

THE SIDLOW BRIDGE W.I. have compiled this booklet to celebrate their Golden Jubilee 1926 - 1976.

### SIDLOW BRIDGE.

Sidlow Bridge is an ecclesiastical parish with the church, built in 1861, standing beside the bridge over the River Mole on the A217 between Reigate and Crawley. The parish was formed from parts of Buckland, Charlwood, Horley, Leigh and Reigate.

Sidlow takes it's name from Sidilufu, the Saxon woman who owned the Mill at Sidlow. Sidlow Mill was very important in the life of the village in the Middle Ages and there are many references to it in the records. It's exact position is unknown.

From early times Sidlow was part of the Manor of Banstead which had no water power so corn was sent down to Sidlow Mill to be ground.

An act of 1755 refers to the repairing and widening of the road from Sutton through the Borough of Reigate by Sidlow Mill to Povey Cross.

### IRONSBOTTOM..

There was once an ironfield near the Three Horseshoes Inn, and this area is still known as Irons Bottom. The original part of the Three Horseshoes is believed to be nearly 200 years old. About 50 years ago the tenants were Mr. & Mrs Herrington. This establishment has been owned by four breweries.

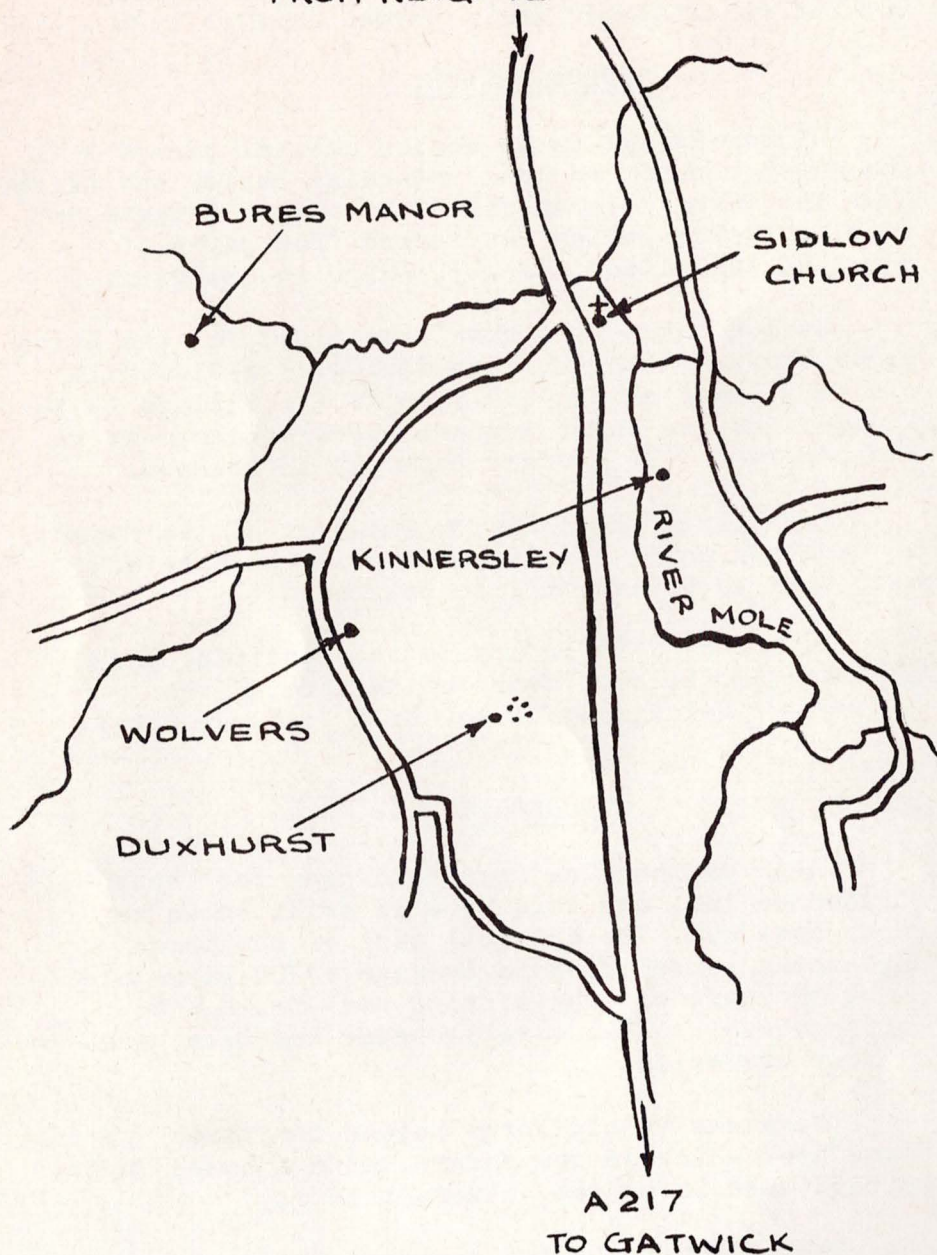
There was an old forge beyond the Three Horseshoes which is now modernised and named Tudor Cottage, and is on the Wolvers Estate.

