

### 119 Some Farley Green History

A Roman temple, Czech refugees, holiday camps, famous artist, naturalists, the Barn Church and a hotel by Trevor Brook

**56 minutes. There is also a set of 160 slides accompanying this talk.**

Farley Green and Farley Heath have seen human activity since at least the Neolithic period. This Neolithic pick at the British Museum was found in the early 1800s by Henry Drummond's workers.

Excavations have also unearthed metalwork and pottery from the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Even I found a flint arrow head in our garden in Shophouse Lane in 1984.

The Romans at Farley Heath had a building believed to have been used as a temple.

A Roman road ran directly from Stane Street to Farley Heath, passing through Rapsley Roman Villa near Coneyhurst Farm in Ewhurst and then up Jelley's Hollow..

Romans were on Farley Heath from AD 60 to AD 460.

In 1670 the antiquarian Elias Ashmole had recorded a building visible on Farley Heath, with a square and a circle having walls a foot or more above ground.

Similarly, John Aubrey in 1672 recorded extensive relics of Roman buildings.

Few then cared about ancient monuments, so house builders and road menders saw in the crumbling ruin a handy quarry.

Martin Tupper, the author of Proverbial Philosophy and Stephan Langton, first encountered his 'little Surrey Pompeii' as a 28 year old,

Ten years later, in 1848, he employed three men to dig the site then known locally as 'The City'.

Tupper found two pottery kilns and over a thousand coins, Roman nails and other objects.

This plan of Tupper's dates Farley Heath Road to 1849.

Previously, the route up from Shamley Green had been via Madgehole, Pit House and Ride Lane.

The most fascinating object found by Tupper was this bronze spiral engraved with symbols of the gods of riches, fertility, fire and industry.

Drawings also represent birds and dogs.

The spiral was wound around a wooden staff and fixed by an iron collar and a nail. The nail has marks from the wood fibres long since decayed.

Three robber trenches are shown in solid red on this plan of the site made in 2007.

Findings suggest it was already a sacred site during the Belgic period, one hundred years before the Romans arrived and developed it.

This model the Society holds shows how the temple is believed to have looked.

Over a thousand coins were found one by one scattered over a wide area in the black mould, rather than in a localized group or hoard.

This is interpreted as the Roman custom of sowing sites with coins as votive offerings.

More recent excavations still found lots of Roman tiles....

... and a lead curse containing a prayer to the gods...

In 1976, this fine Samian bowl from the Rhineland was found at Foxholes in Farley Green.

Roman artifacts are still discovered along the track of the old Roman road.

With its Ministry of Works sign, this is how the site looked in 1986.

Downhill, just across the road from the temple, is a source of water for the Romans. Marked on OS maps since 1876, its name, Skemp Pond, is unique, but where does the name come from?

This font base in Albury Park's Saxon Church is from the Roman period. When newspapers started, the first appearance of the area was this report of WINTERFOLD RACES in 1866...

*"These Races took place on Winterfold Heath. The day was beautifully fine, and the attendance good. By the kind permission of Earl Percy the use of the heath had been granted, and perhaps a better, or a more lovely spot could not have been selected in the district. The scenery was indeed charming. There were: eight races The Winterfold Stakes, The Guildford Stakes, The Cranley Stakes, The Albury Cup, The Clendon and Ripley Stakes, The Knowle Stakes, The Ladies Purse and The Consolation Stakes.*

During World War One, Rose Macaulay, who had her lover Gerald O'Donovan living in Church Lane, Albury, wrote about hurt berries and hearing the guns of Flanders as a familiar backdrop in Winterfold..

Picnic: July 1917 starts like this:

We lay and ate the sweet hurt-berries / In the bracken of Hurt Wood / Like a quire of singers singing low / The dark pines stood.  
Behind us climbed the Surrey Hills / Wild, wild in greenery / At our feet the downs of Sussex broke / To an unseen sea.  
And life was bound in a still ring / Drowsy and quiet and sweet... / When heavily up the south-east wind / The great guns beat.  
We did not wince, we did not weep / We did not curse or pray / We drowsily heard, and someone said / 'They sound clear today'.

This early photograph showing a friend of the Killick family is believed to be Farley Green, which looks north to Whitedown and Ranmore at the other side of the Tillingbourne valley.

