

EAST STREET

SOURCE: Farnham Museum Society Newsletter 1969

Copy of Letter from Chairman F.U.D.C to the Clerk of the Council May 14th 1895

“Dear Mr. Mason,

Nicklen is a very steady and respectable man. I cannot speak too highly of him. I know nothing of his wife, if she is like her husband you will be very fortunate in having her as caretaker.

Yes, the East Street work is to go on, but done in a very ungracious and nasty manner, such is the gratitude one usually meets with, 5 times as much money has been spent in West Street and Castle Street (the last few years) as in East Street and yet the latter is the main artery of the town and has more traffic than the other two streets together. This traffic is shortly to be increased by taking 500 little ones to the extreme end of the street, passing narrow dangerous places, the street in places less than 26ft. between house and house, and there are people living in the two grand streets that have been paved by the instrumentality and hard work of an East Street man that grudges the spending of a few pounds to render his street moderately safe to those who use it.

I won't write more or I shall lose my temper as I think of the base ingratitude of some of my fellow townsmen.

Sincerely hoping you will soon be convalescent.

I am ever yours faithfully,

S/d D. Goddard.”

Source: Farnham and District Museum Society Newsletter Vol. 4 1975

St. James' Church (From “Seeking the Englishman” Page 54)

“Just over one hundred years ago, Farnham parish was somewhat larger area than it is now, but its built-up parts were very much less. East Street, leading to Guildford, and to the rapidly growing military settlement at Aldershot, was the, as now, one of the main arteries into and out of the town. House, some shops, workshops, etc., clustered close into the town (including the now famous former “Wheelwright’s Shop” which bears the Surrey County Council’s commemorative plaque). Further out, strung along the road were various scattered buildings, one being the former Congregational Chapel, (which became the British School when the present South Street Church was built in the 1870s), and of which the burial ground forms part of a garage forecourt. Beyond was Bourne Mill on the way to the Hog’s Back, and the Workhouse on the way to Aldershot.

Farnham was a favourite place for the soldiers stationed at Aldershot to come in their off-duty hours. Indeed it was the only town near enough to offer a change from the military atmosphere of the Camp, and to have a generous supply of public houses, and no doubt, of young ladies too.

At this time Farnham began to grow, and it was a time when the spiritual and material needs of the people began to exercise the mind of the Victorian Englishman, and he set about looking after them by forming friendly clubs, temperance societies, mechanic's institutes, evening classes, schools and Sunday schools, and more accommodation for religious instruction by enlarging churches and chapels, or by building new ones.

So, in 1874 a church was planned for the east end of the town to act as a second Chapel of Ease to St. Andrew's. (One had already been built a few years earlier at The Bourne). **There seem to have been two main reasons for erecting this church less than half-a-mile from its Parish Church. One was the expected expansion of the population in this direction, and the other was the Victorian obsession with renting pews in Parish Churches, and the status it conferred on those who could afford to do so. In this connection churches became vastly overburdened with all sorts of monstrous erections, rented or owned by various townspeople, and the servants and working people were relegated to the "free" benches at the back, or up on rickety galleries. After the restoration and re-pewing of Farnham Parish Church in the 1860s there was great pressure on space, and the idea of a Chapel-of-Ease was welcomed, as it would provide a place for all the servants and the working people to be accommodated.**

.....It was decided that it should be a memorial church to the late Bishop of Winchester, Charles Robert Sumner.....The foundation stone was laid on November 9th 1875, and building continued through 1876. The firm entrusted with the contract was one which for the best part of a century specialised in church building, Mssrs. Goddard and Sons of East Street. Mr. Daniel Goddard took great interest in the project, and was a regular worshipper at St. James' for many years.....

For almost a hundred years the church was a focal point for the Englishman at the east end of the town, and the Hall is still in use. The church itself was declared redundant by the Church Commissioners and was closed for worship after the Sung Eucharist on Sunday morning, 13th July 1975."

[Note: in 1980 – or thereabouts, I was employed on Saturday mornings in Cubitt and West, Estate Agents, and remember the selling of the last residential apartment inside the newly converted St. James' Church buildings.]