There used to be two cottages in the orchard adjoining the Three Horseshoes. These cottages were demolished, and later the council houses were



A217

FROM REIGATE



built on the other side of the inn. Bagley Cottages were built with the remainder of the bricks left over from Wolvers. Mrs. M. Stoner (who has been a W.I. member for 47 years) was the first squatter in Sidlow in No.3. Bagley Cottages from 1922 - 25.

A village shop was opened at Irons Bottom during the Strike in 1926 at the suggestion of Mrs. Charrington.

In 1972 main drainage was connected to the properties in Irons Bottom.

In 1975 street lamps were installed from Sidlow Garage up to the Three Horseshoes.

#### SIDLOW BRIDGE - WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Sidlow Bridge W.I. was founded in 1926 with 43 members. Prior to this there was an Institute at Duxhurst which was disbanded when members formed the Sidlow Bridge Institute.

The Hall, a wood and asbestos erection was given by Mr. Lindsey Renton on land leased from Major Charrington. Mrs. Renton was the first President of the W.I.

The following highlights have been taken from records of meetings and Annual Reports. Unfortunately some records were disposed of during the war for salvage so there are some gaps.

1931. Our earliest reference was in 1931 when special meetings were held to discuss the Resolutions at the National Annual Meeting. In March of that year silks were purchased to work the Banner which is still used.

The average cost of holding a monthly meeting was 14s. 10d. Reference is made to lettings to



the Church for parochial meetings at 5s. per meeting. The caretaker was Mrs. M. Stoner who was paid £1. a month with an extra 10s. for spring cleaning.

New babies born to members were given a silver spoon. A gift is still sent to a baby, though this event is infrequent these days.

1932. The Banner on which members had been working was unveiled in April by Mrs. Whitlock, the Rector's wife. In September members discussed applying for a Post Office in Sidlow, but decided to wait until a suitable shop was opened.

1937. Up until 1937 oil lamps were used in the Hall for lighting, but in 1937 gas was installed.

1939. Whist Drives and Socials were held fortnightly. During the war there was a curtailment of activities, though the Hall was used by the Home Guard, and military units for recreation. Members met to knit and sew for the forces. An evening meeting was held to which husbands were invited.

1941. After a long lapse, a letter was received from the link Institute in Canada.

1943. A Drama Group and Choir were formed.

1949. Additional gas lighting was put in.

1951. The Whist Drive Committee was formed to run the Drives - these have continued to this day.

1952. A library which had been run by the Surrey County Council in the Hall was closed as an economy measure.

1954. To commemorate the Queen's Coronation a tablecloth for the President's table was commenced under the guidance of Mrs. Cummings.

