

# **The Amberley Society Archive**

A Talk by Ian Galbraith

17 June 2025



# Amberley Society Archive

- A truly important resource
- Much material is unique
- What isn't unique can be difficult to find elsewhere

# What's it all about?

The people of Amberley

- Who they were
- How they lived
- What they did
- Work & play

# What's it all about?

- Where the people lived
  - Amberley houses
  - other property
- Community concerns
  - campaigns

# What kind of stuff is in there?

- physical material
- digital material
  - digitised versions of physical material
  - original material

# What's in there?

cuttings surveys interviews  
letters audio documents  
maps articles photographs  
film plans video reports

# Digital material

- Much of the physical material is already being digitised
- We want to digitise as much as possible
- Digital material can be accessed from anywhere
  - in principle
  - via the Web

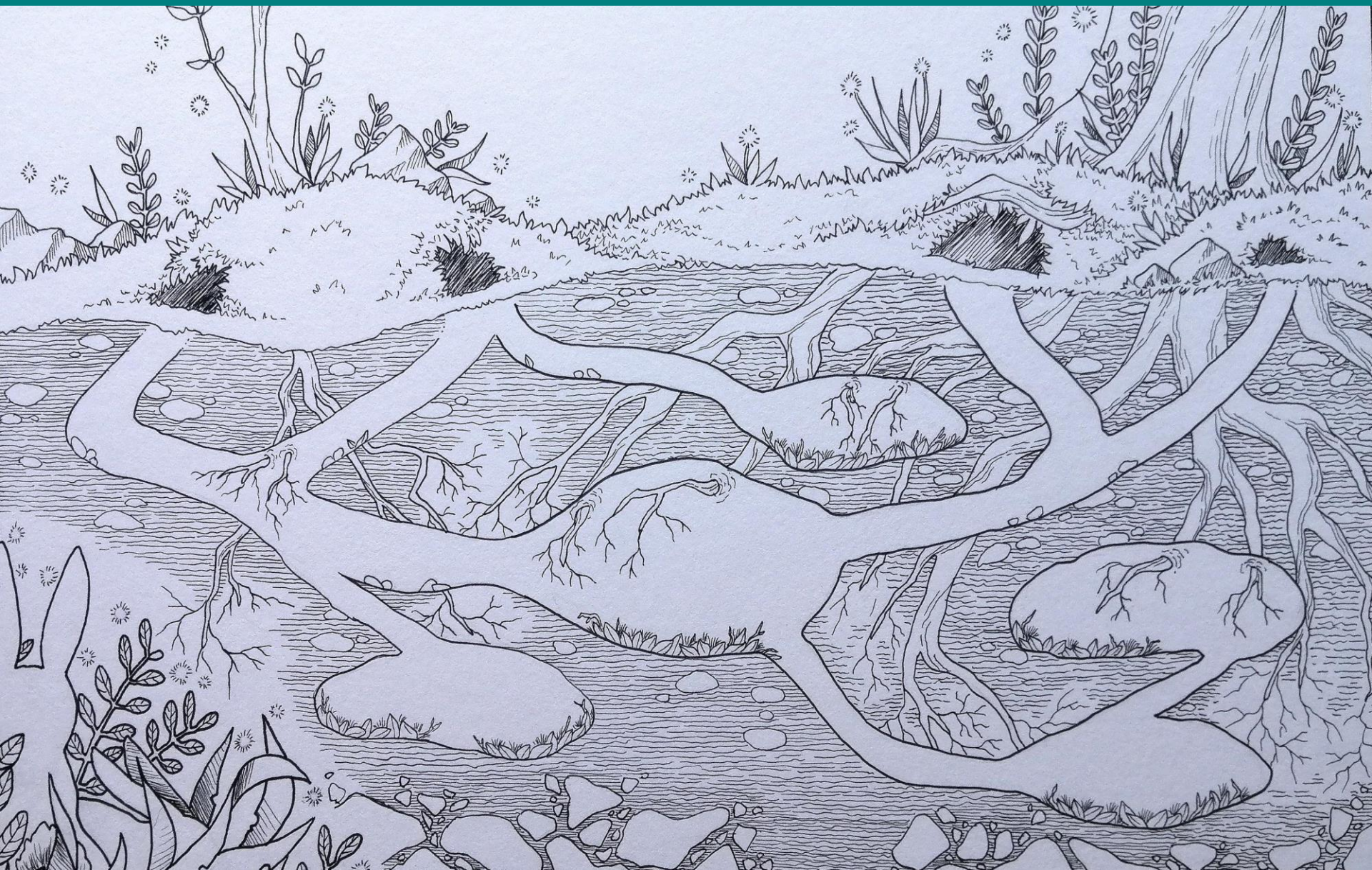
# Accessing archive material

- Need to know what's there
  - catalogue
- Need to be able to search
  - the catalogue
  - digitised material
- Make the catalogue and digital content accessible via the Amberley Society website

# Amberley Society Archive catalogue

- catalogue ref.
- title
- description
  - who? what? where? when?
  - searchable
- digital link (if digitised)

# Enter the rabbit warren



The LIST will OPEN on MONDAY, the 17th day of March, 1890, and CLOSE on or before 4 o'clock on TUESDAY, the 18th.

# The North Alabama Development Company, **LIMITED.**

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886.

**Capital, £250,000, in 25,000 Shares of £10 each.**

Issue of 2,000 (£200,000) Six per Cent. First Debenture Bonds of £100 each.

# The North Alabama Development Company

Directors included:

**Alfred Parrish**

President, Birmingham, Sheffield, and Tennessee River Railway Co.

