

WORPLESDON HERITAGE SERIES



“I DIDN’T KNOW THAT”

THE HISTORY
BEHIND WORPLESDON’S
STREET NAMES

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EVERY STREET NAME HAS A STORY

FOREWORD

Many of us pass these names every day without knowing the people or events they commemorate. This booklet seeks to preserve those stories, honour those who helped shape Worplesdon Parish, and ensure that their contribution is not forgotten.

We hope it encourages residents to look at familiar places with fresh eyes and to discover the remarkable history hidden within our community.

CALLINGHAM CLOSE

Why is it called Callingham Close?

Callingham Close is named in memory of Aircraftman 1st Class (AC1) George Thomas Callingham, who served in the Royal Air Force and died on 1 March 1920 at the age of 45.

Although the First World War had ended in November 1918, many servicemen continued to serve during the immediate post-war period. George Callingham was one of those who remained connected to military service at a time when the nation was still recovering from the effects of the conflict.

His name is commemorated locally as part of Worplesdon's commitment to remembering those with connections to the Parish who served their country. The naming of Callingham Close ensures that his contribution and sacrifice are not forgotten and that future generations remain aware of the people whose lives were shaped by the events of the early twentieth century.

Callingham Close forms part of a wider group of road names within the Parish that commemorate local servicemen and women, helping to preserve their stories within the modern landscape.



Did you know?

George Callingham served in the Royal Air Force, the world's first independent air force, which had been formed only two years earlier in 1917 through the merger of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

CATER GARDENS

The story of "Mr Worplesdon"

"The spirit of Worplesdon"
 — Surrey Advertiser,
 following Harry's death



Harry Cater
 "Mr Worplesdon"

£495
 A new home in
 Liddington Hall Drive
 c.1934

Cater Gardens is named in honour of Harry Cater, a much-loved local resident whose remarkable contribution to community life earned him the nickname "Mr Worplesdon."

Born in the early twentieth century, Harry spent much of his life serving both his country and his community. A member of the Territorial Army, he was among the first troops sent to Dunkirk during the Second World War and later took part in the Battle of Arnhem. Of the 20 men in his unit who survived that battle, Harry was one. Despite his wartime experiences, he remained modest about his service and devoted much of his later life to helping others.

Harry married his wife, Mollie, in 1934 and purchased a new home in Liddington Hall Drive for £495 - a decision some of his friends reportedly considered extravagant at the time. He was also known for his beloved Norton motorcycle, which remained one of his prized possessions. His greatest legacy, however, was his dedication to village life. Harry played a leading role in the Fairlands, Liddington Hall and Gravetts Lane Community Association (FLGCA), serving over the years as Secretary, Chairman and ultimately President. In 1963 he helped lead the fundraising campaign and construction of the community centre that continues to serve local residents today. Harry also served as a councillor and Chairman of Worplesdon Parish Council, was a trustee of Worplesdon Memorial Hall and Grounds, and became Chairman of the National Federation of Community Associations. Alongside these roles, he was a keen fundraiser for charitable causes and an active member of village organisations. In his younger years, he was the wicketkeeper for Fairlands Cricket Team. Following his death, the Surrey Advertiser described Harry as "the spirit of Worplesdon"—a fitting tribute to a man whose life was defined by public service, community leadership and a genuine commitment to helping others.



Did you know?

Harry Cater was known throughout the Parish as "Mr Worplesdon", a nickname earned through decades of tireless voluntary service and his involvement in almost every aspect of village life.



CHRISTMAS CRESCENT



Why is it called Christmas Crescent?

Christmas Crescent commemorates two cousins, Private Sydney Christmas and Lance Corporal Walter Reginald Christmas, both of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), who were killed in action on the same day - 23 April 1917.



PRIVATE SYDNEY CHRISTMAS



Sydney served as Worplesdon's Parish Clerk before enlisting. After his death, his dedication to the Parish continued through his wife, Edith.

LANCE CORPORAL WALTER REGINALD CHRISTMAS



Walter and Sydney were cousins, serving in the same regiment and tragically killed on the same day.

Two cousins, one family,
one day of sacrifice

DID YOU KNOW?

John Christmas was Worplesdon's first Parish Clerk. His son, Sydney Christmas succeeded him before being killed in action in 1917. Sydneys' wife, Edith Christmas, took over the role, ensuring the Christmas family continued its remarkable service to the Parish for a combined 55 years.

John Christmas owned the field that Worplesdon Parish Council purchased from Guildford Borough Council in 2013, which is now known as Nevins Copse.



