

## The Neighbourhood Area (History and location)

The Parish of Burstow is a civil parish of Tandridge District Council in the county of Surrey is set in the Metropolitan Green Belt within the Gatwick diamond. It has a population of 4,301 ([Wikipedia states 4,333](#)) ([census 2011](#)) It has an area of 11.39 km<sup>2</sup>, 1,139 hectares (4.40 sq. miles) and contains 1,679 households.

Its largest settlement is Smallfield and includes the smaller settlements of Burstow (Conservation Area, see listed building) and Shipley Bridge. Smallfield is 2.5 miles (4.0 km) ENE of Gatwick\_Airport and the M23\_motorway, 7.5 miles (12.1 km) southwest of Oxted and 1.8 miles (2.9 km) east of Horley. Crawley is a nearby large commercial town, 3.7 miles (6.0 km) southwest of Burstow and 5 miles (8.0 km) southwest of Smallfield. The parish borders Outwood to the north, Horne to the east, Copthorne (WSCC) to the south and Horley (R&BDC) to the west. Towards the outside of the London\_commuter\_belt, some residents commute to the capital by road or rail from here as London is 24.5 miles (39.4 km) to the north or Horley railway station is accessible.

No artefacts are held in or referred to in the Surrey Archaeological Society predating the Anglo Saxon era in this parish.

Although neither Smallfield or Burstow appear in the Domesday Book, it is known that Burstow was part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's manor of Wimbledon. The name Burstow appears in Wimbledon's records for 1093-96 when the Peter de Burstow held land for a knight's fee or knights service. This was a type of feudal tenure which obliged the holder to provide military assistance to the Crown in return for holding land.

The first mention of Burstow Church is in a church record of 1121. The north and part of the west walls of the nave, with the west half of the north wall of the chancel, are for the most part of approximately 1210 in architecture; however its listing gives its date as 12th century references including Nikolaus Pevsner's 'Buildings of England'.

John Flamsteed, astronomer and cleric was Rector of Burstow from 1684 until his death in 1719, was appointed in 1675 by Charles II to be the first Astronomer Royal. His accurate measurements of star positions and the movements of the moon, made in the newly opened Observatory at Greenwich, contributed to making possible the safe navigation of shipping around the world. Flamsteed is buried in Burstow Church and a star that commemorates him is in the large window above the altar. Before the Charity Commission amalgamated most charities in 1908 there were local charities for the poor. In 1718 John Flamsteed left money to buy new coats for two poor Christian people - in 1728 his widow Margaret Flamsteed left money for clothing for two poor women. In 1975 a Flamsteed festival took place in the village.

[The decorated Second Boer War and World War I officer Alexander Kearsy was born at Burstow Hall just west of the border in the west of Shipley Bridge neighbourhood in Crawley district.???\( now outside boundary\)](#)

Being a mostly agricultural area, from the 1830's Smallfield had its own smithy where horses were shod other work was carried out. This stood in Weatherhill Road opposite where the present bus shelter stands and in its place are Georgian architecture, classical style houses.

Although there was a marked period of growing population and industrialization in Britain, in 1911 the entire parish was described by a topographer as "purely agricultural, with a few brickfields" — which was due to accessible underlying clay in parts of the parish. The

village was as then not at all compact; there were a few houses near the church, others spread to north or south or were a few scattered farms. In 1911 Cophthorne (Sussex) was briefly, as not historically before then, included in the parish.

The Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, stands in Chapel Road, opened in 1851, Now a veterinary surgery. Smallfield Evangelical Church, Redhall Road was built in 1890 as a missionary hall in memory of Mrs Jane Ann Tustin of Burstow Hall. The Church Hall or Rooms was completed in 1912 and was built as there was no Church of England representation in Smallfield. Held here is an active Sunday School as well as a venue for social event and many community activities

Smallfield Hospital was built early in World War II on land beside Broadbridge Lane for use by the Canadian Army to treat their wartime casualties and briefly served as a state-run satellite hospital to Redhill Hospital, now known the East Surrey Hospital. In 1962 it was used in filming a scene of *The Password is Courage* which starred Dirk Bogarde. In its place is now the 'Canadian' housing estate: Toronto Drive, Ontario Drive and Alberta Drive are named for the many Canadians who used the hospital during the war.

The land we know as Smallfield came under the Manor of Lodge of which a narrow belt of the small common field continued eastward to the boundary with Horne. The word 'small' in this instance is thought to have originated from 'smael' meaning narrow and open. There was no village of Smallfield until Victorian times. Maps before this time show commons interspersed with large houses such as Smallfield Place and Burstow Lodge as well as farms, such as Broadbridge and Bridgeham. Smallfield Green covered 8 acres and Smallfield Common 317 acres. Weatherhill Common to the west covered 9 acres. Under the Enclosure Acts of 1855, the Green was awarded to the Parish to be used by the Guardians of the Poor. In part, this was to compensate villagers for their loss of rights to the use of the enclosed 'common'. Later it was let out to parishioners for various uses. The eastern section of the Green consisting of 3 acres was sold to Surrey County Council in 1956 for Burstow Primary School. Aurora School now occupies the original state school building in Redehall Road, which was built for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, this building was also known as The Gables.