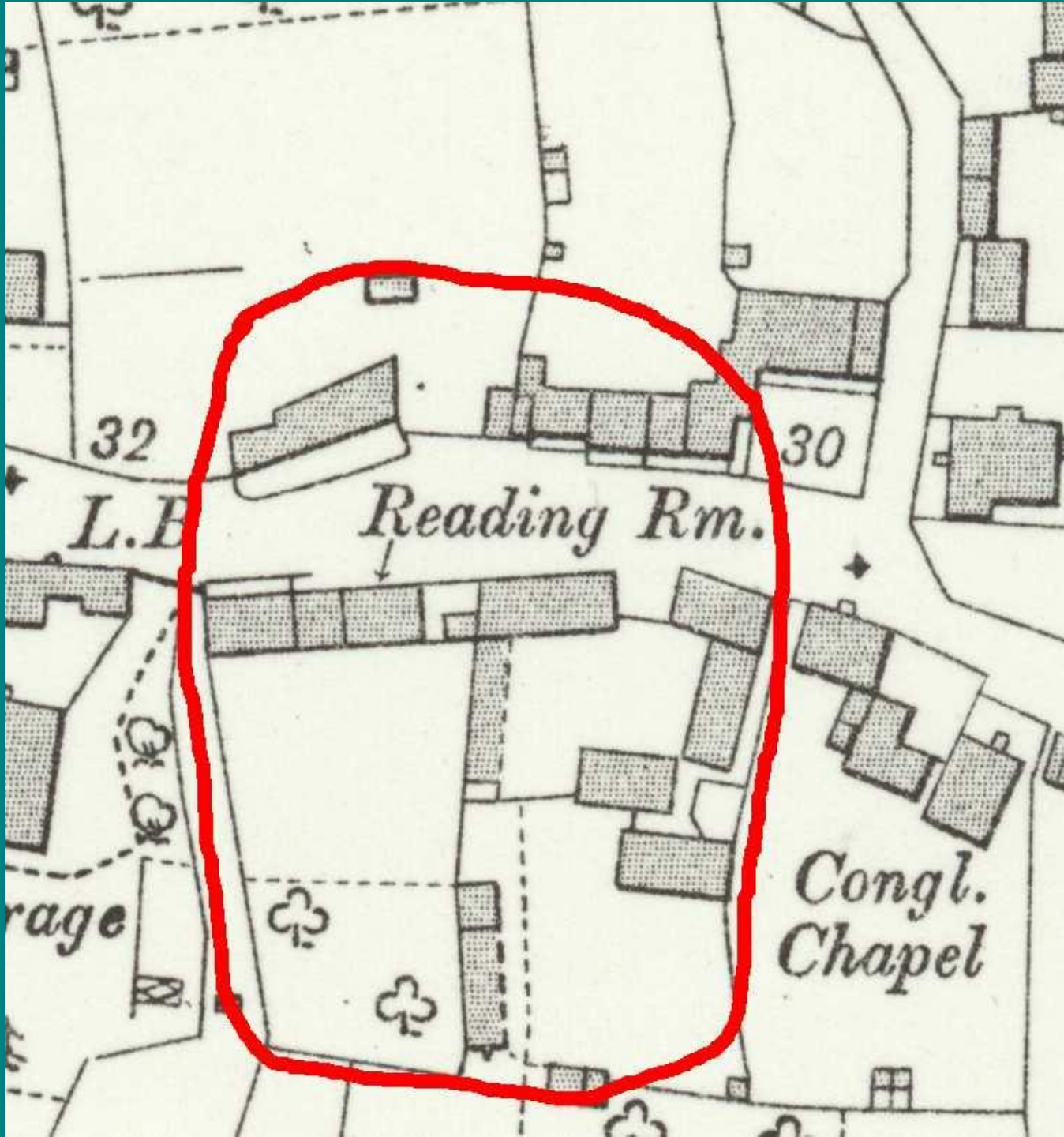








Property purchased  
by Alfred Parrish,  
1910



# DEMAND NOTE.

40

C. Huntington Esq,  
42, Ct. Russell Street,  
W.C.1

(OR OTHER THE OCCUPIER).

The Rural District Council of Chanctonbury demand payment of a General Rate at 5/6½ in the £, and of a Water Rate as mentioned below, made in respect of the financial half-year ending on the 30th day of September, 1945, **NOW DUE** from you as below.

The Water Rate for Domestic Purposes is made at 11d. in the £ upon the Rateable Value of hereditaments as shewn below—minimum 6/6 half-yearly, payable by owners—(except where the Council's Regulations otherwise determine).

A supply of Water for Domestic purposes does **NOT** include a supply of water for Cattle or for Horses, or for Washing Carriages, or a supply for any Trade, Manufacture or Business, or for Watering Gardens, or for Fountains, or for any Ornamental Purpose.

Assessment No.	Hereditaments (if other than that specified in the address).	Net Annual Value (where it differs from Rateable Value)			Rateable Value.	General Rate			Water		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
75	House, Studio.	101	27	19	9	4	12	7.			
76	Oak Tree.	52	14	8	2	2	7	8.			
77	Gastons Ct.	15	4	3	2	13	9				
						£46	11	1	7	14	
						TOTAL			54	5	1

(a) Amount deductible by owner under Sec. 11(1) Rating and Valuation Act, 1925.

- Rates demand 1945 for
- Amberley House
- Oak Tree Cottage
- Gastons

# DEMAND NOTE.

41

C. Huntington Esq,  
42, Gt. Russell Street,  
W.C.1.

(OR OTHER THE OCCUPIER).

The Rural District Council of Chancetonbury demand payment of a General Rate at 4/6 in the £, and of a Water Rate as mentioned below, made in respect of the financial half-year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, **NOW DUE** from you as below.

The Water Rate for Domestic Purposes is made at 11d. in the £ upon the Rateable Value of hereditaments as shewn below—minimum 6/6 half-yearly, payable by owners—(except where the Council's Regulations otherwise determine).

A supply of Water for Domestic purposes does **NOT** include a supply of water for Cattle or for Horses, or for Washing Carriages, or a supply for any Trade, Manufacture or Business, or for Watering Gardens, or for Fountains, or for any Ornamental Purpose.

