

[132 Albury Park and Mansion by Trevor Brook.mp3](#)

(Video also available for Members)

There is a set of 163 slides accompanying this talk.

The name most associated with Albury is Henry Drummond, who was lord of the manor in the 1800s.

Drummond was born in 1786. He became an MP in 1810 and married his cousin Lady Henrietta Hay Drummond. They had three sons and two daughters.

In 1828, a correspondent to The Gardener's Magazine admired the grotto, kitchen garden, water meadows and other delights.

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Going back to the beginning, the first record of Elderberie or Albury appears to be the Domesday Book of 1086.

There was a population of 22, with the mill and church both noted.

Here is Albury's first appearance on a map, by Abraham Walter in 1701, with north towards the bottom.

The familiar pattern of the canal and Evelyn gardens show as the main features

The next map, in 1768 by John Rocque, marks Albury is in its original location, before it moved to Weston, and owned by the Earl of Aylesford, with the Park and its mill as the only named features. The original road to Shere, directly through the Park, also shows clearly.

To start with, the mill in the Park was a corn flour mill. This drawing is by Samuel Thornton around 1803.

In 1790, the mill was leased by Charles Ball, a papermaker from Guildford, who produced bank-note paper.

One mystery customer requested modified watermarks and this paper was used to produce false Assignats to destabilise the French currency.

Behind the scheme to undermine the Republic were the French royal family and the Count of Artois, who did eventually become King Charles 10th of France, in 1824.

Charles Ball moved on to two new paper mills he owned at Postford, so Albury paper mill closed in 1810 and then became a laundry.

The 1873 Ordnance Survey map marks a fountain, the northern entrance to the tunnel, boundary marker oak trees between Albury and Shere parishes, then a cross on the wall marker, a sundial in the mansion garden and the church graveyard.

One hundred years earlier, this map was for Captain William Clement Finch, around 1780.

John Evelyn had laid out the gardens for Henry Howard between 1655 and 1677.

They comprised a wide canal...

double level terraces, each a quarter of a mile long and featuring these 'Roman Baths'. The window keystones are dated 1676.

The original canal was narrowed by Henry Drummond in 1819. Later, it was filled in completely. On both sides of the Bath House, stairways lead up to...

the upper terrace.

Originally, Silver Hill behind had been treeless with a vineyard running up its slopes.

The semicircular retaining wall behind the Half Moon Pond contains ten round-headed niches, built for statues.

The original fountain was broken by severe frosts in the late 1940s, but its leadwork showed the date 1666. Water from the pool flowed down pipes to the Roman bathhouse, where it gushed from the heads of niches.

In the centre is the tunnel...

going through the hill, beneath Silver Wood, in imitation of the grotto of Sejanus at Posilippo, which is a tunnel over 700 metres long for a Roman road near Naples.

In 1925, the architect Clough Williams-Ellis, married to Amabel Strachey of Newlands Corner, had a commission from the Duke of Northumberland to refurbish the Half Moon pond.

His plan had shown statuary in the niches.

Here in 1950, with the fountain removed, it was called the Lily Pond.

Albury Park Mansion is set in a beautiful valley with the Tillingbourne, and this little waterfall, running through its Park.

There has been a house here since 1042, the same year as the Saxon Church beside it.

During the reign of Edward the Confessor, the Park was owned by Azor, a Saxon nobleman; cousin of Earl Godwin, a member of the Saxon royal family who also owned estates in Dorset and Northamptonshire.

Following the Norman Conquest, Albury Estate was given to Robert de Tonbridge, a member of the great de Claire family.

During medieval times the house was owned for five generations...

by the D'Abernons, who had their main seat at Cobham.

Albury was leased out to tenants during most of their ownership.

After them, the Duncombe family owned the Estate for around 200 years until, in 1637, they gave a lease to...

Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel & Surrey. Thomas was the grandson of Henry, 4th. Duke of Norfolk, who had been beheaded in the Tower because of his association with Mary, Queen of Scots.