With horses and livestock everywhere the need for water was met by ponds all over the countryside. The 1896 OS map shows 'The Lost Ponds of Farley Green'. Apart from the green at the top left, there were three ponds along just the lower stretch of Shophouse Lane and another over to the east at Lockhursthatch...

... with more at Shophouse Farm, near West Chart and by Hurtwood Cottage. Piped water arrived in 1904 and the Hurtwood Water Company lasted until it was sold to the Guildford and Godalming Water Board in 1952.

The red spot marks a cast iron marker post, a bit like this photo, with Hurtwood Water Company moulded onto it, and marking the east-west pipeline. Ever since I've wanted to photograph it, fifteen or so years ago, I have never found it again.

After the railway came through, a few Victorian houses appeared but most building in the fields followed the motor car in the 1930s.

John Rocque's map of 1768 names only Pit House, Mayorhouse and Dilton Farm.

One of those early farms was Mayorhouse...

... here in August 1976.

... and later, in 1989.

Nowadays there are livery stables in the farmyard area to the north. While just to the west...

... and still visible, is the Mayorhouse lime kiln. In the past, lime was slaked for fertiliser.  
On the map...

... the lime kiln is at the top left.

To the south is Pit House, which appears in records from 1294, being rented by the Chennell family for at least 360 years.

Arable farming went into a severe depression during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century as steam ships brought increasing amounts of cheap wheat from Canada.

Despite no mains facilities or vehicular access, Pit House Farm had been rebuilt as a Georgian mansion and was sold with 4 acres to a Mr French in 1922 for £750.

He rented it out as three tenements.

The property is described as being an: *"interesting and well built Georgian residence, with three large reception rooms, 7 bedrooms and outdoors three wood sheds, a wash house with copper, a lobby with copper, two privies and two pig styes.*

*"Water is obtained from a well on the premises and the house was let in three tenements to Mrs Scott, Mrs Small and Mrs Hamshire at rents totalling £11 10s."*

Two years later, Maude Hart and Ambrose Greatrex, both living there, got married.

Just five years later, in July 1929, the house caught fire.

*"Fire Brigade Helpless. Dog Warns Occupants of Outbreak. Pit House Lane had once been the route up from Shamley Green towards Shere but it was not passable for a fire engine and with no mains water there was just the well."*

The newspaper says the house had once been used as a shooting box by the Duke of Northumberland, rebuilt on foundations of a shooting box used in the time of King John and thus of considerable historic interest, frequently visited by historians and others.

*"A feature of the house was a spacious oak staircase from the hall to the landing.*

*Mr Greatrex commenced removing furniture while his wife ran through the woods to Mayorhouse to raise the alarm.*

*Tiles and burning beams fell as a piano was carried to safety. Flames prevented furniture upstairs being rescued and several valuable paintings hung around the landing were destroyed. One special painting was a family portrait from 1670 by Sir Peter Lely who was Dutch but spent most of his career in England as the preferred portrait painter for the royal court."*

This is the only known photograph of Pit House.

After the fire, Ambrose and Maude Greatrex lived in a caravan behind Bowbrick's Cottage, now Farley Heath Cottage, near the Roman temple.

At Pit House now, and getting rather overgrown, there are a row of arches in the wall just below the ruins. These were for bee skeps, which were usually made out of straw.

The other place on Rocque's map of 1768 was Dilton Farm, here in 1982.

It was at this tranquil place that in June 1867 a 25 year old farm worker, Charles Cannon: *"was killed by the dread visitation of lightning..."*

*... "under the following circumstances of peculiar and melancholy interest."*

The inquest was held in Little London at the William IVth, then called the Garibaldi Inn.

*"Cannon had charge of one plough and two horses in Carthouse Field..."*

*... "There was a clap of thunder and all three were on the ground quite dead.*

*There were no marks on either the deceased or the horses but a smell, as of burnt hair.*

*Both a knife and a tobacco box made of steel in the deceased's pocket had become magnetised sufficiently to attract a needle."*

There were excitements up the hill in Winterfold: *"Before the County Bench in 1879, William Stevens, 67, was charged with stealing a lamb, the property of William Field in Winterfold."*

In November 1903:

*"Henry Smith was summoned for damaging growing hazel trees at Winterfold Heath. the property of the Duke of Northumbertand."*

While in December:

*"Henry Smith had an alibi for cutting holly at Winterfold. The case was adjourned because of the defendand denying that he was the man who took the holly."*

Along Shophouse Lane and into Winterfold...