Assessment No.	Hereditaments (if other than that specified in the address).	Net Annual Value (where it differs from Rateable Value)			Rateable Value.	General Rate			Water		
		£	s.	d.	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
78.	Holly Tree bldg.	12	2	14	0	11	0				
79.	Rooms .. Tutor's Room TUTOR'S	2			9	0					
						3	3	0			
						TOTAL			3	14	0

(a) Amount deductible by owner under Sec. 11(1) Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, (see back of this demand) provided

Rates demand 1945 for  
- Holly Tree Cottage  
- Tutor's Room

# **Huntington-Caspari correspondence, 1950-52**

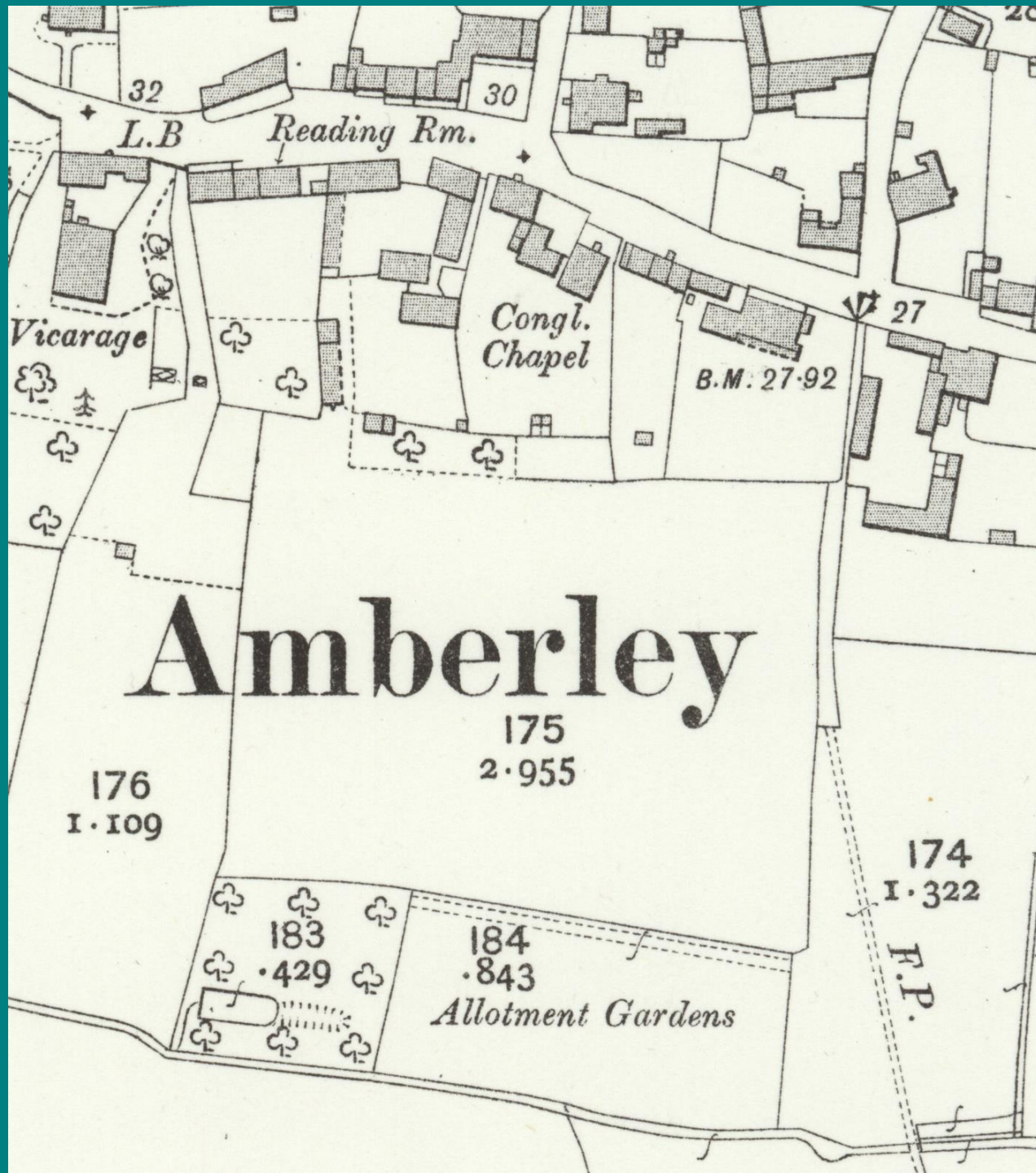
Re allotments at Lindalls:

Villagers' shortcut through Gastons not appreciated



1847

1910





‘Love Lane’,  
path along back  
of Gastons

Lindalls  
Cynbury

25<sup>th</sup> Sep 1950.

Dear Mr Huntington,

Your letter this morning came as a great blow to us. I sympathise with you in objecting to your private path being used by allotment holders. In letting the allotments I have always been careful to impress upon the holders that they are not to use the path.

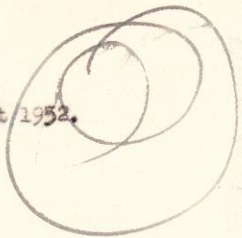
The big allotment gate has always been open, and I much regret that during our absence they have used the path against my orders, knowing perfectly well they had no right there. Should this be your sole reason for wanting to close the path I can assure you the allotment holders will not use it again.

With regard to our bicycling, my husband and I both frequently ride, especially my husband. And

## Letter to Constant Huntington from Mrs Caspari, Sep 1950

- She had told allotment holders not to use the path through Gastons.

6th August 1952.



Dear Mrs. Caspari,

I am sorry to say that I have been obliged to decide to close the path on Amberley House property from your Cottage. Your efforts and mine to keep it private have entirely failed, and in any case, now that the inner row of beech trees has had to be cut down to give light to the hedge, you will find the public Croft just as pleasant and convenient.

I am glad to remember that you enjoyed the old leafy lane for so many years, and that Dr. Caspari had the use of it for his bicycle.