Paul Rubens described him as *'The father of virtue in England'*.

Thomas Howard had a collection of over 700 pictures, while his antique marbles, gems, prints and drawings were unequalled.

As a connoisseur he was of European stature, comparable to Italian Cardinals and Spanish courtiers. It was Howard, here with his wife Aletheia, who was responsible for the first alterations to the medieval house. He built a new wing for his retainers.

His princely grandson, who became 6th. Duke of Norfolk, also made extensive alterations...

He rebuilt the medieval house, using as architect Captain George Evelyn, cousin of John Evelyn the famous landscape gardener who designed Albury Park gardens.

This is Albury Mansion drawn by Hollar in 1645...

and this close up drawing brings out the architectural features.

John Aubrey's 1673 *Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey* has this drawing of Henry Howard's estate at Albury Park...

along with the plan for his garden.

"Through the south hill his Lordship hath cut a straight passage quite through the bottom of the hill, thirty perches long, very broad and high, which is very pleasant to behold. Here his Lordship hath a canal about a quarter of a mile long, and sixty four foot broad; and above that, a vineyard of twelve acres of the same length with the canal, upon the ascent of the hill, which faceth south."

The Henry Howard watercourse brought water from Silent Pool, via Home Farm, into the high ground of Albury Park.

The original plan foresaw completely cutting the flow south from Silent Pool, with an overspill from Home Farm to pass any excess water back into the Sherbourne.

The Risbridgers owned Cookes Place farm and the fields by the Sherbourne. This diversion eventually led to Angel Risbridger cutting off the new waterway to the Park's fountain and vineyard. She then faced court hearings in 1699 and over the following 40 years.

Much later there was also a turbine at Home Farm.

Most of the Henry Howard water channel is still visible.

Howard's watercourse, here in Anthony Browne's map, was entirely artificial, curving round to follow the hill contours and into the gardens.

This water was also used to create the tunnel...

"The taking down of this hill, and the piercing of it through, was done with great expedition and cheapness, by an ingenious intervention..."

"They have the command of a spring in this park, which they bring in a channel to the place where they would have the sand taken away..."

"The water (as it were) dissolves the sand, as you see sugar dissolved in wine."

"Out of the passage was drawn a great deal of stone, which they call rags, which looks like cast iron; and there is sand as white and fine as the finest powdered salt."

"The passage through the hill did cost but £70 and 3 men did it in half a year."

The tunnel runs from Albury Park gardens through to Silverwood Cottages, which were originally built as labourers' cottages.

Once tidy, clean and a visitor attraction, the tunnel nowadays is closed and looking like...

this, with a spot of light visible at the centre from the entrance at the far end.

This early and possibly fanciful drawing by Hollar ...

shows a vineyard... along with a ruined folly.

John Evelyn redesigned the gardens on the Italian pattern for the 6th Duke, who was Ambassador in Vienna and Constantinople during the 1670s.

Henry Howard married twice. His first wife was a noblewoman, Anne Somerset, daughter of the Earl of Worcester.

On her death he married Anne Beckerton, who had been his mistress, and the daughter of the wine keeper to Charles II.

His brother, Philip, became Cardinal of Norfolk.

Alterations to the house during the ownership of the Howard family were mainly destroyed in 1697 by a major fire.

The only parts left from that period were the Library and the Drawing room next door. On the death of the 6th. Duke, his son, the 7th. Duke, sold the house two years later to Heneage Finch...

Solicitor-General to Charles II and eventually Lord Chancellor. He was known by the sobriquet "silver tongue" and was involved in two famous legal cases: the Act of Seclusion of 1684, and the trial of the Seven Bishops in 1688. The Finch family retained Albury until the end of the 18th Century and during that time there were four Earls of Aylesford.

The 4th. Earl sold the estate to his brother Admiral William Clement Finch in 1780. Finch's map of his estate shows the original road through to Shere going right past his manor house. In 1784 he asked the magistrates for a closing order. In 1800, Finch sold the house to Samuel Thornton, Governor of the Bank of England.