1955. Improvements were made in the Hall by the

erection of a chimney. Members made curtains, stained and varnished the window sills.

1956. Quote 'At the beginning of the year the main ambition of the Institution was to start a fund towards having an electricity supply to the Hall, but, unfortunately, the Electricity Board was unable to consider it as the expenditure would have been too great on both sides'.

1958. Various repairs were carried out to the Hall. A new stove was necessary as the floor was slowly smouldering. Canning and cake icing day schools were held.

1960. Two oil paintings of local scenes, painted by Mr. Holder. were donated to the Institute by his sisters Miss. Holder and Mrs. Price.

1962. The first Annual Summer Show was held.

1966. Another stove was installed, this was given by a member's husband.

1968. Members spent many days on interior decoration and cleaning. The outside was painted by a commercial firm, and a new elsan was installed.

The Institute Hall was opened to motorists marooned in the floods in September.

Members were responsible for the floral decoration of the Font at Emmanuel Church Festival of Flowers.

1969. A donation from Mrs. Allpress enable us to purchase 24 stacking chairs.

1971. The gas supply was converted to natural gas. There were many troubles following this which were eventually rectified in 1972 at the Company's expense.

1973. Our Annual Show was opened by Miss Yates O.B.E.



who had recently retired from the post of Surrey Federation Secretary.

1974.

A battery clock was purchased by money left to the Institute in the will of Mrs. Ingram. of Church View, Sidlow.

Discussions on the installation of electricity were reopened when the Board decided to bring a cable to Mole Cottage, and West Cottage. The committee had a survey carried out of the Hall which was very disturbing and members were informed of this at the Annual Meeting in November. Owing to the expiration of the lease of the land, due in 1976, it was decided that our President, Secretary and Treasurer should meet our peppercorn landlord to discuss the renewal and future terms of the lease.

1975.

At the beginning of the year a special meeting was arranged, at which Mrs. Roulston, a County Vice-Chairman presided. We were informed that in view of the condition of our Hall the County were unable to cover us for Public Liability insurance.

The Committee then met the County Vice Chairmen Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Roulston, the Secretary and the Treasurer to discuss the whole matter. Meanwhile the Rector invited us to meet at the Rectory, where we have been ever since.

After various discussions and a secret ballot it was decided that we should not return to the Hall, and certain equipment was taken to the Rectory. The cost of repairs and installation of electricity, and drainage to bring the Hall up to local government standard was far too high to be met by the Institute. The landlord was informed that we would not be renewing the lease, and he is to make use of the Hall for storage.

Meanwhile in 1976 a sub-committee has been working on future plans and activities for our Golden Jubilee.

## THE FLOODS.

SEPTEMBER 1968.

No one had any thoughts of being marooned for twenty four hours on this particular weekend.

It had started to rain in the early hours of Saturday morning and rained continuously for forty eight hours.

The River Mole started to overflow just before lunch on Sunday 15th and within two hours all exit roads were impassable, and four hundred motorists were marooned in the area.

With the river rising so rapidly a number of farms were in trouble with milk collections, as lorries were unable to get through to collect their full churns.

The boiler house at the church was flooded, and tractors were used to help motorists stranded in the flood water.

Our two local Policemen (who were Dog Handlers) were recalled to the village to deal with the emergency. Leaving their van they waded through the water waist high across Sidlow Bridge, their dogs swimming alongside.

Their first job was to deal with a car which had been washed into the river in Dean Oak Lane and in which an elderly lady had been drowned. Due to the strong current nothing could be done to recover the body until Monday.

By this time tea was being brewed in the Rectory villagers rallying round to help by supplying tea, sugar, and biscuits.

As the Rector was on holiday a request was made by the police for the use of the W.I. Hall for



shelter. A number of members volunteered to help and set to providing blankets and food, their aim to make the visitors as comfortable as possible.

