L. Upton E. Coles W. Aspinwall
W. Churchman, D.C.M., M.M. J. Hyde G. Barker
L/Cpl. H. Fulker Ptes. W. G. Smith A. White
J. Osler G. Neville L/Cpl. C. Heritage
Ptes. F. Mason A. Pearson G. Carpenter

3rd row:

L/Cpt. W. Phillips Ptes. H. Squires
A. Goodfellow D. Nicholls W. Porch E. Smith
H. Adnams L/Cpl. H. Jarrett Ptes. H. Neate
S. Ruffell J. W. Wheatley R. Main A. Loader
H. Parsons L/Cpl. B. Edinborough
Pte. W. Longhurst L/Cpl. F. Giles
L/Cpl. J. Forley

11th Battalion, Berkshire Home Guard World War II



2nd row:

Cpl. T. Denman L/Cpl. G. Coniam
 Ptes. W. Clayton F. Nicholls R. Clarke J. Upton
 G. Schofield L/Cpl. A. B. Cliffe
 L/Cpl. G. Lees, Pte. E. Buttle L/Cpl. C. Polity
 Ptes. H. Smith, D.C.M. C. Hills F. Green
 W. Grainger E. Jones G. Guest G. Batten

Front row:

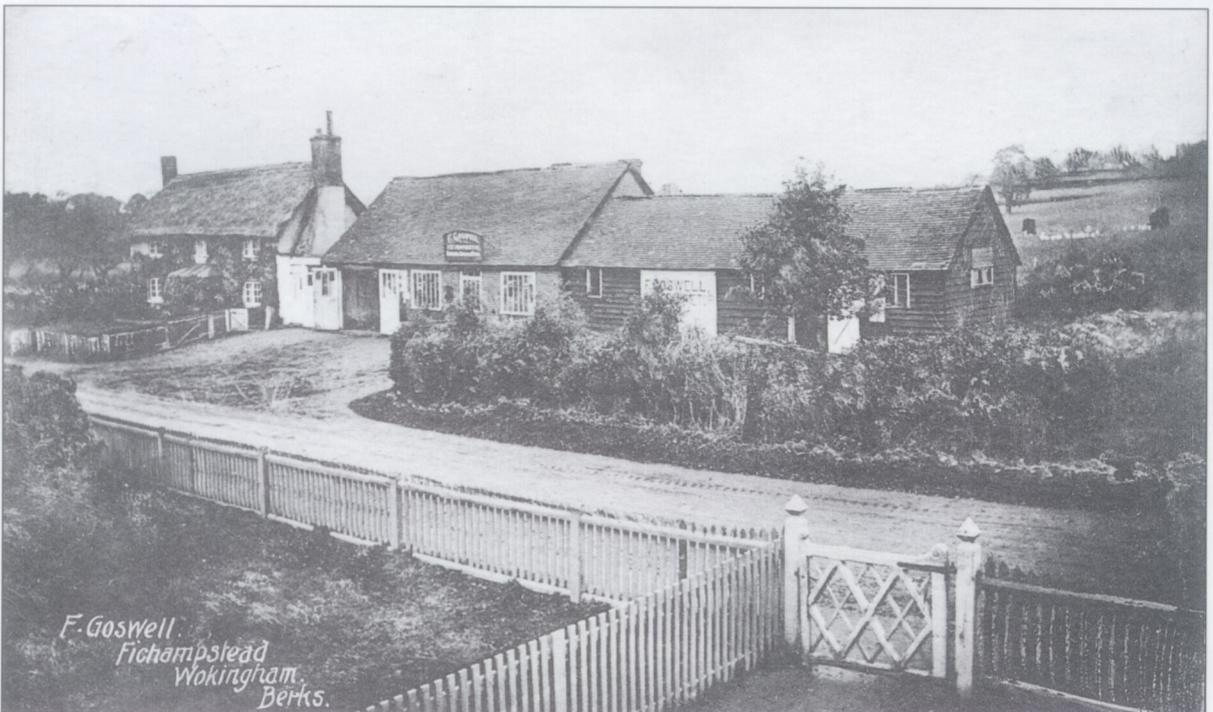
Cpl. F. Thorn Cpl. C. Kenyon Cpl. H. Blackman
 Sgt. W. Redmond Sgt. G. Aldworth
 Lieut. R. L. Nares, O.B.E. Lieut. O. L. Nares
 Capt. C. Pearson, D.S.O. Major G. D. Edwards
 Lieut. C. Salt Lt.-Col. F. B. Abbott, D.S.O.
 Major R. S. Rothwell, D.S.O. Lieut. G. Pratt
 Capt. A. F. C. Hartley Capt. R. Godwin
 2/Lieut. S. Hedgcock Sergt. T. Stevenson
 Sergt. R. Hewitt Sergt. W. Maynard.



8

8 Finchampstead village with the 'Thatched Cottage' and 'Old Forge' on the right. This photograph was taken in the 1920's.

9 The 17th century 'Thatched Cottage', timber-framed with painted brick infill. It dates from when Finchampstead was a part of the royal forest of Windsor. Over the centuries it was also, with additions, a village shop, smithy, and stables.