... around 1900, there was a colony of nearly 300 gypsies living around Wickets Well in the Hurtwood.

In the treeless days of 1906, the gypsy theme was even used for artistic postcards.

In 1926, aided by Reginald Bray of Shere, there was a move to create a gypsy school, the first in the country.

The school also ran evening classes for adults and it was successful in raising children enough to attend elementary schools later on.

FESTIVITIES AT WOODLAND SCHOOL: ...

*"Although the actual idea of a Christmas treat has now lost some of its novelty for children attending the woodland gypsv school at Winterfold--until four years ago they had never seen Father Christmas--there was no lack of enthusiasm at this year's party.*

*Tea was the principal item from the point of view of the juveniles, who tucked in with evident relish.*

*And who could blame them? For it is probably the only occasion in the year when they are able to enjoy such a treat. Mr. and Mrs. Milner, the heads of the school, together with Lady Barnes, supervised the arrangements and there was great excitement when Lady Barnes distributed gifts from the Christmas tree. Excitement turned to surprise a little later when each child was handed a coloured jersey. Afterwards there was conjuring and ventriloquism by Mr. Sydney Sterk of Guildford."*

Pathé News filmed the school, showing the children walking through Winterfold...

... and the schoolmaster Mr Milner, who said: *"None of them knew any arithmetic when they came but every one of them could give the correct change for half a crown or a one pound note.*

*"I can teach then nothing about nature. They have names for every tree and know the habits of every animal and how to catch it."*

In 1931 Hambledon Council's Medical Officer reported on the unusual tidiness of the interior of the tents and their clean surroundings. *"There are no slums in Winterfold."*

By 1933 the number of gypsies in Hurtwood had reduced to 60. Houses were built for them in Hersham and the school was moved over there.

As is traditional when leaving a settlement, the gypsies burnt down their huts.

Some were not keen on being moved into permanent housing though...

... Mrs Sayers was interviewed in Hurtwood saying: *"I'd rather bide here"*.

Mrs Sayers meant what she said...

... by 1939 the Sayers had moved back to the area, with 5 adults and 7 children living at Springfold in Shophouse Lane.

22nd December 1941:

*"Mr. John Sayers of Springfold Cottage, Farley Green, had concussion and cuts on the lips through falling from his bicycle in Shere. Found lying injured, he was detained at the Royal Surrey County Hospital."*

In the 1920s, as Guildford Electricity Committee planned expansion beyond the town itself, there was great concern about the proliferation of electricity pylons:

*“Mr. Brown asked whether the Electricity Committee suggested carrying their supplies to some of the most beautiful districts in the neighbourhood by means of overhead wires. The Council were not told how the wires to Albury Heath and Farley Green were to be carried. He hoped that it would not mar the vision in any way.”*

In 1922 the Northumberland Estate had death duties to pay and sold off some 100 lots, including the central part of Farley Green, which sold for £3,475...

... including Farley Green Farm on the south side of the green.

Here, in 1984, described in 1922 as a: *“fine old fashioned farmhouse of most picturesque elevation. It has three staircases, five bedrooms and a bathroom. The water supply comes from a good well fitted with a wheel pump.”*

At the right hand edge of this timber beam over a fireplace...

... there are ancient carpenters' marks still visible.

Farley Hall in 1980, with some work going on...

... and a little earlier, in 1978.

Construction featured sandstone blocks and ironstone with galleting of a 4 bay open hall house with a solar, jettied into the hall, over the parlour and service bay.

There are still sooted timbers caused by smoke rising from a central open hearth.

There was a cellar under the parlour.

Here is Farley Green Farm in its original form up to the 1930s.

The hall dated from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and had even featured on postcards.

13<sup>th</sup> May 1944 - ALBURY'S WAR AIM

*“The Duchess of Northumberland attended a fair at Farley Green Farm which was opened by Colonel C. Hemsley. Over £200 was raised at the fair, which included stalls, side-shows and a children's dancing display. It concluded with an open-air dance in the evening. A decorated horse and van and a donkey toured the village selling stamps and certificates.”*

Norman Hughes photographed the scene in August 1934, with sheep grazing happily.

Farley Green Farm hit the national headlines in 1954 when 27 year old Jean Anderson was over at her grandmother's, Lower Farm Cottage on Effingham Common, and having supper on the sofa at the fireside.

She was hit when a shotgun was suddenly thrust through the window. Another shot followed immediately and the body of Frederick Fuller, who worked with her at Farley Green Farm, was found outside, with a double barrelled shotgun beside him.

