

Sherfield History Group



Mystery, Misery & Munificence

Background

*Local History Research
Sherfield History Group
The Pilgrims' Path*

compiled by Peter Lansley

Breach Lane Baptist Chapel, Sherfield on Loddon

9th April 2026

Local History and Family History Research has never been easier

There is an amazing amount of information on the
Internet

Freely available

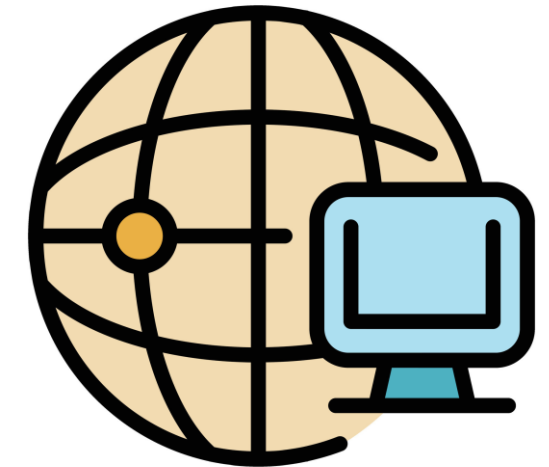
Detailed accounts of individuals, explanation of the development of institutions, and description of events

Research carried out by others

Commentaries, particularly on politics, economics, society and the world of work

Through subscription services

Genealogy – such as Ancestry
Newspaper Archives



 **ancestry**[®]

The British
NEWSPAPER
Archive

Maps & Estate Plans



Old Maps, including Ordnance Survey maps, are freely available on the web.

The 1841 Tithe Map for Sherfield can be seen at the Hampshire Archives in Winchester, or purchased on CD.



Estate plans, sometimes compiled when properties were offered for sale, can also be found at the Hampshire Archives.

Genealogy services provide more than you might expect!

Birth, Marriages, Deaths

Census Information

Electoral Roles

Court Proceedings

Probate Records, Wills

Tax Information

Family trees compiled by others

And lots more

28 Hebden

COLLECTOR'S DUPLICATE
LAND TAX ASSESSMENT, 1819.

No. 189.

In the Parish, Tithing, or Place of *Hebden*
In the Division of *East Wharfedale*
In the County of *York*

An Assessment made for granting an aid to Her Majesty by a LAND TAX to be raised in Great Britain, for the Service of the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and *Eighty nine* in pursuance of an Act passed in the Thirty-eighth Year of the Reign of King George III. intituled "An Act for granting an Aid to His Majesty by a LAND TAX, to be raised in Great Britain, for the Service of the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-eight," and of the several other Acts relating to the LAND TAX.

Rentals	Names of Proprietors	Names of Occupiers	Names or Description of Estates or Property	Sums Assessed and not Exonerated
	<i>John Constantine</i>	<i>Richard Walker</i>	<i>House and Land</i>	<i>11 5 6</i>

David J David Vinton

Fenton Esq^r

66

formation of the Old Devon London
but more of Castle Street in the parish of Saint Martin in the borough of Aldersgate
in the County of Middlesex being under the blessing of God of various times so
often wrote all wills codicils and other testamentary dispositions made by me at any or
times therefore and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner following
first and principally I bequeath my soul into the hands of God my Redeemer in the
full persuasion that he will through his merits and intercession procure it faithful a
before the throne and presence of his glory to live with him for ever and to my
dear and beloved wife as follows I give to my son James Vinton of Aldersgate in
the County of Essex Sheriff of the County of Devonshire and of Devonshire in the County
of Devonshire the sum of one hundred pounds and the interest thereof and the sum of
one hundred pounds and the interest thereof to my son James Vinton for the term of
years and as to my wife widow in the County of Middlesex

Newspaper Archives open up New Worlds

Reports on events as they happened and about the key figures

the County Mirror - Wednesday 27 October 1858

THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Fourteen days.—James Ostle, for stealing 13 lb. of ham, at **Sherfield** upon **Loddon**, the property of Henry Jackson.

the Chronicle - Saturday 30 May 1857

THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

COUNTY BENCH, Wednesday.—(Before W. L. Sclater and W. W. Chute, Esqrs.)—John Fabry, innkeeper, of **Sherfield-upon-Loddon** was summoned on the information of Superintendent White, of the Hants Constabulary, for having in his possession unjust pint measures. Defendant stated that the pints had before been measured by former superintendents. Fined 17s. 6d., including costs.

the Observer - Saturday 11 August 1883

THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON.