9

*F. Goswell.
Finchampstead
Wokingham,
Berks.*



10

10 C. D. Dearlove's grocers and bakery in Edwardian times. Located on the corner of The Village and Longwater Lane, the bakery was in the building to the left.

11 Front view of Dearlove's Shop. The house is called 'Chatterings' now.



11



12

13



12 Finchampstead School in 1912 with the schoolmistress, Miss Chivers and her mother. The school was built with funds provided by Mr John Walter II and it opened in 1863 to children of the parish between the ages of 5 and 13. It became a Church of England school in 1925.

13 Finchampstead primary schoolchildren at the junction of The Village and Longwater Lane in Edwardian times.

14 Empire Day, Finchampstead, May 1906.

15 Finchampstead school's celebrations for the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935.



14

15



15



16



17

16 Finchampstead children at a Morris Dancing Festival held on July 8th and 9th, 1912.

17 Preparing to dance at the Festival.

18 Finchampstead schoolchildren.

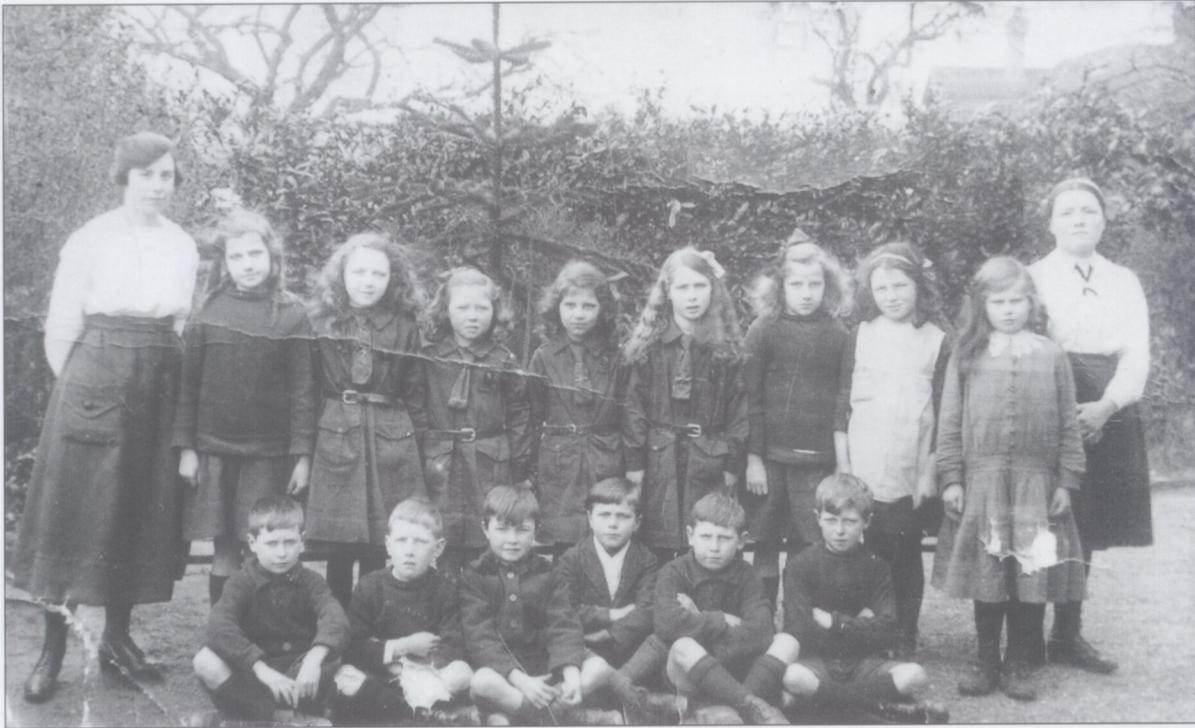
Back Row left to right:

Miss Howard, Marjorie Goswell, Ethel Burret, Unknown, Winnie Stroud, Norah McHugh, Nellie Goswell, Kathy Walden, unknown, Margaret Walden.

Front Row:

Ernie Henderson, Bill Jones, ? Maynard, Fred McHugh, Ernie Jewel, unknown.

19 Finchampstead School Infants, 1934. Some of the children include: Gladys Blackman, Doreen Forty, Brenda Jones, Nancy Klamroth, Violet McHugh, Peter Mason, Iris May, Arthur Murrell, Dennis Nichols.



18

19



Finchampstead School. Infants. 1934

17



20

20 *Back Row left to right:*
John Aldworth, Alfred Pottinger, Tubby Allen,
Cyril Walden, Unknown, Unknown, Bob
McHugh, Jimmy Nicholls, Jack Jewell, Charlie
Cottrell.

Standing:
June Barnes, Margaret Mearing, Cicely Batten,
Olive Stanbridge, Nancy Fielder, Ada Crowther,
Joan Scott, Grace Tucker, Nellie Thorn, Rene
Burrett, Winnie Priest, Winnie Crowther.



