

## **PART THREE**

### **Odiham**



**Surrey Air Support base at RAF Odiham following on from Chobham Fair Oaks, and before that Dunsfold, until amalgamated April 2011**

### **Old Woking**





## Oxted





**Oxted**



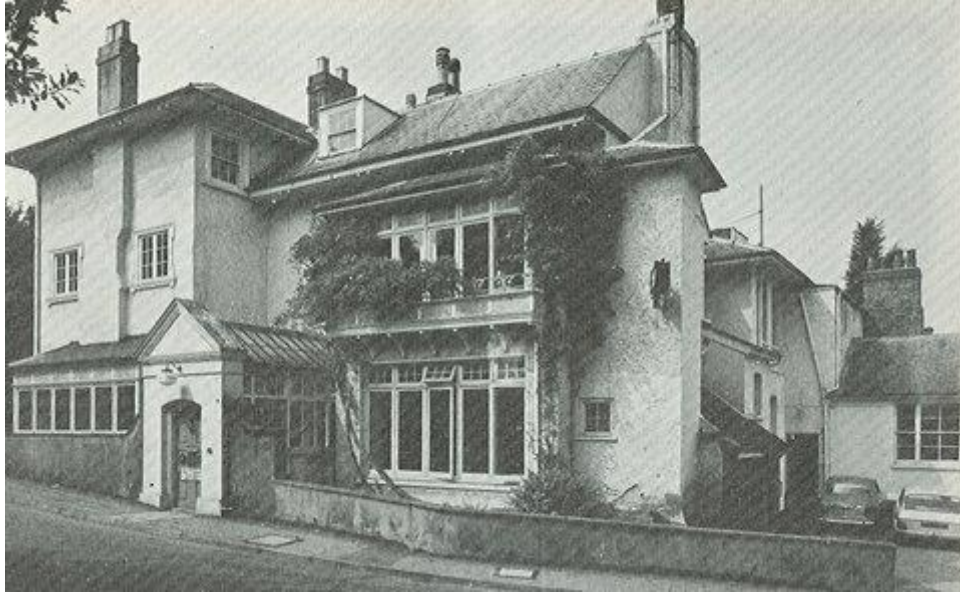
**Oxted March 2011- Chris Kersey**

**Reigate**



**Reigate Municipal Buildings, housing the Town Hall on the left with the police station and court on the right side**





**Reigate Cherchefelle Chart Lane**

Cherchefelle was the original name for this part of Reigate. The house itself was built by Thomas Scawen of Great Doods on the site of an Inn called the 'Five Bells' that closed in 1770. For a time during the first part of the twentieth century it served as the Offices of the East Surrey Gas Company. Then from 1943 to 1972 it housed Reigate Police Station. It is now split for residential purposes. The building is grade II listed