At the time Thornton acquired Albury Estate, he had Sir John Soane rebuilding the Bank in Threadneedle Street. Thornton asked Soane to redesign Albury, modelling the exterior with the appearance of a severe Palladian house, square in form with pilasters as the only decoration. After Samuel Thornton, for seven years the house belonged to Charles Wall...

Anthony Browne's map shows the cottages have all gone and, at the bottom of Dog Kennel Lane, marks: 'Formerly Albury Green 1790'.

From Browne's diary: "*Charles Wall bought Albury Estate, including Albury Green. He began by pulling down some of the old cottages. The locals had been walking a small track across the Waste (common) to the church gate and formerly Waste Green. He had an iron fence put from the house round to the Mill Bridge and a pair of iron gates across the road from Weston to the church. (Thus he closed off the traditional path for the villagers going to the church).*"
The diary gleefully continues: "*Charles Wall was the first to be carried through the gates, on May 12th 1815 ~- DEAD*"

Next, Henry Drummond bought the house in 1819. The Drummonds retained the estate until 1890. Drummonds Bank, now the Royal Bank of Scotland, were wealthy bankers, but the story is not that simple.

They were Scottish noblemen, with the titles of Earl of Perth and Viscount Strathallan, but they were Jacobite and supporters of the House of Stuart. At the battle of Culloden in 1746, Viscount Strathallan was killed, and his younger son Andrew came south and formed the Banking House.

It was great nephew Henry Drummond, also a partner in the bank, and looking for a new Estate who bought Albury in 1819.

Thirty years after the Shere road closure, in 1820, Drummond also closed a road, Dog Kennel Lane... which followed the valley from Albury Heath at Park Corner, past Keeper's Cottage down to Albury Green, then crossed the stream to pass the Little George pub and a farmery, now Cookes Place. Drummond built New Road and Sherbourne as replacements when the Park roads were closed

This John Haskins map of 1820 showed the proposed new routes for New Road and Sherbourne. Henry Drummond had three sons and two daughters. The sons died between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one, so that left Louisa, the eldest daughter...

who married Lord Lovaine in 1845.

Lovaine became the 6th. Duke of Northumberland, which is how the Percy family acquired the Estate, which they still hold, with the exception of...

the Mansion itself and seven acres of gardens.

These were sold in 1969 to the Country Houses Association as a residence for retired professionals. Until 2004, there were 45 apartments and around 60 residents.

Externally the present mansion is the creation of architect Augustus Welby Pugin.

He worked for Henry Drummond from 1848 to 1852.

All you see around the courtyard was created at that time, apart from the early 1900s well head, which is a modified copy of one at the Castle of Ferrara in Italy.

In the 1960s, the former coach-house and porters lodge became Mews Cottages.

Looking back towards the main building we can see the cartouche...

which represents the coat-of-arms of both the Drummonds and the Percys.

Topped by a ducal crown, the arms of Drummond represent in two quarters the Royal Arms of Scotland and the other two quarters, with wavy lines, which represent the sea.

This is part of the Drummond legend, that the first Drummond, a gentleman called Boris of Hungary, crossed the sea with Margaret of Scotland.

Part of the building is brickwork surrounded by sections of ironstone from the local hill, in what is known as galleting.

The entrance to the House gardens have ornate iron gates installed in 1850 by Henry Drummond.

They were brought over from a convent in Hungary.

These photographs are from 1996.

The entrance hall is 100 per cent Augustus Pugin, with his typical style of panelling, ceiling and doorways.

The wallpaper is contemporary with the new hall, built in 1852.

Over the fire is a print of Arthur Pan's oil painting of Churchill in 1942.

The carved wooden panel above the mantle of the fire-place is much older than the room.

It was brought down by the Drummonds from their original home in Perthshire...

and the high relief, depicting trophies of war from Roman times up until the late 17th. century, was carved by Dutchman Jan van Santvoort, who also worked at Holyrood House.

By 2013, Churchill, above the fireplace, had been replaced by this mirror.

