

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAIRLANDS AND THE ASSOCIATION

PRE - 1930

The original development of Fairlands Estate began with the purchase of Fairlands Farm by Mr A.B. Johnston of Cranleigh. This included land on both sides of the Aldershot Road and across the common to Wood Street. He proposed to build a large residential estate of over 1,000 houses and bungalows. Plans were drawn up for roads and the siting of the houses, but the introduction of the "Green Belt" principle caused him to moderate his ideas.

The first phase of the development began in the 1930s, when concrete roads were laid, including the large roundabout on Fairlands Avenue, the small dual carriageway in Louis Fields and the roundabout at the other end. Bungalows were built in Louis Fields, ten houses in Fairlands Road, one house only in Fairlands Avenue, 23 houses in Kiln Meadows, 27 in Dynevor Place, one bungalow with a scattered ten houses in Brooke Forest and one pair of houses in St Michael's Avenue (see map).

The houses were reckoned to be well built by the standards of the time and the Estate Agents boasted of them having "modern drainage", comprising 2 cess pits which were pumped out by tanker four times a year. The tankers were then emptied onto 'Sheeps Hill' - now known as Envis Way: a method of disposal which might not find favour today.

Building then ceased, following the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939. According to the late Eric Barton, after D. Day when the invasion of Europe was proceeding, it was thought that accommodation might be needed for many "displaced Persons" and "Families Seeking Refuge"; so the Government requisitioned the land between the western end of Fairlands Road and St. Michaels Avenue and ordered Ruberoid Clad Huts, known as Portal Houses (after their designer Lord Portal) to be built.

These sectional buildings were erected by Italian P. O. W. s, superintended by the Royal Engineers. These buildings, were guarded at night by an N.C.O. and three men, so the Army built a wooden hut, approximately 40 feet by 15 feet on the land now occupied by the front gardens of 36 and 38 Fairlands Avenue. It had an entrance door at each end, two double doors on the side, obviously to house equipment and bunk beds for the guards. At the end of the war, it all seemed rather a waste of effort because the "Displaced Persons" never materialised and the huts were taken to pieces and removed. However, the store hut was left and eventually was purchased by the F.L.G. Improvements Association for £40.

Once the hut was sold to the Association, willing workers added a concrete floor, a kitchen, a stage and toilets. It was decided to form a Bar Club and in 1936 an application was granted for a licence, and a 'lean to' was attached to the outside of the hut to serve as a bar. It was very small, but two bar men could work together if they moved by numbers. A photograph of the founding committee can be seen in the present bar.

When the war was over, and following the death of A. B. Johnston, a Mr. Graham-Brown purchased much of the land which was not, at that time, protected by the Green Belt, and he was anxious to re-commence building operations. He was advised to wait until main drainage had been laid on. However, he was impatient and offered to build his own sewage farm on the estate, which he did: all the residents were very grateful to be rid of the cess pits and the odour.

On the land next to Fairlands Farm, then part of Fairlands Estate, was a large mixer which supplied the concrete for the roads and this was not dismantled until some time later. Fairlands at that time had a well- prepared Cricket Pitch on the land now occupied by houses in St Michael's Avenue and it was every stalwart batsman's desire to strike a ball into the mixing drum.

Then Surrey County Council decided to proceed with plans for a dual carriageway from Fairlands

to Normandy. A compulsory purchase order was granted on the above-mentioned land between St Michaels Avenue and Fairlands Farm and the housing development plans had to be revised accordingly. In fact, the only part of the dual carriageway ever to be built was outside Fairlands and an accident black spot was created in the process, at the junction with Holly Lane. The authorities have recently built a roundabout there and lives are being saved

So St Michaels Avenue was developed and infilling took place in Brooke Forest. Fairlands Avenue, Brocks Drive, Gumbrells Close and Quakers Way were well under way. Plans had also by now been approved for Envis Way.

When the new development of houses took place, the Improvements Association was invited to name some of the roads - Brocks Drive, Littlefield Way and Close, Gumbrells Close and Quakers Way.

#### **Residents Association**

The first Residents' Association was created in February 1936 under the name "Fairlands, Liddington Hall and Gravetts Lane Improvements Association". At that time there were only about 120 ratepayers on Fairlands, so by incorporating about 30 houses in Gravetts Lane and another 60 from Liddington Hall, the original founders felt they had more clout with the local authorities. Needless to say, the name of the Association was soon shortened to the "FLG Improvements Association".

The Minutes of the early meetings reveal the fighting spirit of the Association members to improve their lot because, undeterred by the Germans, meetings were held, during the wartime blackout, in a disused hen-house in Holly Lane. The improvements most frequently to be seen on the Agenda were main drainage and a school on Fairlands.

At this time Mr. James Lovie Brock was living at Fairlands Farm. The land on the farm side of the road was used for vegetables, mainly potatoes, and on the rest of Fairlands he grazed cattle. He was crippled but got around in a pony and trap. He always turned out after tea to watch the cricket matches and one of the team would go over to his trap to advise him as regards the opponents and the score.

At last, one day in the fifties, the whole of the centre roundabout was taken over by the contract builder. A store hut was erected, fully fenced in, with gates at each end. Building was about to commence. The hut soon had its dirt floor replaced by concrete, was clad with corrugated iron and so became known as the 'Tin Hut'. The first carol service on Fairlands was held in a packed tin hut, conducted by Harry Cater with a Mrs Johnston at the piano.

