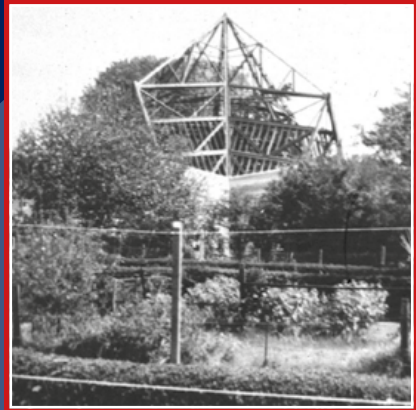




BROADBRIDGE HEATH

70 Years Queen's Platinum Jubilee





To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we present a
pictorial history of Broadbridge Heath from 1952 to 2022

An Introduction from the Parish Council

Queen Elizabeth II has been on the throne for longer than any previous British monarch and has seen many changes to her kingdom and its Commonwealth in that time.

Our village has also seen many changes during those 70 years. In 1952 there were approximately 300 dwellings; in 2022 we now have 2535 and the physical size of the village has more than doubled. Roads and buildings, both residential and commercial, have been added and others lost as new developments have taken place. Perhaps some of those changes have been more welcomed than others, but the community spirit is still strong and the feeling of being 'a village' has not been lost.

The Parish Council wanted to celebrate Her Majesty's reign and it was from a suggestion put forward by ex-councillor Jeanne Coker that this commemorative booklet was designed. We hope it will be a souvenir that will provide interest and information to all residents, whether you've lived here for many of those seventy years or are a relative newcomer.

We are extremely grateful to Jonathan England, an ex-councillor, for much of the historical information and many of the photographs we have used. Our thanks also go to Councillors Terry Oliver, Sarah Chandler, and Christine Knight for their collective work in producing this booklet.

We hope you enjoy it!

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

Historical Background to Broadbridge Heath

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A small Middle Bronze Age axe (c. 1400BC) from a religious offering (in a pit), found on the line of the new dual carriageway

According to various historical finds, it would appear that our village and its surrounding area has been visited since Mesolithic times (10,000 BC – 5,000 BC).

A major Roman road, Stane Street, which connected Chichester to London, ran 2 miles west of the village. A tax office at Roman Gate (the subject of an excavation filmed for a 'Time Team' programme in 2005) was built of bricks made in a Roman factory discovered near Baystone Farm.

The name 'Broadbridge' is probably Saxon in origin. Swineherds moving their pigs from Sullington in the south to Highwood Hill would have crossed the River Arun and it is likely that the bridge on the bridlepath (Mill Lane) between Broadbridge and Baystone Farms is the location that led to the origins of the name.

There is no direct mention of Broadbridge in the Domesday Book as it was listed under its parent, Sullington Manor in Bramber Rape.

Broadbridge became a separate manor in 1243, belonging to William de Covert, and stayed within that family for the next 400 years until it was sold to the Onslow family in 1695. It stayed with the Onslows until sold to Matthew Stanford in 1839.

In 1896, Horsham Urban District Council bought part of Broadbridge Farm for £10,500 and the title of 'Lord of the Manor' disappeared at this time.

It is not until the turn of the 18th century that the name 'Broadbridge Heath', relating to the houses built next to the Common alongside the Horsham to Guildford road, appears in Land Tax records.