RE-OPENING OF BREACH LANE CHAPEL.—Special re-opening services of the Breach Lane Chapel were held on Monday, when sermons were preached, in the afternoon by the Rev. H. Barron, of Basingstoke, and in the evening by the Rev. W. Anderson, of Reading. On each occasion the chapel was crowded. About 200 persons partook of tea, including friends from Reading and Basingstoke. The chapel was erected in 1831 by the late Mr. John Tubb, of Breach Farm, and has now been thoroughly renovated, the uncomfortable high-backed pews being re-placed by open benches, the pulpit by a convenient platform, and the gallery has been removed, thus entirely changing the internal appearance of the place. The cost has been £150, towards which about £135 has been received. Mr. W. I. Palmer gave £10, the family of the late Mr. Henry Jackson £65, and smaller sums have been generously contributed by many friends. It is hoped the balance will be forthcoming in order that the place may be unburdened by debt. A neat iron fence will be erected outside, and some shrubs planted, which will greatly improve the external appearance of the chapel.

Even books and other people
have a part to play!

Advised by whatever might emerge from
searching the web

Relevant Books can be selected more easily
than in the past.

Mostly, they are very reasonably priced

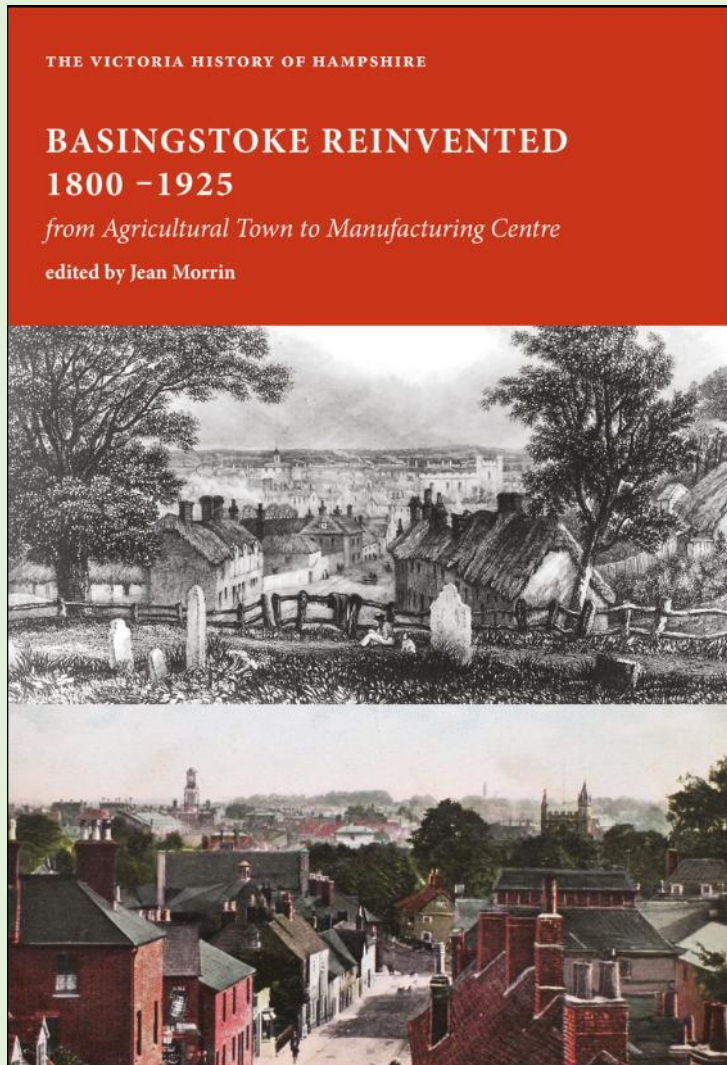
Plumbing the depths of memories of others

