

TO THE AR AND BACK

Joyce Stevens

An historical stroll around Headley and Arford

Illustrated by Mick Borra

Published by The Headley Society

Notes

Buildings marked ◆ are listed Grade II.

Numbers in brackets, e.g. (21), refer to a position marked on the map in the centre-fold.

Acknowledgements

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To the Ar and Back

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Introduction

There have been so many changes in Headley and Arford since the Second World War that it seemed a good idea to record them while there are still people living who remember what used to be.

We hope that this co-operative project by members of the Headley Society will give pleasure and be of interest to many people, both old and new residents and their visitors.

The natural building materials of the district were timber, Bargate stone, bricks and clay tiles, so it is interesting to notice where a house has a slate roof, (eg. *The Old Rectory* and *Arford House*). This may be a help in dating it too, when railways and canals were used to transport such a heavy material coming from a considerable distance. Look out also for examples of galleting in the mortar of the oldest houses. Pieces of ironstone were pressed into the soft mortar, some say just as decoration or to strengthen the structure, but others say that it was to ward off the devil. Gilbert White of Selborne mentions visitors to his village who asked why the houses were fastened together with “ten-penny nails”.

Notice too where there is evidence of a window being bricked up, eg. *The White House* and *Wakeford's* (though the middle ‘bricked up’ window in the latter is in fact a dummy). This was done to avoid paying the window tax, imposed in 1696 to raise money for a new coinage to replace the old unmilled silver coins, which during the course of many years had been clipped so often that they were only half their original weight. Parson Woodforde, who himself had to brick up 3 windows in 1784 called the tax “an impost laid upon the very light of heaven” and it was also described as “that old enemy of health and light”. It was repealed in 1851, so again we have help in dating a house.

There are examples of “Dentil Eaves” on several houses. These are rows of bricks laid diagonally, either just below the roof overhang or between two storeys, and looking rather like teeth. Some local builders called them “soldiers”.

With this information to help you, we invite you to “take a walk round the block” with eyes wide open, and in the space of 1 mile you will find evidence of 7 centuries of life in our village.

All Saints' Church ◆ (1)

After a fire in 1836, which destroyed the spire and gallery, the building was very much altered and so, in many ways, became essentially Victorian in character. However, treasures of past centuries remain: a stained-glass window of 1260 in the north wall of the Sanctuary; the 14th century tower, and fine heavily timbered roof; two brasses of 1510; and some good 18th century wall monuments. But the Church merits a separate visit, quite apart from this guided tour of the village, and a more detailed description will be found on the book table inside.

The clock was given by Sir Robert Wright of *Headley Park* in memory of his son, Evan Stanley, who died in 1900 at the age of six. The initials of parents and child and the date are in the four corners. There is a Bench Mark cut in the south-east buttress low down. This is a surveyor's sign of an arrow and a number, showing the height above sea level – 314ft in this case.

The Lych Gate (2)

This was erected in 1954 to commemorate the Queen's Coronation. It was designed by Mr C.K. Johnson-Burt, famous for the Mulberry Harbour off the coast of Normandy in the Second World War, and was built entirely by Headley men: H. Fyfield, E. Nash, K. O'Brien, R.L. Robinson, E. Warner and J. Wakeford.

The War Memorial ◆ (3) 'Listed' as 'Street Furniture'

Designed by Mr Woodbine Hinchcliffe of *Pentlow*, and unveiled on 4th July 1920 by Major General W.V. Brownlow CB of *Eveley* (now renamed *Standford Grange*). There is also a marble tablet on the south wall at the back of the Church, unveiled on 26th September 1920. Public subscriptions raised more than enough money for both, and the surplus was used to establish the Hospital Car Fund, which is administered by the Parish Council.

The memorial initially commemorated the 96 Headley men who fell in the First World War. To these were added in 1995 the names of the 48 Headley men who gave their lives in the Second World War.

The Old Rectory ◆ (4)

An early 18th century building with a slate roof and end walls mainly of ironstone. There is an old leaded casement in the attic gable at the north end, an old hopper-head at the north-east corner, and a Gothic fanlight over the French doors. It ceased being the home of our Rector in 1986, when the Guildford Diocesan Parsonages Board sold it on the grounds that it was too expensive to

maintain and heat, and that a house of this style was unsuitable for a modern clergyman, separating him from his parishioners.

In view of its age and importance it is surprising that we know little of its history, but a valuation of 1783 describes it as follows: “A very good house, consisting of two parlours and hall, a kitchen and pantry on the ground floor; four bed-chambers, six garrets, four underground cellars, with a brew-house, milk-house, and other convenient offices; also of two spacious barns, a stable, cow-pens, granary, waggon-house, fuel-house, ash-house, etc. The gardens, yard and rick-yard amount to about one and three-quarter acres”.



The Old Rectory in the 1880s

The Tithe Barn (5)

Originally used to store the tenth of their produce that the farmers had to pay to the Rector as part of his stipend. When payment in kind was commuted to money the barn was used for a variety of storage until after World War II. Then John and Peter Ellis, on their return from active service, rented it to bring on early potatoes for their market-gardening venture on all the Glebe fields. They installed electricity for heating and lighting, and employed many local people, for the work was very labour intensive. This stage in the life of the old barn probably saved it from collapse, for the huge roof was in a very bad state and the Church could not afford the money for the necessary repairs, so the income from letting the building was very useful.

When Canon Tudor Jones retired in 1965, after 31 years as Rector, the barn and kitchen garden behind it were sold to raise money for the modernisation of the Rectory. The purchaser was Godfrey Bird, an architect, who converted the barn into a most attractive dwelling. Fortunately he kept a detailed diary of all the problems involved in the conversion, together with before and after photographs, which he passed on to the present owners four years later when they bought the property from him.

There is a stone let into the wall over what was the stable door, with the date 1680 and the letters S.W.M. These are thought to be the initials of William and Mary Sympton. He was Rector from 1673 to 1695.

The Rectory Field (6)

For hundreds of years this almost ten acres was part of the Rector's Glebe, ie. his income, and was let to local farmers. Now it is in the hands of the Diocese of Guildford, who wanted to sell it in 1987 to raise money for Clergy Stipends and new churches. A united effort by the whole parish, and a march through London with a petition to the Archbishop of Canterbury, prevented a scheme for 84 houses, garages and roads, and saved this green heart of the village.