#### **The New Community Hall**

New residents were now arriving and beginning to take part in the planning. When the houses in Fairlands Avenue were nearly completed, orders were given to remove our hut and willing helpers, led by Arthur Turner and Joe Breedon, dismantled it one Saturday afternoon. The roof struts were sold to a dealer for £40, thus recovering the original cost of the hut. Two wood-wormed pianos were broken up and burned on the concrete base and the debris, corrugated iron etc. were removed by Guildford Rural District Council. The shops had been built by this time and the butcher came out with two bass brooms to help tidy up the site.

The residents were once again without a meeting place and, while plans for a new hall were being finalised, meetings were held in the W.I. Hall at Broad Street and at other times in members' houses.

The Improvements Association were told that they would receive more favourable consideration if they became a full Community Association and a Registered Charity, as this would facilitate getting grant aid for the building project. This was done and, with the approval of the Secretary of State

for Education, the Improvements Association became the "Fairlands, Liddington Hall and Gravetts Lane Community Association" and a fully fledged Registered Charity as it is today.

Mr. Burr, Site Superintendent for the contract builder, advised that the cheapest way to get a new Community Hall was to consider a concrete structure, made of pre-fabricated sections. At that time the construction firm was taking orders mainly for farm barns, but the manager saw the possibility of a new opening for his business and freely co-operated.

However, Association Chairman Arthur Turner set his standards high and said that no ordinary barn would be built. He insisted on a specially sprung maple wood dance floor, mounted on engineering bricks. He was also adamant that the kitchen and toilets must be built in traditional brick. Eventually the plans were approved and the builders price for all this was just over £13,000. The new FLGCA then applied successfully for a 50% grant from national government and a further 25% from Surrey County Council. The remaining 25% was raised by a twenty year loan of £3250, secured with Guildford Borough Council.

The project was under way and, early in 1964, the builders moved in. The weather was very unkind, and as fast as holes were dug, the rain filled them. Channels were dug to guide the water away and eventually cement-lined holes were ready to receive the main uprights of the hall.

At last, in the autumn of 1964, the result of all the years of planning was there for everyone to see and things really took off. Soon after the opening in October 1964 a new Youth Club started, along with a new W.I. branch, Leisure Club, Old Time Dance Club. Then the WI formed a Drama Section early in 1965. Surrey County Council used the hall for its Friday Library and a fortnightly clinic catered for all the babies who came along. The hall was also used for all kinds of meetings and weddings. At weekends the club and bar fully utilised the hall space for table tennis, billiards and cards.

#### **Horticulture**

The Horticultural Section had always been active, with plant sales and an annual show day. Originally the show tent was erected on the land where the shops now stand. Later before the dual carriageway road was built a very fine show took place on the cricket field behind St. Michaels Avenue. Water was laid on for teas by hose pipe from Mrs Hagger's house, (No. 23 St. Michaels Ave). The first year the Community field (after the bridge was built) the tent was erected for the first time on our own land. A great day - but again it rained and rained. The tent was full of produce and bodies. We were packed so tight that prizes had to be passed down hand by hand, no one could move.

#### **Recreation**

When A.B. Johnston planned the original estate development project, he had set aside 4½ acres of land as a recreation area and promised it to the residents through Mr. Snellings, who was Chief Executive of Guildford Rural District Council at the time. Mr. Brown, allegedly, was not prepared to honour the promise laid down by Mr. Johnston and a battle commenced between Mr Brown and Mr Snelling which was not resolved until some years later. The developer eventually requested planning permission to erect a number of bungalows on the proposed recreation field. However, Mr Snelling and the Planning Committee would not be moved and a compromise was reached whereby the land was freely given to the community in exchange for an increase in the number of dwellings per acre in Envis Way and Wallace Close to compensate the builder.

When the Association first took over the field in 1962, it had been used for cattle and a deep ditch ran right across the centre from north to south. Bulrushes were plentiful and the area abounded with wildlife of all kinds. Advice was sought from Mr. Barnes, a groundsman at Woodbridge Road cricket ground. He came to inspect, took test borings over thirty locations and found at least 6" of good top soil at all points. He recommended that a contractor should be allowed to skim off 2" of

all the top soil and remove it for his own use. In return the contractor would plough the whole area, harrow and level, maintaining the natural fall of the land. He would then seed the whole area and lay, in the space now a children's play area, enough turf to stabilise and be moved to the area designated for a cricket square.

This seemed a generous offer because it promised a ready-made sports field. A number of residents thought it unwise to let so much soil be removed, but it is doubtful whether a sports field could have been funded at the time without such a deal.

There was a precedent for this soil removal because, before the original development of Fairlands Road, Louis Fields, Brooke Forest, Dynevor Place and Kiln Meadows -Mr. Johnston had sent contractors in to remove 3" of topsoil and transport it to Cranleigh. Some residents may feel that there is a connection to be made here with all the surface clay in their gardens.