The western section served its purpose for the 'needs of the poor' in that it was once the site of the workhouse. For many years it was allotment gardens until the building of Centenary Hall in 1995, formally opened by the now Dame Judy Dench and her late husband Michael Williams. Totally renovated in 2018 to include a standalone Nursery School and a larger meeting room and **Community Café (to open 2019)** and latterly the doctor's surgery. The common south of Plough Road, was absorbed by the neighbouring farms and to provide a recreation ground.

Carey's Copse was 15 acres of woodland, off Chapel Road which was gradually felled to provide land for post war social housing. Woodside Grange and Woodside Crescent along Weatherhill Road to Broadbridge Lane, was developed in the 1950's and backs Wheelers Lane.

Weatherhill Common has in the most part is now housing built in the 1970's The Cravens, Charlotte Grove and in the 1980's with the addition Hayes Walk. Meadow View off Plough Road was built in the 1990's.

Sanger's Circus had winter quarters for its animals at Burstow Lodge (at the northern end of Chapel Road) from the early 1900s until around 1940. They once performed before Queen Victoria's and family. The Sanger family purchased Burstow Lodge in 1900. The site included

a practice ring, sheds and barns for the animals and wagons, plus a large building known as the Elephant House, reported to be constructed from salvaged material from the old grandstand at Epsom Racecourse. Being so high performances were held for local population during the winter months. It has been recorded that the elephants were used for ploughing land in the area and were regularly walked through the village as far as the old School where children were known to feed them. With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, it became increasingly difficult to continue. Horley auctioneers, Baker & Baker auctioned off the animals, farming stock and equipment. Purchasers included Chipperfield's, Tom Fossett's, Belle Vue Manchester. Local Farmers were keen to buy the farming equipment which was in short supply. The head groom is said to have purchased the elephants and had his own winter quarters on land now Sangers Drive, Horley. He ran a circus under the name of Lord George Sanger, with whom Morecambe and Wise began their career.

Burstow lodge was sold to John and Reginald Crewdson, well known Horley Builders

### **Keeper's Corner**

Keeper's Corner is the southerly part of the village. On the south side of its 'corner' crossroads is and opposite it are allotment gardens for the centre of the settlement is Keepers Cottage. Built around 1700 with early 20th century extensions, the small house has lucarne windows and is part timber-frame on a plinth, late use timber frame design was often seen as this is part of the timber-frame prevalent region named the Weald.

### **Shipley Bridge**

Shipley Bridge forms the western border settlement of the village - there is a public house here along Antlands Lane East which is its narrow main street between both sides of the small community, straddling the M23 motorway which has a neat parabolic arch bypass for the main through road that west of here divides in a T-junction towards Horley/motorway access to the north and Pound Hill, Crawley to the south. A second residential road is on the Burstow side of the Horley parish border, Green Lane, which leads up to Mushroom Farm and the confluence already mentioned.

### **Church of St Bartholomew, Burstow**

The Anglican church referred to above is medieval for the most part. Its later history includes the following: John Flamsteed commemorative east window with imposing star in the chancel, where he and his wife are buried. A very interesting piece of timber construction, probably of 15th-century date, forms the tower, the supporting beams and posts being "very massive" according to the topographer and historian Malden. The benefice is a rectory. Tithes were commuted for £600 and in 1848 the church manor (glebe) was 43 acres however none is referred to in 1911.

A name changed from St Michaels and All Angels, with restoration in 1884-95 by B. Ferrey. All six bells in the tower were recast between 1899 and 1906, when they were inscribed with their dates and with what medieval inscriptions of the makers they replaced.

### **Smallfield Place**

One of five moated buildings in the parish including the court to the west, this is the tallest extending for more than half to three storeys. Altered in an ornate style the ashlar structure has embattled angle bay windows rising through just two storeys to left end. Smallfield Place has at its core a Jacobean manor built c. 1600 by Edward Bysse's father on a land, the earlier

promised gift of some *small field* or piece of land in return for services rendered by John de Burstow during the reign of Edward III in the Hundred Years War to a fellow army knight Lord Burghersh.

Smallfield Place was where Edward Bysshe was born in 1615; he was knighted in 1661, in which year he made additions to the house, which bore that date. Owen Manning states that part of the house was pulled down, the remainder being occupied in his time as a farm, and owned by Isaac Martin Rebow who died in 1781. His daughter Mary Hester married General Francis Slater, who took the name of Rebow and owned Smallfield Place in 1841. He died in 1845. By a second wife his son in law John Gurdon inherited, who also took the name of Rebow. He died in 1870. His son was Hector John Gurdon Rebow, from whom William Leslie Moore, bought Smallfield Place in 1898. Much renovated the building is now a private home and wedding venue.