A number motored to High Trees School where the Principal Mr. John Norsworthy opened his doors, and with the help of his staff provided hot meals and sleeping accommodation. Approximately three hundred and fifty were fed. This emptied his storecupboard of nearly a month's supply of food.

On Sunday evening a doctor who was in the village was called to one of the police houses to administer insulin to a diabetic.

By Sunday evening the Institute visitors were prepared for an all night vigil, as were the two policemen who paid frequent visits to both the W.I. and High Trees.

Fortunately by Monday morning the floods were receding, and after a hot breakfast motorists were able to get on their way. Although the local school was not able to open, as children could not get there, the traffic was moving slowly and mopping up operations begun.

## CHURCH OF EMMANUEL - SIDLOW BRIDGE.

No official or authentic history of the Church has yet been written, but the following facts have been gathered from the older members of the congregation.

Emmanuel Church was dedicated in 1862. It provided a place of worship for the employees of local landowners, in particular for those who lived and worked at Kinnersley, Hartswood and Bures Manors. The land for the Church and the Rectory was provided by Kinnersley and Bures Manors.

Like many other churches in the land, our church suffered from bombing during the 1939 - 45 war. A Doodlebug which fell in the fields to the south of the church blew in the south windows of the chancel and cracked the large east window which had to be replaced. Due to the damage, parishioners had to worship in the Rectory instead of the Church.

After the war, restoration and further improvements were made. In 1962 the organ was moved to its present position in order to make room for the existing vestry. This work was completed to mark the centenary of the Church's dedication.

At the beginning of 1974 after a strong gale it was noticed that the weather vane was apparently about to fall off. Upon examination, it was discovered that extensive repairs were urgently necessary. A summer of fund raising efforts enabled this work to be done immediately.

It is interesting to note that the original marriage registers are still in use.



### THE RECTORY.

Fifty years ago Mr. & Mrs. Whitlock lived in the Rectory and they had a staff of three maids, one cook, a coachman, a gardener and a garden boy. Mr. Whitlock used a bicycle to visit his parishioners, and he visited the school twice a week for prayers.

There was a parish room which was used for the library, choir suppers and other parish functions. Sales of Work were held every summer on the lawn at the Rectory. On one occasion a child from Sidlow was chosen to go to Westminster Hall to present a purse to the Queen Mother.

Mr. Hillman who was a gardener at Kinnersley Manor was the caretaker of the churchyard for many years. His wife and sister were both maids at the Rectory and now live in Woodhatch.

### EMMANUEL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL. SIDLOW BRIDGE.

The school was opened on January 4th 1865, three years after the consecration of the Church. The school was then in what is now called the Old School House, a thatched cottage on the Dovers Green Road. By 1893 the building was in need of much repair, so a new site was found in Ironsbottom Road and the school re-opened there in 1896 in the new buildings.

At one time there were as many as 70 pupils when it was an all age range school but in later years, after the over 11's transferred to other schools, the number dropped to 40.

The school celebrated its centenary on May 22nd 1965 with an historical pageant, preceeded by a commemoration service in Church.

As an economy measure the Surrey County Council closed the school in 1969, after which the building was sold to the Council by the Church authorities and is now being used as a special school. About 50 years ago Mr. Scott was head-master assisted by Mrs. Garrod and Miss Ryan. The school uniform was Navy Blue edged with green, a knitted hat with badge, pinafores and black stockings.

There have been Scout, Guide and Brownie Groups in Sidlow. The Guides and Brownies now meet in Woodhatch.

### BURES MANOR.

This very pleasant old Manor House of dull red brick stands in a small courtyard at the end of an avenue of Norwegian Maples planted a few years ago by its present owner.

Although its history goes back many years no one seems to know exactly when it was built, although in Mannings History of Surrey there is mentioned a John de Bure who owned the Manor in 1319.