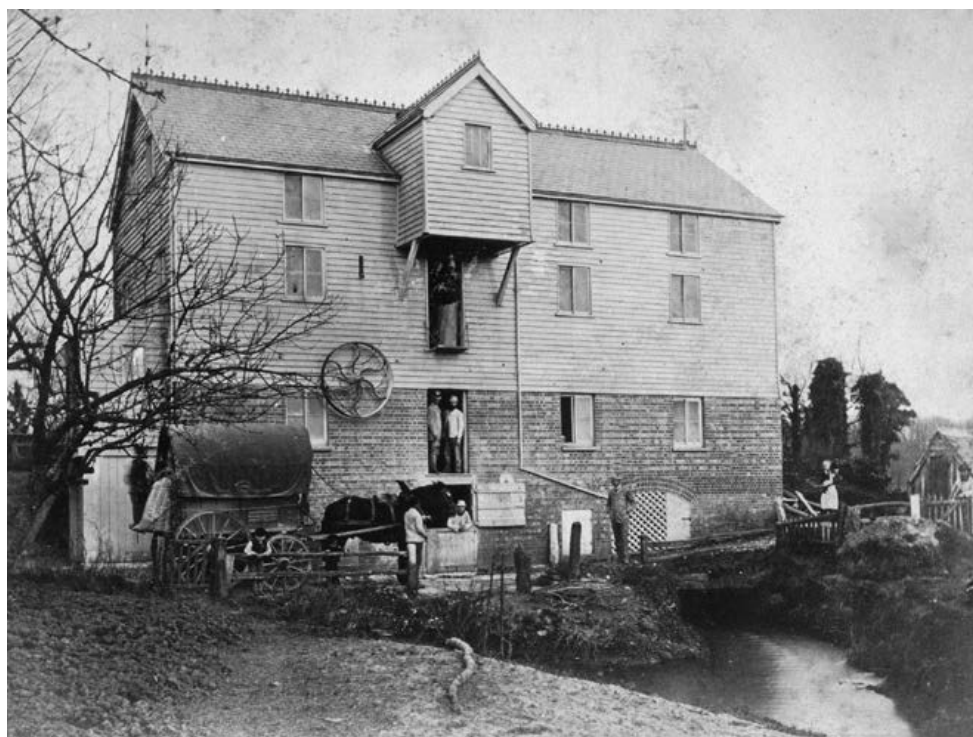
Records show that our village has grown considerably over the years; there were just 10 dwellings in 1665 and even the 1801 census recorded a population of only 64. One wonders what those 64 residents would make of our village today!

The 1950s



Though this is an aerial view of Broadbridge Heath photographed by the RAF on April 10th 1946, the size of the village had changed little by the start of the Queen's reign in 1952. The Army Camp (now the site of Tesco and the Leisure Centre) is prominent to the south of the village. The first new houses in Castle Field to the west of Wickhurst Lane can also be seen.

After WWII, the Broadbridge Heath Football Team included reinforcements from the Army Camp, including Lithuanian and ex German POWs, because pre-War members had lost their lives, moved away, or retired. They became known as the 'United Nations' and played on a new ground obtained behind the Shelley Arms pub.



The first mill at Broadbridge Heath was recorded in 1295. The last mill was built in 1850 and was finally demolished in the 1950s after milling became unprofitable.

The 1960s



The first St John's Church, known to some as the 'Tin Tabernacle,' was moved to Broadbridge Heath from Horsham in 1904. It is shown in this photograph with Church Road running alongside. The junction to Church Lane can be seen on the left with Corsletts in the background. This church was demolished in 1957 after it had become unsafe.



Villagers remember that each household donated money to help fund a new church building. It was completed in 1963 and its unusual shape represents a Bedouin tent.



This aerial photograph shows the new church and surrounding properties including the original church hall. The plinth at the front of the church, below Bainbridge Copnall's statue of Christ on the Cross (removed in 2008 to Horsham Museum), was at that time the site of the War Memorial.