The couple were to have been married but the engagement had been broken off a month earlier.

Heath Cottage in August Lane used to be Dowerry and was once a poultry farm...

... which, in 1931, featured in Homes & Gardens, with the cottage being built by the architect Raymond Erith for £750.

It was designed to suit special requirements and was somewhat unusual in plan, being intended to run without a maid. To save labour, meals were to be taken in the kitchen.

The walls were of cavity brick on a tarred plinth and the windows were standard metal casements.

This was taken from the same place in 1925 where the bus used to turn round..  
Zooming in...

... shows Greenacres on the left has a large sign advertising TEAS.  
Which 1920s make of car is that by the postbox?  
Greenacres itself was completely rebuilt part by part during the 1960s.

Here's how the new version was looking in the dry summer of 1976.

There were no other houses along the north side of the Green in 1923, when the daughter of Lord Arthur Russell, artist Flora Russell, living at East Hills, painted The Cottage and Heatherview...

Flora Russell's most notable watercolour is probably this one of her childhood friend Gertrude Bell, painted when she was just 18.

Alexander Plunket Greene was apparently Flora Russell's favourite grandnephew.

In 1965, when Flora Russell was 96, her voice was recorded by Gimson and Eustace as: *"a good example of a certain kind of Victorian English"*.

Two years later, when she died, her house at East Hills was bought by Alexander Plunket Greene, who had married Mary Quant.

Elm Tree Cottage was there by 1950...

... as it was earlier in 1939, along with other new houses.  
Zooming in...

... that postcard also shows sheep grazing and the Tillingbourne bus, on its way to turn round in August Lane.

There are heaps of gravel, as the roads were being metalled in 1939.

The scene in April 1981...

... and the cottages again, but in the snow!

In the dry September of 1933:

*"BEAUTY SPOTS SPOILED - TRENCHES DUG ON THE HEATH*

*Guildford fire brigade were called to Winterfold where the recurrence of a fire, which recently destroyed 150 acres on the Hurtwood, threatened the residence of Mr. G. F. Metcalfe at Woodside and the Hon. W. N. Bruce at Haredene. In some places it was necessary to dig trenches and sand was thrown over the burning undergrowth."*

The paintings were saved at Woodside and Gerald Fenwick Metcalfe was the Royal Academician and portrait painter who, 34 years earlier, had designed the World War One memorial in Albury church.

Carberry Lodge, now replaced by Golden Acres, was another Farley Green property getting into print between the wars...

with its Canadian cedarwood shingles offering an "attractive, durable and economical" alternative to tiles.

With timber taken for both home fires and the Chilworth Gunpowder Works, Farley Heath really was mostly heather in 1927.

This view is looking north east towards the cottages.

Both Elm Tree Cottage and Barn Platt here, originally named Cumbria, were smallholdings. In 1940s Surrey Advertisers:

*"RABBITS*

*CHRISTMAS Presents for Children. CHINCHILLA and other RABBITS, all ages; moderate prices. Higham, Elm Tree Cottage.*

*RABBITS*

*Flemish Belgian DOES, with first litters, month old; make heavy rabbits; also other breeds for sale. Bushby, Cumbria."*

In June 1939 the newspaper reported that a giant puffball, discovered at Farley Green by Mr. W. Whitfield who lived at Dipcot, was on view in Guildford Town Museum.

1932 advertisements for BRITISH MADE TORCHES • LAMPS AND WIRELESS BATTERIES state they can be obtained from The Farley Green Radio Stores... but which property was that at?

On the corner of Row Lane and Shophouse Lane is the 2 bay timber framed Hurtwood Cottage dating from 1580, with an end smoke bay.

This is how it looked when Bill Chennell still lived here in 1976. He was probably the last person to speak with an old Surrey accent.

The rear...

... and the front.

A brick chimney and wings had been added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century...

... and a later view with a brick extension in place.

Just south of Hurtwood Cottage, the Chennell family sold their meadowland for £250 to the Merritt brothers, members of the Clarion Cycling Club in Leytonstone...

... who founded Treetops holiday camp in 1925.

*"At last we found the site we dreamed about, a five acre clearing in the surrey pine woods. There were slight drawbacks. There was no station nearer than Gomshall, four miles away. The bus to Farley Green only came twice a week.*

*The nearest pub was a couple of miles' walk away – but what a walk. The grandest countryside in Surrey!"*

One of the brothers, Arthur Merritt, was a commercial artist and he painted the Treetops Holiday Camp sign, which he said was the proudest bit of work he ever did.