Except for a period during the second world war when the Military took over the house, and the family moved to Devon, one family has been in residence for the past 395 years, namely the Charringtons, from Elizabeth 1. to our present Queen Elizabeth 11.

Mr. Nicholas Charrington first leased the house in 1580 for twenty years (after moving it is believed from Horley) from a Mr. Richard Bray, who had himself bought it from a family called Holgrave three years before the death of Henry VIII.

After his death in 1591 his two sons Nicholas and Thomas Charrington had a joint lease, but in 1622 Nicholas purchased the Manor and farm, a property of 70 acres from Sir William Garway.



In 1766 John Charrington, who was the original brewer in the family, it is believed mortgaged his home to buy a two thirds share in the Mile End Brewery. This proved a very successful venture.

Another member of the family to profit by his interests in the brewery was Mr. Edward Charrington who in 1887 built an even larger house on the estate called Burys Court. This was far too large and after the second world war in 1946 was sold by Mr. Edward Somerset Charrington to become eventually a Preparatory School. Mr. Edward Somerset Charrington remained at Bures Manor until his death in 1955.

In 1958 Mrs. Craven Charrington bought Bures and she and her husband Craven settled there after moving from Cumberland with their family. Between them they made many alterations to the Manor and added to the acreage of the farm which at the present day stands at 1,200 acres.

Mr. Craven Charrington died in 1971 and it is hoped that his son Somerset will take up his duties on the estate when he comes of age.

In 1973 Mrs Craven Charrington remarried, and is now living with her husband Mr. Anthony Rowcliffe at Bures.

#### DUXHURST.

Duxhurst was a manor in the seventeenth century and was bought in 1620 from William Mulcaster and George Ede of Charlwood by Christ's Hospital. Later it was bought by Lady Henry Somerset and enlarged to form a village settlement for inebriate women.

Duxhurst was a private village planned and founded by Lady Henry Somerset in the early 1900's; she lived with Miss Cass in St. Mary's a beautiful thatched cottage to the left of Duxhurst church.

Entering Duxhurst from the main road (A217)

there were two white cottages, the first one was inhabited by Mr. Austin, the head-gardener. In the first section of the drive on the left was the 'Nest', the nursery for the babies. Just beyond the 'Nest' was the village set in a square on the right hand side of the drive. The whole village consisted of bungalows with plaster walls and thatched roofs of Norfolk reeds. The thatchers came at intervals from Norfolk to repair and re-thatch.

First was St. Katherines, then the little Shop, with sweets, groceries and haberdashery.

The centre of the village was a large lawn with red May trees, and down each side were three bungalows where the lady inmates lived in bedsitting-rooms. At the far end of the lawn was the long building containing kitchens and dining-rooms. Behind that was the recreation room where the W.I. was first introduced in 1923.

This room was also used as the Infants School, the teacher being Miss Oden from Reigate. When the school closed down in 1928 Miss Oden went to Buckland school until her retirement. She was dearly loved by all the children.

There was also a Senior School consisting of about 40 children aged 11 years to 14 years. There were six classes with one school teacher (Miss Hayes). This school consisted of just one large room. Beside this school was the Laundry which did all the village laundry, and opposite was the little hospital and another cottage. Then there was the little Church and Churchyard. Services were held several times a day for the inhabitants. The Priest's House was opposite. Father Roe was the last priest, also there were several Sisters of Mercy who devoted their lives to working at Duxhurst.

The older children lived at the Manor, which was surrounded by a beautiful garden. Opposite that were the big kitchen gardens and orchard, where all the vegetables and fruit were grown for



the village. Behind that was the Pottery, a very thriving business in those days, as the pottery was sent all over the country.

In May there was a Fete on the village green. The children gave displays of dancing. Set in a background of thatch cottages and lovely gardens it was so peaceful, and being a private village, the Drive was closed one whole day a year.

Duxhurst was later bought by The Royal Alexander Homes, who also purchased Gatton Hall.

The village was an Italian Prisoner of War Camp in the second world war.