The gates at both ends will be kept permanently locked from September 1st next, so will you please return the key that I believe you have, on that date?

Mrs. William Caspari,  
Lindells,  
Amberley,  
Sussex.

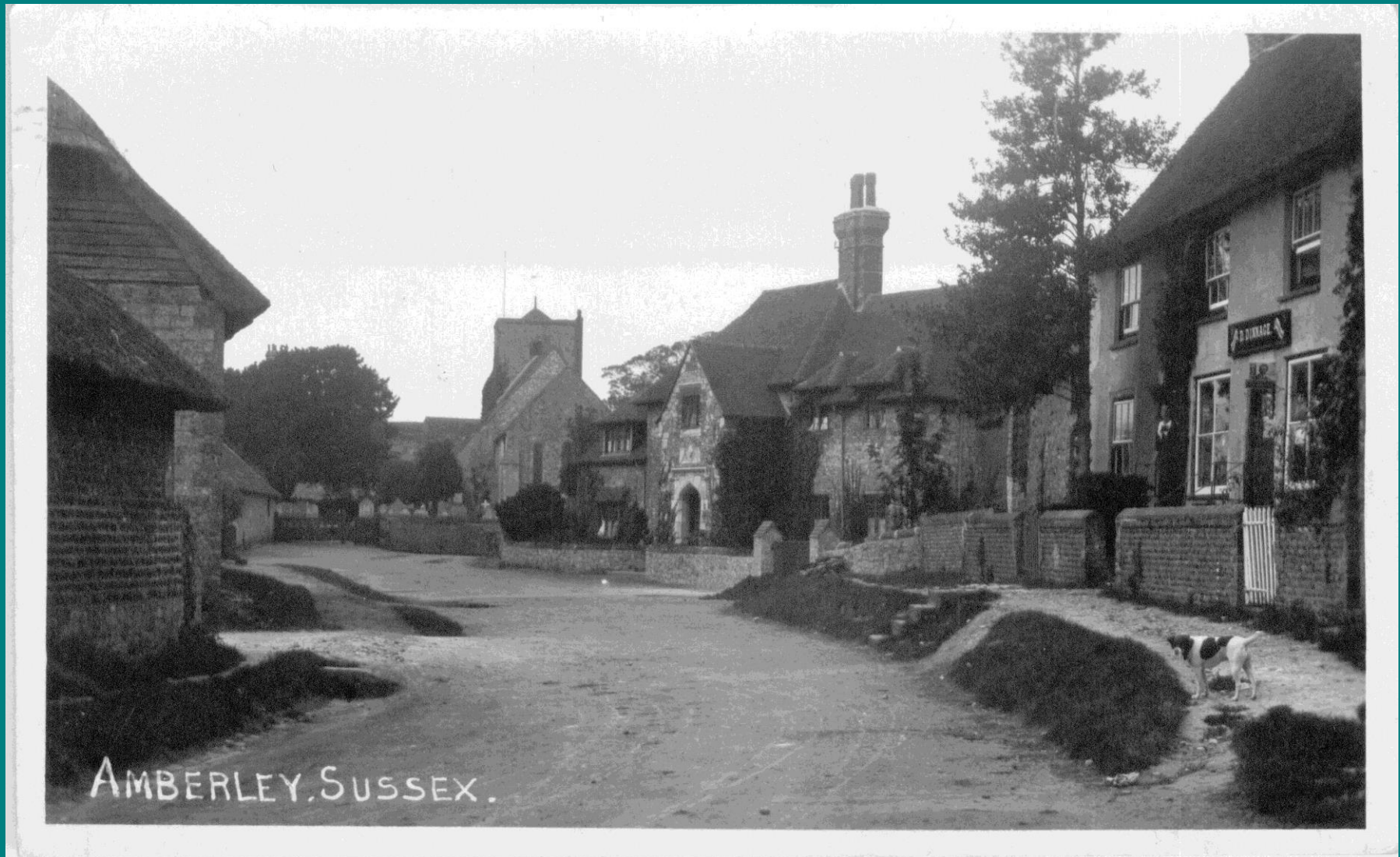
## Letter from Constant Huntington to Mrs Caspari, Aug 1952