Before the war it was the playing field and social centre, where cricket and football were played and the flower show and fête took place, thanks to the kindness of successive Rectors. During the war both it and the Village Green were full of Nissen huts, with a brick-built cook-house providing meals for all the troops stationed in the village which, for the best part of ten years, was like an army camp. When the Army vacated the huts, local families took them over as homes.

The Church Centre (7)

Built during the incumbency of the Rev David Bentley, who became Bishop of Gloucester, this replaced the former Church Room in Glebe Road which, although constantly in use by various clubs and societies attached to the Church, was not nearly so conveniently placed. An extension houses the Church Office and facilities for the disabled.

The Young Chestnut Tree (8)

This Pink Chestnut, provided by Peter Ellis, was planted in November 1991 by the Rector, Dick Woodger and his family, to celebrate the Centenary of the tree on the triangle in the High Street. It had first appeared as the star performer on Headley Society's winning float in the summer carnival.

All Saints' Rectory (9)

This was completed in March 1992 and replaced Glebe Cottage which was built in 1961 as a house for a Curate.

Abbeydore (10) *Demolished, now Abbeydore Close*

The original house was built by the two daughters of the Rev W.H. Lavery in 1926, in anticipation of the time he would retire. They let it for two years, but he died on 27th December 1928 after only a few days' illness. He had prepared and signed the December Parish Magazine and so completed 56 years of faithful service in Headley. His daughters with their mother moved into the new house, and after their deaths it remained a private house until it was bought by the owners of Ludshott Manor. They added an extension twice the size of the original, turned it into a Nursing Home and gave it the name *Ludshott Court*. This closed in 1999, and was demolished in September 2000 for redevelopment.

Farthing Fields Footpath (11)

This leads to the Holme School and eventually across fields to Frensham Lane at the bottom of Curtis Lane. It is said that the name refers to the "peppercorn rent" that was paid for the fields in the past, but one very old map spells the name "Earthing". Perhaps a scribe's error?

Belmont House (12)

In his working notebook for 1888, The Rev W.H. Lavery (Rector 1872–1928) recorded, "now being built for us on ¼d Field, by George and Arthur King, their bricklayer Fred Gauntlett." The house was for his wife's parents, Mr and Mrs de la Motte, but in the 1891 census it is registered as unoccupied.

It was then bought by the War Department for £2,500 on 31st July 1903 from Robert Young, and the first Brigade Major to live there was a Fitzclarence, grandson of William IV. His wife was a Churchill, first cousin to the Duke of Marlborough, and he had a coachman named Morse! He was followed by Major Butler, and Joseph Kemp and his wife were man-servant and maid to the family (1906–7), living presumably in *Belmont Cottage* (now demolished).

During the First World War, Captain Thackeray and his wife and son, Reg, lived at *Belmont* when he was Staff Officer Musketry, first at Bordon, later for the whole Aldershot Command. He had come from South Africa, where his uncle, Sir Thomas Scanliss, was Prime Minister of Cape Colony, and the famous eighteenth century hunter, Henry Hartley, was his grandfather. Capt Thackeray served in the British South African Police during the Boer War, and

was at the relief of Mafeking. After World War II he retired to *Wodehouse* (in Liphook Road), and ever since then his family has been active in church and village life, the gift of a Pavilion (now replaced) on the playing fields being only one of their many generous acts.

One of the last military occupants of the house was Lt.Col Derek Richardson, who came here in the late sixties and then settled down in Headley on leaving the army. It has been a private house since it was sold to the Alexanders in 1978, but one of the four W↑D boundary stones marked on old maps is still standing in the bank to the right of the gate.

Turn right at the fork and go down Longcross Hill. (Does anybody know the origin of this name?)

The Old Post Office (13)

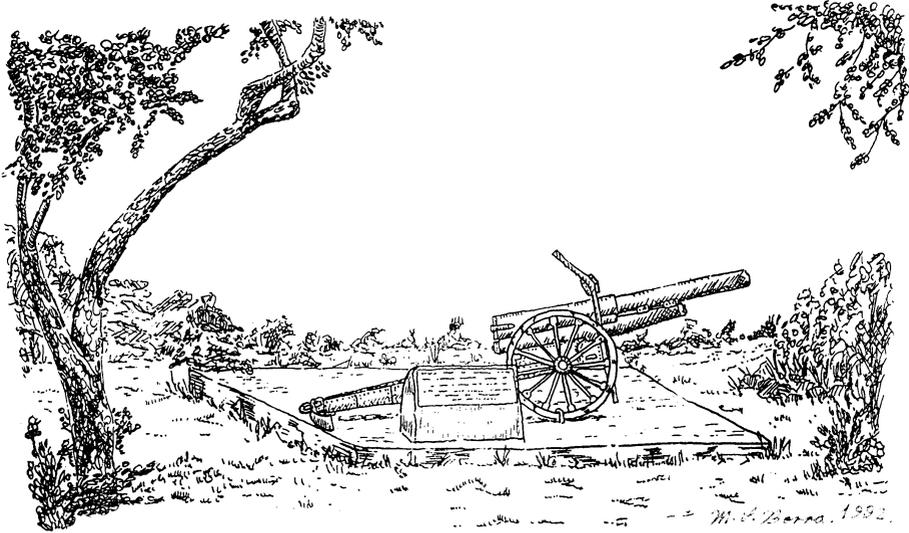
Down the hill, on the left, this was run for many years by Mr William Gamblen, grand old man of Headley. Besides being Postmaster, he was Parish Clerk, Sexton, Verger and a member of the Choir for more than 60 years. There is a memorial tablet on the wall above his seat in the choir stalls. After he died his daughter, Mrs Carter, carried on the business. Her husband was killed in the first War and her elder son went down in the Royal Oak in the second. After she died, the Post Office was moved to the High Street, and this building became a hairdresser's in 1962.

The rough piece of land opposite is part of the Village Green. **Footpath 28 (14)** cuts across it to *Arford House*, and was named *The Brae* by Brett Harte, a frequent visitor there. He was the American mining poet from California and also a writer of short stories about the gold diggings. Harte retired in 1885 and settled in England.

Hidden in the undergrowth is the concrete slab on which stood the **German Gun (15)**. You can still see the tablet that bears the words: "Captured from the Germans by the British Expeditionary Force in Italy in the Great War 1914–1918 and presented to the Parish of Headley through Lt.Col. G. Bonham RE" He was living at *Kenton House*. Ironically the gun was removed during the darkest days of the last War when we were at our lowest ebb for metal, and salvaged for munitions.