**Leaving Cherchefelle early 1960s**



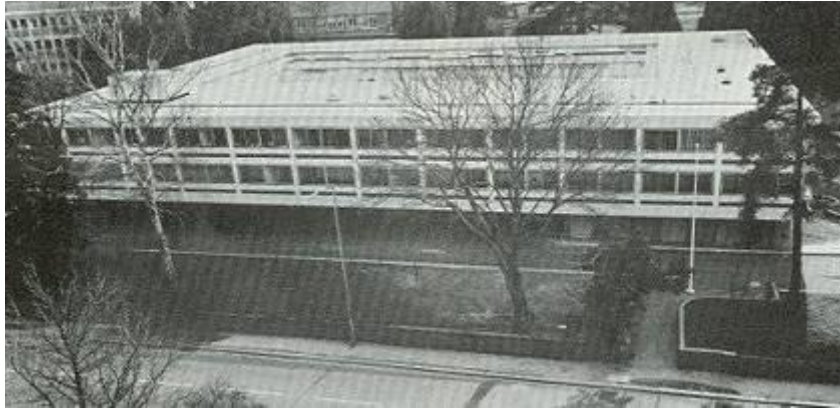
**1968 in Cherchefelle**



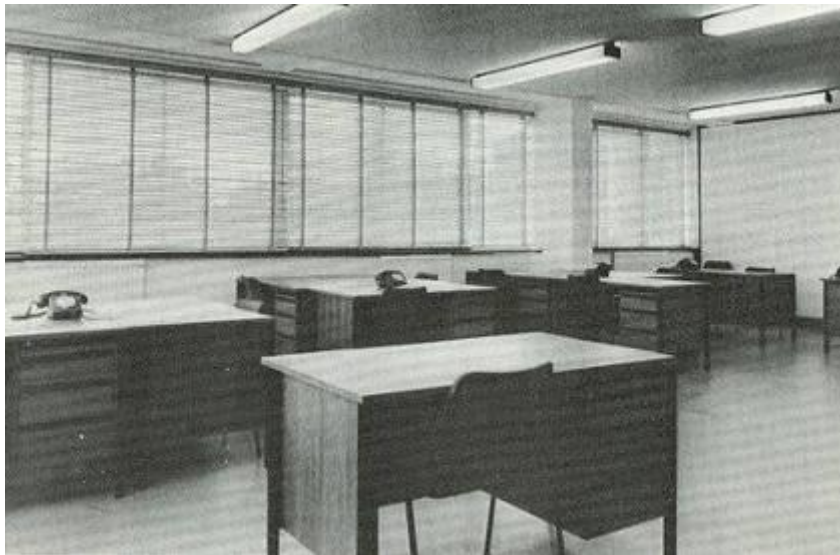
**Redhill Police Station**



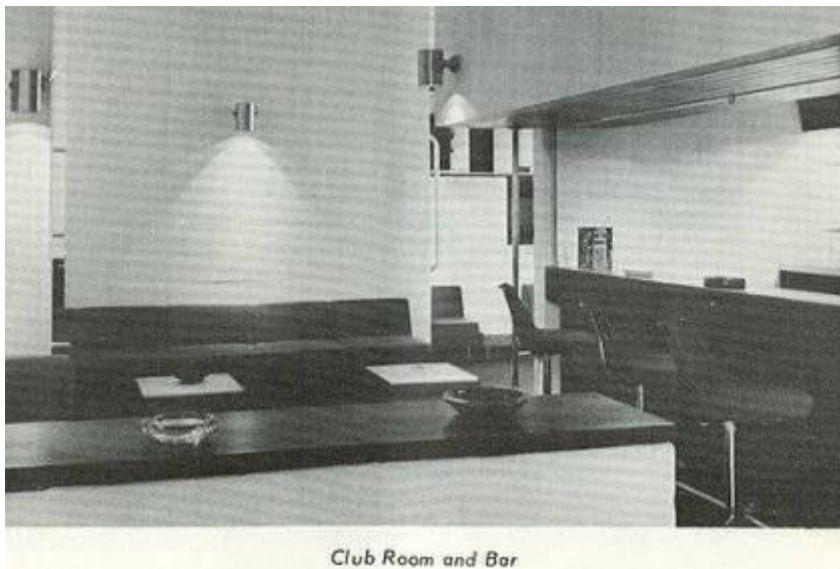
**Reigate**



**Reigate**



**CID office**





**Chief Superintendent's office 1992 – 20 years same desk**



**Reigate**



**Reigate**

**Ripley Section**



**Believed Ripley office**



### **Ripley**

I have just been looking at the pictures of the police stations that are now on the O and B site. I joined Surrey from the Royal Navy in 1987 and moved from Gosport into the house which formed part of the Police Station at Ripley. In those days the rural section was part of Woking Division and covered the four villages of Ripley, Wisley, Ockham and Send. I initially worked at Woking Police Station a Dickensian building with prisoners having to be brought in through the small front counter area which was fun when they were fighting and the counter was full of public waiting to report incidents.

The old Woking Magistrates was out the back of the nick with two courts, also like something from Dickens with dark wood fittings and tall windows. There was no police waiting room and only an outside toilet and I have actually given evidence in the court with snow on my tunic after waiting outside to be called in a snowy period of very cold weather. This was in the days before the Peacocks Centre and Woking was not the nicest of places or the easiest of places in which to work.