- Footpath access denied to the Casparis

# Holly Tree Cottage shop, pre-1910



# Holly Tree Cottage Shop, post-1911 (D. Dinnage)



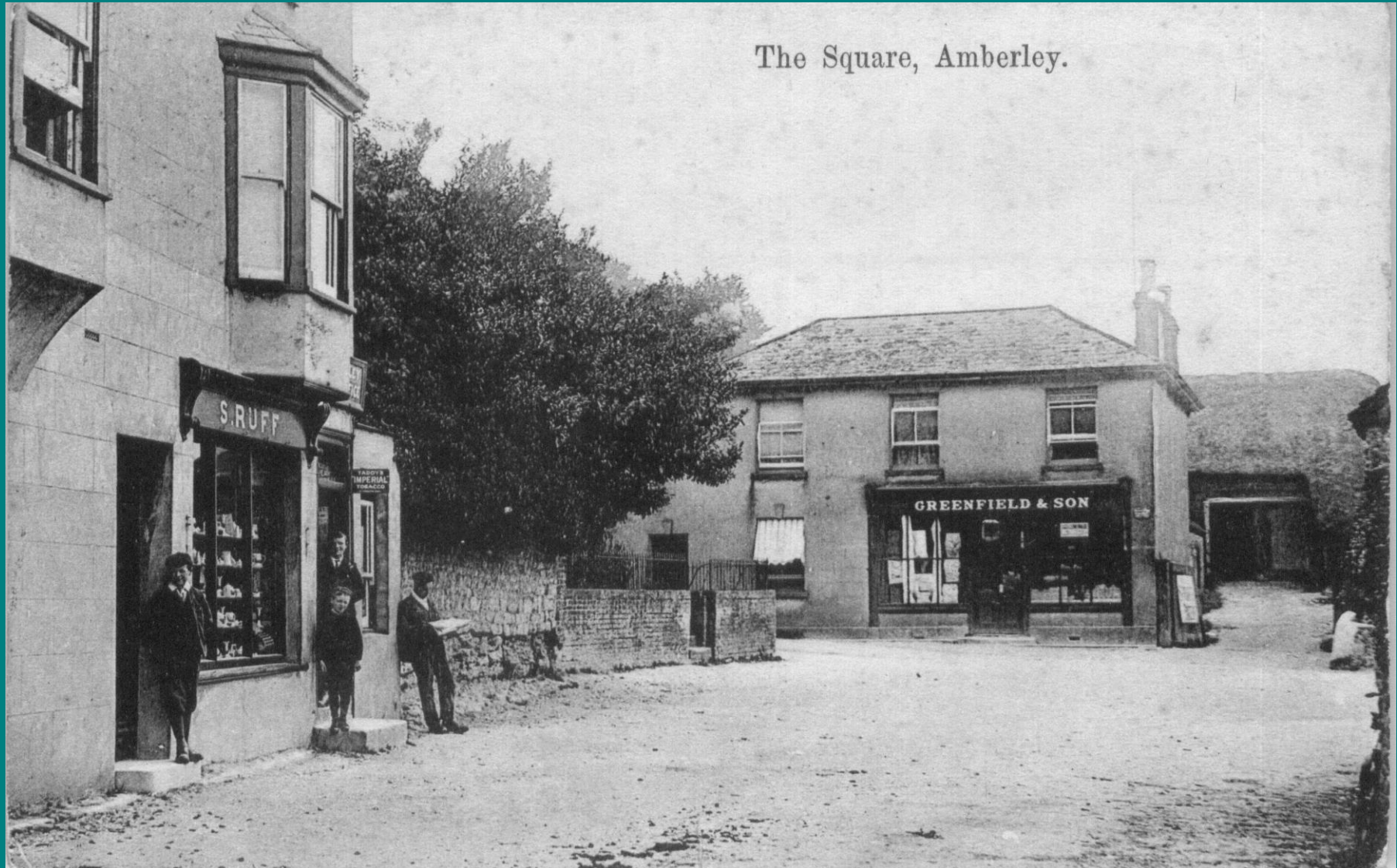
# **Dinnage one of many Amberley retailers**

- 2 butchers (Dalmon, South Down House; Lee, Holly Tree Cottage)
- 2 bakers (Cooter, Old Bakery; Allen, Old Bakehouse)
- post office (Ruff)
- general store (now Martin's; multiple owners)
- shoe shop (Bacon's)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-hand shop 'junk' plus sweets & groceries (Min Goldsmith, The Shingle)
- blacksmith
- sweet shop (Granny Greenfield, School Road)
- cobbler (School Road)

# The Old Bakery – Cooter's



# Amberley Post Office (Ruff) General stores (Greenfield)



# Amberley Post Office General stores (Spiller)



# Amberley general stores (Agate)



# Amberley general stores (Dinnage / Min Goldsmith)



# The Shingle (Min Goldsmith)



# Dalmon's, butchers



# David Dinnage, snr, 1931



# David Dinnage, snr, Amberley Revels 1932 with May Queen (Barbara Lee)



# Amberley Revels, 1931



# Amberley Revels, 1931



# The Amberley Revels in 1990

Filmed by  
Julian Howell-Hughes

# Oddfellows' Gala Day

- Held from 1868 to 1915[?]
- Amberley Castle grounds
- Pre-cursor of Amberley Revels?

# Oddfellows' Gala Day 1890

- ended in a general riot
- a dozen couples fighting at once
- Alfred & Richard Ruff fined

# Oddfellows' Gala Day 1890

- ended in a general riot
- a dozen couples fighting at once
- Alfred & Richard Ruff fined

Richard Ruff also charged with assaulting PC Legg after leaving the Thatched House, drunk. The PC had been an “eyesore” to him since he had been at Amberley. A cart had to be hired to take Ruff to Arundel police station.

# Oddfellows formal dinners late 19th C

- Ended with 9-11 toasts
- Catering by Mr Herrington

# Amberley Drinking Establishments

- Village: *Black Horse, Sportsman, Thatched House* (Herrington)  
*Golden Fleece* (Vine House)
- Houghton Bridge: *Cricketers, Bridge Inn*
- Houghton: *George & Dragon*
- Rackham: *Fighting Cocks*

# Thatched House





**Thatched House**  
Walter & Gladys  
Herrington

# George & Dragon, Houghton

Headless  
coachman  
path to left



***Fighting Cocks*** closed  
because Parham workers  
went there, got drunk, and  
didn't go back to work.

# Amberley Football Team at The Cricketers, 1935



# The Square



**Note by Jim Hepburn re The Square photo  
'...girl is a Halihan ...car belonged to Tom Craig**

Gerald has ident. filed the girl as  
a Halihan, said the car in front  
belonged to Tom Craig. (GR didn't see  
that someone was in fact sitting in  
the car). He said that Craig would  
drive down Mill Lane and straight  
across the Stonington Road without  
stopping, saying he was less likely  
to hit anyone that way.