Sitting:
Nellie Murrell, Josie Curl, Betty Jewell, Ethel
Carter, Joan Murrell, Unknown.

Front row:
? Wise, Dennis Mason, ? Burgess, Unknown, Len
Wernham, Billy Thorn, Evan Morris.



21

21 The Welfare meeting at the Women's Institute's hut. Dr. Billing, Nurse Watkins and Mrs van Hoboken organised the clinics for children.



The clinics started in 1923, and this picture dates from circa 1937.



22



23

22 Finchampstead Volunteer Fire Brigade beside a Coventry Climax Pump at Manor Farm during World War II. Members of the Brigade included: J Chamberlain, L Coombes, L Fulbrook, B Jones, G Loader, L Noviss, P Oram, E Rumble, F Whittle, and Mr Warr. The Brigade competed with other fire brigades to hone their skills. These competitions saw firemen losing 2 seconds for 'helmet falling off', and 'owing to the existing Emergency Rationing it is only possible to provide Tea for Firemen.'

23. Mr Schofield and Mr Westall at Manor Farm.



25

24

24 Finchampstead Post Office when owned by Owen A J Goddard, c. 1905. He designed several of the buildings in the village, including 'Finchampstead House' and the Memorial Hall.

25 Owen Goddard at 'The Verge'. He was the village postmaster for many years at the early part of the 20th century.





26

26 The Queen's Oak Pub, 'Church House Farm' and the village pond taken in the 1920's from St James churchyard.

27 The Queen's Oak Free House when owned by Walter Pratt. Note the Edwardian advertising board with 'Large and small parties catered for'. Also, 'good accommodation for cyclists,' and 'good stabling garage and pit'.

27





28

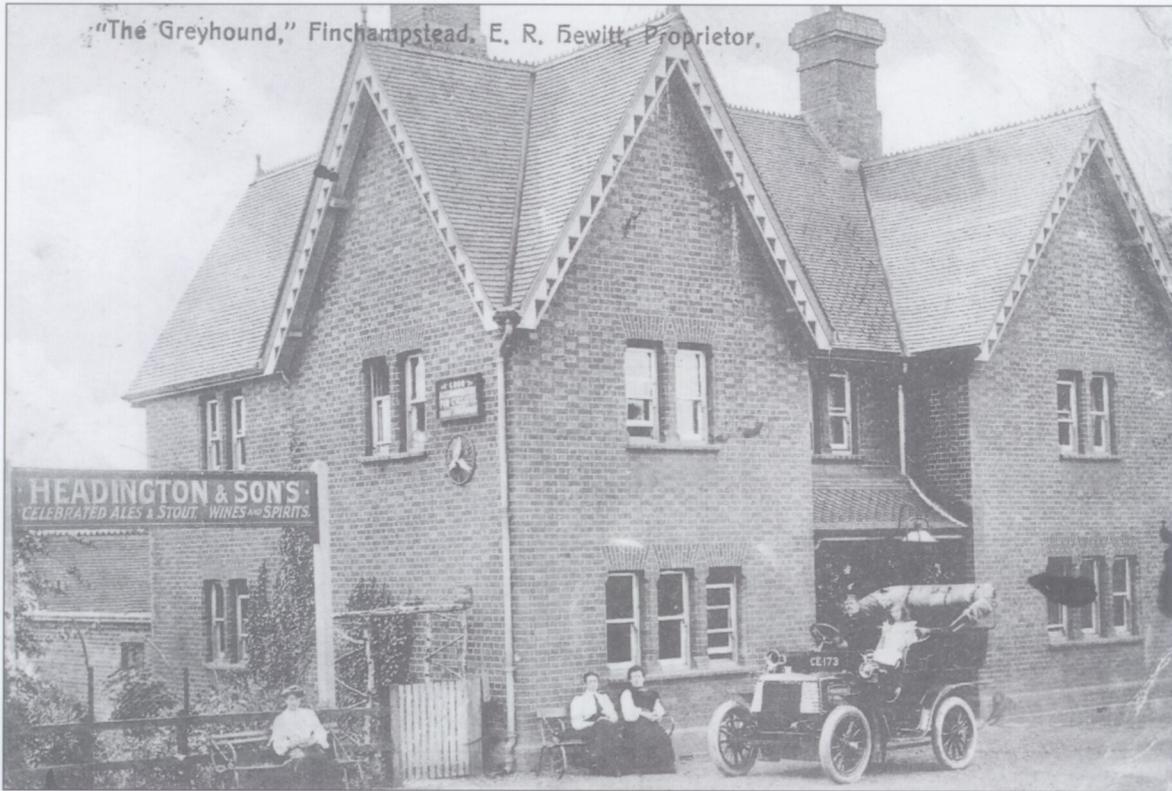
28 An Edwardian view of the Queen's Oak Free House with a large party assembled outside. Does anyone recognise their forebears?