Soon after it became known that the gift of Community Land had been made, the Local Education Authority came to Fairlands seeking a site for a school. They had in mind the field between Dynevor Place and Louis Fields, but were not really with it. They suggested that they might share the Community Land and offered to maintain the playing field and use it by day, with the Association using the school and field by night. However, this seemed fraught with difficulties and a counter suggestion was made of purchasing a site out in the wilds beyond Louis Fields roundabout. The sale of this site was negotiated and in due course Fairlands had its school.

At one time, in 1949, a hoarding was erected opposite the entrance to Fairlands, saying "Surrey County Council Site for School". As one of the objections to Perry Hill School was that it was on a main road, the proposed Aldershot Road site did not find favour and the hoarding was quietly removed.

When the new centre was built in 1964 Arthur Turner (Louis Field) provided and erected a fine corner bar within the main hall complete with fittings and roller shutters. The bar club became and still is a very important part of our Association. The club then consisted of half hall Friday and Saturday evenings, table tennis and billiard table, there was little to do, companionship was all important. The club was the money-maker, so when funds permitted it was not the stage improvements, but better facilities for our club. The extension started at the common room and moved southwards, a corridor led to the main hall for use of toilets. At the rear of the bar, inside and outside storage was planned. As the club grew and needed more room, these two stores were taken into the bar area. But the bar club has continued to grow under good leaderships of Bill Kerr, Bill Bleasdale and Lem Hurlow, each supported by their committees. The necessity for further expansion was apparent and with the future in mind, Snooker was the "in thing". The new bar was designed with perhaps an upstairs room in mind?

With architect's advice we planned to extend the stage, extend the bar, provide separate bar toilets and roof the extensions in such a way as to cope hopefully with a billiards/snooker table upstairs at the next stage of planning. To do this iron framework and new steel girders were installed. All at an estimated cost of £60,000 which proved nearly £80,000. Help was forthcoming from many sources, not least of all the breweries.

#### **Residents**

Many folk have resided on our 3 estates and moved on, such as Alan Sims who became a Bank Manager but the most interesting personality I have been advised of was an Old Sea Captain J.L. Beatley who for many of the war years resided in Brooke Forest - He was Captain of a small cargo boat between England and the Middle East, passing through the canal and Mediterranean. It is recorded that on one trip the convoy was attacked by enemy aircraft and he single handed shot down two of them and saved his vessel. This was noted by the Escort Naval Officer and resulted

in a Gallantry award and a visit to Buckingham Palace, presented by King George VI. The only other resident to visit the Palace was our late President - Harry Cater, who as Chairman of the Parish Council was invited by our present Queen to a garden party there.

I have been asked to include a paragraph or two on the original formation of the F.L.G.C.A. My informant advised me that the original committee under the chairmanship of A.B. Johnston, were Eric Barton, Jim Collins, E. Hankin, Charlie Johnson, L. Newman, Arthur Slyfield, Fred Short, Bill Stoner, Cyril Sutherland and Bill Voller. They had a lady secretary, whose name I cannot trace, but for only a month or so - before leaving the area with her husband. All these gentlemen were still active within the Association when the writer moved on in 1949. The two we have printed in capitals are still with us and still in the new houses they purchased so long ago. Jim Collins founded and chaired the Horticultural section. Arthur Slyfield helped with the electrical wiring in our modern centre in 1964. Charlie Johnson, Fred Short and Bill Stoner played cricket for Fairlands in the old days.

When they lost their first secretary a Sid Parker took the office and held it through the difficult years, 13 all told, and when he moved to Hampshire he was elected the first Honorary Life Member. Many years later this honour was conferred on Bill Lidbetter for his service as Hon. Treasurer and the list was added to, with gratitude for long service by that of Harry Cater. One lady member who has served the Association well, and still does though we see very little of her, is Mrs Coleman of Liddington Hall. Our Association notice board stands in her front garden and is kept in good repair by her. She used to represent the hall on management until the new constitution.

Bill Voller was chairman for 13 years, an office he held with great character. Some of us knew he had strong views on politics but they were never evident when presiding at our meetings. He, together with Bill Lidbetter and myself were the original Trustees to the new centre, his name has now been replaced by that of our current Chairman Alan Dillon.

#### **The Youth Club**

The Tin Hut Youth Club was started by Joe Breedon, father of one daughter and three sons. When Harry Leeder took over, there were a few problems with gate crashers from a neighbouring village, but two big lads, Terry Cater and Brian Nubbart kept them at bay. The members appointed their own officers and committee, and paid a weekly sub which was usually spent on the latest 78 rpm "Record of the Month"

Two of the girls began taking an interest in Worplesdon Old Time Dance Club and they taught everyone "The Moonlight Saunter". This suddenly became the craze of the month, and with the "The Gay Gordons" on the reverse side of the record, the club moved rapidly into a new phase. Dancing whirled their way around the billiard and table tennis tables, holding up the games until each record ended.

As is often the case with Youth Clubs, a number of romances began, with the result that eight couples eventually tied the knot and the Club gained the title of "The Fairlands Matrimonial Agency"

After 1964, a New Club was formed by Ken Butt, and when Ken left Fairlands, Derek Kernan and his wife took over the Club and ran it successfully for 15 years.

#### **FAIRLANDS - THE DANCE CLUB**

The inaugural meeting took place in the new half hall on Thursday 21st October 1964. Over 70 prospective members attended and voted to form an Old Time Dance Club. Officers and committee were elected and the members had their first big ball in March 1965. The night was a great success with nearby local clubs and their leaders attending and the Club has prospered

ever since.