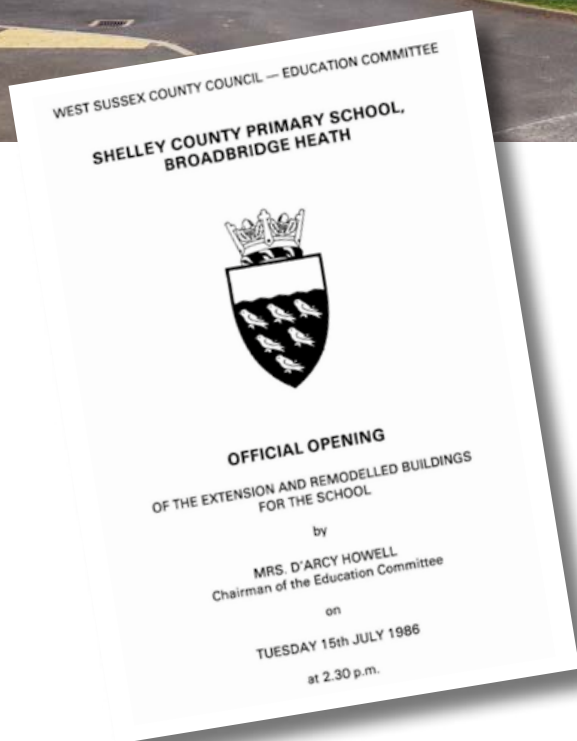
Interestingly, the entrance to Broadbridge Place is on the corner not further along Church Road as it is now, and Church Lane is still a dirt road.

The 1970s



The first school in Broadbridge Heath was a National School which opened in 1853 and was located in the Village Room, now a private residence on Wickhurst Lane. A larger school building on Guildford Road was opened in 1883 with room for 80 children. The name changed to Shelley County Primary School in 1964.





Construction started on the new school on Wickhurst Lane in 1970 with 3 infant classrooms, a hall, kitchen, library, and offices. From 1972 the school operated on a split site, with the Infants at Wickhurst Lane and the Juniors at Guildford Road. Due to a growing population, further extensions were needed, and the school finally opened on one site in July 1986, with the old Victorian building being sold for housing.

The 1980s



An aerial photograph from the West Sussex County Times prior to the building of the A24 by-pass. The triangle made by the Billingshurst, Guildford and Warnham Roads and the Church can clearly be seen. If you live in this part of the village, you may be able to locate your house!



The village underwent a major change when the A24 was built and the A281 was diverted away from the village around a new by-pass opened in January 1983. This eased the volume of traffic through the village, to the delight of the school children in particular! The photograph on the left shows Farthings Roundabout before the new roads were built. The picture on the right shows partially completed excavations that drove the A24 underneath the roundabout.



Children from Shelley Primary School visiting the site.

Children involved in by-pass opening

Although adults will enjoy the advantages of the new Broudbridge Heath by-pass, the staff at the local primary school have made sure that children, the citizens of the future, have been closely involved. They walked along it, danced along it, planted trees alongside it and they are holding traffic counts.

Fourth-year teacher Mrs. Maureen White said it was all part of linking the school with the life of the community. The primary school is on a split site, and daily children have to cross the A264 to get from one site to the other for different lessons.

"We take our lives in our hands every day," she added, "so we are hoping that this by-pass will not only relieve us of noise, but make life much safer."

Mrs. White added that the children had held a traffic count on the A264 a week before, and plan to hold another one next week to see what difference the by-pass has made.

Before Cliff Michelmore opened the by-pass last Wed-

nesday, the children from the school had walked along the road and then, at the junction of the by-pass with Wickhurst Lane, planted some trees, which, they hoped, would grow and give pleasure to many people.

The four who did the planting were Tamilee Bale, Matthew Ross, Simon Cherriman and Kate Morris, while Kate read a message addressed not only to the children and adults around her, but to the generations of the future.

PLEASURE

"We are very pleased to be able to plant these trees on behalf of the village and the school," she said. "We hope as the village develops, so the trees will grow and give pleasure to many people."

"They will remind us that the coming of the by-pass means that we are able to enjoy a way of life which will no longer be influenced by the noise and traffic which has built up over the past years."

Then they walked down to where the adults were holding

the official part of the ceremony. They heard Mr. David Keen, Chairman of Horsham District Council, and Mr. Peter Hordern, M.P., praise the scheme, which was unique in that private enterprise had built the by-pass in co-operation with West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council.

"This just shows what can be done if private and public sectors combine and work together," said Mr. Keen. It was, added Mr. Hordern, the only example in the country, as far as he knew, of this kind of thing happening.