I eventually managed to obtain a posting at Ripley Rural Section where Colin Campbell was the Sergeant and the other officers were the late Trevor Gray and Paul Holcroft who covered Send, Jamie Hogg, Derek Eckton, Paul Jackson and Kevin O'Grady. In those days we also covered the A3 in the unit vehicle. One of the duties often carried out by the section was collecting prisoner's meals from the Happy Eater at Burnt Common because Woking canteen wasn't open at weekends or evenings and frozen microwave meals didn't exist then. Christmas was sometimes difficult for the reason that we often couldn't get into the office in the morning. The door was often hidden behind gifts of food from kind residents as well as local businesses, particularly Cadogan's, the caterers at Wisley RHS Gardens. On several

occasions, as one of the resident Bobbies I found a Christmas tree on my doorstep from one of the local farm workers I came to know.

We finished duty at 0200 in those days on rural sections and, on occasions I would try to put the unit vehicle in the garage at the end of the shift, only to find my entry blocked by a deer carcass (lawfully obtained I am assured) hanging from the roof in preparation for butchering.

The office was built on the side of my house with a door from my hall into the office which contained a small writing room and public area combined, a Sergeant's office and a small bathroom area. The house was a strange layout with the bathroom built downstairs, from a converted cell. Outside was a concrete built in shed with a parquet floor which had also been a cell, reputed to have been the coldest in Surrey. Upstairs were three bedrooms and, off the landing, accessed by a small door, a huge concrete floored loft which had formed the ceiling for the cells below. The old telephone system was still in evidence, although not working when I joined, whereby a rotary switch could be used to transfer phone calls to any of the four police houses surrounding the office.

Eventually I was moved out of the police station to allow for expansion and moved into the detached house next door, St Mary's Cottage (previously known as Police House No. 1) which had originally been the Sergeant's house, being detached. The section was transferred to Guildford Division at some time and I was posted to Old Woking area. A year or so later I was posted to Guildford and a few months later back to Ripley. By that time things were changing, and not often for the better I felt. The late Eric Nicholas, a true gentleman, was the Sergeant, and a good sergeant he was too, but even he couldn't stop the rural section losing its close links with the village community.

I lived in the village till my retirement in 2009 and have watched the police office and its gardens decline, change in use and become rather run down. Right up to the time I retired and left Ripley I still had villagers knock on my door wanting to tell me things, even though I had been on the Air Unit for 12 years by that time. Their reason -they didn't know the police officers in the police station and wanted to talk to a "village bobby". Even in 1987 which, in historical terms, isn't that long ago, we really were part of the village community, giving up leave to go away on residential trips with the local schools, taking part in village events and just being a familiar face around the village. It was real community policing in the truest sense of the term and I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a rural beat officer at Ripley. Even now when I go back to visit the village I am approached by people wanting to talk and reminisce about the old style village policing. Oh, and by the way, they still tell me things, even though I'm no longer a copper!

A further thought! The air raid siren in the front garden was right outside my bedroom and the late Derek Eckton had a nasty habit of testing it when I had been

on nights at Woking. I was very pleased when they decided World War II had been over long enough to allow its removal.

**Ripley March 2012 Tony Everson-Daragh**







**Salford Office**



**Barry Gray:** Salfords Office was of fairly common design for rural areas, with two semi-detached police houses separated by a small single Office, which was at times open to the public. In the apparently halcyon days of the rural cycle patrol, the Office was the base for a Sergeant and up to six Constables. By the late 1980s, the allocation of Officers had reduced to two rural-beat Officers, and then the Office later became redundant. Shortly after the introduction of Total Geographic Policing to the Reigate Division, Supt. Pat Crossan decided that a separate Area Team was needed for Salfords and South Earlswood. At the time, there was a perception among local residents that they had suffered a disproportionate amount of disruption and damage, largely as a result of the proximity of the gipsy camp in Green Lane. Over a lengthy period, stolen cars were frequently found burning on this site within hours of being taken, occasionally with two or more appearing in one night. When police attended, it was not uncommon for police cars to be damaged under the cover of darkness, or for Officers to be threatened. I was tasked to organise the conversion of the original Office, and the now-empty dwelling to its right, to a Team Office. I became the Area Inspector, with Mick May as Sergeant, and team of eight Constables. Police Community Partnership Groups were by now an integral part of the TGP concept, and regular face-to-face liaison with residents and Parish Councillors gave the opportunity to reassure them that efforts were being made to address their concerns. After a number of initiatives, the level of crime and disorder abated to something more proportionate.