Family and friends (Family History)

Key players and old timers (Local History)



A Very Good Read Indeed



THE VICTORIA HISTORY OF HAMPSHIRE

BASINGSTOKE REINVENTED 1800 - 1925

from Agricultural Town to Manufacturing Centre

edited by Jean Morrin

**Basingstoke Reinvented, 1800–1925: from
Agricultural Town to Manufacturing Centre,
edited by Jean Morrin**

University of London and the VCH
Hampshire Trust, £15.99

Not available at Waterstones!!

Best to order online

Recent Presentations by Sherfield History Group

February 2023

An Extraordinary Legacy

The fascinating history of Bowling's Farm and its surroundings

May 2023

The Secret Railway in the Woods

By Christopher Hegg & Laurence Bindley

May 2024

The History of Sherfield School

By Zoe Weddon

May 2025

Bombs over Sherfield

Stories from Childhood of WWII

A presentation for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, 2025

Sherfield History Group

The extensive information gathered by the Group can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2s3vsftt>

This evening's presentation will be posted there tomorrow, along with supporting information.

An announcement including the link, will be made on Facebook - *Sherfield on Loddon Remembered*.

Sherfield School 1939



This presentation is based on a photograph of pupils at Sherfield School in 1939 supplied by Donald Rickwood, and his memories and those of his wife, Ursula, of the names of fellow pupils, and where these lived. Both Donald and Ursula were born and bred in Sherfield, where they lived until the mid-1980s.



The information on pupils' home addresses has been supplemented by material from the '1939 Register', compiled due to the onset of war and used for producing National Identity Cards.

For further information please contact:
PeterLansley@ManagementReality.com

Sherfield School 1939

ROW 6 - BACK ROW



?	Phoebe Finch <i>Wildmoor</i>	Doris Butler <i>Bramley Green</i>	Pat Panter <u>Reading</u> <u>Road N</u>	Delphine 'Dellie' Ham <i>Oaklands</i> <i>Bramley Road</i>	Daisy Belcher <i>Bramley Green</i>	Joan Boothby? <i>Lance Levy</i> <i>Cottages</i>	Betty Mann <i>Bramley Green</i>	Mary Fulford <i>Bramley Green</i>
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ROWS 5 & 4

Roy Bullpit Winton <i>Southern Cottages</i> <i>facing The Green</i> <i>near Greenway</i>	Maurice Sycklemore <i>New House Farm</i> <i>Spanish Green</i>	Bill Bourke <i>Devanshire</i> <i>Cottages</i> <i>Greenway</i>	Sam Naylor Devanshire <i>Bramley Road</i>	Eric Percy <i>Winton</i> <i>Cottages</i> <i>The Green</i>	Harry Nash <i>Lance Levy</i> <i>Cottages</i>	Alan Pitman <i>The Cricketers</i> <i>Turgis Green</i>	John Smith <i>Folly Farm</i> <i>Bramley</i> <i>Green</i>	Robert Woods <i>Wildmoor</i>	Norman Pearman <i>Manor Cottage</i> <i>Reading Road S</i>
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Arthur Painter <i>Bramley Green</i>	Mary Hews <i>Redlands</i>	Ursula Cork <i>South View</i> <i>Cottages</i> <i>facing The</i> <i>Green, behind</i> <i>The Shop</i>	?	?	Evelyn Woods? <i>Wildmoor</i>	Betty Boothby? <i>Lance Levy</i> <i>Cottages</i>	Marjory Alford <i>Rambler</i> <i>View</i> <i>Greenway Green</i>	Rosemary Smith <i>Folly Farm</i> <i>Bramley</i> <i>Green</i>	Margaret Barraclough <i>The Haven</i> <i>Bramley Road</i>	Norman 'Bowie' Woods Elmside	Robert Scott <i>South View Cottages</i> <i>facing The Green,</i> <i>behind The Shop</i>
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Sherfield School 1939

