



The Midhurst Society

CHURCH HILL, MIDHURST

Church Hill, West side

The Lady Hoare Trust premises (now empty)
with the House and Mews Cottage now known
as Church View

Grade II; listed 26.11.1987
One building. Early C19. Stuccoed. Tiled
roof. Glazing bars intact on first
floor. Doorway with pilasters and projecting
cornice. C19 shop window to the south of
this. 2 storeys. 2 windows.
Listing NGR: SU8867421546



(We do not know whether the Trust still owns this property.)

[Upstairs: Railway Systems Consultants Ltd]

Sir Frederick Hoare and Lady Mary Hoare lived at 78 Hamilton Terrace during the 1960s. Sir Frederick was Lord Mayor of London in 1962 and at that time his wife set out to provide support for some 600 families whose children had been affected by the thalidomide tragedy. This drug, taken during pregnancy to help with morning sickness, had produced babies with disabilities like half an arm or leg.

Lady Hoare established a charitable trust to raise money to help these families. She rounded up well-known celebrities including Judy Garland who donated her £2,000 fee for appearing at the London Palladium in 1963, and she raised £150,000. Lady Hoare was awarded an OBE in 1972 but sadly she died of cancer a year later.

The Lady Hoare Trust has now merged with the charity 'Contact a Family' which offers support, advice and help to families with disabled children.

Church Hill, West side
The Former Forge Building
Midhurst Old Forge, known as Forge Cottage

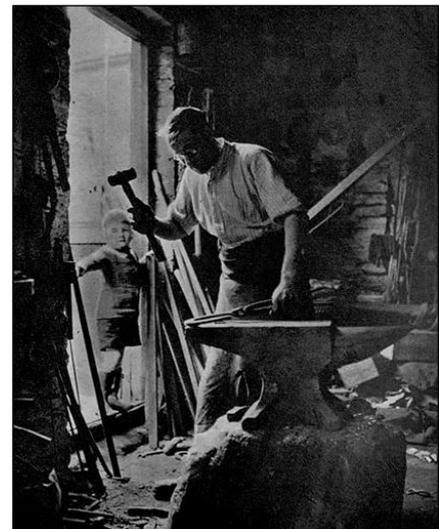
Grade II; listed 26.11.1987

This building stands endwise to the street in the alley in front of Forge House. Early C19. Red brick. Tiled roof. Casement windows. One storey. 3 windows. Included for historical reasons as an old town forge.

Listing NGR: SU8866121543



[Photo, showing Tom Charles in May 1941, from the 'Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News'. "Business," he said, "is not what it was. I used to shoe a hundred hunters a month – now only a few farmers' nags."]



[Peter Lockwood (1931 – 2002) was the last blacksmith to work the forge. He moved to Midhurst from Wiltshire in 1950, taking over the premises from Tom Charles. Peter was one of the last local farriers working from a forge instead of entirely from the back of a van. His farriery toolkit and his fire-tools were acquired by the Weald and Downland Museum, just as last used. A red oak was planted in his memory by Freda, his widow, in 2018, near the entrance to the Cowdray Farm Shop – formerly the Estate stables.]

Church Hill, West side
Forge Cottage

(Formerly listed as Midhurst Old Forge)

Grade II; listed 26.11.1987 21/33

House. This house stands back from the street behind an alley. C18 front to a probably older building. Ground floor painted brick, above tile-hung. Tiled roof. Casement windows. 2 storeys. 2 windows.

Listing NGR: SU8864521545



(photos by kind permission of Alison Windle)

Church Hill, West side
Apsley House

Grade II; listed 26.11.1987

House. Early C19. Stuccoed. Hipped tiled roof. Glazing bars intact on first floor. Doorway with pilasters to the south of this, the top half of which is now glazed. Continuous cornice over both. Two storeys. Two windows.

Listing NGR: SU8866021537



Church Hill, West side

Church Hill Dental Practice

(Formerly listed as D Morton Hickson, Chemist)

Grade II; listed 26.11.1987

House and shop. Endwise to the road. C18. Stuccoed, south wall red brick. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact on first floor. Gable end to the street with modern shop front. Two storeys. Three windows. Included for group value.