Rising from the hall is the staircase put in by Pugin, the only staircase to go the full height of the house to the tower at the top.

It was similar to the staircase in Pugin's own home, the Grange in Ramsgate.

The other stairway, rising from the inner hall, is this cantilevered staircase, put in for Samuel Thornton by Sir John Soane, in 1800.

As well as installing the staircase, Soane also re-modelled the Great-room into a Library and created a new drawing-room.

The Library, originally the Great-room, was used for functions, banquets and balls.

The paintings in the room included two from the school of Van Dyke...

There was Charles I...
and also his consort...

Queen Henrietta Maria. The originals were at Euston Hall in Suffolk.
The third painting was of...

Frederick, Prince of Wales, eldest son of George II and father of the future George III.
He was known as Poor Fred, because he died at the age of 32, as the result of being hit on the side of his head while playing real tennis.

The Library fireplace is the original from 1673.
When John Soane was working on the house and converting the Great-room, he had installed bookcases all round the room.

Just this one section was left, because the others were removed to Syon House when the Duke of Northumberland sold the property.

Working for the estate, Anthony Brown had some special tasks in September 1866 for Henry Drummond's daughter:

"Decorating lodge gates with flowers for Adelaide Drummond's wedding to Sir Thomas Rokewode-Gage, 8th Baronet of Hengrave.

Honeymoon spent at Albury Park House."

This is Adelaide's tomb in the Drummond Chapel of the Saxon Church.
She had lived in Weston House when it was badly damaged by fire in 1855.
Adelaide died in 1883, 17 years after her marriage.

The drawing-room, created by Sir John Soane in 1800, is in the colour known as Soane yellow.
He favoured this colour very much, particularly in rooms facing east. In early morning when the sunlight floods in, it becomes a blaze of gold.

Here is the drawing room again, appearing on a postcard.

The pier glasses on either sides of the windows came originally from Northumberland House, the town-house of the Percy family, which was demolished in 1874 to make way for Northumberland Avenue, following construction of The Embankment.

There are several other features in the mansion that came from Northumberland House, including this fine Waterford Chandelier.

All these renovations and improvements led to the death of two men laying gas pipes when an explosion in January 1877 caused *"considerable damage, estimated at £10,000"*.

"When the explosion occurred a number of men were engaged in laying down gas pipes; several of them were severely injured and two are not expected to recover."

The drawing room fireplace, which came from Northumberland House, was carved in statuary marble by John Flaxman.

There are many fine details...

Including these graceful caryatid figures

Estate agents claim the Coronation Ball for George III took place at Albury in 1762, though Northumberland House in the Strand seems more plausible than Albury.

The French 2nd. Empire clock was hand-made in Paris in 1853 and represents the Empress Eugenie and the Emperor Napoleon III.

It was hand-made as a souvenir of their wedding.

The large portrait of the lady in blue is of Lady Marjoriebanks by James Sant. Her second wedding was to a Mr. Hogg, and their son, Quentin Hogg, became Lord Hailsham, once a contender to succeed Harold Macmillan as prime minister.

This copy of Sir Peter Lely's portrait is of Charlotte Fitzroy, the daughter of Charles II. Charlotte married a gentleman called Bright. It didn't suit the King that his favourite daughter should be known as Mrs. Bright, so the King created her husband Earl of Lichfield (no relation to the present Lichfield family).

The modern portrait of the lady of strong character is of Victoria Chappelle MBE, Daily Mail fashion editor and an early female war correspondent into Paris and Brussels as they were liberated at the end of the Second World War.

In 1980, Victoria Chappelle was arranging to become a resident at Albury Park.

Unfortunately, she died before she moved into the house but the family wanted some of her possessions to be kept at Albury so items of furniture, plus this picture, remained in the House.

While Augustus Pugin was working for Henry Drummond he was asked to cover in the central courtyard to create a billiards room.

This space was converted later by one of the Duchesses into a music room.

In 1905, the Northumberland's Southdown sheep in the Park – and their '*promising ewes*' - were featured in Country Life.