ROW 3



?	Velma Moor <i>Bramley Green</i>	Pat Ball <i>Rectory Cottage Reading Road S</i>	Sylvia Percy <i>Winton Cottages The Green*</i>	?	Cecil Bullpit <i>Church End</i>
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ROW 2 & 1 FRONT ROW

Beryl Smith <i>Gravelmead The Green*</i>	Vera Butler <i>Bramley Green</i>	?	Joan Moor <i>Hartley Wespall Lane</i>	Pat Holdaway <i>Cornwall Cottages Greenway</i>	Grace Scott <i>South View Cottages facing The Green, behind The Shop</i>	Dawn Smith <i>Gravelmead The Green*</i>
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Ronnie Butler <i>Lily Mill Farm</i>	Donald Rickwood <i>Sherfield Court Farm, The Green*</i>	Frederick 'Ginger' Woods <i>Wildmoor</i>	George Armstrong <i>Reading Road N</i>	Malcolm Alford <i>Rambler View Greenway</i>	David Locock <i>Sanquillo Cottages Church End</i>	Reggie Woods <i>Elmside in field which is now Northfield Road</i>
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1939 National Register of all inhabitants of Sherfield

Used to produce identity cards and ration books, administer conscription and direct labour.

Also to monitor and control the movement of the population due to military mobilisation and mass evacuation.

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district						
FFDK		BASINGSTOKE		106-1						
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAMES AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	See INSTRUCTIONS.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Post Office & Store	1	1	Jackson Francis H.		M	8 th Apr	91	M	(Shopkeeper own account) Grocer Baker etc. Sub. Rm	A.P. Warden Basingstoke
		2	Jackson Lill		F	20 th Dec	03	M	Patrol Shop Asst	B.R.C.S. Aug 52 nd Rank
This record is officially closed.										
		5	Ward ^{sailor} Beryl Lead		F	2 nd Aug	04	S	Shop Assistant. General	* D. 08/12
		6	Parler Annie Harriet		F	18 th Nov	02	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties	
This record is officially closed.										
1 Northend	2	1	Smith Agnes		F	10 th Oct	82	S	Housekeeper	
		2	Smith Walter		M	20 th Apr	85	S	R.A.O.D. Labourer	3107 W. 1/2/1/1/1
2 Northend	3	1	Hann Clara Emma		F	30 Oct	65	S	District Nurse Retired	
		2	Hann Donald Albert		M	29 Mar	25	S	Skilled Shot (Lat. Work)	
The Garage	4	1	Joring Frederick John		M	23 Nov	87	M	Motor Engineer (Master)	P.W.C. 50/3782
		2	Joring Annie Beatrice		F	27 Apr	86	M	Unpaid domestic Duties	P.P. Warden Basingstoke
Shop Reading Rd	5	1	Vass Sydney William		M	16 Sept	73	M	Market Gardener (own account)	
		2	Vass Rosa Jane		F	31 Mar	79	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties	
Reading Rd	6	1	Musson William Edward		M	13 Apr	02	M	Long Driver Journey Vehicle	
		2	Musson Cynthia Rosa		F	4 Oct	04	F	Unpaid Domestic Duties	
This record is officially closed.										
Sucks Rightt	7	1	Jackson Dorothy Frances		F	4 Dec	93	S	Private Means	
		2	Jackson Margaret Kate		F	17 Jan	98	S	Private Means	

Sherfield History Group

Please let us know if you are researching the history of some aspect of Sherfield, or nearby:

a farm, a building, a street, a field

an individual, a family

rural life in general

a specific aspect of rural life

These people play an important part in tonight's story. Do you know any of their descendants?

Lived in Bramley		
Richard Allen		born 1796 Bramley
James Gosling	Shoemaker	born 1768 Bramley, died 1844 Monk Sherborne
John Gosling	Shoemaker (son of James)	born 1793 Bramley, died 1870 Monk Sherborne
Joel Ham	Carpenter & Wheelwright	born 1799 Bramley
James Ilsley	Labourer	Born 1772 Sherborne St John
Thomas King	Labourer	Lived in Bramley in 1830s and 1840s
John Lawrence	Labourer	Lived in Bramley in 1820s
James Read	Farmer	Lived in Bramley in 1820s
Joel Staniford	Farmer	Born 1801 Mortimer
John West	Labourer	Born 1781 Bedhampton, married 1819 Bramley

These people play an important part in tonight's story.
Do you know any of their descendants?