We had our doubts if they would make the journey, but to our pleasant surprise, they agreed to take over and met all the requests we asked. From that day the club has never looked back. Geoff and Sylvian Elderton have been leaders for many years of what is now the "Fairlands Modern Sequence Dance Club" They are fully qualified in all branches of dancing and have helped to make Fairlands recognised in dancing circles as one of the bigger sequence dance clubs in Surrey.

#### **Memories of Jim Maddox**

Following on from all the previous revelations by our current president "Harry Leeder" concerning the history of how our "Association" came to be formed into the organisation that it is today (December 1995) I can say that in 1988 our management council were advised that water was beginning to lay in pools on the flat roof of the main hall after any appreciable rainfall and furthermore that should a few inches of snow be allowed to settle on it there would be a real possibility of it collapsing and flooding the dance floor area.

The roof was constructed of "strawboard" which was known to disintegrate quickly if allowed to get wet and it was therefore decided to obtain quotes for its renewal. This renewal took place within a few months but at great expense and although this job was satisfactory the inside of the hall was not a pretty sight so we were then advised to have it lined. There were council grants available to meet the expense but of course we had to borrow from the bank to meet our part of the costs.

At the April 1992 Annual General meeting the three officers :- Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer resigned creating somewhat of a crisis but Harry Leeder agreed to be chairman.

The Bar Club A.G.M. in April 1993 was unfortunately rather acrimonious with all officers and the entire committee resigning with the exception of myself and Stan Collins. So with another mini-crisis on our hands Harry Leeder said that management council would run the bar club and it was Harry as chairman, Mary Moore as secretary and Doug Moore as treasurer.

The rota of volunteer barmen who gave their services free for the past two years are soon to be replaced by paid staff but we must thank them all sincerely for a job well done in a time of great need.

#### **Proposed New Doctors Surgery**

During 1992 the doctors on Fairlands let it be known that the premises they occupied as a surgery was too small, cramped and unsuitable for many patients, especially invalids and the elderly who were required to climb a stairway to see the doctors, and were actively searching for a new surgery site on Fairlands.

On 9th March '93 Dr. Hillard addressed the FLGCA executive committee outlining the proposal that the doctors had in mind for a new surgery and stating that their search centred around two sites. The first being Sandpit Heath and the second, part of the playing field at the community centre, both sites greenbelt land and fraught with planning problems. Run by Worplesdon Parish Council voting took place on 23rd Aug'93 by Fairlands residents and resulted as follows:-

45 for 240 against Sandpit Heath

633 for 174 against Community Centre

Voting took place on 15th Oct'93 by FLGCA members only, the result was as follows:-

298 for 43 against 235 did not vote. Community Centre.

On offer by the doctors were the following:-

On 8th Sept'95 a residents meeting was held in the community centre to hear arguments for and against the new surgery proposals followed by a vote which resulted in a resounding vote for the proposition allowing management council to sell part of our land. There were 378 votes for 55 votes against and 2 spoilt papers.

On 31st October'95 outline planning permission was sought from Guildford B.C. by the doctors and the voting was 19 in favour with 2 against.

The project was ratified by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. John Gummer - the man with a penchant for beefburgers. Detailed planning permission was granted by the Guildford Borough Council.

#### **Youth Club**

Earlier you will have read of the Fairlands Youth Club which ceased at the time of the demise of the old tin hut. But when our present hall opened in 1964 a new youth club was born under the leadership of Mr. Ken Butt and when Ken left the estate it was run for a while by Pete Lyons and Andy Wilson.

There followed a 15 year period of settled youth club activities when Derek and Janet Kernan took over the leadership in 19 and held it until 19

Grace Charlick was secretary for a number of years until she left the estate to live at Bramley and Sandra Morgan took over to remain secretary until it had to close because nobody could be found to take over the leadership. There are youth club scrap books in our archives and funds are being held in a high interest bank account in the joint names of Sandra Morgan and Jean Coates. Margaret Fox was chairman for a long time but Sandra was chairman and secretary at the end. Hopefully some one will come along to make sure it lives again.

An active "Over 60's Club" under the leadership of Ann Hagger met weekly for many years but these days meet once a fortnight to play whist.

## Memories of early Fairlands

The Cumber family arrived on Fairlands in 1937 and took up residence at 8 Brooke Forest. The Cumber boys were still very young during the war years, but they remember the Canadians coming in 1944 ready for D-day; lorries parked nose-to-tail all round the estate roads. Tanks and other equipment were assembled up on the Hogs Back.

The soldiers were on Fairlands for a couple of months and either lived in their wagons or had tents. In the late afternoon of D-day, waves of aircraft and gliders passed over Fairlands in what seemed like an endless stream

In the war years, the children of Fairlands went to Perry Hill school which was run by head master Mr Brown. Infants were taught at the Worplesdon Memorial Hall, where the juniors joined them for school dinners, as catering facilities were not laid on at Perry Hill until after the war. Older children would have gone to Northmead Secondary Boys School, or to the girls school of similar name.