East Street – shops

1901 Sources: 'Edwardian Farnham' by Ewbank Smith Page 13:

4. *Royal Deer* public house – A. Kimbell *
5. Family butcher - G. H. Hawkins
6. Corn dealers - Rose and Son [kept corn store in Bear Lane p.75]
7. Boot and shoe maker and currier – J. Patterson
9. English and foreign fruiterer – S. Bates
10. Farnham High School for girls – (Mr. and Mrs. W. Penn)
11. Milliner – Miss J. Hale
12. Savings Bank – (Mr. R. D. Mason, actuary)
Farnham Urban District Council depot
13. Insurance Agency – R. D. Mason
14. *Marlborough Head* public house – F. J. Gardiner **
Fire Brigade Station
17. Decorator, upholsterer and cabinet maker – J. H. Murrell
19. Dr. E. R. Coffey
- 20/ 21/ 22. Bakery – G. Beesley
23. Stationer and collector of taxes – J. Lee
24. Practical plumber – J. Duke [p. 73 Fish shop Mrs. Duke shared premises]
25. Pork butchers – W. & G. Bunday
26. Furniture stores – J. S. Giles
- 28/29. Brewer – A. H. Barling
38. Coach, cart and van works – Sturt and Goatcher
55. *White Hart* public house – J. Snowden *
56. Baker, provision merchant, sub-post office – A. Rawlins
58. Tailor – W. Brown
60. Carrier – T. Oliver

(Contd. East Street 1901)

Guildford Road - Miller and Corn Dealer, Bourne Mill – A. Simmonds

- “ “ Trimmers Cottage Hospital (Sister Greening, matron)
- “ “ Builders and masons - Goddard and Sons

73. *Eagle* public house – G. Jackson*

80. British Schools

Coach cart and van works – Sturt and Goatcher

88. *Seven Stars* public house – H. Reed **

88 / 89. Oilman, china and glass merchant – J. Mills

93 / 94. Grocer – Mrs. Botting

95. *Royal Oak* public house – A. Morgan *

96. Watch and clock maker – G. A. Wells

Tailor and Outfitter – G. Wells

99. Furniture dealer – E. March

105. Sweet shop – J. Robinson

106 /107. Dairy – J. Hawkes

109. Harness maker and tobacconist – Mrs. Corps

110. Sanitary and hot water engineer, decorator etc. – A. Crosby

113. Accounts – F. Hill

115. Tailor and habit maker – T. Winslade

117. Greengrocer – C. Gatum

118. *Green Man* public house – Mrs. Winsdale * +

119. Furnishing stores – R. P. Hawgood

120. *Unicorn* public house – E. Lawrence * +

129. *Queen Street Tavern* public house - A. Smith * +

Note: * public houses

(** public houses still existing) [*+ Query – which is now *The Albion*?]

(Page 26) “The local brewers.... were delighted. **New pubs galore** opened up in the town; mainly along **East Street** because, by the time the troops from the Camp had completed the gauntlet of this catchment area, they couldn’t stand any more”.

1902

(Page 28) “**Renewals of 9 licenses were refused (including)**

The Queen Street Tavern, East St.(a lodging house) particularly busy when hop-pickers crowded into the town in the autumn. They charged guests 4d. a night and packed more than one family into each room.”

Also refused were “**The Swan, East St.** and **The Unicorn**”

(Page 63) “**Mr. William Higgins of The Chestnuts, 18 East Street**, objected to the Council paving that section of the path from South Street to East Steer, which passed through his back garden. This, he suggested, was trespass.”

East Street Residents and Businesses

(Page 73) “**Mrs. Duke**, who shared her husband’s premises at **24 East Street** in order to conduct a **fish shop**, was ordered to remove her empty fish boxes and baskets at least once a week....”

(Page 86) “The [FUDC] election on 28 March brought two newcomers in the palace of Dr. Coffey and Mr. Wilcox James Figg.... and **Richard Friend, a plumber** who lived in **8 St. Mary’s Place, East Street** (he advertised a ‘the workingman’s candidate’).”