29 Finchampstead from the Church, showing Jubilee Oak.



29

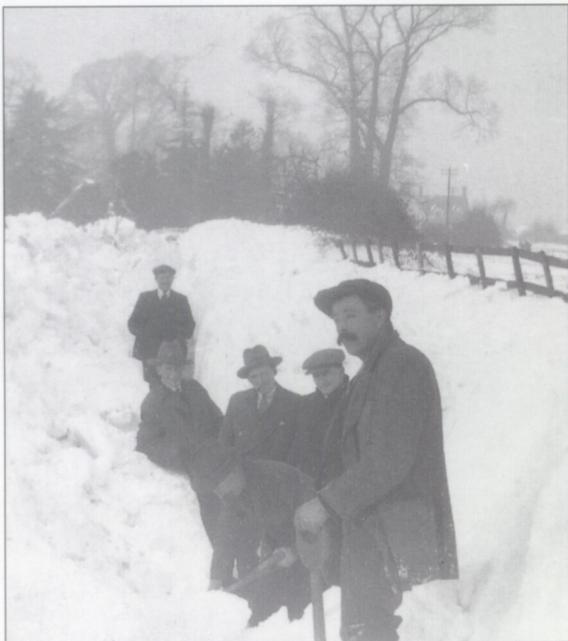
39420. Finchampstead from the Church, showing Jubilee Oak.





32

33



30 The Greyhound, Finchampstead when E R Hewitt, was proprietor. There has been an inn present on this site since the 17th century. The present building dates from the 1890's, when for a few years the inn also served as a grocer's shop.

31 The Greyhound Hotel, with Longwater road on the left looking towards Eversley Cross. This photograph was taken in the 1930's.

32 Old Cottages, Longwater Lane, Finchampstead. They were demolished in the 1970's.

33 A snowdrift in Church Lane near St James Church, 1927. Depicted are: J May, R May, T May, J Loader, B Mearing.



34 Finchampstead Women's Institute won second prize at the Wokingham Carnival on September 14, 1932. Their float was titled: 'The Gleaner's Return, 1875'.

35 The 'Old Manor House' and St James Church photographed in the 1870's.

36 The present 'Manor House' was constructed in 1904. This photograph shows some of the building staff in 1904, after it was built.



35

36



29



37



38

37 This photograph of the 'Manor House' was taken circa 1910. Prominent residents in this century have included: Rev. E Warne, Miss M Ashley, Major-General Sir William and Lady Liddell. The house was bequeathed to St James church by Lady Liddell in the 1980's. It is now the St James Church Centre.

38 Mr Offer, Chairman of Finchampstead Parish Council, presenting Lady Liddell with her 100th birthday scroll, in April 1984.



39

39 Residents enjoying the pageant 'Chronicles of Finchampstead' in the gardens of 'Manor House' on July 19, 1956.

40 The hostess, Lady Liddell and Sir Conrad Corfield, are among those in period costumes.



40



41

41 The 'Chronicles' were staged to trace the history of Finchampstead through the ages. Here a pageant is being performed at the 'Manor House' next to St James church. Among those shown are: Freda Dalby, Thornton Dalby and Frank Milan.

42 Finchampstead residents enjoying the pageant.



42



43

43 'Spring Gardens' on the corner of Church Lane, c. 1905. The house on the far left was at one time used as the village policeman's headquarters.

44 'The Cottage' now known as 'Arden House' was also once used as the police house.



44



45



46

45 'Sunnyside' now known as 'Finchampstead Place'. Built in the late Victorian period, it was included in the estate of John Walter III which was sold in 1911.

46 'Sunnyside' from a garden view. The name of the house was changed in the 1940's.

47 'East Court' was constructed in the 17th century and altered in the early 18th century, and in 1870 by Mr John Walter. The house was formerly known as 'Cowdries'. It was mentioned in a Court Roll of 1607.

48 The 40th Anniversary of the Finchampstead Women's Institute. This photograph was taken on April 26, 1958. Depicted are: *Left to Right (back row)* Miss Walden, Miss Iris van Hoboken, Mrs Lamour, Mrs Miles; *Left to Right (front row)* Lady Watson, Mrs Gerald Simmons, Miss Chivers.



47



48



49

49 Finchampstead Cricket Team 1948, the first Cricket Team after the Second World War. Depicted are: *Standing*: Rev. R D Weller, Charlie Horsman, Frank Coninan, Bob McHugh, Arthur



Sandford, Robin Spate, Sid Howard, Mr Bragg.
Sitting: ? Page, Cyril Milam, Roy May, vice-
captain, Bill Hewitt, captain, Frank Henderson, M
Naves, John Mason.



50

50 Finchampstead Memorial Hall was opened by Dr E Billing, Founder-Chairman of the Finchampstead Park, 1946-57. Among those included in the photograph are: Dr Billing, Mr Clear, Mr May, Mr Allinson.

51 Residents at the opening ceremony for Finchampstead Memorial Hall. The fields next to the Memorial Hall and Sports Club were purchased for the Parish in 1947 as a memorial and thanksgiving for victory in the Second World War.

51



The Ridges



52

52 Wellingtonia Avenue at the turn of the century looking towards Crowthorne. The giant sequoias were transplanted from the Sierra Nevada region of California, USA.