It was not uncommon for doodlebugs to appear over Worplesdon. On one occasion, the children were unable to go to school because a doodlebug had exploded behind the school, making a big crater, blowing all the glass out of the windows and knocking the top of a big pine tree nearby. A doodlebug also exploded at Merrist Wood Farm. In the event of an air raid warning during school hours, the school children were able to take shelter from bombs, using the four brick air-raid shelters provided.

The Germans dropped a stick of incendiary bombs on Fairlands which landed in a spread, ranging from air raid warden Cumber's residence in Brooke Forest, almost to the junction of Fairlands Avenue with the main Aldershot road. In fact, the tail fin from one of the bombs landed on the Cumber's garden shed, causing great excitement.

Children were brought from Perry Hill School to line the route to Marylands when the young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, came to visit the Elphinstones.

### 1945-46

Fairlands was chosen as a storage site for temporary pre-fabricated housing for people who had been bombed out of their homes. Stacks of hut sections, made of wood and plaster board, appeared on the central roundabout on Fairlands.

Prisoners of War assembled one of these huts down Fairlands Avenue, for use as a site office and shown on early maps of Fairlands. The prisoners were mainly Italian, although some were Poles who had chosen to fight on the side of the Germans. They were all obliged to wear brown overalls, and could be identified by a football-sized yellow circle on the back. There were probably about fifty or sixty prisoners at work on Fairlands at any one time, supervised by British soldiers. They did not live on Fairlands, so were brought in by coach each day. The last contingent of Poles to arrive on Fairlands used to like making dandelion soup, which they shared with the children and the Italians made very good potato chips, cut in the round, which they allowed the kids to sample. In their spare time the POWs made baskets from withies which they found in the hedgerows: they sold or gave away the baskets. They also made kites for the Fairlands children, made out of willows and sheets of newspaper. It seems that the Surrey Advertiser was preferred because the sheets were of a large size.

The POWs left Fairlands some time in 1946 and there was never any bad feeling between them and the locals during the whole of their stay: the children, in particular, did very well out of them.

## Football and Cricket

The original football field and cricket pitch was located at the end of St Michaels Avenue. Chairs and equipment needed for cricket matches were taken from the tin hut on a hand cart and returned after the match. The players had to go back to the hut for tea, returning once again to the field to complete the match. A nearby oak tree provided "stands" viewing for the more agile spectators.

Harry Leeder, the current president of the FLG Community Association, joined the cricket club following his arrival from the Channel Islands and soon became one of the leading lights. At that time, the club took pride in "lightning" Lassiter, who was a very fast bowler, and Arthur Slyfield, a star batsman. Harry Cater, long-time Chairman of the FLGCA, also played for Fairlands then as wicket keeper.

On one memorable occasion, Fairlands played Worplesdon Cricket Club and succeeded in getting them all out for 7 runs. However, their glory was short-lived because Worplesdon came back at Fairlands and, in turn, got them all out for 4 runs. Peter Cumber remembers with pride that he scored one of those 4 runs for Fairlands.

Mr. James Lovie Brock, who owned Fairlands Farm, always turned up after tea to watch the cricket matches in his trap pulled by Topsy the pony. As he was crippled, one of the team would go over to his trap to advise him as regards the opponents and the score.

Mr Webber was the foreman at Fairlands Farm and lived in one of the cottages along the Aldershot Road. Frank Munday was dairyman and part-time hairdresser, and he lived with his wife at Fairlands Farm where she was the housekeeper.

Mr Brock used to drive round the farm on a Saturday morning for his weekly inspection, and got the local boys to open the farm gates for him in exchange for a ride. Brocks Drive is now on the line of the old farm track which was part of his itinerary.

The land on the farm side of the road was used mainly for potatoes and turnips, and on the rest of Fairlands he grazed cattle. Mr Brock was not keen on mechanised farming and, in the forties, still used horse power for ploughing, potato picking and reaping. The field edges were cut with a scythe. However, he did appreciate the value of steam power and used to hire in a steam engine for threshing and rick building.

## FAIRLANDS WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club was founded in 1963.

The first Secretary was a Mr Peter Goss, who lived at 38 Fairlands Avenue, but moved away after a couple of years and finally emigrated to Australia where he now lives.

Tom Thorpe, of 28 Fairlands Avenue took on the job and remained secretary for the next 16 years. Dave Brook was the Treasurer during this time and there were various Chairmen, including Lloyd Lewis and Reg Elliott.

The Club entered the Guildford and District League, and became Division IV champions in the 1964-65 season. They became Division III champions in 1965-66 and Division II champions in 1967-68.

The Club also won the Sportsmanship Trophy in 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68.

On Boxing Day each year up to 1970, the Club played Worplesdon FC in the Culley Memorial Cup. This cup was inaugurated in memory of Brian Culley, who died during a

match whilst playing for Worplesdon. The only time that Fairlands won the cup was in 1965.

The Wanderers joined Surrey Intermediate League, Western in 1977, where they remain today, running a first and second XI.

## FAIRLANDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On October 21st 1964, thirty five ladies met at the new Fairlands Community Hall, where, with the help and guidance of County President Mrs Pain, County Chair Mrs Everington, and Miss Milner, they voted to form a new branch of the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

More than 50 ladies attended the inaugural meeting, at which Mrs C. Brownjohn was elected branch President. Mrs Adey was elected Hon. Secretary with Mrs Ditcham as assistant; Mrs J. Brownjohn became Hon. Treasurer with assistant Mrs D. King, and the rest of the Committee comprised Mrs Morgan, Mrs Grey, Miss Swan, Mrs Cater and Mrs Huggett.