Apart from working on advertisements, Arthur Merritt produced postcards like these, for sale in holiday places.

The camp started first with bell tents, then chalets started appearing. Horseriding and croquet were two of the attractions.

There were dining and social rooms...

As well as a swimming pool with a fountain, fed from the stream in the woods and a tennis court. Spot the railway carriages by the hedge!

Apparently these were sites for frolics, with a man in a bra and some rather bizarre looking ballet dancers.

Photos on the brochures included horse riding at Lockner Farm and beneath a tempting REID'S STOUT signboard. That photo is possibly outside the Windmill pub.

From Hampstead, Professor Joad, of the Brains Trust radio programme, used to holiday with his daughter Lucy and describes Treetops as: *"first rate, the food good, the staff genial and welcoming. "You get to know people quicker there and like them better than in any other holiday place. They are ten times as nice as they are in London."*

Another regular holidaymaker at Treetops was Sir Leslie Plummer MP, who became infamous for the disastrous Tanganyika groundnut scheme.

After the Munich Agreement of 1938 had given Hitler the Sudetenland, that winter Treetops became a home for Czech refugees.

German intelligence in England was remarkably good...

... and Treetops had its own entry in Hitler's Black Book: "*Refugee Camp for German Emigrants,*" which listed those for immediate arrest when England was invaded.

In the 1940s, more railway carriages were brought in to provide extra accommodation.

Raising war money in 1942:

*"THE ALBURY EFFORT. Under the aegis of Lady Pentland, the Farley Green Club staged a comprehensive indoor fete on Thursday. Dancing and talkie films were full reward for those who had braved the journey to Treetops."*

Lady Pentland was Marjorie Sinclair and lived at Mayor House on Farley Heath. She was a great advocate for better housing for the people of the UK.

*"LOST AND FOUND*

*LOST, Sunday, near Treetops, GILT BROOCH, with red lion. Reward. —Pentland, Mayor House, Tel. Shere 116.*

Those railway carriages certainly proved memorable...

*"I was there in the late 50s on a family holiday and also staying in a railway carriage! I was about 8 at the time.*

*My father and his friends all did 'square dancing' as a pastime and we had a hoedown there during a week's holiday.*

*The holiday was cut short as there was a forest fire which could be seen from the camp. My sister and I were bloody scared of it... I remember that!!*

Visitors dropped off in the 1970s and the land went to housing in 1985.

Treetops was not the only camp site.

Before Dorking magistrates, back in 1931, "*Captain Philip Sykes. of Edgeley Egg Farm in Farley Green was summoned for being in charge of a motor vehicle at West Street, Dorking, and under the influence of drink. Inspector Pickard said he saw the defendant cross the road towards the Red Lion Hotel. He was very unsteady. Defendant went to a car on the cobbles in front of the hotel and tried to put the hood up, which he managed to do after considerable trouble. Shortly afterwards defendant got into the motor car and worked the self-starter. The defendant, who said he was taking eggs to market, was fined £10 and his licence suspended for a year.*"

By 1940: "*JUNIOR ASSISTANT REQUIRED; hatching, rearing eggs, etc.; some experience preferred; state age and wages required.—Mrs. Sykes, Farley Green. Telephone: Albury 65.*"

One year later, in 1941, The Sykes's Edgeley Egg Farm leased its south eastern corner to the naturist Surrey Downs Sun Club.

They built various chalets, a tennis court...

... and this swimming pool.

Other holiday campers arrived with some even staying in the disused chicken sheds.

The Surrey Advertiser, July 1942:

*"HOLIDAYS AT HOME.*

*Keep Fit, Surrey Hills Sun Camp, Farley Green; sun bathing, games, etc.—Particulars from Singleton, Brookwell Cottage, Bramley."*



This century, new site owners ended the Sun Club's lease in 2011 and completely replaced caravans and tents with chalets...

... and included the abandoned naturists' area into the rest of Edgeley Park.

Where else could you stay?

For greater comfort there was Farley House Hotel and Riding School, which boasted fires in all bedrooms for 5 Guineas.

After the war the owner, Mr Leach, applied for planning permission to extend the Guest House, including a Cafe for teas and light refreshments.