53 Wellingtonia Avenue from Finchampstead Ridges in the 1920's. The avenue of sequoia trees was planted by John Walter II in 1863 to commemorate the life of the Duke of Wellington.



53



54

54 The Ridges close to the Triangulation Point, with Wellingtonia Avenue progressing towards Crowthorne. The site is part of the original 60 acres bought by public subscription and given to the National Trust in 1923. It was one of the Trust's earliest acquisitions.

55 The Ridges properties are about 300' above sea level, overlooking the Blackwater valley. Originally much of the area was open heath and wetlands. The photograph shows the encroachment of trees on the lower slopes.

55





56

56 The Ridges formed part of the estate owned by John Walter, MP for Berkshire and owner of *The Times* newspaper. From the clump of pine trees on the summit, Finchampstead residents would have enjoyed fine views south to the Hampshire countryside. During snowy winters, local children used the footpath, on the slope, as a toboggan run.

57 Finchampstead Ridges with a view to the south. This area of natural beauty was noted for three native species of heather – the bell heather, ling and cross-leaved, the bilberry and a wide range of interesting fungi.

57





58

58 'Ridgelands' Finchampstead as a World War I Auxiliary Hospital. This private house, owned by Miss B. Hall, was opened as an auxiliary hospital with 20 beds on February 1, 1915. It closed on September 30, 1916 having treated 199 patients.

59 The junction of the Village Road with Jubilee Road, before the erection of the war memorial cross.

59



View near Finchampstead — 368



60

60 The 'Way-side Cross' War Memorial.

61 Finchampstead's War Memorial was dedicated on 31 October 1920 in memory of the 22 Finchampstead men who died in 1914-18. Today the memorial also commemorates the 12 men who died in service during the Second World War.



61



62

62 'North Court', Finchampstead was built by John Walters II in the late 1850's. In the auction of the Bearwood Estate in 1911, it was described: 'Freehold Residential Property known as "North Court". 50 acres.' Residents of North Court in the 20th century have included the Bramwell-Booth sisters, grand-daughters of the founder of the Salvation Army.

63 Miss Catherine Bramwell-Booth lived to be 104. Commissioner Bramwell-Booth moved to North Court with her mother and two sisters, Olive and Dora, when she retired from the Salvation Army in 1948.

63





64

64 The Granary Barn at 'North Court Farm'. Built on staddle stones, it is typical of the grain store buildings in the Finchampstead area. The building was designed to keep produce dry and safe from rodents.

65 A close-up of a staddle stone.



65



66

66 'Poor Ridge Cottage'. The rear view with Miss Vass, 'Teacher Nellie', who was well-loved by the infants from the village school.

67 'North Court Cottages', Finchampstead. This was the former name of 'Poor Ridge Cottage'.

67





68

68 The Dell, Finchampstead. These houses were originally called the Barracks. Dell Road runs between The Ridges and Lower Sandhurst Road, today.

69 Manor Farm, Finchampstead in the early 1930's. In this period it was a mixed farm, but later it specialised in dairy farming with a pedigree Channel Island herd and a local milk delivery service.

69





70

70 Sunnyside Field, Manor Farm. At the turn of the century, when this photograph was taken, the majority of the inhabitants in Finchampstead were employed in agriculture.

71 A team of three horses drawing a binder on Manor Farm.

71





72

72 Kingsmere Lake with Nine Mile Ride on the left. The old boathouse recalls its use as a recreational facility. It was created by John Walter III, and during World War II it was drained, and a searchlight was installed as part of the air-raid defences.

73 Nine Mile Ride and Kingsmere Lake in the 1930's. Formerly one of the rides within the Windsor Royal Forest, and reputed to be a convenient length of ride for Queen Anne.



73



74

74 Residents skating on Kingsmere Lake in the harsh winter of 1928-29.



California



75

75 A view of California Crossroads in the 1930's, from Nine Mile Ride showing the shop, now California Post Office and Rusts Store. The name California was probably taken from the former brickworks and sawmills situated near Kiln Ride.

76 The western end of California, Nine Mile Ride, looking towards California Crossroads. At the beginning of the century much of this area was included in the Bearwood Estate owned by the Walters family.