### **Redehall formerly spelt Redhall**

John de Wysham's manor of Redehall consisted in 1332 of 1 messuage, 160 acres (65 ha) of land, 6 acres (2.4 ha) acres of meadow, and 22s. rent in Burstow known as the manor of *Redhall* near Burstow, which he held, jointly with Hawisia his wife, of John de Burstow, his son John was knighted and gave it to John Pecche, alderman of London. Redehall manor passed out of the hands of the Pecches and became the property of the Welles family. In 1650 it was Edward Payne the elder's and Hannah his wife's and it continued to be held by this family until the late 18th century. Thomas Holles Payne, by his will, proved in May 1800, devised the "manor of Redhall, including a capital messuage or mansion-house called Redhall, and a messuage called "Cophall" to Sophia Elizabeth Beard. Although in 1911 the house was surrounded by a broad moat inclosing a considerable area of ground" a development of smaller houses has replaced it.

### **Burstow Lodge**

At the northern end of Chapel Road was another manor made up of a house, 360 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 10 acres of wood. By 1911 it was no longer a manor.

This 15th century timber framed-above and whitewashed brick cladding-below medieval hall house has a Grade II\* listing. A moat surrounds with small bridge to the front.

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Manchester. Local Farmers were keen to buy the farming equipment which was in short supply. The head groom is said to have purchased the elephants and had his own winter quarters on land now Sangers Drive, Horley. He ran a circus under the name of Lord George Sanger, with whom Morecambe and Wise began their career. Burstow lodge was sold to John and Reginald Crewdson, well known Horley Builders

### **The War Years**

At Keepers Corner a horse trough commemorates the horses that gave their lives during the Boar War. (**Consider adding as protected monument**)

There is no War Memorial either at the Church or in Smallfield Village. 100 men answered the call to arms during the first World War. A tablet in St Bartholomew's Church records 21 men that lost their lives. On the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1914, King George V inspected troops at Shipley Bridge.

During the Second World War, unmarried women played their role, most significantly making parts for 'Bren' guns at the 'Monotype Corporation', Salfords. The Women's Land Army, were billeted at Rede Hall. The Home Guard, Number 2 Platoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> Surrey Battalion 'C' Company (Horley) had their headquarters at the church hall.

A line of pillboxes forms a defence line locally running south east from the A23 Junction, Horley and Cross Oak Lane to Hathersham Farm then east across to Burstow Lodge and Horne. With walls up to a metre thick, strong attempts to clear them from the local fields have proved too costly.

In August 1941 a German Bf 110 crashed in Fishers Field between Redehall Road and Broadbridge Lane. The bodies of the crew were buried in the churchyard, then moved to the German military graveyard at Cannock Chase, Walsall.

In 1941 barrage balloons were erected to form an outer defence ring round London one over the current school playground and another near Ranelagh Cottages in Redehall Road.

A number of bombs landed in the Parish. One landed at the St Bartholomew's Church, luckily failing to detonate. Others fell at the junction of Broadbridge Lane near Rede Hall, stick bombs hitting New Road, demolishing one home and badly damaging others. No one was killed.

**There is information on the development of commercial activities i.e. the retail aspect but have left that out for the relevant section.**

## Local Heritage Assets

The following buildings in the Burstow are considered to be locally significant by way of their local architectural or historic interest:

### Historic England Listed Buildings 2018

- Allingham Farm House, Burstow Grade 11
- Barn 25 yards South West of Burstow Lodge Grade 11
- Broadbridge Farm House, Burstow. Grade 11
- Burstow Court, Burstow. Grade 11\*
- Crullings & Smallfield Place. Grade 11\*
- Church of St Bartholomew, Burstow. Grade 1
- Dodd Tomb 8 yards south East of Chancel. Grade 11
- Green Farm House, Burstow. Grade 11
- Keepers Cottage, Burstow. Grade 11
- Manor Cottage, Burstow. Grade 11
- **Rough Beech, Dowlands Lane?????**
- Stonelands Farm House, Burstow, Grade 11
- Twyners Croft, Burstow. Grade 11

### Tandridge District Council – Buildings of Character (August 2013)

- Ebenezer Chapel, Chapel Road
- 1 & 2 Woodland Cottages, Chapel Road
- Rookery House, Chapel Road
- Boltods, Hathersham Close
- The Old Lodge, Copthorne School, Effingham Lane
- 122 Rede Hall, Redehall Road
- The Rectory, Church Lane, Burstow
- Bartlemy Church Road, Burstow
- The Barn, Plough Road
- Ann's Villa, Copthorne Bank?
- Old Forge, Keepers Corner, Burstow
- The Plough (& Furrow), Plough Road
- Cherry Tree Inn, Copthorne Bank
- The Cottage, Effingham Lane, Copthorne
- Gresham House, Effingham Road, Copthorne
- Hedgehog Inn, now The Curious Pig in the Parlour, Effingham Road, Copthorne
- Bridge Cottage, 1 Redehall Road
- 13 Wheelers Lane
- Barn north of Allingham Farm, Copthorne Bank
- Redehall Lodge, Redehall Road
- Brook Cottage, Antlands Lane, Shipley Bridge
- Brook Farm, Antlands Lane, Shipley Bridge

**There may be more – not sure of the geography and boundaries in Rookery Hill**

**Sources**

Historic England 2018

Tandridge District Council

Wikipedia Burstow

Veronica Ballard – Snapshots of Smallfield, Smallfield Past and Present (Horley Local History Society)