The Carnival Hut (16) (later the Working Men's Club) *Demolished*

After the First World War, army huts were for sale. Some became private houses, as in Mill Lane at Lindford, but one was erected at the north end of the Village Green on the high ground just above the German Gun, and used as a Community Hall. Headley WI met there, Country Dance classes for children took place on Saturday afternoons, and concerts and other events were held.



The German Gun

When the Village Hall was built the hut was taken over by the Working Men's Club, for some years a very active organisation providing a social environment for adults and children alike. Their huge Christmas parties were held in the Village Hall (where there was more room), and much was made of New Year's Eve, with Old Father Time and the child-like New Year making appearances. During the summer months members played bowls on the grass outside, but the highlight of the summer was the annual trip to Littlehampton, in several coach-loads. Sadly, the hut was burnt down some time in the 50s and has never been replaced.

Chapel Howe (17)

The site of the former Congregational Chapel, which was very active at the end of the last century and into the first four decades of this. An extension to the original Chapel provided a recreation room with a billiard table, and a warm welcome was given to soldiers far from home and family. The room

was also used occasionally as an extra class-room when medical inspections were held at the School, and more space was needed. Unfortunately it became increasingly difficult to find enough money to pay the resident Minister and to keep the Manse and Chapel buildings in good repair, so they were sold. For some time the Chapel was used as his waiting-room by the local Doctor, but when he retired the Chapel was demolished.



View down Longcross Hill in the 1890s, showing (from left) The Old Post Office, Longcross Farm, Longcross House, Congregational Chapel.

Longcross Farm ◆ (18)

A lovely, timber-framed sixteenth century building, with two gabled dormers, ornamental barge boards, and a cat-slide roof. Sixty years ago it was a dairy farm, belonging to the Gamblen family who owned all the houses and land on this side of the road from *Ivy Bank* (now demolished and redeveloped) above the *Old Post Office* to here. It has changed hands frequently during the years, and is reputedly haunted by a very benevolent spirit.

During the Second World War it was used as a Canadian officers' quarters, and one of them recalls an amusing incident: "*We would keep our beer supply cool at the bottom of the well in our yard. The beer was put in a pail and lowered about thirty feet into very cold water. Unfortunately, one day the pail tipped over and we lost two dozen very scarce and very precious bottles. A scheme was devised where I was to be lowered into the well to retrieve the*

treasure. Sadly, when I was half way down, the wire broke and I landed in the cold water which was about five feet deep, and it was absolutely pitch dark. Other than being surprised, I was unhurt. My fellow conspirators were quite concerned about my well-being (no pun intended). A quick search failed to turn up a ladder long enough or any other suitable piece of equipment that could be used to extricate me from my predicament. One would have thought that a first class Canadian Regiment would provide the necessary tools to solve the problem, but my friends devised the bright idea to call in the local branch of the Home Guard, who rescued me in no time; cold, wet, without the beer, but otherwise unharmed.”



Longcross House in the 1970s

Longcross House (19)

Before World War II, this was a very shabby building, the first floor and roof of corrugated iron. On the western gable end the words ‘Headley Restaurant’ were discernible. Then for a short time the first floor was the meeting room of the Headley Working Men’s Club. The ground floor room on the roadside was a greengrocer’s shop, run by Sid Tidey and his sister, Mrs Radford. Their family formerly owned the bakehouse near *The Crown*. Since conversion to a private house it has changed hands frequently.

The scrubland on the left lower down was once a gravel-pit, one of several in

the village. The sloping site on the right, now completely developed, was an open field thirty years ago.

The buildings (20) on the left, just before the T-Junction, have been part of a builder's yard for at least a hundred years. At one time they were owned by Mr Henry Knight (1805–1903) who, as a boy of ten, remembered standing outside the *Royal Anchor* at Liphook watching the prisoners from the Battle of Waterloo. It was he who climbed on the roof of the Church when it caught fire in 1836, trying to put out the flames, but the shingles of the spire all burnt away, and the rod holding the weather-vane fell into the gallery and set it alight. There is a drawing of the Church as it was before the fire in Macmillan's edition of *White's Selborne* (1875). It is the work of Professor de la Motte, Mrs Laverty's father.

The next builder was Mr Chuck, undertaker and for very many years Churchwarden. He was followed by the Collings family, and then Robert Moodie had his upholstery workshop there. The buildings now form private accommodation.

The Corner House ◆ (21)

An eighteenth and early nineteenth century house, with a slate roof and an interesting porch, the design often used by a local builder.

At the T-Junction we enter the second Conservation Area. In the last few years it has altered considerably. You cannot fail to notice the many new houses, set close together in small gardens. Two delightful small cottages ideal for first time buyers were pulled down, and the whole atmosphere of Arford just here has been completely changed.

The road to the left passes Eashing Cottages and heads towards the site of the Wheatsheaf Inn, now demolished – also in past times passing a tannery, a forge, Bohanna's shop (see later) and a sheep dip – on its way towards Churt and Frensham. Our walk turns to the right.

The Old Stores ◆ (22)

The building is eighteenth century, and inside there is exposed the timber framing of an even earlier dwelling.

It has had a long history as a general village shop. In 1889 two young men, Amooore and Budd, rented it from Mr Fuggle as a grocer's, baker's and pork butcher's. Sadly the partnership was dissolved, and within two years the business was bankrupt owing to the failure of the hop crop. The remaining young man, compassionately though foolishly, "allowed credit to persons in a

humble station of life” (a cowman, for example, ran up a bill for £18), while he himself was in debt to his wholesalers.

A man called Kellick took over the shop, and in 1905 Bonham and Turner ran a barber’s and newsagent’s at one end of the premises. Then in 1913 began the long reign of the Bellinger family at the *Arford Up to Date Stores*, a title which caused much merriment among the Canadians stationed here during World War II. It became a typical village store, selling “anything from dolls’ eyes to railway arches”, as the old saying goes. On the right was the cold room for meat, bacon and dairy produce; groceries were in the main part of the shop; drapery, hardware, paraffin and various other household goods were on the left. There is still a sign on the tree to the right advertising the Royal Daylight Oil Company, probably dating from about 1890.

Archie Bellinger had a fine tenor voice and with his friend George Bohanna, bass, sang in the church choir for many years, and also at concerts in the Village Hall. George was a coal merchant, and his wife Blanche ran a little front-room shop in the house opposite *The Wheatsheaf*, at the far end of Arford Road. Mrs Bellinger gave up the shop in 1958, and after two further proprietors it ceased trading and became a private house in the seventies.