(Page 92) “The license of the **Marlborough Head** had been transferred to **Victor Hugo Fahrmbacher**, who had advertised lunches for 1/-.....**Mr. W. C. Wiltshire** had parted with his **cycle shop to William Ayling** in order to concentrate on his rapidly expanding **motor business at 26 East Street**. He advertised Wolsey cars from £175, and Talbots for £275.... **Sturt and Goatcher** had switched from making carts to motor bodies.....The Robins brothers were newly registered as milk purveyors in East Street.”

(Pages 127-8)

1909 (Page 138) “1 January.....and old age pensioners were born. Two hundred of Farnham’s over-70s had registered at the Post-office, of whom sixty-five were paid out on the first day. The very first to receive five bob over the counter was **Mrs.Denyer of 76 East Street**, who in the old days had been a care-taker at the Post-office – thus, presumably knowing her way about.”

(Page 139) “Pubs closed by the justices this year were.....**The Green Man in East Street**....”

“A license to store 200 gallons of petrol on Sturt and Goatchers premises in South View was granted in the name of Swain and Jones...”

1910 (Page 153) “Three more pubs fell by the wayside **The Eagle in East Street**....”

(Page 154) “**Mr. C. J. Walker, Head of East Street schools**, asked the Council to take steps to prevent the practice of expectorating on public footpaths...”

(Page 176) “The Council’s campaign against substandard cottages continued unabated. Among those condemned as unfit for human habitation was **91 East Street**, which with its neighbour, **No 92** stuck out in front and caused a bottle-neck with **Clarke and Newcombe’s garage opposite**. So, the Council bought the pair for £300, with the object of **widening the street** at this point.”

“Lionel H. Smith, son of **Mr. A. H. Smith of 104 East Street** was married to Miss Wells of Epsom. He had recently set up business as a hairdresser at 103 West Street...”

Goddards had started work on the **electricity sub-station in East Street** and hoped to complete by February 1912..... The portrait of Daniel Goddard, as well as those of George Trimmer and Charles Gould, were added to the gallery in the Council Chamber...”

1912 (Page 180) “Messrs. Handcock and Dykes, the contractors engaged by the Gas and Electricity Company to mastermind the introduction of **electricity in Farnham**, sought permission to erect two **electric current disconnecting pillars, one in East Street**, the other in Tilford Road. Henley’s Telegraph Works Co. Ltd. brought in for the navvying work, gave notice of intention to break up the streets for the purpose of laying cables.

At the end of February, a large gang of electricians and labourers arrived in the town and in no time at all trenches appeared from the Town Hall to Bear Lane; the following day, they were proceeding along **East Street**. It was a remarkably swift job. On Thursday, 30 May 1912, at one o’clock precisely, electricity was first switched on in Farnham.”

(Page 182) “In the sinking of the *Titanic* on the night of 14 April, two men among the 1,500 who lost their lives, had connections with Farnham. They were Mr. Curtis and Mr. Olive, nephew of **C. R. Mansell, the Headmaster of East Street School**. The disaster had an immense impact.....”

(Page 183) “The Sanitary Committee Favoured Gostrey Meadow for a LADIES, but, knowing this to be unacceptable, provided three alternative sitesa gents to replace the condemned cottage at **91 East Street**and East Street where a **LADIES** was also provided in replacement of the adjoining cottage.”

(Page 191) “**Swain and Jones** proposed to demolish **Nos 39 to 42 East Street** in order to extend their **garage** – the Council bought a strip of frontage from them for £150 to widen the Street.....

(Page 200) “In 1912, another car manufacturing company had appeared on the local scene. This was the **Carden Engineering Co. td. In East Street**.....in 1913 the premises were found to be too small and the company moved to Teddington.”

(Page 203) “**James Smyth**, now established at **10 East Street**, had plans in for alterations...**Thomas Goddard** had taken over **the posting and motor business opposite**.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

The Seven Stars – Re-designed by Falkner and Aylwin (date?)