76



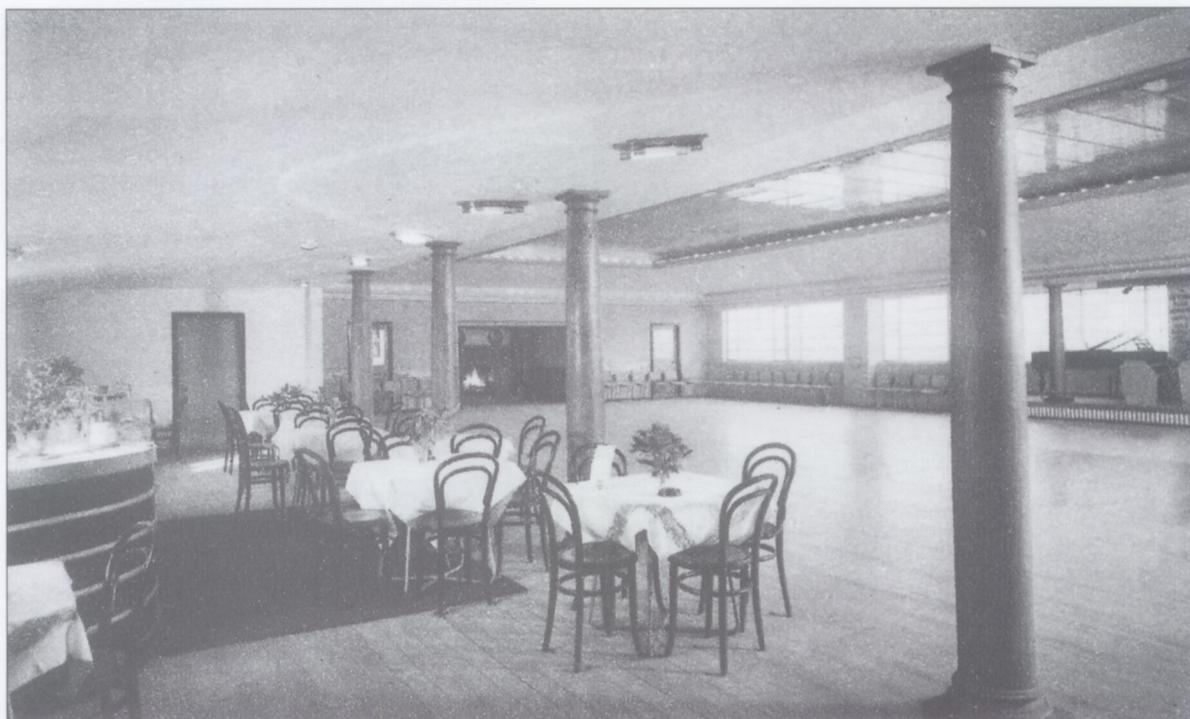


77

77 California in England. The pavilion in the 1930's. From the 1930's - the 1950's, the holiday camp was popular with many holidaymakers who stayed in 'luxury' chalets.

78 The Pavilion included both a glass-floored ballroom (with glass taken from the Crystal Palace), and a tearoom. The camp also had a mini-railway, zoo and speed track.

78





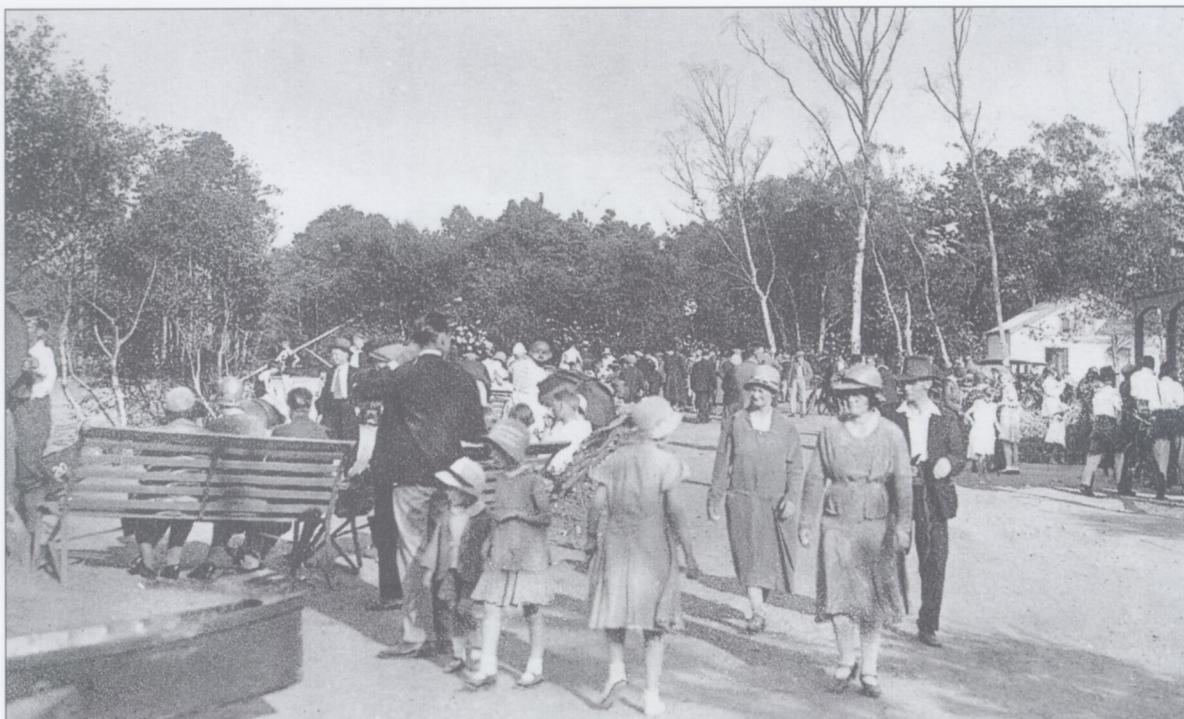
79

79 California Poppies Motorcycle Team, circa 1956. Included in the photograph are: Gil Goldfinch, Tom Sweetman, Eric Hockaday, Ron Sharp, Peter Mould, Charles Cheshire, Jimmy Gleed.