This corner of Arford was the scene of a tragedy that Mr W. Passingham remembered vividly, although it happened seventy years previously, when he was a small boy. A man, whose wife had left him and had come to live in Headley, tracked her down, and was seen arguing with her in the road outside Lickfold’s. Suddenly, he produced a gun; she screamed and fled for safety up the path of the *Corner House*, but he shot her, and she staggered across the road into the drapery department of the Stores, where she collapsed and died. Mr Passingham remembered what a big man he was, and that he had a green bicycle, with a double cross-bar for extra strength.

Lickfold’s House (23) *Demolished*

This was an eighteenth century house, with a pretty porch like the one at the *Corner House*, and was the home of two brothers and their wives who ran the Garage and single hand-operated petrol pump next door. Eventually the Lickfold brothers built a much larger garage in Crabtree Lane (finally known as *Tonard’s*, now also demolished), but the petrol pump still remained, and little Mrs Fred Lickfold braved all weathers, at any time of day, to answer the toot of a horn. She always carried her change in an old tin box. One night in the rain she forgot the box, and a motorist waited for her to go back to the house to fetch him a halfpenny change! In her extreme old age she was alone, and the house and garden deteriorated so much that it had to be demolished. *Pear Tree Cottage* replaced it.

Lickfold's Garage (24) *Demolished*

A wooden building, this became a little general shop after the original owners died. Miss Stenning, whose brother was a baker, sold bread and cakes, confectionery, cigarettes, haberdashery, toys and newspapers. *Apple Tree* now occupies the site.



Lickfold's Garage in the 1920s / early 30s

The Fish Shop (25)

On the opposite side of the road, the white chalet-bungalow was a fish shop, much appreciated to supplement the meagre rations of the forties and fifties. Subsequently a building business was carried on here by Mr North, until it became a private house.

The Crown, and Crown Cottage ♦ (26)

Possibly at one time three small cottages under one roof? The Inn has had a long and interesting history, recorded in detail on a document hanging on the wall in the bar. The more recent incorporation of the cottage into the premises has been most successful, and the interesting nooks and crannies add to the charm of this typical country pub.

Overton Cottage ♦ (27)

Up the lane behind *The Crown* is one of the very few thatched cottages in the

parish. It is a timber-framed building of the sixteenth century, the south gable hung with fish-scale tiles and the chimney in the centre. Some years ago when a wooden-barred window was uncovered, sacking instead of glass was found. There is galleting, and weather-boarding at the north end. It is named from the family who lived there at the beginning of the century, the last of whom, an elderly widow, took snuff which left brown stains on her white apron. Mrs Overton died in 1921.