*"LUNCHEES AND TEAS SERVED. Horses and Ponies available for hire.*

*MOUNTED GYMKHANA IN AID OF THE ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL.*

*At Farley House Riding School, FARLEY GREEN (Telephone: Shere 93), on New Year's Eve, December 1945."*

The hotel became the permanent residence for several ladies. Doreen Brown placed this advertisement:

*"MAHOGANY Tallboy (Georgian) for sale, price £60. Farley House. Farley Green."*

This painting by E Lander shows the stables beside the hotel, at Hunters Hill.

There was political activity. An advert for the Liberal Association's Jumble Sale at St Saviour's in Guildford shows that Guildford Liberals were based at Farley House in 1950.

In the 1960s, the tallboy seller Doreen Brown, after some years with the Sherrydan School of Equitation at Newlands Corner, returned and bred Golden Labradors here.

There was a sad tragedy of four deaths along Farley Heath Road on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1939, two weeks after war had been declared.

Mrs. Adela Mowbray, visiting Smugglers Way in Farley Green, said Miss Gibson, the daughter of a friend, went for a bicycle ride at 5.30 in the evening and returned five minutes later saying there was a lady in a saloon car and she thought she was dead. Adults investigating found that three children were also dead and that exhaust fumes were very strong.

The dead were Mrs Mildred Allen, aged 29, Bridget, 6, Elizabeth, 3, and Marcus, aged 2, of Old Farm House, Downside Farm in Cobham.

The inquest, at the Red Cross Room in Shere, heard that a hosepipe had been inserted into the exhaust of the car and carried through the off-side door window...

Mildred's husband, William Allen, said that when their son Marcus was born it was the time of the Anschluss, when Austria was annexed into the German Reich. His wife loathed the idea of war and said: *"Everything is going up in smoke, what a heritage to bring children into such a world"*.

Mr. Allen said that on 17th September his wife wrote to a friend in Budapest: *"I am wondering if my last letter reached you. It was posted the day before war was declared. How unhappy you must be about it all. I am overwhelmed, not for myself, but for having been responsible for three adorable children to be born into such a filthy, rotten world. If one struggles to get them through this they will grow up in time for the next war."*

The coroner's verdict was that the mother murdered her three children and committed suicide while the balance of her mind was disturbed.

The following year, 1940, the owner of Smugglers Way got married, so also living there in Shophouse Lane, now Upper Field, was Nadia Evatt, neé Noskova, from Czechoslovakia.

Two weeks before war broke out Nadia had left Prague permanently, following her final task of rescuing the British Ambassador's dog. She became naturalised British immediately.

It was Major James Evatt of the War Office, who had built the house in 1937, whom Nadia had married. The couple had a son, Humphry...

... who was christened at the Barn Church in 1944, with godparents from the exiled government at the Czech embassy, one being the Minister for Foreign Affairs and son of the first President of Czechoslovakia, Jan Masaryk.

During the war the Smugglers Way visitors book showed regular visits from three Czech airmen who came to rest from their service in 311 Czechoslovak Squadron.

James Evatt died in 1964, while Nadia became famous for tempting neighbouring cats to her house for treats and lived until 1985.

In 1929, urged on by Mrs Maude Greatrex, of Pit House, Clara Courtenay-Wells had donated this 19<sup>th</sup> century barn as St Michael's Church...

In memory of her late husband, who farmed...

... next door at Cherrymans Farm...

Cherrymans, a corn and dairy farm with six bedrooms, had been sold off by the estate in 1922, fetching £1,430.

This painting shows Cherrymans Farm in 1910, with its barns just off to the right..  
F. W. Woods and Sons of Little London did the building work...

... supervised by Charles Allen of Yew Tree Cottage, who also made the oak furniture for the chancel. In 1927, after Bristol and London, the artist Ernest Board, an exhibitor at the Royal Academy, and his wife Inez had moved to live...

... at Thatch Cottage in Shophouse Lane.

He painted the reredos panel on the altar screen and designed the stained glass window in the north wall, which depicts St Christopher and commemorates Ernest Board.  
A further painting by the artist...

... now on the west wall, was rescued from storage in Albury Parish Church in 2008 and restored using funds raised by the Barn Church charity.

The Entombment by Ernest Board.

During World War 2 the church was used for training ARP wardens.

Church bells were only to be rung in the event of an invasion...

Alarmingly, one day the single bell at St Michael's was suddenly heard tolling.