80 California in England, a Souvenir postcard from the 1930's. The holiday camp had a Sports Manager, and there were dances, carnival nights, concerts and films six evenings per week. A beauty queen was crowned each week too.

80



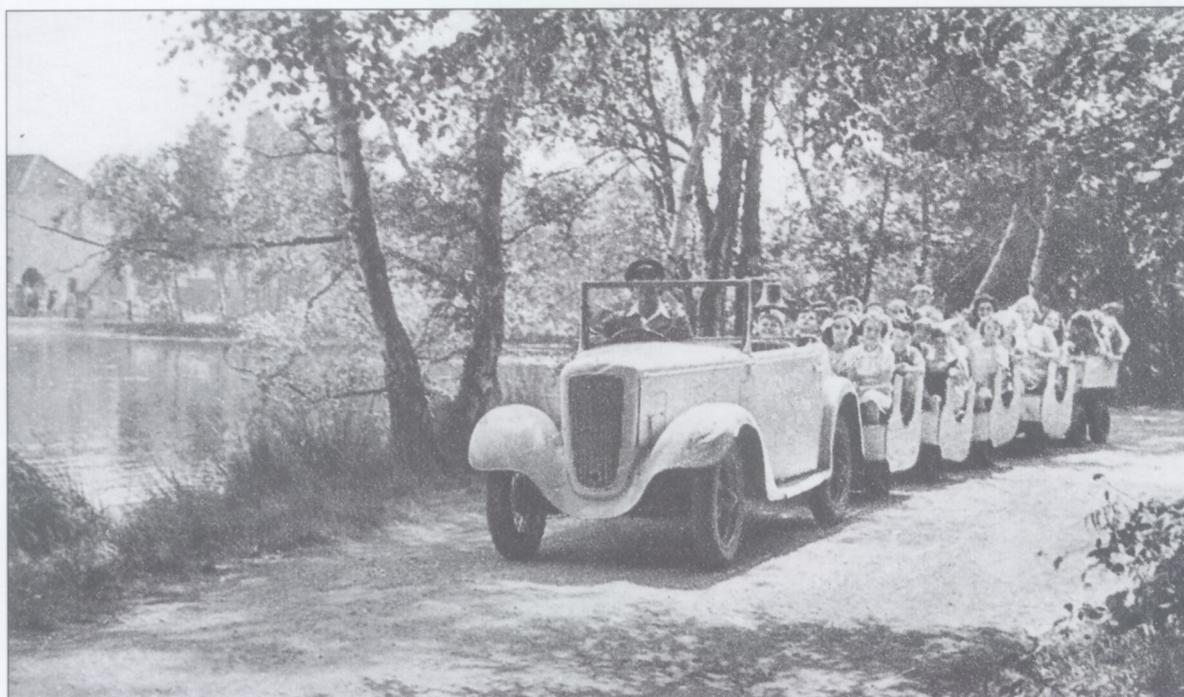


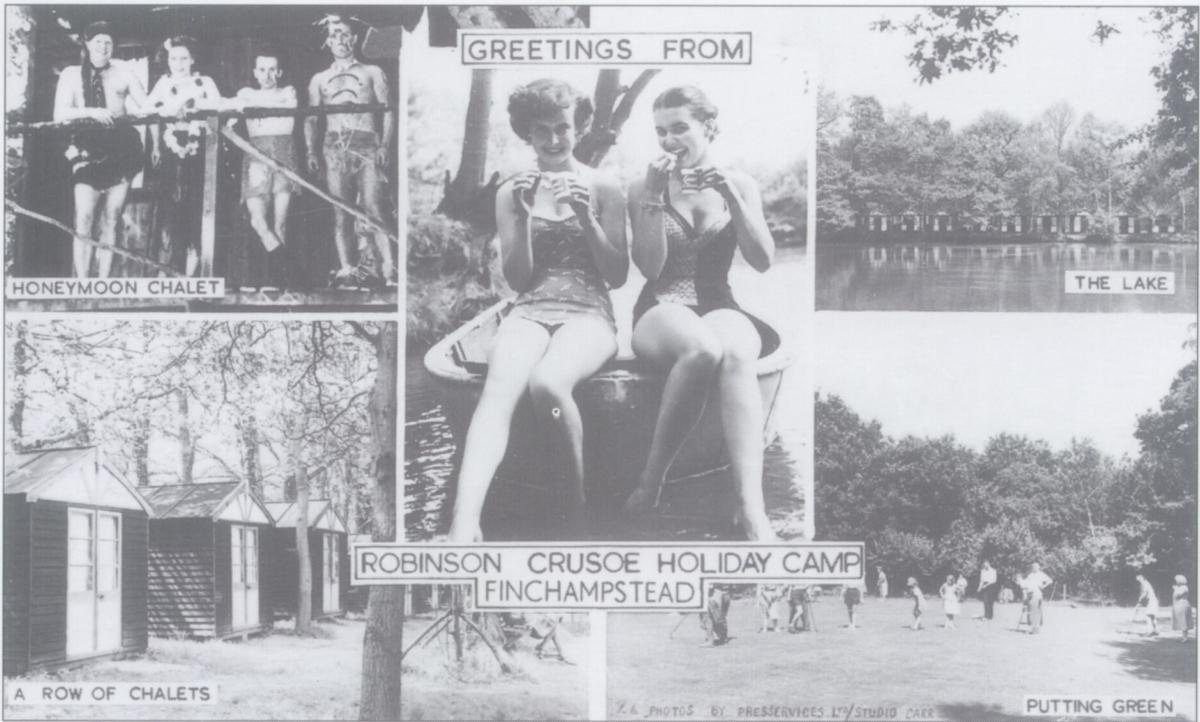
81

81 California in England, 'The Promenade' in the 1930's. John Walter III had the lake dug out to provide the clay to make 4.5 million bricks for Bearwood House.

82 The Snake Train at California in England was a popular ride with children. The station was named 'Hollywood'. Families could swim in the lake, as well. Now the lake is reserved for fishing and wildlife.

82





83

83 The Robinson Crusoe Holiday Camp on the corner of Nine Mile Ride and Park Lane in the 1950's.

84 The 'Thatched Cottage' on White Horse Lane near Nine Mile Ride.

84





85

85 An archaeological excavation on the Roman Road (Devil's Highway) carried out by the Finchampstead Society History and Heritage group under the direction of David Stafford in the early 1970's. The Roman road was located, and

after surveying, its position was found to be some 100 yards north of that shown on the Ordnance Survey map.

86 'Wheatlands' one of the larger houses in Finchampstead.

86



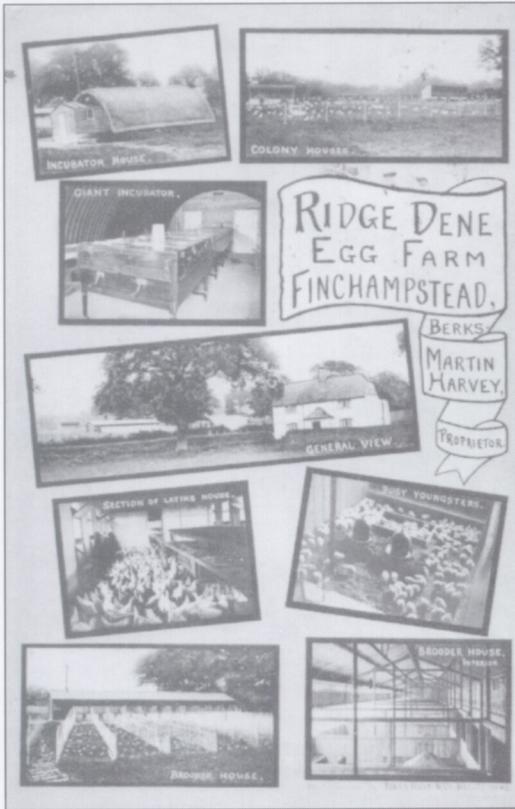
Lower Finchampstead



87

88





87 Dearlove Stores, Lower Finchampstead was located on the Reading road in the 1920s.

88 Fleet Hill, Finchampstead.

89 Ridge Dene Egg Farm.

90 'River Bend', Lower Finchampstead. Part of the estate of this house is in Berkshire and another portion is in Hampshire. The Blackwater River itself, does not seem to be the counties' boundary.

89

90





91

91 The New Inn, now the Tally Ho pub, looking towards Fleet Hill and Vann House.