By 1992, the Area Team was disbanded and moved out of Salfords, and policing responsibilities were largely absorbed back into the Horley Area. For a while, it was again used by two rural-beat Officers, and most of the converted Offices were left underused. In the late 90s, they were converted to a dedicated Interview Suite, with installed audio and video recording equipment, for the sympathetic extraction of evidence from child/sexual abuse victims. It was considered to be a building sufficiently remote to minimise the potential stigma of any victim attending an imposing “official” building such as a police station, hospital etc. Subsequently, overt signs that the premises were a police building were removed. The left half of the building has remained a dwelling throughout.

**Shere**



**Jonathan Smith:** These are two of the old houses at Shere, The Fields on the left (my old place) and The Willows on the right with the old office just visible to the extreme right. The photos were taken after The Willows had been sold (the fence had been erected).



**Shere**

**Staines – Metropolitan Police**



**Staines former Metropolitan Police then Surrey Police**



**Staines: Haden James February 2011**



**Staines**

**Sunbury former Metropolitan Police**





## Walton on Thames 2011



CID Office 1970s





**Walton on Thames 2011 - James Haden**





**Weybridge**



**Weybridge** Police Station, which was the Divisional Station before Addlestone was built, it had a section house out the back and three houses where the WPCs used to live. The cook was a lady named Mrs Griffiths (Maurice Jackman's mother) was more formidable than he was, but a great lady.

Addlestone opened it became the new Div HQ, with Weybridge and Walton as sub divisions, it remained that way for awhile although the CID from Weybridge were then based at Walton. I left in Nov 69 and as far as I know Weybridge Police Stn was sold off for development sometime after that. I don't know what happened to Byfleet

## Woking



**1970s Parade Room**





**Woking canteen – note the “coffee” machine**



**Communications Room**





**Front office counter**



**Cell Block**



**Woking 1970**



**Woking November 1993**



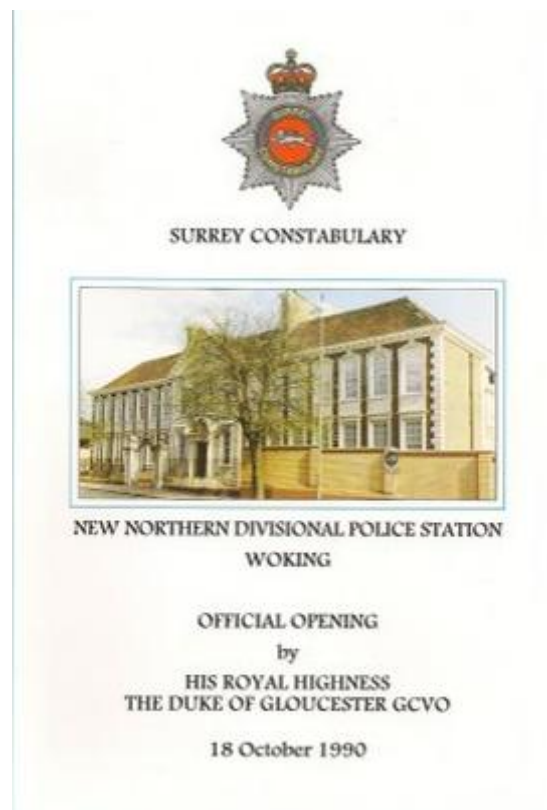
**To become Woking Police Station – transformed from a school**



## Woking



**Woking opened 18 October 1990**



# THE NEW POLICE STATION – SITE AND STORY

The new Northern Divisional Police Station, which also houses Woking sub-division, is situated along Station Approach in Woking and adjoins the site of the new Woking Magistrates Court.

Consisting of over 80 rooms, the main police station also has a purpose-built custody block with 11 cells and tape recording interview facilities.

A separate amenity block with a social club and snooker room is to be found on the ground floor and all dining facilities on the first floor, with a common room for the Section House. The Section House is capable of accommodating 16 officers.

The site also houses Northern area's garage complex with skilled mechanics capable of maintaining the Division's vehicle fleet, and car parking facilities for over 100 vehicles.

The whole complex is secure and surrounded by a high perimeter wall and fence. It is monitored by CCTV and entry is permitted by a card access system.

The area is to be landscaped with various shrub borders and lawns.

Work began on the site in August 1988 and the cost, so far, is around £3½ million.