Doubtless tasty lamb also featured on the dining room table.

The main features of the dining-room, on the east wing built out southwards by Drummond, were from Northumberland House including the white marble fireplace and set of Soho tapestries, signed by Paul Saunders and dated 1758.

The room was redecorated in 1920 for the eighth Duke and Duchess by Messrs. Keeble & Son, who overcame the difficulty arising from its length and lack of height by breaking the panelled walls half-way, with projecting Ionic columns.

The chimneypiece at the end...

may have been designed by Robert Morris who had been responsible for the great picture gallery at Northumberland House.

From around 1775, with its carved tablet of dog and bone from Aesop's Fables, it was notable enough to feature on this postcard.

Showing the Ionic column on the other side, this postcard from around 1955 shows the original dining-room, laid out for a meal when the Duke was in residence...

In contrast, by 1971 this had become the dining-room for the retired residents of the House.

This corridor is known as the Pugin corridor, because it is a 100 per cent his work.

When he covered over the central courtyard he had to enclose the original entrance, so he created this corridor.

It is typical of his style of work, with Gothic arches, the mock beams on the ceiling that he rather favoured and his recessed medieval style windows.

All over the house there are Gothic arches like this, which was the public telephone box.

On the the east side, towards Shere, there is the work of two Victorian architects.

On the left a small section of Sir John Hakewell's wall, undertaken for the 6th. Duke in 1869.

On the right is Augustus Pugin's work with a mixture of brickwork and ironstone.

Let into the brickwork, in Gothic writing, is the quotation from the 127th. Psalm - "*Unless the Lord build the house, their labour is put in vain that build it*".

This was Pugin's idea, with the agreement of the owner.

Up on the pinnacles are the figures of Griffins, or Wyverns...

mythical beasts that were much favoured by Pugin, particularly on his ecclesiastical buildings.

This view shows the house from the south bank during the spring, with its glorious display of rhododendrons and azaleas.

Next, a view taken from...

the hill looking directly down on the house, showing the famous 63 chimneys, all different, and designed by Pugin.

They are not original designs but copies from Hampton Court, Burleigh House and Hatfield House. Pevsner described them as: *"some of the worst things Pugin did."*

The first electricity for the Park was generated in this hut, beside Sherbourne bridge over the Tillingbourne.

It once had a waterwheel at the side...

While inside there was machinery...

And gearing to drive a dynamo.

With war threatening, in July 1939 the Duchess of Northumberland placed Albury Park at the disposal of the Council to be used in connection with the evacuation scheme. The Council accepted the offer with gratitude.

The Surrey Advertiser reported:...

"One of the duties the Council will have to discharge in an emergency would be the provision of accommodation for a large number of expectant mothers and a hospital with something like 100 beds could be established.

However, Sir Philip Henriques of Surrey County Council announced the Council is not limited to this course."

So instead, the Spanish Embassy moved out of London to Albury to escape the Blitz. Here is one of the richest men in Europe, Ambassador Jacobo Fitz-James Stuart, 17th Duke of Alba, with his daughter Cayetana, sitting by the Library fireplace in January 1942.

Alba was known as the great seducer and during World War II, caused a sensation with his dinners at Albury Park based on ham, chorizo, sobrasada, olives and fine wines.

Aristocrat, politician, diplomat and cultural patron, Irish writer Sir Shane Leslie defined him as: *"a Don Quixote dressed in an English suit"*.

Just 8 years later, here are all the bookcases and the very same furniture in the Library, making an appearance in Country Life.

This is 17 year old Cayetana, again with their Highland Terrier, Epaminondas or 'Pammy'.

Cayetana's mother had died of tuberculosis in 1934.

Keeping up his lifestyle during the war, amazingly, Prince Alba and Cayetana went skiing at St Moritz in Switzerland on *'sadly empty slopes'*, pictured here in 1940 and 1943.

When the war was over, Winston Churchill sent along this signed self-portrait: *"To Alba from Winston, 1945"*.

