

Account of Purley on Thames

Ivy Cottages

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Introduction

Ivy Cottage is situated on the north side of Purley Village Street and originally comprised two semi-detached cottages which for many years were used to house workers on Home farm.

In 1976 they were merged into a single dwelling which was extensively modernised and renovated. It is a Grade II Listed Building.

Listing Description

Location: SU67NE Purley Village (north side)

Description: C17 with early C18 addition to north. Timber framed to south with red brick nogging, and brick to north. Half hipped old tile roof with partial catslide to rear. 2-framed bay cross wing to south, gabled to east and west.

South front: two storeys with plat band to right and central ridge stack. Two first floor 2-light C20 leaded casements flanking blind window off-centre to right and small C20 casement off-centre to left. Two ground floor 3-light C20 leaded casements flanking half glazed door with gabled timber porch. 2-light C20 leaded casement in one storey lean-to to right.

One Cottage in the 1920s

The following description is taken from Tom Farmer's reminiscences and relate to a period of around 1920.

We went down the cobbled path and through the covered porch, which had a bench seat, into the living room which also served as a kitchen. The other room downstairs was a scullery entered under an archway in the corner of the first room down a step and up a step through the back door. Two bedrooms were reached through stairs in the living room with a door at the bottom of the stairs and next to that door was a pantry with a similar door. The uneven brick floor was covered with pieces of linoleum and in front of the fireplace was a rag rug. The fire was a range with an open top and an oven on one side and I should imagine the chimney went straight up. On that fire Gran had to do all the cooking, so that mostly the vegetables had to go in one pot. It is hard to think of a more inefficient method of heating and must have cost a lot for fuel. Against the wall opposite the fireplace was a chifionier and above it a wall clock which I think Grandad thought was rather special. Over the years always when the hands were approaching eight in the morning, he would be watching it and on the hour he would rise and wind it up. Next to the chifionier in the corner was a horse hair easy chair with a slippery covered surface, and under the diamond paned window was a gate-legged table flanked with two kitchen chairs. Next to the fireplace was Grandad's wooden armchair and at the well scrubbed table were two more chairs like those under the window.

In the scullery was a copper and a stone sink and water had to be brought in from a pump outside the back door, which had to be encouraged to work sometimes with a jug of water poured into the top.

At the back of the house was the fuel store shed and, of course, at the bottom of the garden was the brick built double lavatory which was shared with their neighbours the Clarkes. It was a disgusting place, as all earth closets were. The only sanitary arrangement was a covering of soil and ashes which Grandad had to dig out and bury. Inside was a string of cut-up newspaper hanging on nail and what with the flies and spider I would have hated to have gone down there late night.

The garden which was also shared between the two families went all around the house. Mostly vegetables were grown but under the window next to the porch was a flower bed and, in the summer, there were madonna lilies and the old fashioned purple double stocks from which Grandad saved his seeds and always got a good proportion of doubles.

Rita Denman

Part of the Millennium lecture January 2000 ex R000187

Ivy Cottage, Purley Village. Known as "the old house" but no record yet found as to when it was built. Occupants can be identified as far back as 1731. Originally built as a small farmhouse and later divided into two dwellings. The present owners have returned it to a single dwelling and have continued the restoration and enhancement of this beautiful cottage.

An article by Jean Debney in her *From my History Notebook* series article 99 published in PPN June 1991

99: Some Owners & Occupiers of Ivy Cottage

Now that we know who lived in the house, known today as "Ivy Cottage", in 1786 it has proved possible to identify some of its occupants.

The house was part of the manor of Purley Magna, which was held by the St John family until 1786 when it passed to Robert Mackreth, then to John Martindale, before being sold to Anthony Morris Storer MP in 1792. Because of a lack of records it is not known where and how much farm land originally "belonged" to this house.

No record of when the house was built has been found: timber framing with brick infill was a building style used for more than three centuries. It stands sideways to the road and is of a plan known as "lobby entry" with a central front door leading to living and service rooms with hearths on either side of a central chimney. Originally a small farm house, it was later divided into two dwellings.

In 1634 George Dell occupied arable land in Purley Further Field (west of Westbury Lane) on the north of some glebe land and is thought to have been a tenant before John Taylor occupied it in 1671. In 1665 John's daughter was baptised in Purley and he was assessed for

acted as Churchwarden and was buried in Purley in 1705.

It is likely that his son, John Taylor junior, took over the property, possibly as a sub-tenant of George Blagrove. He was married in Purley in 1681 and in 1711 was described as occupying property "on the west of the parish pound" (?pond) with responsibility for maintaining 8 foot of rail in the churchyard fence. In 1713-14 he was Churchwarden and died in 1743.

In October 1786, the property was number 7 on the map which originally accompanied the General Court Baron. No farm land was included and in the 1793 rental it is described as a house in good repair with a garden and orchard of 2 roods 25 perches (just over $\frac{1}{2}$ acre) let at a yearly rent of £3 10s (£3 50p) to Benjamin Humphries. He came from Pangbourne with his wife and baby about 1773 and had three more children in Purley. He served as Tithingman and Hayward in 1791, was Parish Clerk from 1792 until about 1803 and was listed as owing £3 0s 4d to John Hooper, apothecary of Reading, in 1811. He was not buried in Purley.

Matthew Hamblin was probably the occupier from about 1831. Born in Purley in 1795, the son of James & Jane (nee Gutteridge), he served as a soldier in the East India Company before returning as a pensioner to marry Sarah Franklin in 1831. They had 8 children in Purley. In April 1851 his son, George aged 13 and described as having a "soft place" in his head, was sent to prison for 6 weeks for putting stones and an iron plate on the railway line. Matthew and his family are listed in the census returns of 1841 to 1871 and in 1851 was at "The Old House", Purley Village. He and his wife had left Purley before 1881.

From about 1890 to c1901 one half of the house was occupied by Isaac Head and his family from Kintbury. One of Isaac's daughters, Emma, was working at Purley Rectory in 1896 when she married Henry Rogers, son of James & Susannah who lived in the next house. The

By 1932, Charles Carter, a cowman employed by Mr Gulliver of Home Farm, lived there with his wife and seven children. One daughter Pamela, born in 1935 was admitted to Purley School in January 1940 and then to Pangbourne in December 1942. Probably other children from this family also went to school in Purley.

At some time the property was bought by Mr Bucknell. Kelly's Directory of 1967 lists Percy G Bennellick at "1 Ivy Cottage" and Herbert Charles West at "2". In November 1975, Mr West died aged 71 and was buried in Purley. 17 year old Anthony Parrish of Ivy Cottage died in November 1978 and was also buried in Purley.

In 1979 the property, now one house again, was bought from Mr Parrish by Gregor and Rosalind Young who live there today.

Jean DEBNEY (C)