Christmas Bakery
- Family Bakers since 1860

COOK WAY

Why is it called Cook Way?

Cook Way is named in honour of Dr Steph Cook, a Scottish-born Olympian and modern pentathlete with links to Guildford, who achieved international success in sport and brought great pride to the local area.

Steph Cook is best known for winning Olympic gold in the modern pentathlon at the Sydney 2000

Olympic Games, becoming one of Britain's outstanding Olympic champions. The modern pentathlon tests five disciplines - fencing, swimming, equestrian show jumping, shooting, and running - requiring exceptional versatility, endurance and determination.

Her victory in Sydney marked a significant moment in British Olympic history, as she became one of the country's first gold medallists of those Games and helped raise the profile of the modern pentathlon worldwide.

Following her sporting career, Dr Cook has continued to contribute to public life, combining her medical career with ongoing involvement in sport and community activity. Her achievements remain an inspiration to athletes across Guildford and beyond.

The naming of Cook Way recognises her connection to the local area and celebrates her status as an Olympic champion whose success continues to inspire future generations.



Did you know?

Modern pentathlon was originally designed to reflect the skills needed by a 19th century cavalry soldier, combining both physical endurance and precision-based disciplines.

Cranstoun Close

Why is it called Cranstoun Close

Cranstoun Close is named in honour of Dr Gordon Cranstoun, a long-serving local family doctor who became a much-loved figure in Worplesdon and the surrounding area.

Dr Cranstoun moved to Perry Hill Lodge in 1922, where he established his medical practice. In the early years of his work, he carried out home visits on a Douglas motorbike before later upgrading to a car as his practice expanded. His commitment to visiting patients across the parish made him a familiar and reassuring presence in many households. Locally, he was affectionately known as "Cranny."

As his practice grew, he initially operated from a conservatory that served as a waiting room. However, concerns were raised that it was draughty and uncomfortable. Sir Laurence Halsey of Worplesdon Place later suggested that Dr Cranstoun convert three old cottages into a dedicated doctor's surgery and residence. The Cranstoun family moved into the property in 1928, alongside his two sons.

The house became known as "Hollow Trees," named after two old elm trees that once stood on the roadside verge nearby. From this base, Dr Cranstoun continued to serve the local community for many years.

Dr Cranstoun provided care during a period of significant change in medical practice. Some patients paid privately, while others were covered under National Insurance, and he was known for his compassion towards those who could not afford treatment, often waiving fees or accepting small gifts such as eggs or fruit instead.

He was widely regarded as the epitome of the traditional family doctor - knowledgeable, approachable and deeply committed to his patients. His eldest son sadly lost his life during the Second World War, adding to the family's connection with national events.



Dr Cranstoun was remembered not only for his medical skill, but for the trust and friendship he built within the community, and was affectionately known to many residents simply as "Cranny."

Discovering the stories behind our streets



Dr Gordon Cranstoun
"Cranny"



Home visits on his Douglas
motobike



"Hollow Trees" - Dr Cranstoun's
home and surgery



Later, he upgraded to a car



DEACON WAY

Why is it called Deacon Way?



Deacon Way is named in honour of Herbert James Deacon, a young sailor who lost his life to Spanish Influenza during the First World War.

Herbert was serving as a Boy 2nd Class on HMS Powerful when he died on 19 September 1917, at the age of 17. He is remembered as one of the local men whose service and sacrifice are commemorated by the naming of Deacon Way.



St Mary's Worplesdon



DID YOU KNOW?

Deacon Way forms part of a group of street names in the development that collectively honour local men from Worplesdon who gave their lives during the First World War, ensuring their names remain part of the everyday landscape of the parish.



HMS Powerful

HERBERT JAMES DEACON - HIS LIFE AND SERVICE

Herbert was a bell ringer at St Mary's Worplesdon prior to his death.

He died in the Royal Navy Hospital, East Stonehouse and was buried at St Mary's Church, Worplesdon, on 24 September 1918.

Deacon Way was named in his memory, so that future generations will remember his service and sacrifice.



LEST WE FORGET



HALIFAX CLOSE

Halifax Close is named in memory of a Handley Page Halifax bomber that crashed nearby during the Second World War.