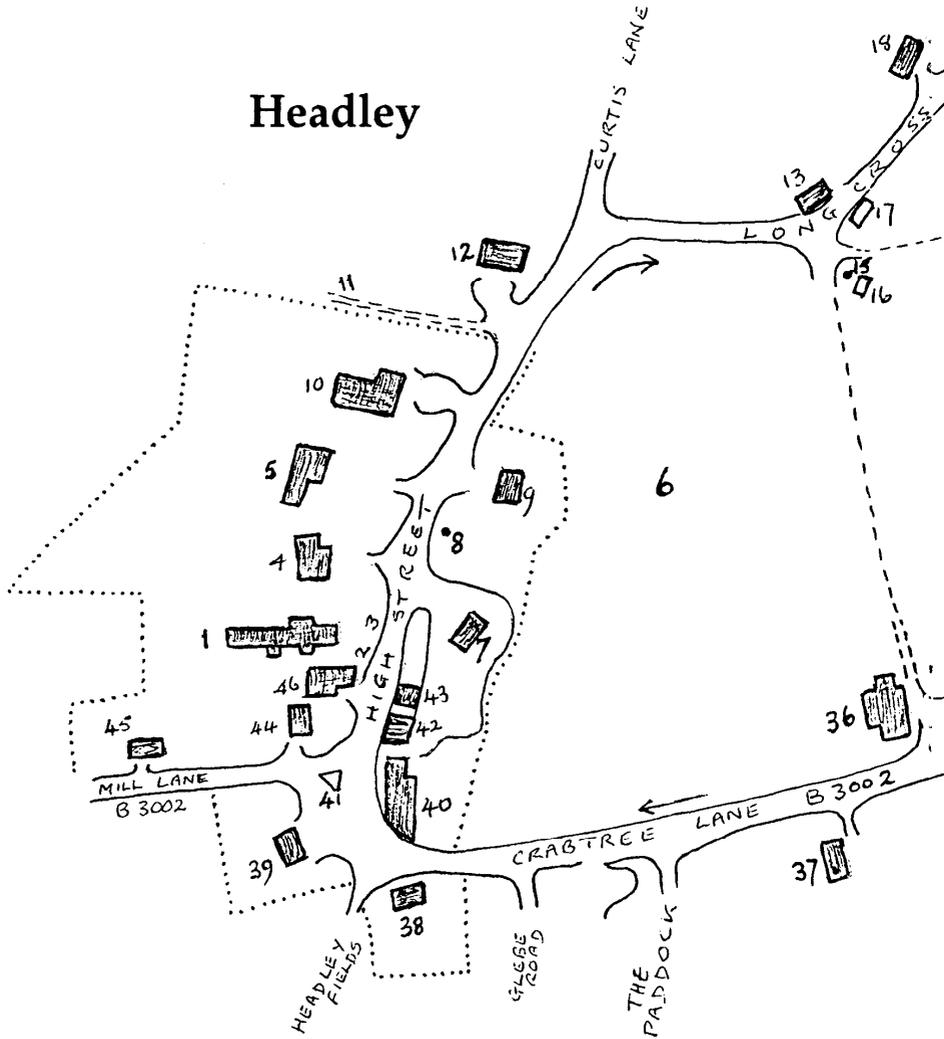
Overton Cottage in 1970

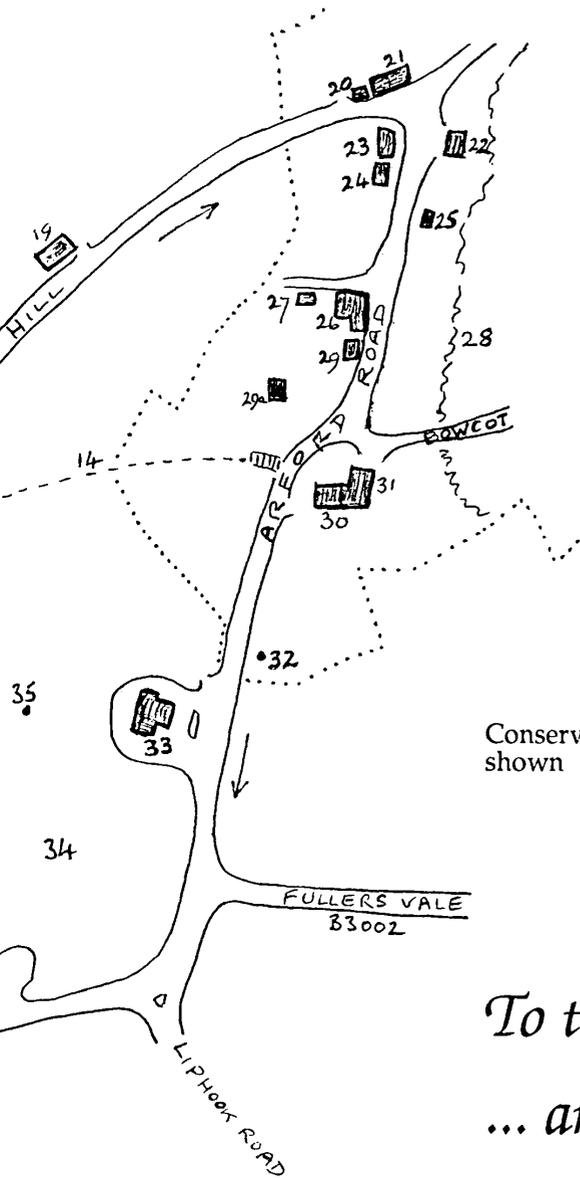
The Ar Stream (28)

A tributary of the River Wey, originating in springs at Fullers Vale pond and flowing through Arford to the river. At one time it was dammed to form a large pond surrounded by iron railings, private to Arford House, and in Spring the banks were covered in daffodils. Notice the fine Wellingtonia on the corner. In earlier days horses were watered at the stream, and our oldest inhabitants remember ice-skating there. The modern house called *Grayston* now stands there.



Headley





Arford

Conservation Areas
shown

*To the Ar
... and Back*

The Old Bakehouse (29)

Originally the Post Office, it was run as a bakery by Robert Tidey, and Josie Fisher remembers her grandfather, in his tall white hat and apron, leaning over a huge wooden trough and kneading the dough with his hands. It was left to prove overnight and then baked in the big oven in the wall, long before most people were up. Every year Mr Tidey baked a harvest loaf in the form of a sheaf and presented it to the Church. Mr Amey followed him as the village baker, but thirty years ago the building became a private house and was very much altered, with metal-framed windows, cement rendering, and modern roof tiles. A face-lift, in effect, concealing its genuine age.

On the left, at the bottom of the hill just below *Arford House*, there was a pipe in the wall where villagers had to go with their buckets to fetch water before piped water was laid on. Some would carry two buckets on a yoke over their shoulders.



*View of Arford in the late 1930s, showing (from left)
The Old Bakehouse, Crown Cottage, The Crown.*

Kirklands (29a)

Originally just a small cottage, this was enlarged at considerable expense in the 1880s by Mrs Windus of the publishing firm Chatto and Windus. She also owned *Arford House*, where her son Edward lived.

A later owner, Mr Rothera, built an attractive bridge in 1921 to carry his drive across the *Brae* footpath (14), but this of course was not strong enough for the amount of traffic resulting from two more houses built after WW2 and sharing the same drive, so it was taken down, it is said by Gary Glitter, who bought the house but never lived in it.

The most notable owner was Sir Harry Brittain, journalist, traveller, MP and founder of the Pilgrim's Club to foster British-American friendship. He bought the house as a weekend retreat, but moved out of London to escape the air-raids and settled in Headley with his wife, Dame Alida. They quickly became part of village life, she leading a make-do-and-mend sewing group, and he walking to the Post Office, resting on his shooting-stick to talk in a friendly way to all and sundry. He was born at midnight on Christmas Eve 1874, and he delighted in reading the lesson at morning service on Christmas Day. During the course of his long life he had done this so often that he scarcely needed to glance at the Bible, and he read for the last time in as strong a voice as ever at the age of 99 in 1973.

Subsequent owners completed an enlargement and modernisation, without destroying the original character of this old cottage with its eventful life.

Arford House ◆ (30)

Dating from the early nineteenth century, with Gothic casements and a Victorian brick porch. It was built by William Ewsters (1760–1842), who presented the life-size paintings of Moses and Aaron to the Church. Mr Henry Knight, the builder mentioned earlier, told Mr Laverty that the wooden decoration on top of the summer-house was the figurehead of the American frigate *Chesapeake*, captured by the British in the war of 1812–15, and that Mr Ewsters bought it when the ship was towed back to England and broken up. (*Have you heard of Chesapeake Mill at Wickham, renamed and rebuilt by John Prior with timber he bought in 1820 from the same source?*)

Mrs Ewsters was a splendid needlewoman, and made a carpet for the house. It was she who planted the chestnut trees round the pond that used to be across the road, north of the entrance gates.

In 1886 the house was advertised by E.B. Kennedy to let furnished for £130 p.a., unfurnished for 80 guineas. It was described as stone built, with three

sitting rooms, seven bedrooms, a garden, tennis lawn, meadow, pine wood, 15 acres, coach house, stabling, and a five-roomed gardener's cottage.

In 1896 the tenant was Madame Van de Velde, wife of a Belgian diplomat, and daughter of the Italian Ambassador to Berlin. She was "tall, with perfect features, full of vivacity and charm", and was the author of numerous books dealing with Court and Society. It was during this time that Brett Harte was a frequent visitor. (*See page 6*)

By 1902 the house had been sold to the Misses Frankland and their aunt, Miss Emily Grenside. They were the daughters of the scientist, Sir Edward Frankland. Miss Dorothy studied the piano in Germany and later was a pupil of Oscar Béringer, who lived at *Brontë Cottage* on Barley Mow Hill with his wife, the talented writer and dramatist, and his two daughters Vera and Esmé, who became well-known actresses. In 1906 Miss Dorothy married Major Richard Hooper and for well over forty years they both took an active interest in the life of the village. Her sister married Mr Woodbine Hinchcliffe of *Pentlow*, who designed the War Memorial. (*See page 2*)

Arford Lodge ◆ (31)

Now a separate dwelling, this was once the stable and carriage block of the main house. It is L-shaped and lower than the house, so there are two storeys on the north and south sides, but three on the long east side standing on the valley floor.