# Tom Craig with his Singer Tourer



# Farm workers cottages

Amberley House (3)

Brook Green (3)

Kennards (2)

Oak Tree House (3)

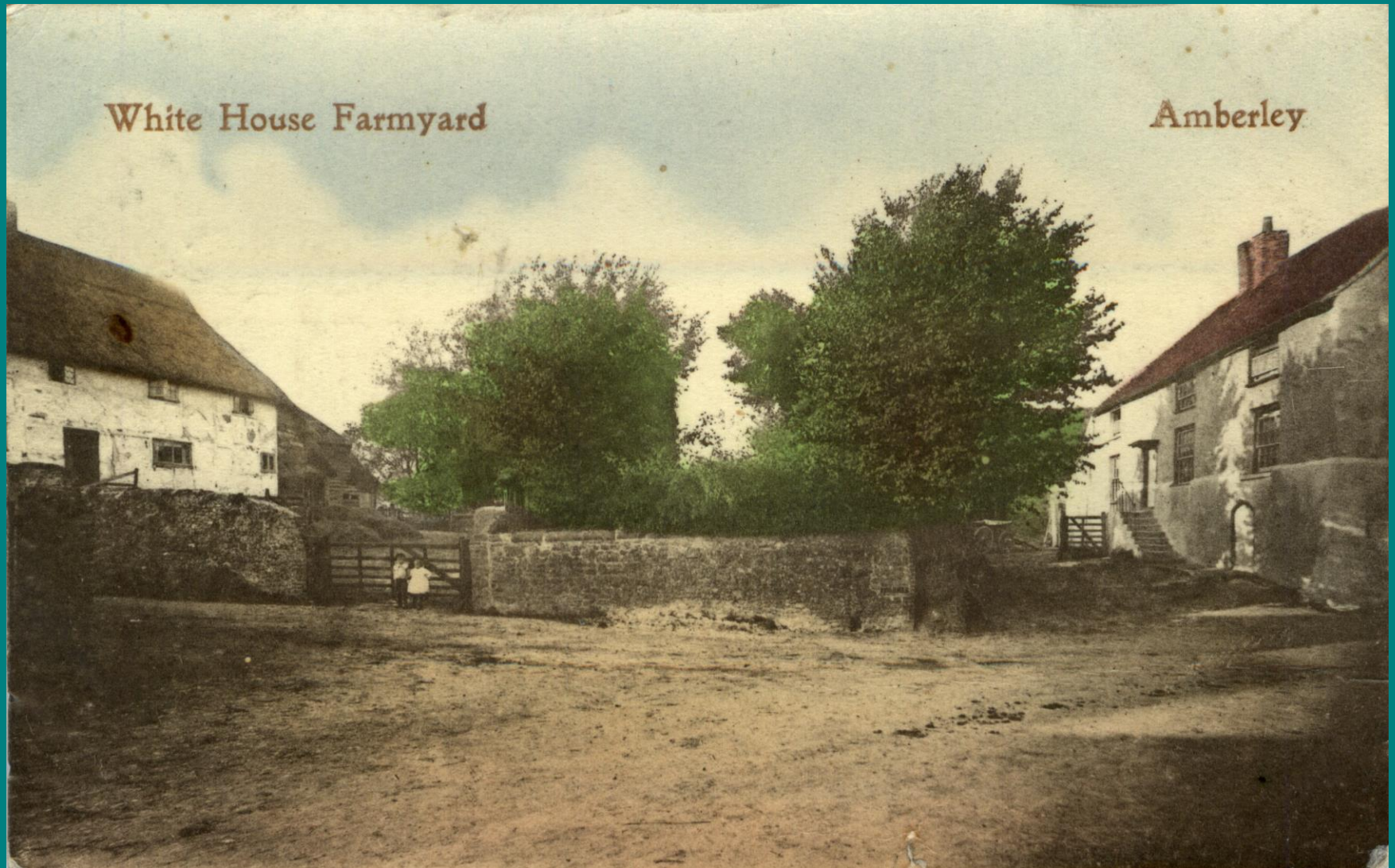
Old Place (4)

“A farmer let them get into disrepair and the tenant people were pushed up into the Council houses at Crossgates and people came down from London and turned three into one...”

# Farms in Amberley

- East Street Farm (Ruff)
  - White House / Kennards (Ruff)
  - Claydon's, Hog Lane
  - Drewitt's Farm (Lee)
  - Mills, The Alley
  - Holly Tree House (Robinson/Humphrey)
  - North Road Farm (Duke)
  - Thatched House (Herrington)
  - Stream Farm (Stream House; Ruff)
- plus Castle Farm & Downs Farm

# White House farmyard



# Kennards yard



# North Road Farmhouse



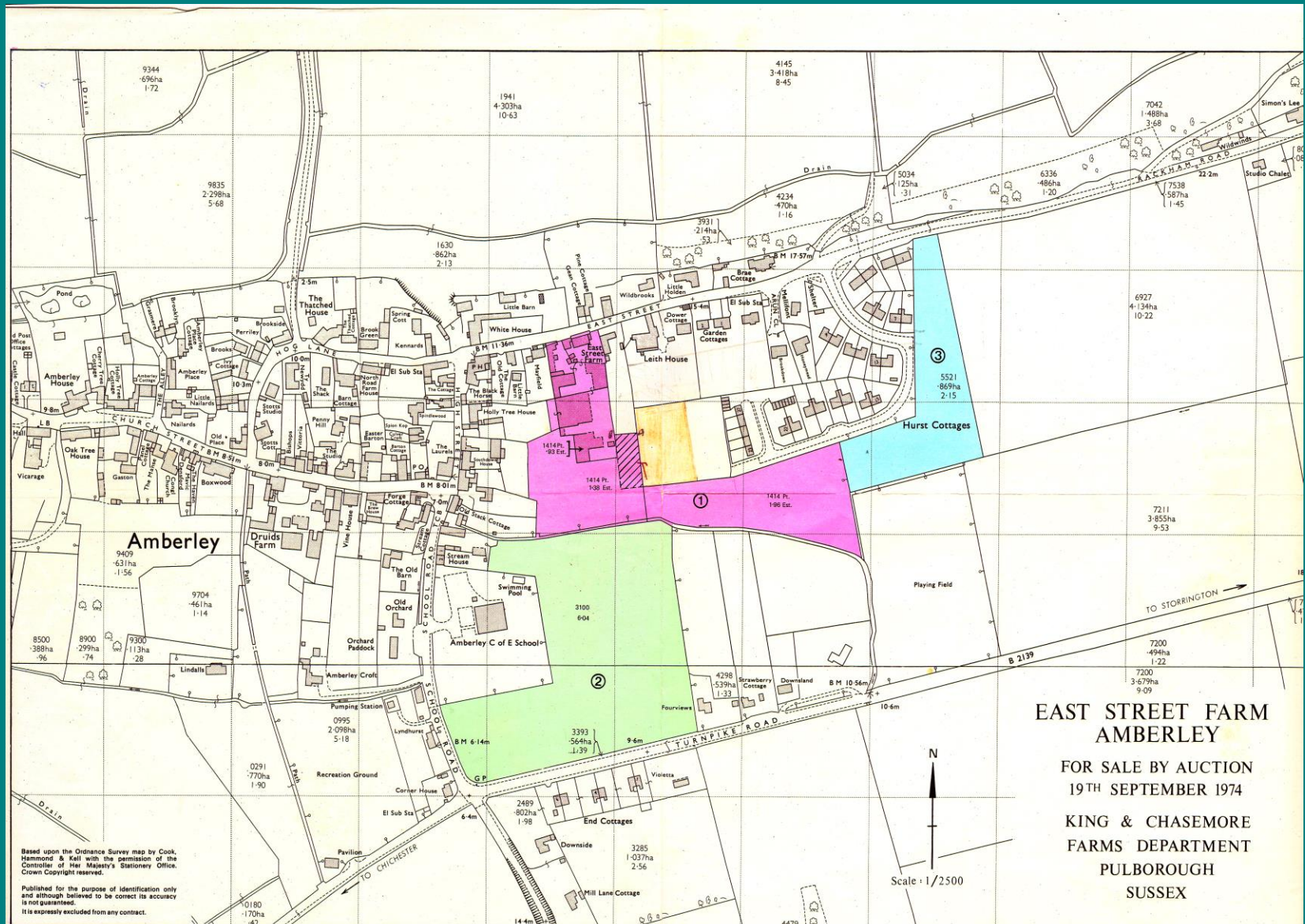
# Claydon's yard & Smith's barn Hog Lane