92 'West Court' dates from the 17th century or earlier. It was enlarged and renovated in 1853 by the Rev. Henry Ellis St John, and again altered and extended in the mid-20th c. It was acquired by the War Department and given to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in June, 1953.



92



93

93 'Banisters' is a part timber-framed, part brick house which was constructed in C16 with alterations and enlargements in the C17, early C19 and mid-C20. A dwelling on this site was mentioned in the Domesday Book.

94 The gardens contain a Roman milestone moved from its original position presumably on the Devil's Highway. It was unearthed in 1841 by a farmer whilst ploughing a field between Wheatlands Manor and Shepperlands Farm.



94



95

95 The 'New Mill' photographed sometime between 1910 and 1914. This view is taken from the fording part of the Blackwater river. The mill was built in the 15th century, with 17th, 19th and late 20th century alterations and extensions. The timber framed building is part two storeys and part 1½ storeys.

96 An alternative view of the 'New Mill' showing ford through the Blackwater river. The mill was commercially operational until at least the 1950's. Today it is a restaurant.

96



Acknowledgements

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Finchampstead in Old Pictures

In the late 19th century, Queen Victoria reigned, the motor car was virtually unknown in Finchampstead, and the area depended upon agriculture for its livelihood. This book contains more than a century of photographs which document the changes in Finchampstead, the people and their environment.

Many local organisations and societies were founded during the century, including the Finchampstead Society.

The History and Heritage Group, a part of the Finchampstead Society, wanted to preserve a visual record of Finchampstead's unique heritage for future generations.



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