The village was demolished approximately six years ago by the Surrey County Council as it had fallen into a state of disrepair.

#### THE MANOR OF KINNERSLEY.

A Saxon, Cyneweard, first found and cleared the site of this manor which stands in an elevated position above the River Mole. He built himself a house which was known as Kinewardslee (Cyneweard's clearing).

The house as it now stands was built in 1485. The house became the property of Sir William Monson. He wrote a book about his naval adventures while living at Kinnersley. From 1604 to 1615 he held command as Admiral of the Downs and Narrow Seas. While living at Kinnersley he changed the frontage of the house from east to north. He died in 1642 and the house was passed to his granddaughter Anne, who married Sir Francis Throgmorton.

The Piper family owned Kinnersley in the first quarter of the 19th century and probably made the present drive which is off the A.217. In former years the drive led on to Lonesome Lane. Other more recent owners of Kinnersley were Messers Boster, Foskett, Clark, Brocklehurst and Webber.

In 1947 Kinnersley was divided into several

lots and sold at an auction. For several years Mrs. Winnie Vestey ran the Kinnersley Nursery Hotel, and then Mr. Jeffcock had a foster children nursery school.

In 1958 the house was divided into 5 houses.

#### LIFE AT KINNERSLEY MANOR - 50 years ago.

The farm buildings and land were acquired by the Surrey County Council who divided it up into two smaller farms and added modern buildings. The Sidlow farm and land was sold in 1947. Several agricultural cottages are now in private possession.

Before 1914-18 War the Manor had been in the Brocklehurst family for several years, but they left in 1928 when Mr. Webber was the new owner.

There was a large staff at the Manor. The coachman and grooms attended to the carriage, Brougham Brake and Pony trap. The Pony trap was usually used by the staff, for example to take the laundry to Miss Baldwin in Meadvale.

In the Gardens, there were two gardeners and a boy. One of the weekly jobs was to sweep the drive from the bridge with large besom brooms.

Inside staff consisted of a Cook, Kitchen Maid, Parlour Maid, two Housemaids and a between Maid.

The Home farm included six cows. The cowman transported the milk in pails on a yoke over his shoulders. Each employee received one pint of milk per day and any quantity of skimmed milk. The dairy was attached to the House.

During Mr. Webber's time there was a Cook, Housemaid and between Maid. The outside staff consisted of :- Mr. Jeal, Mr. Earl, Mr. Pesterfield, Mr. Tickner, Mr. Kemp and Mr. Hillman.



The children of the Staff were not allowed to be seen or heard and only allowed to play on the farm when the gentry were out.

Groceries were delivered from Reigate. Bread came in a covered wagon.

The Brocklehursts entertained every Sunday, the family and visitors walked round the gardens and walled vegetable garden. This was known as the 'Garden Walk'.

There were two grass tennis courts and many tennis parties. Dog biscuits were often eaten by the children of the staff during the war.

Fish were caught in the River Mole, mainly pike and roach. The river often flooded during the winter and duck boards were placed against the railings of the drive.

Ferreting Parties were held regularly. Two spaniels and a retriever were kept for shooting.

#### WOLVERS.

The original Wolvers was built in the reign of Elizabeth I. It was demolished in 1899 and the present house was built and finished in 1901. The deeds of the house go back to Elizabeth I. In the early days Wolvers was a very large estate with thousands of acres going up as far as Banstead.

The pond in the present garden used to be a carp pond. The air raid room in the house was made for the last war from the cellars of the first Elizabethan house.

The name 'Wolvers' was given to the house because there used to be wolves roaming on the estate. There is supposed to be a ghost of a cavalier in the garden.

Four generations of the Allpress family have lived in Wolvers. Mr. William Allpress came to Wolvers in the 1920's and when he died at the end of the last war Mrs. Joy Allpress and her late husband (a newly returned Prisoner of War) took over the estate and continued to farm it.