# Mills farmyard, The Alley



# East Street Farm



# Amberley's cow problem



# The Vicar and the Oddfellows, 1904

The Vicar thinks it advisable to publish the following correspondence between himself and the Secretary of the St. Michael's Lodge of the Oddfellows' Society, so that all who are interested may know exactly the reasons on account of which he has been compelled to sever his connection with the Lodge. As will be seen, his protest is not against the consumption of beer, &c., by the members of the Lodge at their Dinner, but the sale of it on the Ground to the general public during the afternoon and evening.

AMBERLEY VICARAGE,  
June 13th, 1904.

DEAR MR. MOGGRIDGE,

I am very sorry to hear that the St. Michael's Lodge have decided to sell intoxicants on the Ground on their Gala Day. This is not necessary as alcoholic drinks can be obtained by anyone who really wants them at the Public House close at hand, and the selling of intoxicating drinks in the Grounds is a temptation to those present to spend money in "treating" which they cannot afford, and to drink to an extent which, instead of adding to, will spoil the day's enjoyment. It will in short be harmful not only to the men and women, but a bad example to the children, and is a decidedly retrograde step at Amberley, bringing back the most objectionable features of the old Club Days. That this should be done by a Lodge which has always had a well-deserved reputation for encouraging thrift and promoting the well-being of its Members, is to me incomprehensible, and I can only suppose that the suggestion was accepted amongst others without sufficient consideration. I am certain if this proposal is carried out it will injure the Society by estranging many who have always been its friends and supporters. For myself, I shall be reluctantly compelled to withdraw from the Lodge as a protest against what I believe is not only harmful to my Parishioners, but contrary to the interests of the Lodge to which I have hitherto esteemed it an honour to belong. Sincerely hoping that the Lodge will reconsider their action, and that we shall have a Gala Day not less enjoyable because it will be spent honestly, soberly, and in the fear of God,

Believe me, Yours faithfully,  
GEO. F. CARR.

## AMBERLEY, HOUGHTON AND PARHAM PARISH MAGAZINE.

LOYAL ST. MICHAEL'S LODGE,  
AMBERLEY, June 15th.

REV. DR. CARR,

I am sorry to receive yours of 13th inst., as we cannot now fall in with your suggestion. In the first place we should be unable to get a Caterer unless he saw some profit coming from his sale of drink. He has to cater for 2s. 6d. per head, out of which he finds a marquee cost £4 to £5, or say 1s. per head. He could not provide the dinner for 1s. 6d., so reckons to make up on sales of liquor. All our other Societies, Slate Clubs, Equitable, Cricket and Football Clubs, have their Annual Supper with intoxicants, and as far as I can hear no harm is done. I do not think myself that the fact of the drink being on the ground will make all the difference. When Mr. Pepper, Junr., returned from his honeymoon, the men had a cricket match, supper, and ale *ad lib.*, and not a single man got intoxicated. Last year's Gala Day was held on a very wet day and probably some did imbibe more freely than usually, but if we can get a fine day, and provide some sports in the afternoon (which draws one away from the booth), I think all will be well. If our Galas had been noisy and quarrelsome in years past, I would certainly have nothing to do with the arrangements, but under present circumstances I cannot withdraw as I feel that everyone will go to the dinner hoping to have a pleasant day, and not with the idea of drinking all they can. I enclose for your perusal Mr. Johnstone's letter, which shows that he has nothing to complain of, in fact, I believe ours have always been orderly. I have read your letter to our Committee, who very much regret your decision as our Society has had the Vicar associated with it from its commencement, and does not like to lose you now. Won't you think the matter over again, please? I should be glad of a reply to my former letter at your convenience.

Yours truly,  
WM. MOGGRIDGE.

AMBERLEY VICARAGE,  
June 17th.

DEAR MR. MOGGRIDGE,

Your letter has just come to hand, and I regret the arrangements cannot be altered. What I and others object to is the Sale of Drink on the ground. This is entirely different to what has taken place on the other occasions to which you have alluded. The Club Suppers are held in rooms, and only last a few hours. The drink taken is with food, and only by those at table.