Alba himself died in 1953.

An ancestor of Cayetana's had sat nude for Goya: The Naked Maja.

However, notable beauty Cayetana refused to sit for the communist Picasso.
It was a decision she later regretted.

Duchess Cayetana had six children and outlived three husbands.
From teenage years in Albury, she was in the public eye constantly until she died in 2014.
You might have seen her statue in Seville.

So, after clearance of the village, what was there still left to view in the Park?
The kitchen garden...

with its extensive greenhouses and cold frames...

what had once been the public house...

reputedly appearing in this old painting, which I can find no provenance for.
The first recorded victualler was Thomas Baylis in 1663, followed by publican/owners Edward Sheppard in 1708 and James Homes in 1743.
The village inn was still called The White Hart in 1748 but by 1790 it had become The George Victualling House

In 1782 the landlord was Richard Jarlet.
A club was formed here in 1794 called "*The Society of Good Fellowship*".

When the village was transferred to Weston Street the Little George became a house.
It is now called Grange Cottage, originally a 2 bay mid 16C cottage with its entrance in the end smoke bay with a ½ hipped roof and clasped purlins.

In the late 17C an ironstone galled wing was added at right angles joined by the added chimney which served both wings and built partly in the smoke bay and partly outside in the gap between them.

This wing may have been built to make an inn with accommodation upstairs for travellers.
In 1839 it was the house of the bailiff to Drummond, later divided into two houses; gardener's house & Bothy, then converted back into one for the Estate Manager.

Also remaining is Laundry Cottage, the former mill, with its Pugin chimneys...

this attractive criss-cross wooden hut opposite...

and Cookes Place, beside the Apostolic Church.
During the war, St Michael's School in Southfields evacuated here for their pupils, all billeted nearby...

Cookes Place as it looked in a drawing of 1901...

Cookes Place and a glimpse of the Apostolic Church seen across the Tillingbourne in 2020...

Gardeners Cottage, with its unique six in-line Pugin chimneys and now a residence for the Northumberlands...

and, of course, the surviving Saxon Church.

This early photograph of the south side is from 1892 and then Percy Lloyd's first postcard of the church.

Here it is in Pall Mall magazine of 1905.
Perhaps the bar across the porch was to stop cattle entering?

The church and the graveyard is a talk in itself but its remarkable features include...

the mural of St Christopher on the south wall, painted over in puritan times, then later rediscovered, and...

both Pugin's Drummond Chapel and the roofless and abandoned chancel, which was restored and reopened in the 1980s.

The Park featured in the Times in 1950, announcing the famous gardens were now open to visitors...

Helen Northumberland was a post war pioneer in trying to obtain enough income by opening to the public.

This advertisement of 1950 invites visitors to: *'the attractive gardens and grounds studded with many rare ornamental trees and shrubs'*, with refreshments in the grounds.

In 1951, Dowager Duchess Helen Northumberland published this very detailed guidebook for visitors which listed 131 paintings.

The booklet described Albury as: *"one of the glories of our English civilisation"* and opened with a quotation from Charles Kingsley: *"Never lose an opportunity to see anything beautiful: beauty is God's handwriting."*

22 years later, Charles Walmsley published another guide, to the Trees at Albury Park...

with twenty pages of text, here detailing: *'Two Trees from the Caucasus and Two Trees Called Black'*.

Much earlier, back in 1914, the journal Nature had published its review of a *'Catalogue of Hardy Trees and Shrubs Growing at Albury Park'* by A. Bruce Jackson:

"There are some remarkably fine trees at Albury, no doubt due to the soil and sheltered situation, a black Italian poplar, for instance, being about 150ft high, and therefore one of the tallest trees in England."

One of the attractions was daffodil time, featured on this Frith postcard

If the weather was bad there was tea to enjoy in the Tapestry Room inside the mansion.

Let's relax and enjoy an exciting silent home movie of a coach tour to the Park, filmed sixty years ago, in 1962.