Listing NGR: SU8866321528

[Formerly C Mitten, chemist]

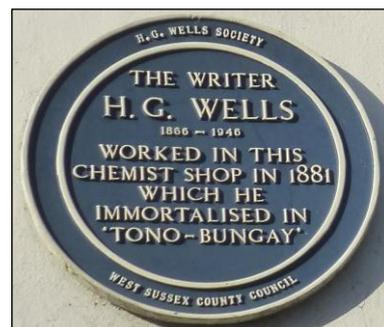


1756: the property was described as 'barn or workshop; yard and garden. The tenants were Thomas Tiller (wheelwright) and John Luff (carpenter). The owner might have been Henry Piper.

1845: William Brewer (owner/occupier)

1881: S E Cowap (chemist) (when H G Wells worked there)

1907: Frank R Rump (chemist)



1908-30: Dior L Darley (chemist) (owner: Hon. Wheatman Pearson)

Church Hill, West side Trinity Cottage

Grade II; listed 26.11.1987

House. Early C19. Stuccoed. Gabled front. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Doorway with flat hood over. Three storeys. One window.

Listing NGR: SU8865821515



Extracts from Cowdray Manuscripts collection at WSRO

17th and 18th century: Occupied by the Pratt family. John (died 1676); Anne (d. 1721); Thomas (blacksmith) (d. 1733); Mary (d. 1756?)

1756: Nehemia Pratt (blacksmith) – leased from Sir James Peachey for 1,000 years at 6d a year – Peachey's standard rental.

(Note: the Peachey family acquired a number of burgage properties, which carried votes at Parliamentary elections.)

1818: Mary Alcock (later assigned to Rev. C Alcock)

183x: Thomas and William Austin (?): "We took a burgage house . . . opposite the church on a yearly tenancy to establish a school which failed of success and they then refused to put the property in repair upon vacating it. Repairs carried out by the owners, George & John Smith. (Thomas Austin was a boot and shoe maker.)

1842: William Ayling (tailor in West Street)

1877: Arthur Ayling (draper in West Street)

1879: Joseph Morley (d. 1880/81). House renovated during his tenancy. Assigned to Anne Morley (widow).

1881: Alfred Lewis (brewer, West Street)

1907: Henry Wright (hairdresser, Red Lion Street) (d. 1914?) Assigned to Alice Wright, widow.

1921: Walter Silcock (gardener at Liphook) who paid £500.

1941: Charles Mitten (chemist in Church Hill) who paid £625. Enlarged to fee simple

1953: Miss Margaret Dawson (Midhurst teacher) who paid £1,500. House now known as Neville House.

1954: Eric Powell (East Africa Colonial Service) who paid £1,900.

1959: Mrs Susan Maxwell (of Lodsworth) who paid £3,725.

1960: Mrs Joyce Haig-Thomas. Name changed to Trinity House.

1961: Mrs Veronica Hanbury-Travy. (Mortgage arranged in 1963 for £3,666.)

1970: John Robins (solicitor in Lincolns Inn) and Robin Cross (publisher).

1974: Mrs Betty Toule (London SW 10) who paid £23,800.

1989: Henry & Jill Ayres of Haslemere, who paid £185,000. (Mrs Ayres died 1 October 1990)

1999: Mrs Esme Rose of Midhurst

2002: Miss Margaret Wilding of Lurgashall, who paid £290,000.



(Photos from Jackson Stops sales brochure 2003)

Church Hill, West side

Campbell Walchli Antiques, Old Manor Cottage, and Old Manor House Restaurant

(Formerly listed as No 4 Church Hill and

GRADE II; listed 18.6.1959;
amended 26.11.1987

House and two shops. One building. C17 timber-framed building, said to date from 1634. Now faced with painted brick on ground floor and roughcast above.

The northernmost window-bay added in the early C19 in brick, now painted. Gable in centre. Two gables to the south of it. Tiled roof. Casement windows.

Modern shop fronts. Two storeys. Five windows.