There is little if any "treating," and no women or children are present. I am glad to be able to testify to the sobriety and temperance displayed on these occasions, and I am always glad to accept an invitation to take part. The Sale of Drink in the field during the whole afternoon and evening to practically the whole Parish and neighbourhood is surely a very different thing. I quite believe that the people come for a pleasant day and not for drinking, and it is all the more to be regretted that this temptation to squander money should be placed in their midst, especially if the principal reason for doing so is as you say, that the profit on the drink sold may repay the Caterer for the expense he incurs of £4 or £5 in putting up a Marquee for the Dinner. To my mind the whole thing is bad and demoralizing to the place, and cannot be defended by any arguments which would commend themselves to any dispassionate judge. I shall of course have much pleasure in holding a Service at 11 a.m., and shall cordially welcome you all to the Church, but although it pains me to write it I cannot go to the dinner, and I must ask you to accept my resignation of membership in the Lodge. I can assure you and the other members of the Lodge that I do this with much sorrow, but I would be failing in my duty as Vicar of the Parish, if friendship, fear, or favour caused me to countenance anything which I honestly believed was contrary to the welfare of those entrusted to me.

Believe me, Yours faithfully,  
GEO. F. CARR.

## PARHAM.

### CHURCH SERVICES.

July 3rd. Holy Communion at Mid-day.  
" 3rd. Children's Flower Service at 3.

### HYMNS.

MORNING.		AFTERNOON.
July 10.—290, 299, 309,	Special Hymns.	
" 17.—300, 304, 550,	183, 184, 191.	
" 24.—197, 202, 214,	217, 222, 228.	
" 31.—229, 233, 235,	330, 331, 335.	

The Flower Service will be held on July 3rd, instead of on June 26th.

### CRICKET.

Particulars of the matches played have not been received, but we understand that our Club defeated Pulborough on May 21st.

Playing at Stopham on June 4th, we won an interesting match by 2 runs.

### FIXTURES FOR JULY.

July 2nd. St. Philip's (Arundel), at Arundel.  
" 16th. Pulborough, at Parham.  
" 23rd. Burpham, at Burpham.

AMBERLEY VICARAGE,

*July 30th, 1901.*

DEAR

For the future I propose to have from time to time meetings to which *All* Mothers in both Parishes will be invited, and it would be a very good thing if every mother would take in the Mothers' Own Paper, but I have decided not to carry on any longer a Branch of the Mothers' Guild. I am sending a copy of this printed letter to all our members to tell them so.

Rule 6 says that members of the Mothers' Guild must be "Members of the Church of England of good moral Character." Unless this Rule has been, in every case, carefully followed when admitting members, a Branch of the Mothers' Guild must prove worse than useless in any Parish. As you all know, I have not admitted any ordinary members since I came here as your Vicar. I have only allowed a few to become what are called "Probationers." The list of members which I received when I came here was not a satisfactory one, and experience has convinced me that it cannot be made so.

Every member, when admitted, solemnly promised to follow the Counsels of the Guild, which are printed on your Cards of Membership. I know that some do try to follow these Counsels, but in the case of many of our members I can only conclude that they did not understand what they were promising to do.

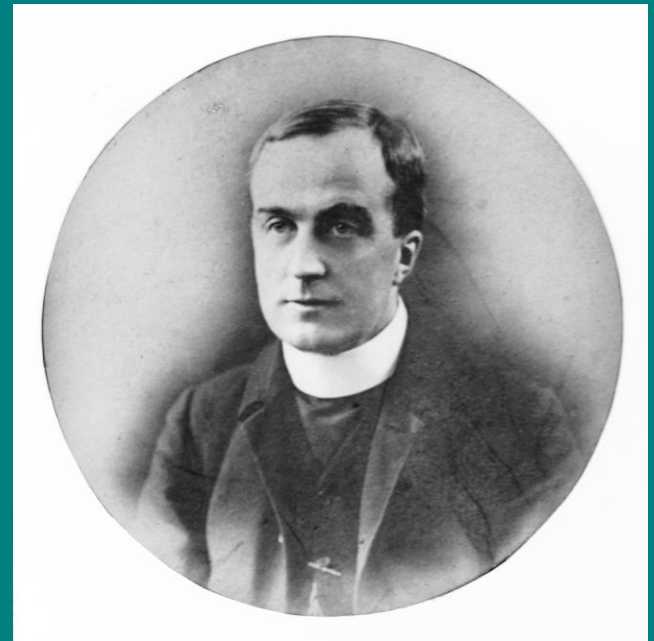
Under these circumstances I am sure that it would be better for our Branch of the Mothers' Guild to come to an end.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

## Letter from Revd Streatfeild closing the Mothers' Guild, 1901

'Members of the Mothers' Guild must be "Members of the C. of E. of good moral Character"' ...

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About 22 members of the Mothers' Guild had spent a pleasant day at Worthing.

# Archive issues

- Old Surgery not ideal
  - damp, cramped
  - unsuitable for public access
- Much material destined for West Sussex Record Office
- Need to digitise:
  - parish magazines
  - postcard collection

# Can you help with digitisation?

- We can't afford commercial services
- Becoming a charity allows Society to apply for grants
  - and to get Gift Aid on donations
- Volunteer help
  - need access to kit
  - practical understanding of digitisation

# Can you help with transcribing?

- Recorded interviews
  - 20 files to be transcribed
  - c.20 hours recorded
- All have been converted automatically to text
  - but much editing needed
- No special equipment needed
  - audio files can be played back on a PC
  - 'raw' text in Word files

# Can you add to the archive?

- Anything to do with Amberley
  - people, properties
  - events, businesses, clubs
  - documents, photographs, videos
- Deposition or loan (for digitisation)

# Where have they gone?

- Bacon's
  - over 50 deeds & documents
  - donated by Erica Barnard
- Gerald Butler photos
  - Where are they?