



KNOCKHUNDRED ROW, MIDHURST

The origin of the name has been lost in the mists of history. 'Hundred' is an old county division. Perhaps the Lord of the Manor was entitled to 'knock up' 100 men to take up arms against an enemy. The name Knockhundred Hill is recorded in Cowdray Estate archives at WSRO dating from 1679; in 1679 it had become Knockhundred Row. Prior to that, in 1568, it was known as Wildes Hill.

Rumbold's Hill, East Side
The Old Surgery
Corner of Knockhundred Row [south west side] and Rumbolds Hill East Side.

Listed as: Rumbold's Hill, East Side
Formerly listed as Bristol and West Building Society

[Now residential – entrance in Knockhundred – and Midhurst Denture Services]



Knockhundred Row (south west side),
Nos. 2 and 2a

GV II 18.6.59

House and shop premises. C17 or earlier timber-framed building with the timbering exposed in the east wall with red brick and plaster infilling, but refronted with painted brick on ground floor and rough plaster above. Tiled roof. Casement windows on first floor. C18 curved shop window on ground floor. Two storeys. Three windows.

Listing NGR: SU8863421581



[Now Open Country; previously Verralls electrical, Jeans Records]

(Formerly listed as Cubitt and West, Estate Agents and Frimonds Solicitors.)

(Previously listed as Premises adjoining St Oswald's to the west)

**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (south west side)
St Oswald's**

GV II Listed 18.06.1959

House, possibly subdivided. C18. Coursed stone with red brick dressings, quoins and stringcourse. Wooden eaves cornice. Half-hipped tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Doorway with pilasters and projecting cornice. Two storeys. Five windows.

Listing NGR: SU8864521580



[Now St Oswald's Dental Surgery; previously Sargent & Stevens, dentist]

[In the house now known as St. Oswalds, James Wheatley conducted a school. In Pigot's 1839 it was noted as a day and boarding school. That year, James had married Charlotte Gates, from Midhurst, but they fell on hard times. A vestry minute of 24th July 1843 reads: "A number of paupers were excused payment of rates, they being all in receipt of Parish Relief, with the exception of Jas. Wheatley from whom it is quite impossible to collect the rate". By 1845 James was a prisoner in the Petworth House of Correction. In 1851 Charlotte was described as Head of the household and 'Married, 30, Schoolmistress-Pauper'. She had a son and a daughter. The daughter died from a fever aged 16. James died in a lunatic asylum in 1878, but was brought back to Midhurst to be buried in the new cemetery on the Common. Charlotte joined him the following year, having died of apoplexy. Source: "*Some schools, some schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in Midhurst during the nineteenth century*" by ALC Stewart.]

**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (north east side)
21/24 Knockhundred House**

GV II 18.6.59

House. C18. Stuccoed. Long and short quoins. Cornice and parapet. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Doorway with engaged Tuscan columns, pediment, triglyph frieze and panelled reveals. Two storeys and attic. Four windows. Two hipped dormers.

Listing NGR: SU8865321596



**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (north east side),
Bloody Mary Bar (part), No. 9, Pandora, The
Coffee Pot
and Knockhundred Market**
(Formerly listed as No 9 Capricorn,
Rosemary's Wine Bar and the Knockhundred
Market)

[Now 4Sight, The Midhurst Museum and the
Museum Tea Rooms; formerly Rudwicks Car
Hire]



GV II

One building, two shops. C18 front to a C17 or earlier timber-framed building with considerable later alterations. Coursed stone rubble and brick, both painted. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact on first floor only. Pandora has a C19 shop front with pilasters and fascia. The ground floor of the Market has been opened up to reveal the timbering of the building inside with recessed shop windows. Included for group value.

Listing NGR: SU8866921593

[anecdotal: "It was H W Keil. an antique shop. From Broadway in Worcestershire. My dad was Manager. I lived there when we first moved to Midhurst in 1969 for about 2 years. Was a great place for hide and seek. the building extended all the way down to Me and Maya and was one shop over 2 floors. We slept in the roof and our living space was at the back where Yee Ha is "
~ Bev Carter]

**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (north-east side),
Burgage House and Knockhundred Gallery**

(Formerly listed as The Midhurst Book shop
and Burgage House) GV II



[Formerly Allin, the ironmonger; now Gemma

House and shop. One building. Early C19. Stuccoed. Tiled roof. Windows with wooden shutters and glazing bars intact. Doorway with pilasters and projecting cornice. C19 shop window to west of this. Two storeys. Three windows.
Listing NGR: SU8869021589



Sharpe and private residence.]

[Jackson-Stops brochure 2005 (see garden photo): dining hall, drawing room, sitting room/study, kitchen/breakfast, four beds, cellar and attic.]

[In the early 1880's young Bertie (H G Wells) began to visit Frederick Allin's ironmonger's shop which was joined to Burgage House in Knockhundred Row. Each day he would 'pop' in and confess to some little mistake he had made that would be mended and most of the time his employer, Mr Cowap the chemist, never knew about these problems. The soda-siphons were harder to disguise and on a few occasions my great grandfather, Frederick Allin, would replace the siphon free of charge. ~ *Jennifer Chevis, Midhurst Magazine #30*]

Note: A Burgage denoted a house with voting rights. Sometimes, when one of these properties was demolished, a stone would be left in situ to preserve those rights. One noble duke remarked: "so low had elective franchise fallen, that at Midhurst the very stones appeared as voters for members of Parliament!" Midhurst returned two members of Parliament until 1832, when it was reduced to one.

KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (north-east side) Curfew Garden Court

(Formerly listed as Midhurst Antiques Market)

[Now residential]

GV II

Early C19. Workshop of two storeys. Faced with weather-boarding. Tiled roof. First floor has a continuous multi-paned window with small panes and narrow wooden mullions but no transoms. Gabled projection to the west with open stairway to the first floor to the east of this. Ground floor altered.

Listing NGR: SU8870121596



**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (south-west side),
7-8**

(Formerly listed as Building adjoining No 5.
Previously listed as Nos C417 and 418)

GV II 18.6.59

This building adjoins No 5. One building, two dwellings. C17. Coursed Hythe sandstone and Midhurst stone with red brick dressing, quoins and string course, once colour-washed. Tiled roof. Casement windows with diamond-shaped or small square panes. Two storeys. Four windows.

Listing NGR: SU8866521576



[anecdotal: Mr Harper, a cobbler, had a tiny shop here, standing behind a stable door, just the top half open. Shoes, finished or awaiting mending, displayed on shelves behind him. You had to stand in the street to give him your shoes. ~ *Bev Carter*]

Bev Carter remembers he was still here in 1969, an old man then.

[Photo dates from May 1941, in the Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.]

**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (south-west side),
No 5**

House. The two southernmost window bays of the building appear to be part of No 4. Early C19. Painted brick. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Two storeys and attic. Two windows. Two gabled dormers.

Listing NGR: SU8867721572



**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (south-west side),
Nos 3 and 4**

(Formerly listed as No 4 and the house adjoining on the south)

GV II 18.6.59

House. Long building with a slight curve to the front. C17 or earlier timber-framed building with painted brick infilling, ground floor rebuilt in brick and stone, now painted. Tiled roof. Casement windows. Two storeys and attic. Five windows. One dormer.

Listing NGR: SU8867921558



Extract from Sussex entries of the Victoria County History:
"On the west side of the narrow north end [of Lion Street] is a row of three late-17th-century cottages in a curve with stone rubble lower walls and the upper story of square timber-framing."

**KNOCKHUNDRED ROW (north-east side)
21/28 Public Library**

18.6.59
GV II

Formerly four cottages, though actually one building. C17 or earlier timber-framed building with some timbering exposed with painted brick infilling but most of the ground floor refaced with brick and stone, now painted, and most of the first floor tile-hung. Part of the first floor oversails with a bellcast above it. In the centre the timbers of this are exposed but at the north end they have been boxed in. Tiled roof. Casement windows. Outside brick stairs towards south end. Two storeys and attic. Six windows. Two dormers.

Listing NGR: SU8869721566



[Now the home of Midhurst Town Council; still referred to as The Old Library.]
(formerly listed as County Library)

[Old photo, circa 1900, from the Charles White Collection]

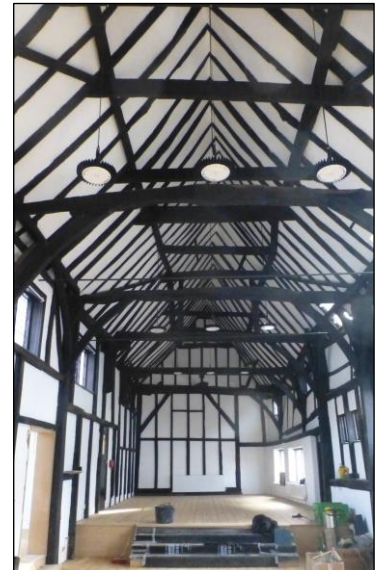
[Modern photo shows conversion for Midhurst Town Council]

"The Old Library" dates from the end of the Tudor period. In 1602, the earliest recorded date, it was owned by John Albery, a blacksmith, and the house carried burgage (voting) rights. He split the house in two and it passed down to his two sons - one a blacksmith, the other a glover. The next owner (of both parts) was the widow of a miller from Easebourne, and during her time part of the building became the White Horse Inn. The next family to own it was Henry Borrow, a bricklayer, and he converted it into five tenements.

In 1760 George (later Lord) Onslow bought the property, and for the next 150 years it was occupied by small tradesmen - including a sweet shop. When it came into the ownership of Lord Cowdray in 1913 it was described as three houses and two cottages. Then the interior was stripped out to create one large hall for the Midhurst Working Men's Club.

In WW2 it was used as an Evacuation Centre. After the war, it was leased by West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) for use as a Youth Centre, and later as a canteen for Midhurst Grammar School. In 1958 the building was bought by WSSCC, and in 1960 it became the Public Library.

When the library service moved to the new Grange Community Centre in 2014, Midhurst Town Council (MTC) leased the property from WSSCC and purchased it outright in 2018. It is now the home of MTC, also offering space available for community events. (With grateful acknowledgements to MTC for publishing their research.)



The Curfew Garden

Although not listed, the Curfew Garden has an interesting history. Now in the care of Midhurst Town Trust and rented privately to a resident, it is not open to the public.

The story goes that in the 12th or 13th century, the parish church's curfew bell brought to safety a stranger who had lost his way. In gratitude, he purchased a plot of land to grow fruit and vegetables which would be sold to pay a bell-ringer, ensuring that the curfew bell would be rung every evening. It was only silenced in 1939, when bell-ringing was prohibited except to signify hostile invasion.



Curfew Garden, looking north to the hill where the stranger lost his way (by kind permission of the tenant)