Listing NGR: SU8867321508



Old Manor Cafe) [Later: Gaudi's Restaurant; now residential]

Extract from the Sussex entries of the **Victoria County History**:
"Farther north is 'the Old Manor House', a rough-casted timber-framed house said to date from 1634. The north part of the east front is gabled and has moulded barge-boards decorated with foil-headed panels. The lower story has an 18th-century bow-window. The ceilings are open-timbered.



[The buff-coloured building on the left is now The Church House; the white gabled portion is The Old Clock House. Eagle-eyed viewers might notice a door with the name 'Elois' over. H.G. Wells, who worked a few yards away, described a people he called the Eloi in his book *The Time Machine*. Local legend has it that this is the home of the Eloi in our time.]

Extract from Report prepared by **Domestic Buildings Research Group**, Surrey (April 1987; author: Jan Harding)

"The house faces the Market Square and the Church. It stands in an important position in the Town. Originally it filled much of the west side of the Square, and now the Restaurant occupies the major part of the building. There was a drive into a courtyard probably with a stable here, and a back kitchen. Surprisingly, there is still a substantial garden beyond.

"The facade is rendered over, and is an early eighteenth-century refurbishing. The front has been raised, and the windows extend up into the roof to give a more imposing facade. Below is a shop front with pilasters on each side, and a door on each side also with pilasters. One door probably led into the shop, and the end door to a passage through. Beside is a large boulder, which is one side of the drive-through. The other boulder has gone. This helped to protect the main post of the house from carriage wheels. This space is now filled with a little shop, under separate ownership.

"On the other end beyond the restaurant entrance, is the long window which lights the inglenook hearth. The chimney rises here, between hearth room and solar wing. This wing has a moulded barge-board, and is beyond the added chimney-stack. It was part of the original house, but is now under separate management, and converted to an antique shop.

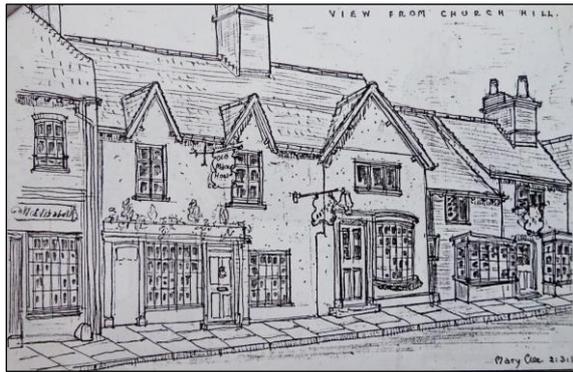
"The first house had been built with the centre room open to the roof. The main posts have jowls and these are considered to have been used during construction of houses built before 1600. Jowl posts are found in house and wing. At about 1600 the hall was ceiled over with a fine spine beam and chamfered joists, giving an upper room here. At the same time the Sussex marble hearth was inserted. There is a bread oven on the inner side. The fireback is 'grains of rice' pattern which is an old design. The fire-dogs have cups for warming mulled wine. These may not be original to the house. There is a deep moulding on the hearth surround, and a salt shelf within the fire-place. This hearth was for the family cooking, but a separate kitchen was soon added at the back for the servants.

"The stone building at right-angles is a later structure. It is of dressed stone with galleting and brick quoins.

"The wing remained unchanged, except that there was an added wing beyond, at a slightly lower level. The jettied joists have been under-built, adding a further dimension to the living room inside. The parlour hearth is smaller than the inglenook. It has been infilled with a brick surround. An old glass casement window with small diamond panes remains. The glass is greenish and has bubbles. Early glass was very expensive and it was wired in to central posts so that the owner could take it with him when he moved.

"In the 18th century the facade of the old house was raised and dormers added. The heavy jowl-posts remain, one bearing evidence of empty mortices for arching braces which would have been needed for access between the south-end bedroom and the new middle bedroom. The stop on the spine beam is called a Lamb's Tongue Stop, characteristic of builds in the early seventeenth century.

"This is a most interesting house, carefully restored. The modern extensions and additions do not detract from the atmosphere of the old house. The two south rooms have been opened out, but the stair at this end is probably in its early position. The restaurant buildings are now linked round a much-reduced courtyard, with the garden behind."