The first proper meeting was held on 8th December 1964, when a talk was given by Mrs Tanner on "Making Christmas Decorations". A musical entertainment was provided by the choir of Worplesdon Women's Institute and £7.13s was raised from the bring-and-buy stall, towards the Institute's funds. Another twenty new members were enrolled and a cordial welcome was extended to any lady of seventeen years upward who wished to attend future meetings.

The new branch proved to be very popular and it was not long before the Fairlands membership topped the 100 mark. Members could also bring a visitor to meetings "on payment of one shilling for tea to the doorkeeper."

Readers may like to know that, in 1965, a baby sitting service was offered by the W.I. at the bargain price of one halfcrown up to 11.30pm, plus an additional halfcrown thereafter.

A Drama Group was formed in January 1965, which met on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month. The group flourished, eventually becoming independent of the W.I. and calling itself the Fairlands Players. The Players have since managed two major productions every year and are still going strong at the turn of the century.

Mrs Huggett, one of the founder members, began in 1965, a scrap book of the Fairlands Women's Institute activities in which their achievements are documented.

Need current setup, membership, etc

## THE LOCATION OF THE "BURYING GROUND" IN WORPLESDON. (acquired 1667 and disposed of 1852).

### THE QUAKER OCCUPATION OF FAIRLANDS FARM.

(formerly known as "Burying Place Farm")

### THE FRIENDS BURIED IN THE WORPLESDON BURIAL GROUND,

A booklet on "Early Quakerism in Guildford." was published in 1952, when it became apparent that, not only had the precise location of the old Burial Ground at Worplesdon been forgotten, but the identity of those buried therein had also been lost.

In August 1954, Herbert Rowntree published a Supplement to the above booklet, establishing the site of the Worplesdon Burial Ground, together with other historical detail, including a list of the names of the Friends who had been buried there.

The following text is based on the account of Herbert Rowntree, coupled with a brief encyclopaedic history of George Fox and the origins of the Quaker movement.

The local records of the Society of Friends show that, in the year 1667, the Quakers of Worplesdon - who, at that time, were numerous - acquired a piece of ground in Worplesdon for the purpose of a Burying Place.

Extract from "Dorking & Horsham Monthly Meeting - Register of Trust Property, 1835".

- (a) "A Lease for 2000 years at a Pepper Corn Rent, if demanded, from the 25th March, 1667, granted by Richd. Baker to John Smith, Thomas Russell, Stephen Smith, Jno. Burt, Henry Gill, William Constable, Thos. Seaman, Robert Stedman, Jacob Bembrick and Robert Iver, of about 20 perches or rods, also 2 rods between the Wall and the Road, without impeachment of waste, with various Trust conditions, for a Burial Ground."
- (b) "A lease for 2000 years at a Pepper Corn Rent from the 30th Sept., 1705, by Richd. Baker, Wm. Constable, Henry Gill, Thomas Russell and Jacob Bembrick, to John Westbrook, John Fields, Richd. Constable, John Smith, Joseph Smith, James Inwood, Caleb Woods the elder, John Cooper and Jno. Woods, No Trust conditions - but without impeachment of waste."
- (c) "Subsequent assignments in July 1740, July 1782, May 1806 and 8th month 1843, the last by John Pritchard, Richd. Kidd, Benj. Kidd, and John Downham Sweetapple, surviving Trustees, to John Wiblen, Wm. Marsh, Thos. Robinson, Edward Waller Martin, Thos. Spencer Junr, Robert Marsh, Thos. Tulley Dann, John Cheal, Richard Pollard, Martin Robinson, Charles Charman Elgar and John Dale."

Extract from a Minute of Dorking, Horsham and Guildford Monthly Meeting, 15th of 12th month, 1852.

The property to which the foregoing Deeds relate was sold in the year 1852 for £40 (of which

£20 was apportioned towards purchase of ground at Ifield in 1855).

#### Location of the Burial Ground

The late Miss Evelyn Thompson stated in her "Notes on the History of Worplesdon" that:- "The Worplesdon Friends burial ground, which was sold in 1852, is now part of Fairlands Farm. The walls and buildings were pulled down and the bricks used to build the cottages at Merrist Wood". (It is not known what was the source of Miss Thompson's information).

In his book "Guildford in the Olden Time" (1904), Dr. George C. Williamson states that he remembered "as a little boy, when staying with the late Mr. Jesse Wells at Merrest Wood Farm, Worplesdon, being taken up by him to the cornfield occupying the site of the old (Quaker) Burial Ground, and having the boundaries of the land pointed out by Mr. Wells. The Ground has long since been merged in the fields near, boundaries and hedges removed, and the exact spot changed very much in appearance".

Dr. Williamson then adds:- "Stephen Smith is said to have lived in the large gray farm-house near Merrest Wood by the side of the road, and the Meetings were held in the orchard next to the house, and in the winter in the large stone-floored kitchen".