Happily, the cause was a cow, breaking out of the field next door and getting her horn caught on the bell rope!

The church's original name appears in this 1931 report:

*"A Michaelmas Fair was organised by the Rector, Rev. Philip Gray, and members of the Farley Green Mission Church. A sale of work was the chief attraction."*

Now approaching 100 years old, this rare barn church continues to this day.

Nearby, Shophouse Farm is a 3 bay mediaeval timber framed open hall house.

It has an internal jetty and a crown post roof, now half hipped.

This engraved roof tile, by James Shurlock, was discovered in March 1988 during work on the roof.

By 1831 Shophouse had only one field though it still had its fine 6 bay 19<sup>th</sup> century barn, gabled, weatherboarded and tiled, with queen posts and a clasped purlin roof.

Next door, Five Oaks, later Acorns. was rented around 1948 by the artist Winifred Cooper and Guy Edward Cooper.

Their son, Giles Cooper, was the radio & 1960s Mairnet dramatist.

Back in 1939:

*“REWARD.—Lost at Farley Green on Saturday, December 24th, a Black and White COCKER SPANIEL; answers to name of Tim. —Mrs. J. C. Jeorrett, Fairlee.”*

Shockingly, there were more deaths by lightning in Farley Green.

During World War Two, Land Girl Peggy Simpkins was posted to Lockhurst Hatch Farm...

... to help Mr and Mrs Sherman.

*“They had a huge carthorse called Captain.*

*“One day we had a big thunderstorm and when we called Captain he didn’t come; so Mr Sherman and I went to look for him.*

*We found him with two cows beneath a tree which had been felled by lightning, all three were dead; it was very sad.*

*Lockhurst Hatch farmhouse was a fantastic place, dating back to the thirteenth century...*

*“There were rough, uneven, brick floors in all the ground rooms, with steps down into the dairy where they still had all the old equipment such as big pans for making cream. There was no stove to cook on, but there was a huge fireplace which Mr Sherman simply stuffed with whole faggots of wood.*

*“It was generally Mr Sherman who got the bacon and eggs going in the morning and it tasted out of this world as you were always so damn hungry!”*

Peggy Simpkins continues with this rather fanciful description: *“Perhaps the most remarkable thing on the farm was the garden privy, which was in a huge hollow yew tree.*

*All the owner had done was cover the top with wood, put in a seat and fix a door to the front.*

*“When you sat in it you could see the stars twinkling through the gaps in the wood and there were chickens and owls roosting in the branches above!”*

Well, a fine story, but the solidly constructed galletted privy, not in, but beside, a yew tree at Lockhurst Hatch certainly predates the second world war.

Two other privies featuring in John Janaway’s book were behind Flora Russell’s pair of semi-detached cottages on the green, which were named Flora and Dora.

The cottages were in a poor state and were demolished and rebuilt as Sera.

Yet another lightning story: In July 1943...

*... “the garage of Winterfold Cottage was struck during a thunderstorm and completely destroyed by the consequent fire. Three motor cars, together with the electric lighting plant, were a total loss, as well as a number of valuable tools in the workshop. Neighbours’ telephones, including that at Winterfold, were out of action due to the lightning, and a message was got through to the fire brigade by hand, via Mayorhouse Farm.*

*Mr. Merritt, of Treetops Holiday Camp, an A.R.P. warden, sent immediate help. Both he and many of his visitors fought the fire and were able to prevent it from spreading to the dwelling-house and to a small barn nearby. The owner, Mr. S. B. Donkin was away from home, but Mrs. Donkin tried to get one car out of the garage. The petrol in one car exploded, and she was burnt on the face, shoulders and hands, and had to be taken to the Royal Surrey County Hospital. The firemen and voluntary helpers saved the house and Mr S. B. Donkin wishes to say how deeply indebted he is to them for their invaluable help.”*

Ralph Joad’s predecessors at Lockhurst Hatch had been E. J. Kennard, for a short period, and, before that, Percy Sherman.

Bucolic scenes at the farm during the Sherman era.

Despite bringing his children out to Treetops and the countryside for holidays, Professor Joad always disapproved of his son choosing to be a farmer.

The Lockhursthatch 7 day a week milk round of green top unpasteurised milk continued from the 1950s...

... with Ralph Joad doing his own deliveries, even on Christmas day, until he died in 1977...

... when the cows were sold and the dairy at Lockhursthatch closed, with the milk round taken over by the Robinsons at Pratts Stores.