Lived in Sherfield, Hartley Wespall & Stratfield Turgis

Sherfield

William Baker	Property owner	Born 1760 Sherfield, died 1829 Sherfield
Daniel David	Labourer?	Married 1770 Sherfield
William Taphouse	Labourer then Poulterer	Born 1783 Sherfield, died 1836 Sherfield

Hartley

Michael Cane	Farmer	Born 1739 Heckfield
Mcl Cane	Labourer (son of Michael)	Born 1764 Hartley
John James Cane	Farmer (son of Michael)	Born 1777 Hartley

Turgis

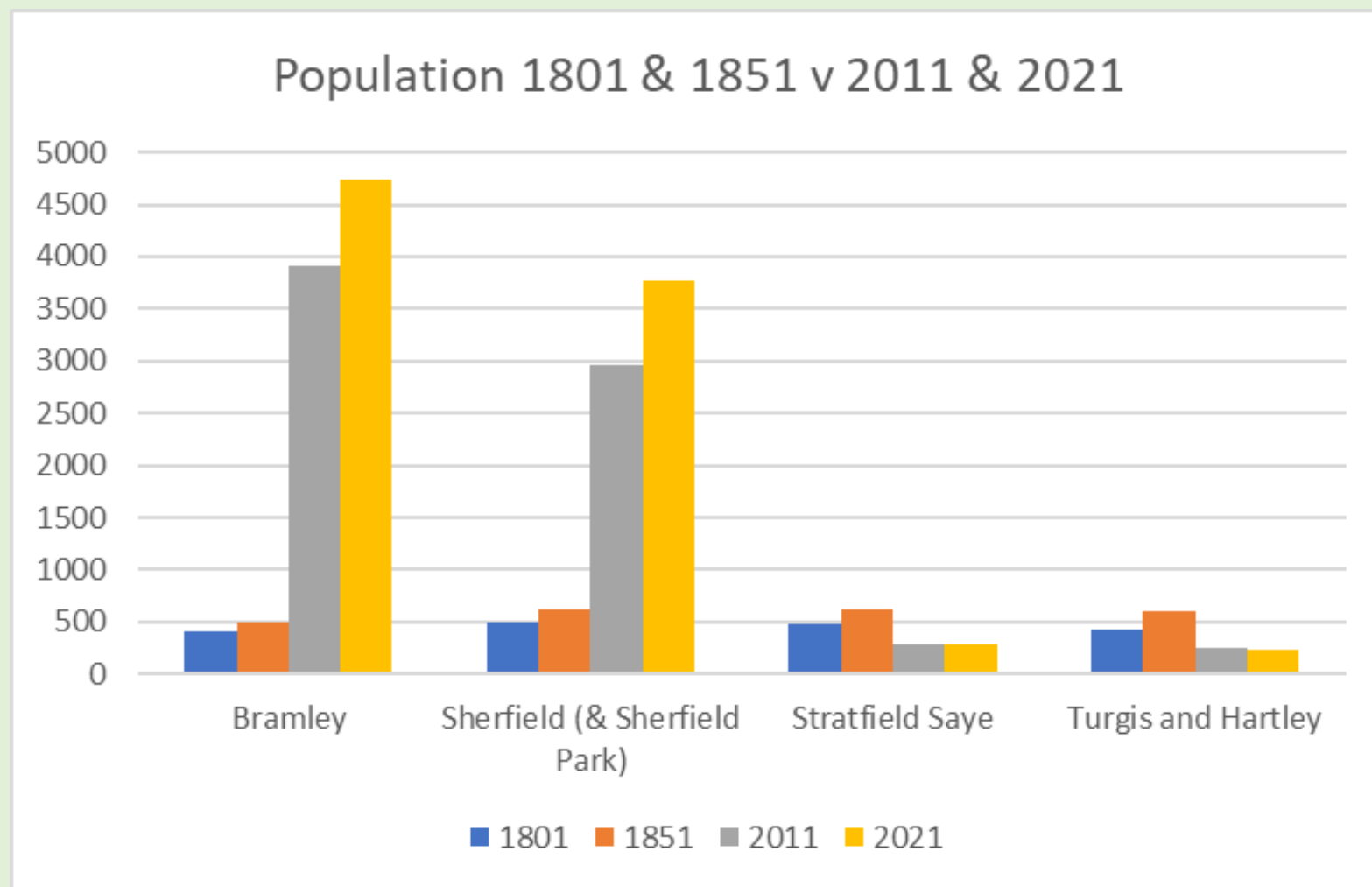
George Cannons	Farmer	Born 1796 Stratfield Turgis, Married in Bramley
John Sewry	Labourer?	Died 1836 Stratfield Turgis