The aircraft came down on land adjacent to the present-day development, an area that now forms part of Merrist Wood Golf Course. The Halifax was lost after being mistakenly engaged by friendly forces, a tragic example of the confusion and dangers faced by military personnel during wartime operations. Of the six crew members on board, four lost their lives in the crash. Their sacrifice forms part of the wider wartime history of Worplesdon and the surrounding area, where military activity was a common feature during the Second World War. The Halifax was one of the Royal Air Force's principal heavy bombers, serving extensively throughout the war on bombing operations, airborne missions and special duties. Thousands of aircrew served aboard these aircraft, often facing considerable danger on every mission. The naming of Halifax Close preserves the memory of the airmen who lost their lives close to this site and provides a lasting reminder of the impact of the Second World War on the local landscape and community.

WHY IS IT CALLED HALIFAX CLOSE?

The Fallen:

Sgt. Reginald Lucas (Flight Engineer, age 29 - died of his injuries the following day)

Pilot Officer Edward Rolfe 'Teddy' Arnold (Observer, age 25)

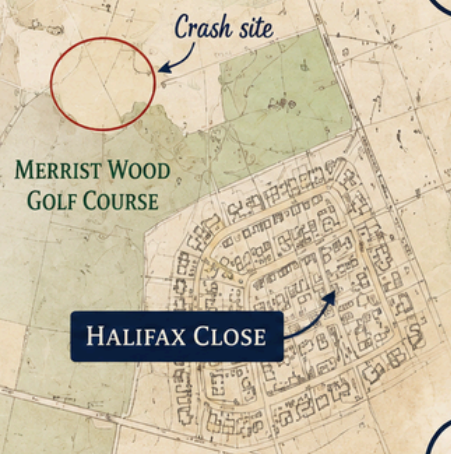
Sgt. Stanley Broadhurst (Wireless Operator, age 20)

Flying Officer Albert Edward Cooper (Gunner, age 34)



DID YOU KNOW?

The Handley Page Halifax was one of Britain's most important wartime aircraft, with more than 6,000 built during the Second World War. The crash that gave Halifax Close its name occurred just a short distance from the modern housing development.



LANGFORD CLOSE

WHY IS IT CALLED LANGFORD CLOSE?

Langford Close is named in memory of Private Albert James Langford, a local serviceman who lost his life during the First World War. Born in 1897, Private Langford served with the 1st Battalion of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, a county regiment in which many men from the local area served during the conflict.

**PRIVATE ALBERT
JAMES LANGFORD**
1ST Battalion The
Queen's (Royal West
Surrey Regiment)

He was killed in action on 11 August 1916, aged just 19, during the intense fighting on the Western Front. He is buried at the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery in Longueval, France, a cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and dedicated largely to soldiers who died in the Somme sector. Private Langford's name remains linked to the Parish through his family, with members still living locally, providing a continuing connection between the present-day community and those who served during the First World War.



Did you know?

Caterpillar Valley was the scene of fierce fighting in July and August 1916.

It took its name from the thanks of the 22nd Division, known as "Caterpillars", which played a vital role in the advance.

Today it is a place of peace and remembrance for those who fell





MORGAN CLOSE

Honouring the Life and Service of Sandra Morgan MBE, JP

Morgan Close is named in honour of Sandra Morgan MBE, a long-serving parish councillor and one of Worplesdon's most dedicated community volunteers. Sandra Morgan served on Worplesdon Parish Council for 58 years, becoming one of its longest-standing members. She was closely involved in a wide range of local responsibilities, including highways, staffing matters, and community liaison, and also served as Chairman of the Council during her time in office.

Beyond her parish council work, she gave extensive voluntary service across the wider community. This included decades of involvement with local schools as a governor, and Chair of Governors, where she played a significant role in supporting education across several generations of pupils. She was also a magistrate for many years at Guildford Court, contributing to the local justice system with a strong sense of public service. Sandra was a driving force behind many community initiatives in the Parish, including support for youth activities, the Fairlands Women's Institute, and local remembrance and charity work such as the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. She also worked to preserve aspects of Worplesdon's heritage and green spaces, and was known for her active interest in local planning and environmental issues.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community, Sandra Morgan was awarded an MBE and later became the first recipient of the Freedom of the Parish of Worplesdon.



SANDRA MORGAN MBE, JP
Awarded an MBE for her services to
the community



DID YOU KNOW?

Sandra Morgan MBE, JP continued to take an active interest in parish matters for 58 years, becoming widely regarded as a key figure in shaping modern community life in Worplesdon



Freedom of the Parish



WWI Commemorative Event



Royal Garden Party



Discovering the stories behind our streets

Roman Farm Road

Why is it called Roman Farm Road?