The Nursery wing was on the top floor, cellars were built against the hillside; the nineteenth century porch partially masks the wide cambered arch to the carriage doorway.

As you continue up the hill, notice on the right the steps at the end of the Brae footpath. In *Arford House* garden, opposite the Village Hall, there used to be an unusual **cypress tree (32)**, which sadly died a few years ago. It was one of the few deciduous conifers, turning a rich copper colour in Autumn, and in Spring was a bright, fresh green.

The Village Hall (33)

A most generous gift to the community by Mr McAndrew of *Headley Park*. It was built in 1925, primarily so that the Headley WI, started by his wife, should have a pleasant place in which to meet; more convenient than the Carnival Hut, but also, of course, for the benefit of the whole village. The site had originally been a gravel pit and, after a few years, buttresses had to be built along the side walls. Throughout the years it has been the centre of village life, managed by Trustees representative of the organisations which use it. In

1983 it was modernised and enlarged at the cost of £55,000, with a new foyer, kitchen, toilets, cloakrooms, Library (now, sadly, closed) and an Office for the Parish Council, and the whole building was re-roofed with clay tiles. Truly, Headley has been fortunate to have generous benefactors, and public-spirited residents to cherish and continue their work.

The Village Green (34)

In feudal times, Headley belonged to the Manor of Bishop's Sutton, near Alresford, and this piece of land was part of the Waste of the Manor. It is now registered as a village green, and is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The **Bargate Stone (35)** at the far end came from a quarry at Standford, and commemorates the Jubilee of King George V in 1935. It was unveiled by six-year-old Dennis Chiverton, who was chosen because his birthday was nearest to the celebratory date of May 6th. The plaque from the top of the stone was vandalised many years ago, and so has been mounted on the wall of the Village Hall foyer.

Perhaps the most momentous event ever to take place here was the gathering of more than a thousand rioters (estimates vary) preparing to sack the Workhouse (now *Headley Grange*) in Liphook Road on November 23rd, 1830. The ringleaders were transported to Australia. The story is told in a booklet *From Paupers to Pop*, compiled in 1984 by Arford WI, and by John Owen Smith in his later book *One Monday in November*.

The Holme School and House ◆ (36)

Given to the parish in 1755 by the Rector, Dr George Holme, "for teaching and instructing twelve poor children of either sex in reading, writing and arithmetic". Girls were also taught sewing and knitting. Any number could attend the school, but only twelve could benefit from the Charity; the rest had to pay: Labourers 2d, Journeymen 3d, Tradesmen 4d, Farmers 9d per week, with a reduction for each additional child. The house for the Master has stone walls with the characteristic galleting, and a cat-slide roof at the back. There is a sixteenth century fireplace and seventeenth century chimney breast and beams, indicating that it was partly rebuilt.

The last Headmaster to live there was Mr Beck, who retired in 1923, and after that it was the home of the village policeman for several years, then let to a succession of tenants. It is now a private house. The school itself was enlarged in 1872 and 1893, but the building became redundant in 1990, and was converted into a workshop and salesroom for 'Victorian Dreams'. However the name of Dr Holme, founder and Rector for forty-seven years, has been transferred to the present village school at Openfields.

Yeoman's Place ♦ (37)

Formerly one large house, known as *Crabtree*, with extensive grounds stretching round the corner and along the Liphook Road. The older part is eighteenth century, with brick eaves, Queen Anne windows, and a gabled Victorian brick porch. Inside, the central chimney breast which is characteristic of a timber-framed lobby-entrance house, a style of building not used after about 1650, suggests a much older origin. There are signs of three staircases. The taller house attached to the south, and not listed, was built in mock Tudor style in 1880 by Mr Samuel Bewsher, Bursar of St. Paul's School in London. It is said that this wing was for boys whose parents were abroad, and no windows were put in the west wall so that they could not overlook his garden.

Crabtree House (38)

Owned by Thomas Baker, and occupied by John Lickfold when he moved into the village in 1827. The latter gave an eye-witness account of the 1830 riot to Mr Laverty some 40 years later, and was the father of Walter, who farmed Headley Mill Farm as a tenant. Walter's sons, Fred and Jack, ran a cycle shop at what is now the Mill Office, and then moved to Arford (*see page 11*), and finally to the Garage in Crabtree Lane latterly known as *Tonard's* (now demolished and redeveloped in 2005 as *Rectory View*).

In 1833 the shop was sold to Thomas Chalcraft, who left it to his wife Mary in 1860, and on her death it passed to their son, Thomas Chalcraft, and James Eames. Thomas left to work as a carpenter in Battersea, and James Eames moved to Kingsley. In 1865 it was sold by auction in the *Holly Bush* to William Suter, senior, a paper-maker. He let the shop to William Rogers of Farnham, who finally bought it from him in 1895. Formerly *Headley Stores*, it is still thought of by old residents as Rogers' Shop.

Mr Rogers lived in the house next door (now *The Bakehouse*) which he called *The Laburnums*, and he had six children ranging in age from nine to twenty. In the 1891 census he is recorded as a master baker and grocer. He used to publish a threepenny booklet full of local information, called the *Headley and Kingsley Almanac and Directory*, which also advertised all his wares: boots and shoes, animal feeds and Spratts dog food, paraffin and all kinds of oil lamp supplies, garden seeds, hardware and ironmongery, and an off-licence selling the products of three local breweries.

The store prospered for many years, and his two remaining children, Len and Beattie, ran it until she died. Then it began to go downhill, but Len carried on alone, living in one room in cold and discomfort. Finally, in 1957, being

persuaded to sell though much against his will, he took out his ancient gun and killed himself. He left his fortune (£42,000) to the one niece who had shown some concern for him, but he had not signed his Will, nor had it witnessed, so it was shared among all his next-of-kin, most of whom lived in Australia, with the result that no-one received very much.



View of Headley High Street circa 1900, showing (from left) Shops, The Holly Bush, Crabtree House, Wakeford's (stables), the Chestnut Tree.

The new proprietor, Biddy Bargrave-Deane, built up a flourishing business, noted over a wide area for its delicatessen, and she was followed by an equally successful couple, John and Joan Lewis. But after a series of owners it eventually failed, and became a wholesale store and offices.