These people play an important part in tonight's story.
Do you know any of their descendants?

Lived in Stratfield Saye, Sherborne St John & Basingstoke

<i>Stratfield</i>		
Daniel Budd	Labourer	Born 1793 Stratfield Saye
John Dollery	Labourer?	Born 1801 Stratfield Saye
William Palmer	Grocer & Chandler	Born 1776 Stratfield Saye
James Staniford	Labourer	Born 1799 Mortimer
Jesse Sweetzer	Baker & Shopkeeper	Born Stratfield Saye, Died 1843 Stratfield Saye
Daniel Sweetzer	Schoolmaster	Born 1787 Stratfield Saye, Died Stratfield Saye
<i>Sherborne</i>		
George Jennings		Born 1792 Sherborne St John, Died 1863 Sherborne
<i>Basingstoke</i>		
Sam Toomer	Ironmonger?	Born 1787 Basingstoke

See how the Parishes have grown?



How far on foot from Sherfield?

Destination	Distance miles (an hour or less)
Hartley Wespall	1.5
Bramley	1.9
Stratfield Turgis	2.0
Stratfield Saye	3.1

Destination	Distance miles (90 minutes to 2 hours)
Old Basing	3.8
Mortimer	4.7
Newnham	4.8
Silchester	4.9
Beech Hill	4.9
Basingstoke	5.0

For centuries most people walked.
Two hours not uncommon.

Destination	Distance miles (2 hours or more)
Sherborne St John	5.5
Ramsdell	6.8
Tadley	7.2
Woolhampton	10.7

*In days gone by, probably there
were shorter routes.*



2015



1 Orchard Lea

1973



In a Piddle

Piddle, 13th century
– 20th century, a
patch of land of
uncertain
dimensions, but
always small, and
usually enclosed.

Piddle, piddell, pightle
pighell, pykel, pightell,
pykkyll, pickell.

Rose Cottage



Facing Orchard Lea.
On maps dating from
mid 1700s but
probably older.
Not a listed building
but recognised by
experts as “**notable**”.

*Now go down Goddard’s
Lane or using the old name,
The Cast, to the next house.*

The “Room”



Built in 1875 for Sherfield's Plymouth/Christian Brethren.

Services ceased in 1975 but Sunday School and community activities continued until 1987.