*Front entrance to the police station*



*The social club*



*Part of the garage complex*

The building was erected in 1914, as the Woking Grammar School for Boys, and was formally opened on 15 July 1914 by the Right Honourable Lord Moulton, PC, FRS. The school commenced on 22 September under the Headmastership of Mr Joshua Holden, MA, with three masters and 48 boys.

The front of the building faced approximately west on to Station Approach and entering through the main door, the Headmaster's study was on the right and the school office on the left. The school hall was directly ahead and was spacious, dignified and, until recently, the largest hall in Woking.

It extended through both floors and had an attractive curved roof. Then, as now, there was a balcony around all four sides which provided access to the first floor rooms.

High on the east end wall was a handsome circular stained glass window which incorporated the school motto – 'Justly, Skilfully, Magnanimously', this



*Woking Grammar School for Boys c 1932*



*The old school hall*



*View of the newly renovated first floor balcony*



*The colourful rose window with the school motto, 'Justly, Skilfully, Magnanimously'*

being an adaption from Milton's Tractate for Education, published in 1644.

On the north side of the building, there were two playgrounds which extended alongside Station Approach and reached to the present Heathside Crescent.

The playgrounds were on two levels, the lower being reached by several steps in the centre. The lower playground was not asphalted until 1949.

The first addition to the building took place in 1939 when the Second World War made the provision of air raid shelters necessary; these were built on the eastern side of the lower playground. A minor change also related to the iron railings in front of the school which were taken for scrap. It is interesting to note that these have recently been replaced and the air raid shelters were removed after the war. Over the years there were several building developments. The first took place in 1948 when a dining room was built on a small open area on the south side.



*The school's dining room*



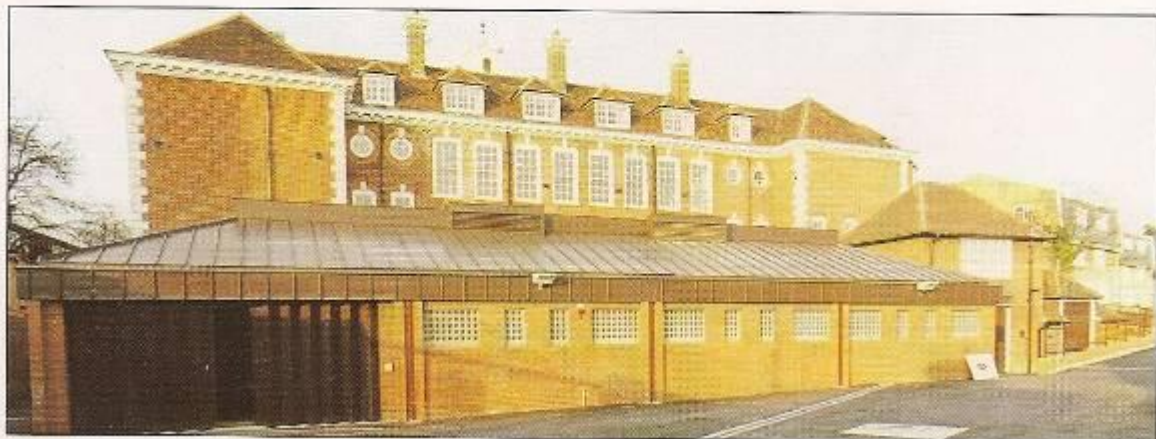
*Now the CID office, once the old chemistry laboratory*

This has now been replaced by the cells/exercise area of the new police station. In 1959, work began on the construction of a separate building on the east side of the upper playground, which consisted of a large airy classroom on the ground floor and a library on the upper floor. These were brought into use during the summer of 1958 and the building of two new Chemistry Laboratories, to replace the old one on the top floor, began in 1959. Sited in the upper playground, parallel to Station Approach and opposite the new library block, the laboratories were in full use by early 1960, but have been demolished during the recent building operations on the site.

Mr John L. Goode, MSc, was appointed Headmaster in 1961. In 1977, the school, with a roll of over 500 boys, was closed as a grammar school and the pupils transferred to the new Woking College in Rydens Way, Old Woking, a 6th form college. Mr Goode, who died on 27 June 1990, was appointed its first Principal, and the school building was used as an annex to the college until 1981.