Hay cutting at Lockhursthatch Farm in August 1994.

After new houses were built the bus would come up Shophouse Lane and terminate at Kingsfield.

The hamlet has several houses with interesting design features.  
Farley Heath Cottage has these attractive diamond shaped windows.

Along Hurtwood Lane is the 17<sup>th</sup> century Rose Cottage, a 2 bay stone end chimney house, with changes to make it into three cottages. It housed various parts of the Arrow family.  
This is Rose Cottage seen from the south western corner.

With splendid hat-wear, here is the wedding of Herbert to Edith Arrow in the 1920s.  
In 1939, there were 10 adults and 7 children of the Arrow family listed at Rose Cottages.

15 years later, here are Rose Cottages, condemned for habitation by the council in 1954.  
There were three privies around the garden, sited underneath ancient yew trees.

In an even more decayed state, here are the cottages in the 1960s.

All rather daunting for one future resident, but Liz and Mike Cooper drove through restoration and the closure order was finally lifted in 1973, all resulting in...

... this. The walls are of random Bargate stone, galletted with ironstone and with brick quoins.  
Many found objects were preserved during restoration, including clay pipes, medicine bottles, buttons and carved woodwork.  
The black soil here is not typical of the local sandy soil and is possibly the result of years of chimney soot being tipped onto the garden.

Right at the end of Hurtwood Lane, and once part of Lockhursthatch Farm, is West Chart. It was originally a single storey 2 room cottar's cottage from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
There was a privy up the hill behind and Elizabeth Arrow's inventory there in 1865 listed a garden of 49 rods, an old 8-day clock in a painted case, a square deal table, a tier of 3 shelves and one fat hog.

Built in Victorian times, in the Estate sale of 1922, Stockhouse had 4 acres and it was sold to the tenant, William King, who lived there with his family.  
They ran a bakery from Stock House from around 1877 to 1925, when his son took over the bakery in Albury village.  
There were more refugees from the Nazis here"...

*"NOTICE is hereby given that HORST OTTO GRAFFUNDER, of Middle Farm, Farley Green, is applying to the Home Secretary for Naturalisation, and that any person who knows any reason why naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts."*  
War overtook his application and, being German...

... he was interned on the Isle of Man, until being listed as an Internee Survivor from the SS Arandora Star.

The ship had left Liverpool in June 1940 and was torpedoed and sunk on 2nd July.

Next, in July 1940, he travelled to Australia on the notorious SS Dunera and had to work for the Australian Labour Corp until his final release in May 1945.

Let's finish with the story of another person in Farley Green who was fleeing the Nazis - and two valuable portraits which are missing.

*"In 1941 Fred Holt, of Holts' Store in Brook, had a surprise on his 98th birthday when he was presented with a pen and ink drawing..."*

*... and also heard that a portrait of himself, by Mr I Goth of Farley Green, had been accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition."*

Investigating who this Mr I Goth might be...

... I discovered a painting in oils in the Summer Exhibition catalogue, called '*I Am 98 Today*', was by Hungarian born Imre Góth [Gott] who was living at Whyteholme in Farley Green.

Mr Holt was apparently shown sitting in a chair in his kitchen. Both the paintings and memory of these events seem to be completely lost in the family.

Described as a master of art deco, the artist Imre Góth is an interesting character. He was born in Hungary in 1893.

Apart from playing the guitar in this self portrait, in the 1930s he was in Berlin painting the stars of theatre and cinema.

His too-honest portrait of Herman Goering here, showing his strange eyes, gave away Goering's morphine habit and led to Góth fleeing Germany.

Despite that, in Britain a former lover denounced him as a Nazi-lover, which led to...

... a few months taken away from Whyteholme by Surrey Constabulary for internment on the Isle of Man...

... where he drew Palace Camp in both pen and ink and watercolours, showing its location directly beside Douglas Promenade, looking rather like the French Riviera - apart from the barbed wire fencing.

Post war, Góth produced publicity for films...

... including for 'Anna Karenina' here. He died in 1982.

Imre Góth paintings fetch over £1000 so his portraits of Fred Holt would be worth finding.

So, that is just some of the extraordinary story of Farley Green.

#### **THE END - CREDITS**

Albury History Society Archive

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Sylvia Daintrey

Sue Darling

Humphry Evatt

Peter & Gill Gellatly

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Ruth Joad  
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