Roman Farm Road commemorates one of the most significant archaeological discoveries made in Worplesdon Parish. Its name reflects the extensive Roman farming estate uncovered on land beside Broad Street Common, between Wood Street Village and Whitmoor Common.

The first evidence of Roman occupation was discovered in 1829 when labourers digging for road stone unexpectedly uncovered the foundations and paved floors of a Roman villa. Archaeologists later identified it as a corridor villa - a substantial country residence that formed the centre of a prosperous agricultural estate.



More than 160 years later, archaeological excavations carried out before the redevelopment of the former Barnwood School site revealed that the villa was only part of a much larger settlement. The excavations uncovered barns, boundary ditches, farm buildings and enclosures, showing that this was a busy working farm supplying the surrounding Roman landscape.

Artefacts recovered from the site included Roman coins, locally made Farnham pottery and fragments of decorative mosaic flooring, indicating that the estate was occupied during the late third and fourth centuries AD. Together, these discoveries paint a picture of a well-established farming community that contributed to the rural economy of Roman Britain nearly 1,800 years ago.

When the new housing development was created, Worplesdon Parish Council chose the name Roman Farm Road to celebrate this remarkable piece of the Parish's hidden history and to ensure the story of Broad Street's Roman settlers continues to be remembered.

Did you know?

Although the villa was first discovered almost 200 years ago, excavations in the 1990s revealed that it was only the centre of a much larger Roman farming complex, making Broad Street Common one of Surrey's most important Roman rural archaeological sites.



SEARLE CLOSE

REMEMBERING • HONOURING • OUR HERITAGE

Searle Close is named in memory of Private Alfred Searle, who served with the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment during the First World War. Private Searle was the eldest son of Alfred Searle, a bricklayer from Pitch Place, and one of seven children in the family. He enlisted to serve his country during the First World War and was sent to the Western Front in France.

He died on 3 July 1916, aged just 25, during the period of the Battle of the Somme, one of the largest and most costly battles of the war.

The Searle family, like many others in the Parish, was deeply affected by the conflict. Alfred's brother Albert was reported wounded in the abdomen while on active service in 1918, later described as working as a carter in the employ of Mrs Keen of Gravett's Lane. Another brother, Walter, was also wounded in April 1918 but survived and was discharged later that year in September.



The Searle family story reflects the wider experience of many local families during the First World War, with multiple siblings serving and being affected by injury and loss.



Did you know?

Readers may be interested to know that the Lamb featured on the Memorial Plaque was cast from a mould of a silver lamb presented by Colonel F D Watney TD who commanded the 1st/4th Queen's - in the First World War.

Pristinae Virtutis Memor

© The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association





SIME CLOSE AND SIDNEY COURT

HONOURING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SIDNEY HERBERT SIME (1865 - 1941)

Why is it called Sime Close?

Sime Close is named after Sidney Herbert Sime (1865-1941), the celebrated artist, illustrator and caricaturist who lived in Worplesdon for much of his adult life.

Born into a poor family in Manchester, Sime's early life was far removed from the artistic world for which he later became famous. As a young boy he worked in Yorkshire coal mines before training at the Liverpool School of Art, where his talent quickly became apparent. He went on to become one of Britain's most imaginative illustrators, producing distinctive fantasy and satirical artwork for magazines, books and theatrical productions. He is particularly remembered for illustrating the works of the Irish fantasy writer Lord Dunsany.



SIDNEY HERBERT SIME (1865 - 1941)
Artist, illustrator and caricaturist

In 1904, Sime moved to Crown Cottage in Worplesdon, where he converted an old stable block into a studio and became a well-known local figure. Although internationally recognised for his artistic achievements, he maintained strong connections with village life, often sketching local residents and characters he encountered in the area.

Following his death in 1941, his widow, Mary Sime, left many of his works to the village. These formed the basis of the Sidney Sime Gallery, which remains in Worplesdon Memorial Hall and preserves the legacy of one of the parish's most notable residents.



Celebrating local
heritage and the people
who shaped our parish



CROWN COTTAGE,
WORPLESDON
Where Sime lived and converted
an old stable block into his studio



WORPLESDON
ST MARY

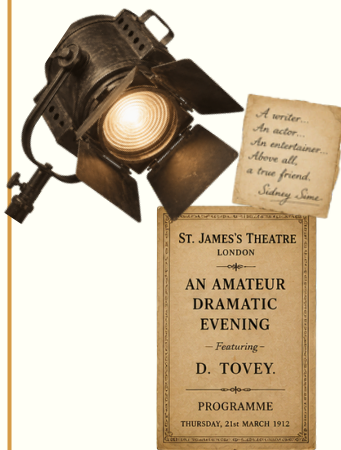


DID YOU KNOW?