After the school had remained empty for several years, Surrey County Council leased it out to be sub-let to a number of small businesses. These included an antique furniture restorer, a printing company and a wet fish distributor. In contrast it was also used for youngsters in the area to enjoy organised discos in the evenings.

The building was officially handed over to the Surrey Constabulary on 27 February 1990 and is now the Divisional Headquarters for a very busy area covering Woking, Addlestone, Camberley and surrounding districts.



*South view of the station with the cell complex*



**Old Police Station**



**New Police Station**



**Woldingham April 1968**





**Woldingham April 1968**  
**3 Munstead View Mount Browne**



**Munstead View**



**Burnet Avenue Burpham**



**43 Burnett Avenue, Burpham**



**Spital Heath 1969**



**Spital Heath 2010**



**Spital Heath from the A25 March 2011**

**Police house in Barnett Lane, Womersh**



Wonersh Police House, Barnett Close, Wonersh - built circa 1963

The first Officer to live there was PC 636 Granville Blankinsopp

At this time it came under Shere Section, Godalming Division

The house was sold many years ago purchased by John Wilce

**Terry Kerlake:** I was one of the Sergeants at Wonersh for a while in the 1990's. I rotated the role with other Godalming Sergeants Dave Hanna (466) and Chris Chapman (212). Our Inspector at the time was Chris Farmer. The building was taken out of police use I believe during the late 1990's and I think it was then used by others employed by Surrey County Council. The Office was the base for the village PC's from surrounding areas, when I was there they were as follows:

Bramley - The late Bob Crawford (1183) Wonersh - John Bralsford (164) Chilworth/Albury - Joe Dunn (760) and Chris Tweed (1376) Shalford/Peasmarsh - Carol Over (Ramplin) (1327) and Andy Smallbone (1159) I recall that Mark Roberts (756) and Mark Kinchin (638) were also based there at some stage.

**PC Tribe Police House Horley – he retired 1893**



**Police House Hoe Lane, Abinger in the centre with the blue door**



**Jonathan Smith:** The old police house at Hoe Lane, Abinger. The house is the second from the right. I moved into it after Graham Oades moved on, to I think, Traffic at Burpham. In those days it was called “Forty” which always confused everyone so we renamed it Radstock after a family home in Mitcham from my formative years. It was the most expensive house to run and cost us a fortune in coal. You might just make out that there is a porch on the front that was build whilst we were there. Incidentally Arthur Barnett lived in the first house on the right of the picture and he had been, for many years, a Special

### **No.1 Beechwood Gardens, Caterham Valley**



**Stan Wood (Timber):** No.1 Beechwood Gardens, Caterham Valley - it was opposite the Caterham Cottage Hospital. This was my first police house which I moved into in 1959; previous occupants were I believe Eric Hughes and Ian Blondell. It used to be the Inspector’s house at Caterham before he was moved into a new home at Harestone Valley Road. I am not sure if Inspector Willson was the last Inspector to occupy it. It had a telephone extension to the Police Station and as it had been the Inspector’s house it had extension number 1.

Old colleagues at Caterham at the time were John Gladwell, John Horton, Mick Morley and John Harvey

**1 Police House Lightwater was red brick when a police house**



**2 Police House Lightwater**





**Police House Updown Hill Windlesham**



**No 2 Police House, Virginia Water 2011**

## Graham Ritchings

### Number 2 Police House Virginia Water

Two photographs of No.2 Police House, Christchurch Road, Virginia Water. One taken in 1967 when occupied by PC 733 Richings and another taken in August 2011, showing a slight improvement! The house is now named "Constable Cottage". Prior to 1966 this police house had been occupied by PC Gerry Harwood (?), believed HTC and prior to that PC Ken Hitchens who after retirement worked at Dorking Police Station as a Traffic Warden and who died a few years ago.



Estate Agents details (sometime in 1990's) for the identical house next door No. 1 Police House, Christchurch Road. For many years this was occupied by PC 304 Denis Smith. (House name Shelydene derived from Denis & Sheila his wife). During the latter half of the 1960's the occupants of both houses shared the riding of a Lamberetta Scooter with the call sign Alpha 29 The scooter was kept at the police houses and was used to patrol Wentworth and Sunningdale and for some enquiries in the Egham area.