Wakeford's ♦ (39)

As with most old houses, this one has had a varied history. It was the original *Holly Bush*, and also butcher Slade's shop from the early nineteenth century. Mr Wakeford took over as butcher in 1879, and his successors kept the name for business convenience. The end of the wooden beam on which the *Holly Bush* sign hung is still visible on the north-east corner of the building. It was this place that William Cobbett described in 1822 on one of his *Rural Rides*

from Greatham to Thursley:–

“We got to Headley, the sign of the Holly Bush, just at dusk, and just as it began to rain. There was a room full of fellows in white smock frocks, drinking and smoking and talking. I had neither eaten nor drunk since eight o’clock in the morning; and as it was a nice little public house, I at first intended to stay all night, an intention which I afterwards very indiscreetly gave up.”

For some years now it has been a private house.

The Holly Bush (40)

No-one knows exactly when the public house moved across to the other side of the road, but it must have been between Cobbett’s visit and 1855, when a Tithe map shows it in its current location. The present very obviously Victorian building was probably added to an existing very much older one. Part of this can be seen behind the porch at the north end. There was also a blacksmith’s and a turf house on this site in days gone by.

Inside, the house has undergone extensive alterations; walls have been taken down between a series of small rooms, formerly the domestic offices of the landlord, and the whole has been decorated and filled with Victoriana, in keeping with the architectural style of the building. The attractive enamelled roundels of birds in the windows have aroused much interest, but are of no great age nor historical significance, in the expert opinion of the late Harold Thomson of Petersfield, a stained-glass artist who examined them in 1990.

The Chestnut Tree (41)

Planted in September 1891 on the site of the stocks by the Rector, Mr Lavery, the butcher, Mr Wakeford, and the landlord of the *Holly Bush*, Mr J. Kenyon, an “old soldier who could tell a good tale”. To celebrate its centenary the Headley Society entered a float in the village Carnival of 1991, re-enacting the ceremony with the then Rector, Dick Woodger; Michael Jackson, who lived at *Wakeford’s*; and the landlord of the *Holly Bush*, Brian McClellan-Dunn. A villain was in the stocks, the blacksmith was banging his anvil, and the villagers plus the Squire and his lady trooped along behind to see the fun. The float was judged Best Overall.

Shops (42)

Years ago, between the *Holly Bush* and the *White House*, there were three wooden buildings with corrugated iron roofs, which in their time housed a variety of businesses. Mr Kennet was a watchmaker and jeweller; Mr Louch a

harness-maker; and the middle one was for a time a house-agency. After that we had a haberdasher's, a tea-shop, a dairy, an agency for dry-cleaning, sweets and cigarettes, a wet fish-shop, fancy goods, toys, perfumery. You name it; they sold it! And the proprietors were such interesting people; enough material here for another book.



The White House in the 1930s

The White House (43)

Of all the houses in the Street, this one must surely have had the most chequered history. Originally a pretty little cottage, it was doubled in size, as you can see from the different roof levels, in the second half of the 19th century. It also had a wooden extension on the south end – one of the previously described shops. At the beginning of this century it was the home of Mr Richard Curtis, son of the owner of the shop opposite. Then it became an army house, a Captain's quarter. Miss Whitfield Hart was the next tenant, and she ran a private dairy business using the wooden extension. She sold out to Unigate, and the house was converted horizontally into two flats for their roundsmen.

A subsequent owner completely altered the exterior, replacing the eighteenth century sash windows with modern metal casements, and removing the gabled porch. After this, the bottom floor became three small shops in one: a boutique, a baby shop, and a proprietary chemist's, with flat above. It then reverted to being a private house once again, with various tenants using just the ground-floor room at the south end for a small shop, selling ceramics, expensive stationery, and crafts of all kinds. Finally it has settled down, under the last four owners, as a private dwelling.

Suters ♦* (44)

Bought in 1871 by William Suter, senior, a paper-maker from Standford. Although it has an eighteenth century facade, it was originally a jettied Wealden Hall-house, like *Bay Tree* farmhouse at the Singleton Open Air Museum. The north end, which can be seen from the Churchyard, clearly shows its sixteenth century construction.

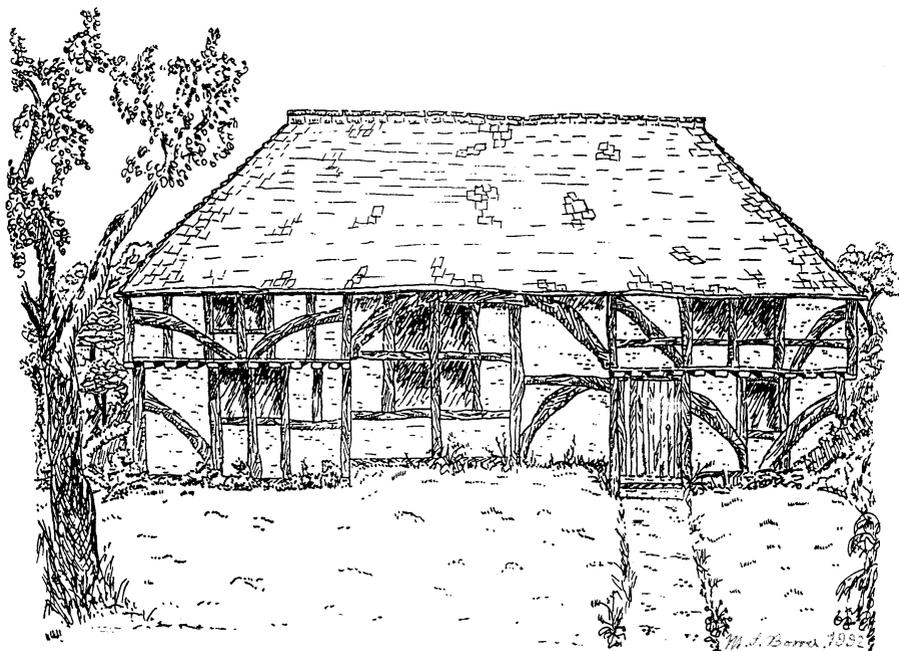
Dendro-chronology has dated the timber-framing as 1520, which coincides rather neatly with a document stating that the Rector, John Fyshe, granted his Churchwardens a piece of land on the condition that they built a new house for use of the Church for recreation, on the payment of 5s.6d per annum. So was this an early Church Centre? Or perhaps it was a Chaplain's house, since it agrees in dimensions with an order given by William de Wykeham to the Prior of Merton that such a house should consist of a hall with a chamber parted off at either end. Each house was to be 40ft in length and 18ft in width.