But Miss Thompson's statement that the Burial Ground, was on Fairlands Farm appears to be borne out by three maps which, however, disagree as to the site on Fairlands Farm. The earliest of these maps is "Rocque's Map of Surrey (1762)" which shows Merrist Wood Farm (but spelt "Marystood") by lettering on what is the present site of that farm, but no name appears on the plan for the fields now forming Fairlands Farm. On the latter, however, there appear the words "Burying Place", this being on the same side of the Aldershot road as is the Farm House, but nearer to Gravett's lane.

The second map is one the original date of which is unknown, but which was reproduced to form part of a Notice of Sale, dated 1835, which Mr. J. L. Brock very kindly produced to the writer. The sale announced was of "An Estate called Burying Place Farm": and by the plan, as well as by the wording of the notice, this clearly was what is now known as Fairlands Farm. The plan shows a "Burying Place", "but this is sited in the field immediately opposite to Fairlands Farm House, that is on the other side of Aldershot Road. The word "Quaker" does not appear on either of these maps (nor in the Notice of Sale). But it would be curious if there were - apart from the Church-yard - two burial places near together: and even if there had been two, presumably both would have been shown on the maps. Rocque's map was drawn in 1762 which was nearly a century after the acquisition of the land "by Quakers (as a Body), the land remaining in that possession for a further century.

Any doubt as to the location of the Burying Ground seems to be removed, however, by the third map - viz. a Tithe Map of Worplesdon, dated 1839, this having kindly been produced by Miss Dance, the Guildford Archivist, which map clearly indicates that the Ground was on the opposite side of the road to Fairlands Farm House. The record of Ownerships relating to that Tithe Map shows the plot as No. 702, and the landowner as "Quakers Burying Ground", the area being stated as 22 poles. It happens that recently (July 1954), a trench was excavated to a depth of three to four feet through that plot of ground (for the purpose of laying telephone cables), and the present writer was shown by the Contractor's foreman certain markings which, he stated, clearly indicated that in some past period, there had been a series of excavations and filling-in such as might well have been caused by the removal of coffins.

#### (VII) Fairlands Farm House

Returning now, to the question whether Dr. Williamson was correct in thinking that the "gray farm-house" was formerly the home of Stephen Smith, the following information is of interest.

By the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Brock, the writer was enabled to inspect the Farm House. Although the front part of the building is of a later date (it bears the date 1736) the back part is very definitely of a much earlier period, and might well be three hundred years old. It is half-timbered, and there are three large window spaces which are "bricked up, for no obvious reason. It seems probable, therefore, that they were closed when the window-tax was imposed in 1695. (Incidentally, that tax was not repealed until 1851, and it drew a revenue in 1850 amounting to £1,832,684).

Another feature of Fairlands Farm House is a single-storey building outshot from the house (but communicating with it), having a curved brick ceiling and appearing to be a part of the original old building. This is stated by Mrs. Brock to have been reputed to have formed the mortuary for the Quaker Burial Ground. Such a use must, however, be in doubt inasmuch as the Farm House was presumably erected before there was an adjacent Burial Ground: in which event any new structure intended for use as a mortuary would be more likely to be sited on the Burial Ground (across the road from the Farm House) rather than as an adjunct to the Farm House. Furthermore, if Miss Thompson's history be correct, there were - as we have already noted - buildings on the Burial Ground the bricks from which "were used to build the cottages at Merrist Wood".

At the commencement of this memorandum appeared the information that the land for the Burying Ground was provided by Richard Baker, from which it would be expected that Richard was then the owner (or, at all events, the occupier) of "Burying Place Farm" (now Fairlands Farm). That this was actually the case is supported by the fact that the stonework of the extended front part of the Farm House bears the name of "John & Ann Baker" in conjunction with the date 1736? A John and Ann Baker are recorded as having being buried in the Burial Ground there in 1750 and 1755 respectively). The facts seem to point to Richard Baker having been in occupation of the Farm House in 1667, and to John Baker having been there in 1736. Therefore, although it is not likely that Stephen Smith was the occupier during 1673 - 1677, the period during which George Fox paid visits to him, he may perhaps have been in residence there.

It is almost certain that when he visited Worplesdon, George Fox would enter that homestead, as one cannot imagine that Richard Baker, who generously gave the land for the Burying Place, would fail to offer hospitality to Friends on the occasion of such visits.

(III) In his "Journal", George Fox (the founder of Quakerism) recorded that he visited the house of Stephen Smith, for the purpose of holding meetings, in 1673 and 1677. This Stephen Smith suffered distraint upon his cattle on numerous occasions for his refusal to pay tithes: and the following is an abbreviated extract from a quotation appearing in "Early Friends in Surrey and Sussex" by T. W. Marsh:-

"This year (1678) died -that faithful servant of God, Stephen Smith of Worplesdon in Surrey, a man of account in the World. He was "born the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, 1623, and resided some time at Scanderoon (Alexandria) in Syria, as a merchant. He received the truth in 1665, and gave up to obey it and walk therein, and suffered "both in person and estate by imprisonment and spoil of goods. An honest and upright man, one that feared God and was

of good report in his country the Lord endued him with the gift of ministry".