Planning permission was given for the housing and industrial development of the area, provided that the developers built the £2.5m. by-pass from the profits. This did not mean that the development routed from the by-pass, Mr. Keen explained. Plans were already in existence for the by-pass and development, but nothing could have been done for at least ten years, unless the developers, Lawson-Hunt Developers, Ltd., had come forward.



The 1980s



The triangle of land at the junction of Billingshurst Road and Guildford Road that had been occupied by a telephone exchange (demolished in 1958) had a garage built on it around 1962.

Villagers remember it as Adcock's Garage then a Murco petrol station.

After 1986, when it was demolished, residential properties (The Mews) and a small laundry ironing business were built on the site.



Photographs taken of the damage caused by The Great Storm of October 15/16th 1987.

The 1990s



The first War Memorial, constructed after WWI, was located in front of the Scout Hall. In the 1960s, a new memorial was placed on a platform in the front of the church. Today's memorial, located opposite the church, was built in 1995. All the names of the roads on the new estate are taken from those soldiers who lost their lives in the two World Wars and are commemorated on the memorial.



The 2000s



The Knoll was originally a large family home before becoming the location of several businesses; it was converted into a garage around 1981. It was renamed Kingfisher House before, sadly, being demolished on 2013 to make way for the modern structure now housing the Hendy Ford and Mazda showrooms and workshops.



Originally a Happy Eater restaurant, this building was later rebranded as a Little Chef and a Burger King restaurant before being demolished. The site is now a display lot of the car dealership for Hendy Ford and Mazda.

Records show that the Shelley Arms existed by 1818. Increased trade was brought about by the Guildford Road being turnpiked in 1809, followed by the Billingshurst Road in 1811. Local farmers used it as a stopping point when driving their animals to the livestock markets held in the Bishopric. The name originated from the Shelley Family's ownership of the property and the pub sign depicts the Shelley coat of arms.



The earliest garage in the village was that of Thomas Thorns, which became Stephen's, the Vauxhall outlet. It is now Station Garage and is a Skoda dealership.
The site still sold petrol until the 1990s.

The 2010s



A map of the proposed development south of the village (Wickhurst Green). Building started in 2013.



This aerial view shows the current extent of the whole village.



Archaeological surveys carried out prior to the new estate being built revealed evidence of Iron Age round houses.



Artworks created by artist Will Nash under commission by the developers, Countryside Properties, can be seen in various locations on the new estate. The Tipped Discs represent distant memories of long forgotten homes using the patterns of the round house post holes to form the crescents. Flat Topped Rocks were inspired by the mysterious standing stones and stone circles of the British Isles and Europe. Cut Columns, made from granite salvaged from the demolition of St Mark's Church in Horsham in the late 1980s, show decorative images and patterns drawn from local history.

The 2020s



Another artwork, also commissioned by Countryside Properties but designed and made by artist Tim Ward, was installed in front of the Neighbourhood Centre. The steel arcs with lit undersides have images illustrating the recent past of Broadbridge Heath.

Tim collaborated with Jonathan England, on the selection of the images, which represent the local history, countryside, and aspirations of our community.



It was an initiative of the Parish Council that saw a wildflower meadow being created at the new 'swan-neck' junction on Broadbridge Way. During its first year of flowering, many wildflowers, insects and even a slow-worm were seen on the site. A pathway was cut through the meadow to allow walkers closer access to the wildlife.



Finally, after several frustrating years, the Parish Council were able to take possession of the purpose-built Parish Office. All Parish Council meetings now take place there and it is the workplace of our Parish Clerk, Lucinda, our Assistant Clerk, Olivia, and our newly appointed Community Officer, Claire.

It is hoped it will become a central point of information for all residents.

The address is:

The Parish Office, Sargent Way, RH12 3TS

Tel. 07716 130103

www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

 Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

“There’s More Here Than You Think”

A Detailed History of Broadbridge Heath



Jonathan England

Many of the images and information used in this booklet are contained in a book published by Horsham Museum in 2012.

Copies of the book are available to buy from Horsham Museum and to borrow from the Parish Office.