One thing is certain; this house has undergone many changes, for when hard times came to the community, it was divided into two 'tenements', as they are called in the deeds, and then into three until well into the middle of this century. Now it is one dwelling again, and in the course of restoration many of the original features of the early Wealden have been revealed. The beams are massive, there are two huge open fireplaces, and a wall painting has been discovered, consisting of a frieze of curled acanthus leaves, and a repeat interlace design of red briar roses and buds. Each open flower bears superimposed upon it a bird in heraldic stance with half open wings and one raised claw.

Because so much of the original structure remains, although not visible externally, the house is listed with a 'star' rating.

Two more of the High Street's wooden and corrugated-iron roofed shops used to stand where now are *Suter's* garage and car-port. One was a barber's shop kept by Thomas Middleton in 1909. The hanging sign in a wrought iron frame still exists, advertising Headley Toilet Saloon on one side, and Freemans' Darvel Bay Segars (*sic*) on the other. The barber's chair, its make-shift headrest removed, is in constant use in the house.

A few yards away from the barber's, Mr Arthur Knight had his cobbler's shop, where he made and repaired boots and shoes. He used to hold a store of tacks in his mouth when nailing on a sole (and so was a good listener) and, when hand-stitching, he quickly made a hole through several layers of leather with his sharp bradawl. Then, with a length of waxed thread in each hand, he pushed it through from both directions and pulled it tight.



Suters as it was in 1522

Apple Tree Cottage ◆ (45)

Just off the High Street, a hundred yards down the lane but still in the Conservation Area, is another sixteenth century timber-framed building. It also, during the first half of the 20th century, was home to three families. Successive owners have lovingly restored and improved it, the most recent addition being an integral garage with bedroom above under a full gabled roof.

There is a wide-spread oral tradition that houses like these were constructed of “ship’s timbers”. Historians explain that this does not always mean timbers from ships that have been broken up, but wood from forests that were planted to provide timber for ships when needed. Evidently the surplus was used for houses. The Alice Holt only four miles away was one such forest. Certainly the timber in these two houses is not re-used wood, but was cut specifically for the purpose.

Churchgate House (46)

Named *The Gateway Buttery* after the Second World War, when the new owners tried to establish it as a high-class restaurant, and retained that name as

a Spar shop and post office until these closed for business in March 2002.

Previously it was known as *Church Gate Stores*, and was a thriving concern under the Curtis family. They sold everything a village needed, including drapery, and several of their young lady assistants lived in. In common with the other shops of those days, they opened at eight in the morning and closed at seven at night, the last chore being to put up the heavy window shutters and bolt them with long iron bars.

A record from Mr Laverty's visiting book in 1878 implies that part of this building at least was used as a school around 1830. He interviewed Ann Coombes (née Shrubbs) who, as a girl of 6, remembered looking through the classroom window there and seeing soldiers who "came up in force" into the village after the Workhouse riot that year. She says the schoolmaster, Mr Allfield, "pulled the blinds down when we saw the soldiers."

Just before the Second World War the next owner ceased trading, and so the building was commandeered and was bursting at the seams with various troops, beginning with the Pioneer Corps and ending with Canadian Tank regiments. Graffiti in the attic recalls some of these.

Since then it has had many different owners, and been altered as many times.

The startling contrast with the sixteenth century house next door is a very good example of the way in which this village has evolved naturally throughout the centuries, in comparison with Cerne Abbas in Dorset, built as an entity in the style of that particular time.

We hope that you have enjoyed your stroll round Headley and Arford.

In this Fourth Edition of *To the Ar and Back* we have updated the previous text as at June 2006. We thank our readers for their help and interest in pointing out any errors or omissions.

The Headley Society

Founded in 1985 by Joyce Stevens, The Headley Society continues its lively existence into the 21st century.

The Society is established for the public benefit and interest in the area comprising the civil Parish of Headley and the neighbourhood ...

- to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting our area;
- to educate the public in its geography, history, natural history and architecture;
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.

Among other things, we ...

- promote research into relevant subjects, and publish the results;
- act as a co-ordinating body with other local authorities and organisations;
- make surveys and prepare maps and plans relating to buildings of beauty or historic interest;
- educate public opinion and give advice and information;
- hold or promote meetings, lectures and exhibitions;
- promote civic pride in our area.

If you are interested in joining the Society, you would be most welcome. Contact details are inside the front cover.

Other publications of local interest

A Headley Compendium— This book collates material previously published in the *Headley Miscellany* series of booklets by The Headley Society and in *Headley: 1066–1966* by Canon Tudor Jones.

ISBN 978-1-873855-62-1 March 2011, paperback, 242pp, illustrated

One Monday in November—*the Selborne & Headley Riots of 1830*
a story never told in full before – contains historical information and period illustrations of locations, plus the ‘Rioters Walk’ from Headley to Selborne.

ISBN 978-1-873855-33-1 July 2002, paperback, 136pp, illust & maps

All Tanked Up—*the Canadians in Headley during World War II*

A story of the benign ‘invasion’ of Headley by Canadian tank regiments over a period of four years, told from the point of view of both Villagers and Canadians. Includes many personal reminiscences and illustrations.

ISBN 978-1-873855-54-6 May 2008, paperback, 98pp, illust & maps.

A Parcel of Gold for Edith—*letters from Australia to Headley 1853–1875*

“Hidden in a tin that had once held Andies Candies, I found seven faded letters which revealed the life story of a remarkable woman, my great-great aunt.” Joyce Stevens tells us of her 30-year search into the identity of one of Australia’s Pioneer Women.

ISBN 978-1-873855-36-2 November 2001, paperback, 102pp, illustrated.

Headley’s Past in Pictures — *a tour of the parish in old photographs*

Headley as it was in the first half of the 20th century. In this book you are taken on an illustrated tour of the parish by means of three journeys – the first around the centre of Headley and Arford, the second to Headley Down and beyond, and the third along the River Wey and its tributaries. In doing so, we venture occasionally outside today’s civil parish boundaries – but that too is all part of the history of Headley.

ISBN 978-1-873855-27-0 December 1999, paperback, 128pp, over 100 photos, plus historical notes and maps of area.

On the Trail of Flora Thompson—*beyond Candleford Green*

The author of *Lark Rise to Candleford* worked in Grayshott post office from 1898–1900, while it was still in the parish of Headley. A local historian investigates the people and places she would have seen here at that time.

ISBN 978-1-873855-24-9 June 2005, paperback, 144pp, illustr & maps.

Available from John Owen Smith – contact details inside the front cover.

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