Now known as **Goddards Hall.**

At the bus shelter opposite, take bridge over the ditch

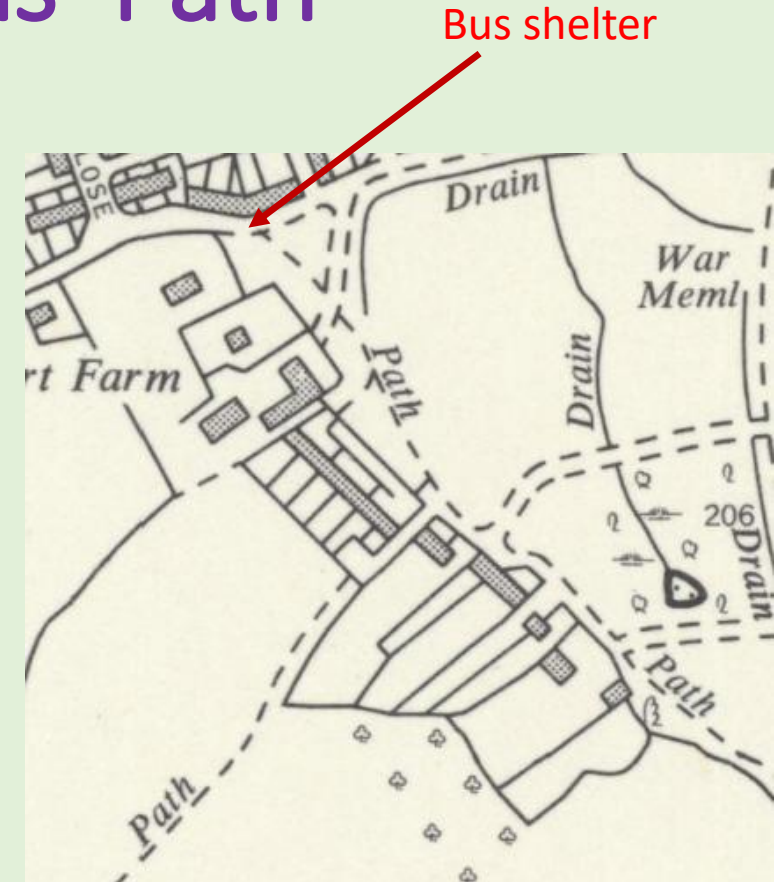
You are now on The Pilgrims' Path



OS 1871



OS 1894



OS 1970

The Pilgrims' Path – old, established, much used for well over two centuries, not least on Sundays to walk to the Methodist Chapel and beyond

Turn round - early Victorian homes of agricultural workers, Greenway Corner, and a Beer Seller



Southern Cottages

Greenway

The Globe

Greenway Corner



Secret
&
Historical



Now head along the Pilgrim's Path towards the Weeping Willow

God or Mammon?

*On reaching their destination, many Sunday Pilgrims would kneel in **silent prayer**.*

*Since 2018 those following in their footsteps have also fallen on their knees; to crawl under the rails of a fence, no doubt **muttering oaths** in tribute to the Parish Council's disdain for the significance of this centuries-old path.*



Cross the bridge next to the Weeping Willow, admire the view across the cricket green. Then look behind you.

Court Farm House

Aka Bowling's Farm House

Rebuilt c1800 Listed Grade II

Farm probably existed in
Stuart, even Tudor, times

Last Working Farm on
Sherfield Green



Bowling's Farm House

Francis Vingoe, 1903



King's Barn



Formerly the big barn of Bowling's Farm.
Timbers dated to Stuart, possibly Tudor, times
Reconstruction consistent with original C16/C17 Barn



Cricket Green & Pavilion



Community Project, 1970s

A tribute to the imagination, planning and commitment of those who made these facilities a reality.

The product of that effort is an inheritance for current and future generations to enjoy

Skirt round the left of the Pavilion to follow the Pilgrim's Path

Music: Angelus, George Joseph, 1987

Concrete and Metal Garage



Shed and Storage Area,
Parish Council 2019

*What will future
generations
think of this?*

Walk to the road in front of the Plantation

The Plantation



Built 1947, exemplars of immediate post-war Rural Social Housing.

So proud was the village of these homes that postcards of them were sold in the Village Post Office well into the 1980s.

Continue along Plantation Road

Winton Cottage



C16/C17,
Listed Grade II

Fascinating
witness of life
and changes in
the parish, of its
occupants and
their trades.

Continuing on the Pilgrim's Path there are several more houses

Not quite Journey's End



Summerfield c1910
Impressive Edwardian villa



Hafod c1986 (on the site of
the Methodist Chapel)

*Our tour ends here, but onwards lies not Santiago but
Church End and, eventually, Basingstoke.*

The Pilgrim's Path



In use for over two centuries.
Much 'traffic' on Sundays,
to and from the village.

Historic path.

Our Inheritance.

The Pilgrim's Path

*Although whole families would attend Services at the Methodist Chapel, mothers and children would go together, with fathers following about **ten** minutes later.*

Why?