There is appended to this memorandum a list containing all the known names of Friends who were buried in the Worplesdon Burying Ground. This has been compiled from the record at Friends House, Euston Road, London, which bears the following compendious title:-

"Digested Copy of the Registers of Burials of the Quarterly Meeting of Sussex and Surrey comprising a period from the year 1645 to the year 1837, both inclusive, - - - which said Registers were surrendered to the Crown Commissioners of Non Parochial Registers pursuant to the Act of Parliament of the third and fourth of Victoria, chapter the ninety-second".

It will be seen that those names number 185, whereas it has been stated that 214 burials took place in that Ground. The difference doubtless represents burials after 1837 and up to 1852 when the Burial Ground ceased to be used as such.

Author's Note. This shortened edition of the Supplement does not contain the lists of names of those Friends buried in the Quaker Burial Grounds at Worplesdon and Guildford. Such lists are included, in the complete edition, copies of which are filed in the archives of the Society of Friends at Dorking, Brighton and Friends House (Euston Road, N.W.)

Copies of such lists will also be available for perusal by anyone interested, upon application to the Author.

HERBERT ROWNTREE

The Bungalow, Worplesdon, Surrey.

1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1954

The founder of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, was an Englishman named George Fox: a man who lived by his principles. Despite severe persecution, no one could halt his preaching or his disrespect for the Church of England, which he considered irreligious.

George Fox was born in 1624, at Drayton in Leicestershire, of Puritan parents. As a boy George was extremely religious. In his late teens, he became disgusted by the sinfulness of many Christians, and at the age of 19 left his family and went off alone. After much thought and reading of the Bible, Fox came to the conclusion that God was to be found only within the soul of each individual.

In 1647 at the age of 23, Fox began his ministry, traveling from village to village. He preached his new belief of the "Inner Light" and soon won many converts. England was torn by civil war, however, and the authorities did not like this sect that claimed equality for all and refused to take up arms or swear allegiance. Hundreds were jailed. Fox wrote his 'Journal' and pamphlets supporting his beliefs while in prison.

George Fox believed, as the Puritans did, that the formal practices of the Church of England violated the spirit of Christianity. He taught that people can worship God directly without help from clergy. His followers refused to attend the services of the Church of England or to pay tithes for its support. They refused to take oaths on the ground that an oath recognizes a double standard of truth. They were frugal and plain in dress and speech.

In 1652 George Fox, standing on Pendle Hill in Lancashire, had a vision. This was the beginning of the Religious Society of Friends. Its members are commonly called Quakers. A judge first used this name in Derby in 1650, when Fox was on trial for his beliefs. His followers trembled during religious excitement, and Fox bade the judge to "quake at the word of the Lord." The authorities persecuted them with fines, confiscation of property, and imprisonment. Nevertheless the sect flourished and in 1689 the Toleration Act ended the persecution. Meanwhile, Quakers could settle freely in America on a large grant of land given by King Charles II to the Quaker William Penn in 1681.

After Oliver Cromwell became ruler of England, Fox found a refuge at the home of Judge Fell, Cromwell's chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster. Fox died in London on Jan. 13, 1691.

Quakers still reflect the teachings of Fox. They do not sanction taking part in war because they feel that war causes spiritual damage through hatred. Most Quakers therefore refuse to give military service, but individuals follow their own convictions.<sup>1</sup> The Friends have no ritual, sacraments, or ordained clergy. They appoint elders and overseers to serve at each meeting. The meeting for worship is held "on the basis of silence." Members speak in prayer or testimony as the "Inward Light" moves them. After an hour the meeting ends with the members shaking hands. Congregations generally hold a meeting for business every month.

## PLACE NAMES ON FAIRLANDS

FAIRLANDS	ESTATE, ROAD and AVENUE were named after Fairlands Farm.
QUAKERS WAY	Derives from the Quaker Burial Ground which was situated just south of the present-day Fairlands Farm.
BROCKS DRIVE	Brock was the name of a family who formerly owned Fairlands Farm in the 1940s.
ENVIS WAY	Jack Envis was a carter at Fairlands Farm.
GUMBRELLS CLOSE	James Gumbrell was a shepherd and ploughman at Fairlands Farm.
LITTLEFIELD WAY	CLOSE and WAY were named after Littlefield Common or Manor.
WALLACE CLOSE	The Wallace family farmed for many years at Hunts Farm.
DYNEVOR PLACE	Named after the 8 <sup>th</sup> Lord Dynevor (Hon. Charles Rhys), MP for Guildford 1931-35.
BROOKE FOREST	This road was known formerly As Spooks Forest. The name was eventually changed to Brooke, which was the maiden name of the mother of A.B. Johnston, the man who started the Fairlands development in the 1930s.
ST MICHAEL'S AVENUE	St Michael is the name of the archangel who leads the celestial armies in battle. Fairlands football and cricket pitch was located here originally, but the connection seems tenuous.
LOUIS FIELDS	So named from early on.
SANDPIT HEATH	Named at time of new development.
KILN MEADOWS	Bricks used to be made in Gravetts Lane, where the factory site is now. There was a clay pit near the junction of Dynevor Place and Kiln Meadows, which may have supplied clay for local brick making. Prior to the post war development of the estate, the pit had become a pond and home for frogs.
GRAVETTS LANE	Always.
LIDDINGTON HALL	Named from the Hall.
KEENS LANE	Named from Keens farm
HOLLY LANE	