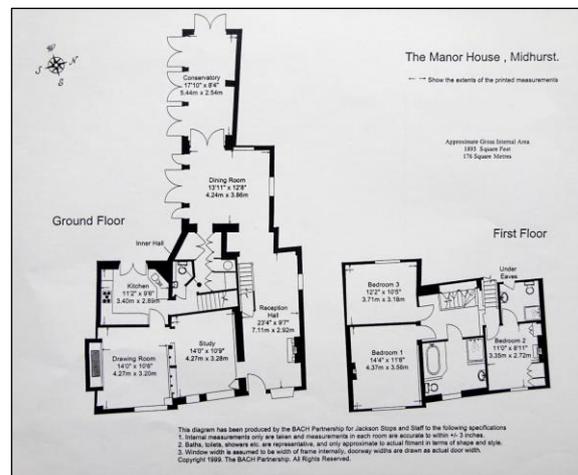


1745: (property south of Trinity Cottage)
Owned by William Durman; occupied by John Upperton (tallow chandler) and William Whitter the Younger (brewer)

1846: Owned by Thomas Austin; occupied by William Bernard (tithe apportionment)

1921: Edwin Albery (solicitor with premises in Sheep Lane)

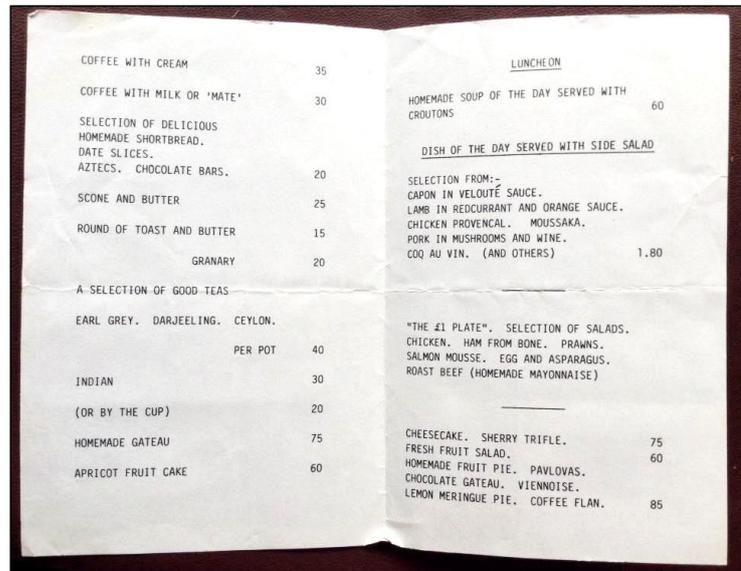
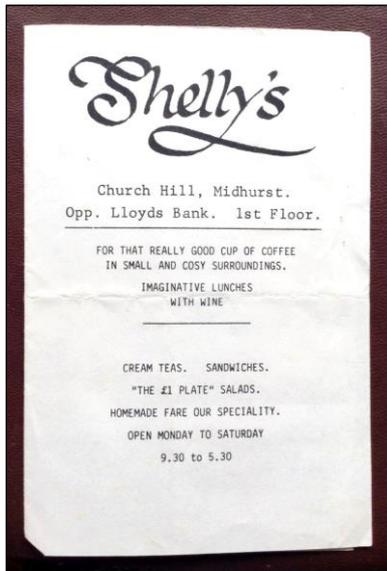
1922-27: Owned by George Housome (tailor); occupied by Charles Pullen



[floor-plan from Jackson Stops brochure 1999]

Recollection by JoRuth Dunn:

"I have been sorting boxes in the attic up here in the Midlands: a few finds. Who remembers Shelly's Tea Shop on Church Hill? 1980's. I worked there 2 days a week after school and Saturdays when the Saturday girl [Helen] wanted time off. £1 per hour plus tips. Mrs Shelly ran it (she lived in a house up on the Common ..off a long track off the Petersfield road somewhere just past the Woolbeding turn I think). She had a number of people who baked for her: huge individual pavlovas topped with fruit and cream were a speciality. (But the local MP used to come in with his children just before closing time, order pavlova and there was always loads of mess to Hoover up as they bashed the meringue about with their spoons!) Back then Midhurst was a popular stop for coach parties and on a busy coach day in summer we would have people queuing on the stairs and into the antique shop downstairs (meaning that they had already probably not found a table at The Coffee Pot in the arcade or the tea shop in the high street, whose name I can't remember.) Mrs Shelly was fierce about customer serviceand she taught me the power of positive selling: never just say you don't have an item....always move on to offer an alternative. And always offer to top up the tea pot with extra hot water....costs nothing to do, feels good and if the customer stays longer they might order another piece of cake!" (August 2020)



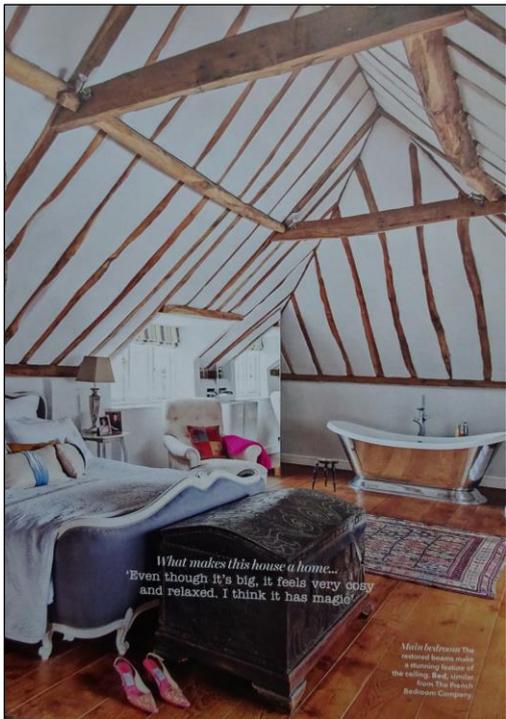
In 2008 planning consent was granted for remodelling and modernisation: "There are three main building elements that are physically linked by an unattractive and inappropriate flat roof extension which impacts significantly on the listed group, and with other local extensions to neighbouring buildings. The rear section has an extension comprising an articulated modern conservatory, not entirely appropriate for the setting.

"The proposal is to demolish and replace the flat roof extension with a more appropriate design linking the elements and carrying out other alterations and improvements to create a five-bedroom house.

"The new link is provided by a small green oak frame two-storey barn set on a north-south axis. To the rear, the existing conservatory is replaced with a simpler form structure, glazed on two exposed sides to the garden, roofed with a traditional lead flat roof with a central glazed lantern."

This ambitious project was the vision of Fina and Jac Jurado, who had moved here from London in 1984. On retirement, they decided to convert this strange complex of properties into a single, five-bedroom home. These photos are taken from "Country Homes" in February 2014.





Church Hill, West side
Birdcage House and Lyndale House
(Formerly listed as Eagle House and
Lyndale House)

GRADE II; listed 18.6.1959;
amended 26.11.1987

Pair of late C18 houses. Red brick.
Stringcourse. Parapet. Hipped tiled
roof. Glazing bars intact. Iron frames
for window-boxes on first floor.

Round-
headed doorway with raised
architraves alternately of red brick
and stone.

Two storeys. Four windows.

Listing NGR: SU8866821487



“When I was 9 [circa 1933] I became 'Boots' at Lyndale School, a seat of learning for young girls run by a neat, rather Victorian-looking Lady called Miss Westcott. Once a large private house, the building had a narrow frontage in Church Hill, providing accommodation for a number of boarders who in turn provided me with my primary task: cleaning shoes. At the rear of the house was a spacious vegetable garden. At

the far end a stone wall separated it from Duck Lane.” [Ronald E Boxall: 'A Midhurst Lad']

[Photograph of 'vegetable garden' from King & Chasemore brochure, 2003]

In the 1881 census for Lyndale there are 2 head teachers, a governess, 2 servants and 18 boarders – all young ladies between the ages of 9 and 17.