Sidney Sime is buried
in St Mary's
Churchyard, and his
imaginative artwork
influenced generations of
fantasy artists and
writers.

Thomas Seymour is the gallery's founding patron. A barrister and the grandson of Sime's aristocratic patron, Lord Howard de Walden

Discovering the stories behind our streets



Why is it called TOVEY GREEN?

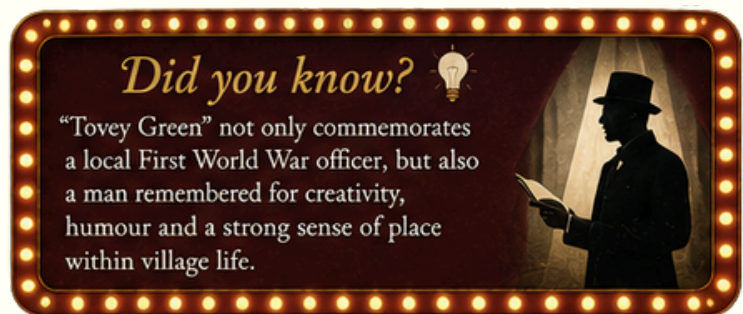
Remembering Lieutenant Duncan Tovey
1872 – 1918



Tovey Green is named in memory of Lieutenant Duncan Tovey (1872–1918), a soldier, writer and entertainer with deep family and personal ties to Worplesdon village.

His father, the Reverend Duncan Crookes Tovey, served as Rector of St Mary's Church, Worplesdon from 1886 to 1913. He was a highly regarded local figure, known both for his academic background and for his long service to the community, including his role as Chairman of Worplesdon Parish Council.

His father, the Reverend Duncan Crookes Tovey, served as Rector of St Mary's Church, Worplesdon from 1886 to 1913. He was a highly regarded local figure, known both for his academic background and for his long service to the community, including his role as Chairman of Worplesdon Parish Council.



Lieutenant Duncan Tovey lived at the Old Post House in the village and was well known locally for his lively and creative personality. He was a soldier in the London Scottish Territorials during the First World War and also had a parallel career as a writer, actor and entertainer. He was a close friend and neighbour of the artist Sidney Sime, who lived opposite St Mary's Church.

After serving in France, Lieutenant Tovey became seriously ill and was invalided out of military service. He died in 1918 and is buried in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave within St Mary's Churchyard in Worplesdon.

His family continued to play a part in preserving local heritage. His daughter-in-law, Joan Tovey, co-authored works on Worplesdon's history and was instrumental in the idea that Sidney Sime's artwork should be preserved locally. This ultimately contributed to the establishment of the village's well-known Sime Art Gallery.

In a lighter reflection of his personality and affection for the area, Duncan also helped to found a regimental association known as the “Glenworple Highlanders”, using a playful Scottish-style name inspired by Worplesdon itself.



WALCOT MEWS

Major Basil Walcot, D.S.O., R.E.



Walcot Mews is named in memory of Major Basil Walcot, a decorated British Army officer with strong family connections to Worplesdon Parish.

Major Walcot served with the Royal Engineers and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1915, recognising distinguished service during the First World War. His military career also included earlier service in the Boer War, and he was educated at Charterhouse School in Godalming.

He was married to Nora Constance Kelly, a Worplesdon resident and daughter of Arthur Lindsay Kelly, a prominent local figure in parish life. Through this connection, Major Walcot became closely linked with the community.

Major Walcot died on 14 September 1918 at the age of 38 and is buried in St Mary's churchyard, Perry Hill.

The family's military service continued into the next generation. His son, John Henry Walcot, served with the 1st Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry during the Second World War. He died on 1 June 1940 at the age of 25 and is buried in Belgium.



Did you know?

The Walcot family's story reflects both world wars, with father and son each serving and losing their lives in separate global conflicts less than 25 years apart.

Worplesdon Parish Heritage Series



This is the first booklet in the
Worplesdon Parish Heritage Series.

Discovering the stories behind our streets

This is the first booklet in the Worplesdon Parish Heritage Series.
Discovering the stories behind our streets, the people who shaped our
parish, and the history hidden in plain sight.

WORPLESDON
PARISH COUNCIL

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Thank You!