- That sign beside the mansion door reads: "Tickets to be Purchased Here".
- Gardeners Cottage

One place not on the visitors' list was the icehouse, just up the hill at the end of a levelled entrance walkway.

There is an outer door...

Which leads to these steps...

Up to the entrance itself...

And to the circular brick-lined ice house chamber...

Which is dug deep down into the hill.

In 1919, the OS map showed two weirs and a boathouse.

Whether this is in the same position as the boathouse on the right here, drawn by Hollar in 1645, is open to question.

Was the lake between the Park and Shere really that massive 350 years ago?

In 1996, Dean Giles, a retired pastor from Melbourne in Australia, wrote a description of the Catholic Apostolic Church...

closed up after the deaths of its eleven founding Apostles, to await the Second Coming.

Drummond himself is at the top right.

Dean Giles wrote:

"Each year from 1826 to 1830 the owner of Albury Park, Henry Drummond, a banker and member of parliament, convened gatherings of eminent scholars for uninterrupted study and discussion...

"An illustrious group came together in 1826.

Foremost among the number whom Henry Drummond invited were Hugh McNeile, rector of Albury and chairman of the meetings;

Edward Irving, a brilliant and dynamic minister from London and the reason the church was known as the Irvingites;

Daniel Wilson, afterwards bishop of Calcutta;

and Joseph Wolff, a Jewish Christian "missionary to the world," a herald of the advent to many nations."

These gatherings establishing the Catholic Apostolic Church became known as the Albury Conferences.

Though the movement faded out in Britain, this building remains as a witness to what was had once been a worldwide interest and proclamation of prophetic study.

One of the unusual features in the Apostolic church is this golden dove flying above the font. It is fixed to wires so that it can rise and fall.

In 1964, the shepherd was still taking his sheep inside the Saxon churchyard.

And here again, further back from the church and the mansion...

In the hollow beside Dog Kennel Lane there were these lambing sheds...

which were derelict and falling down by 2010...

together with this abandoned motorised barge.

In 1981, a 400 year old diseased beech tree, at the Shere end of the Park, was felled for a scene in *'Winston Churchill: The Wilderness Years'*, where Winston's wife, Clemmie, had his favourite tree at Chartwell cut down.

The paper reported: *"Hours of preparation setting up sound recording equipment and cameras were necessary for the shot as there was no second chance if anything went wrong!"*

Here is Hugh Grant arriving at the church in another film using the Park: *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, of 1994.

This Society had a tour, with Michael Wilson Restoration, during major building works on the mansion in 2013...

when everything in the building was completely stripped back...

revealing the floor joists and the struts supporting the walls...

and even up onto the roof, for once-in-a lifetime views and a close-up look at the Pugin chimneys!

Clement Finch's map of 1780 had marked some of the original buildings, while Anthony Browne's notes of 1813 lists around 20...

the George Inn, of course, along with G. Hawkins the miller, Mr Box in Keeper's Cottage; Jonathon Meyers, William Remnant, Mary Merry, Gisilina Butler, and Mr Lowick in various tenements; a brewhouse, a schoolroom, a cowstall, a small greenhouse built by Mr Wall, a shoe maker, a carpenter's shop, a forge, and: *"the cottage where I was born"*, which he described as: *"one of a pair of tenements near the old Parish Church gate next to the big yew tree"*.

Anthony Browne recorded that: *"In the late 1820s, boys were taught in the old village in a hired room and the girls in a barn, there being no school at Shere or Weston until the 1830s."*

With all the possible remains of these buildings and trade activities to look for...

Surrey Archaeological Society has a programme researching the cleared village with the aid of electrical resistivity surveys as well as LIDAR and magnetometry.

The high resistance areas in orange are likely to show the outlines of structures demolished 200 years ago.

Apart from the former demolished cottages within the Park, their test pits also aim to investigate even earlier history, including evidence of medieval activity before the Domesday Saxon church and mill on the banks of the Tillingbourne.

So, there is more to be found...

and the story of Albury Park is not yet finished!

THE END