1842 The Swan hostelry, East Street: A recruiting sergeant enlisted John Barnett of Wrecclesham at **The Swan** to fight with the 70th Foot and who fought in the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

1891 1 Dogflood Cottages, East Street –occupiers **George Hawkins, labourer, m. Emma Ketcher**. Died at that address – George aged 77 and Emma aged 80.

44-46 East Street – H. Midmer, newsagent, fishmonger, Farnham Post Office with telegraph license.

1706 – Sturt family wheelwright business, East Street

1851- John Steer, butcher (aged 20) and **Jane Steer, dressmaker** (aged 29) with 2 children of East Street. **1861 – Sarah Hole, washerwoman** (aged 44) and **Caroline Hole, staymaker** (aged 15) of East Street.

1877 – Mr. Paton, photographer, Farnham park Photographic Studios, East Street.

SOURCE: Nigel Temple's 'Farnham Buildings and People'

(Pages 112, 113)

No 14. The Marlborough Head – “A pub of this name was under the landlordship of one named **Barnes in the 1750s**, but for very many years afterwards it was in the ownership of one family. In **1801 John Harrison** surrendered and **William Harrison** was admitted. Fifty years later [**1850s**] **Anne and the Reverend Dann Harrison** held it, but by 1870 the Marlborough Head passed to **Messrs. Crowley**. It was once part of an estate called Canterburys. There was, a hundred years ago, a **soldiers' room over the wash-house.**”

(Pages 114,115, 116)

29, East Street, Still House – “A house which was here until after **1839** had been in several possessions by the early 18th century.....To the rear was a brewery.In **1736 Ellen Jackson left it to her son, Samuel**, ‘my messuage or **tenement garden orchard** where in I now dwell ...and the little tenement at the west end thereof adjacent to the land of John Hole’. Samuel, and Ellen Jackson’s **grandson, Samuel, both bricklayers**, inherited. By the time William Jackson passed the property to **James Elliott** in 1818 it was differently described, the house as before, but ‘...together with **the brewhouse malthouse storerooms** and building lately erected by James Elliott in the yard”.

SOURCE: 'Aspects of the History of Brightwell House, Farnham Part 1' by John Price

(Page) 229 of the Farnham and District Museum Society Journal 2001

“**The Site** Ewbank Smith states that **an agricultural holding was farmed by Benjamin Nichols** until **1791**.....Canterburys was an estate in the early 18th century. **The northern East Street frontage had a hop kiln used by Christophilus Chitty but in 1771 a large block of kilns was** planned and, when built, rented by **Henry Halsey** of Henley Park, Surrey, not far from Ash.

“**Between 1792 and 1795 the vast kiln block** and a house close to its south end was built. Ewbank-Smith notes ‘An indenturerefers to a brick messuage or dwellinghouse and all other erections, buildings and premises erected and built by the said Thomas Turner...’ **The kilns lasted until the late 19th century** (the old cinema was later built on the site)....”

(Page 230)

“ **The first tenant, Thomas Greenfield**, leased the house from the **builder, Thomas Turner**, but in **1861** the lease passed to a London barrister, **William Loftus Lowndes and a Farnham barrister named Thomas Randall**. It appears that a relation of Loftus Lowndes named **William Lowndes Stone**, of Brightwell Baldwin in Oxfordshire, then became the occupant.

.(Page 235) “**Florence Nightingale**.....had visited Farnham as a child and had made periodic visits to Waverley until a rift developed after her rejection of an offer of marriage from Henry, the son of her aunt Anne and rich husband George Nicholson who owned Waverley Abbey House. She developed a friendship with **Florence Paget's parents and the Rev Garth** was probably the godfather to the

baby Florence. Florence Paget recalled ‘the illustrious lady making frequent visits to her parents at **(Lowlands) Brightwell**, and the great interest she took in the welfare of the poor in the neighbourhood of Waverley. In later years Florence Nightingale took great interest in the building of Farnham’s first purpose-built hospital – **Trimmers Cottage Hospital, opened in 1895 in East Street**, only a short distance from Lowlands.”

[See also R8 and R9]