

Wood Lane – Lost Property!

Sue Templeman

As we walk or drive along Wood Lane today, past Quorn Grange, the next mile or so seems unremarkable, with its man-made hills, dust and quarry noise - but even in the most unexpected of places there can be traces of our community's interesting history.

The map was originally based on a 1904 Ordnance Survey map, but by making various additions, it reveals some dramatic changes to our local landscape.

Woodside Cottage

Many people today will still remember Woodside Cottage, which was on the left-hand side of Wood Lane as you approach Quorn from the Rothley direction. It was built as three or four cottages, but by the early 1900s it had been knocked into a single eight roomed dwelling.

The 'then and now' photographs are taken looking towards Quorn and the position of the cottage is still reasonably easy to identify as you walk along Wood Lane, as there are two wide brick gateposts just beyond where the cottage stood, and a small spinney opposite. The gateposts used to be the entrance to a drive which led further into Buddon Wood, and eventually reached another property about 300 yards into the trees, called Buddon Wood House.

In the early 1900s, Buddon Wood House was occupied by the Harper family and their large family of eleven children. One of their daughters, Louisa, later went on to marry Frank Hall, in Quorn Parish Church in 1926.



A postcard of Woodside Cottage from the very early 1900s, compared with a photograph taken from the same position today.



The wooden bungalow in the woods. Note the rug over the fence and the pram in front of the door.

Like many young couples, Frank and Louisa faced the difficult task of finding somewhere to live. Planning permission was not an issue in the 1920s, and they had a wooden bungalow constructed a short distance from Buddon Wood House and further into the woods. It was there that their first children were born.

During the 1930s, Woodside Cottage became vacant, and Frank and Louisa moved in with their expanding family. Eventually they had six children: Edna, Marion, Dennis, Les, Olive and Kathleen. Les and his sister Olive still live locally [2016], and clearly remember their lives growing up in their cottage at the edge of the woods.

There was no gas, electricity or mains water, and Les recalls how they used to use paraffin lamps and candles for light. Their mother cooked all their meals over a fire on a range in the kitchen and 'kept a

good table'. Rabbits were plentiful and Louisa would boil beautiful round puddings, filled with apples and blackberries.

Water came from a pump, which was over a well in the garden, and gave the family pure, clear spring water. People would call in for a drink when they were out walking, and Louisa would have cups ready for them. Looking over the wall on Wood Lane this January, when the foliage was at its lowest, it was just possible to see the grill over the old well – it was hard to imagine that the area was once Frank's well-tended plot. If you are walking along Wood Lane in May next year, look out for blooms of white lilac hanging over the wall. Frank planted this in the garden, next to the garden gate - another tenacious link with the days when this was a family home.



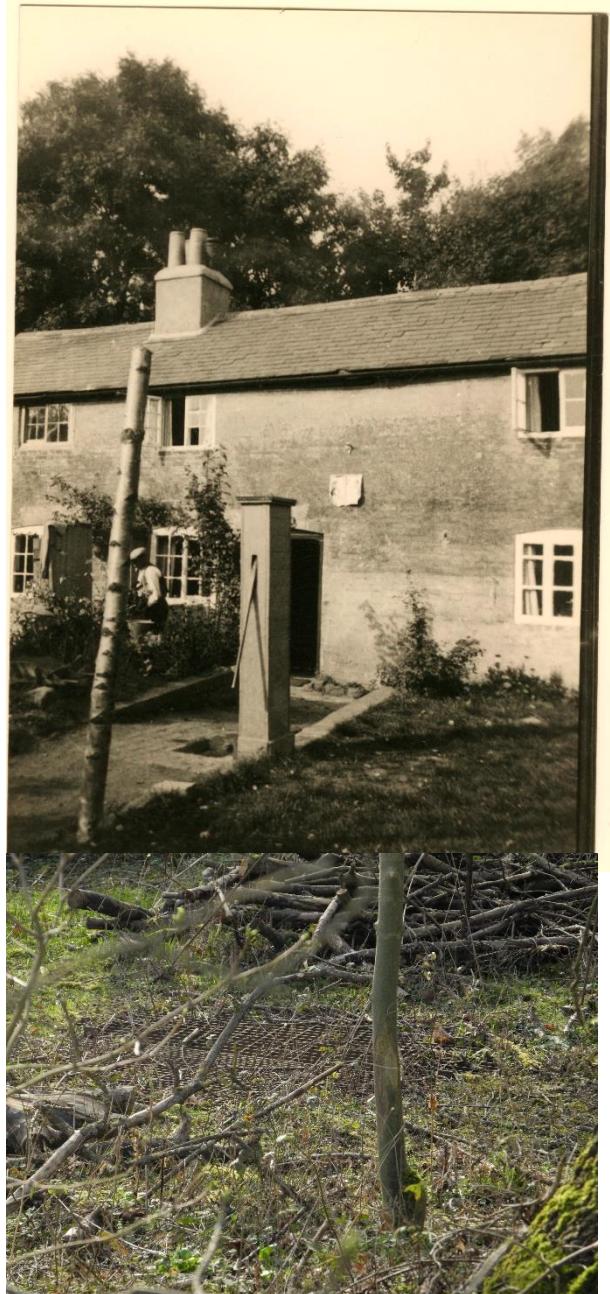
Louisa and Frank standing outside Woodside Cottage.

The woods gave the Halls a very different life to people living in the main parts of Quorn. They provided a marvellous playground for the children, who would take themselves off for hours. Les recalls how they would sometimes see Lord Lanesborough, who would call them over, and always had a bag of toffees that he would share. One night during WW2, German bombers could be heard directly overhead. Louisa was fearful that Woodside Cottage would be bombed, and took the family out into the woods, where they all slept in the open air. The cottage survived and it was thought that the bombers could have been targeting Rolls Royce at Mountsorrel.

Woodside Cottage was demolished in 1964. Buddon Wood House was destroyed without trace many years ago, as it was swallowed up by the main quarry excavation area.

Can you help?

The photograph of Woodside Cottage from the 1900s also appears in *Bygone Quorn in Photographs*. If you look carefully, there are three women and a young child, who are said to be the Purvin family. This is puzzling as no formal record can be found of any Purvins living there – can you help? I think the women may be from the Sharpe and Roadley families, but am very happy to be proved wrong! Do you know if a Purvin/Pervin family lived in Woodside Cottage in the early 1900s?



Above top: The back of Woodside Cottage showing the pump.
Immediately above: The grid over the well as seen in January 2016

Buddon Wood Farm

Further along Wood Lane, going towards Rothley, was another track off to the West, right on the Quorn/Mountsorrel Parish border and also leading to Buddon Wood. Had you walked along this track in days gone by, you would have passed Cocklow Wood on your right, before reaching Buddon Wood Farm.



The photograph shows Robert Dodson standing outside the Buddon Wood Farm in the early 1930s. Robert was the son of George and Gertrude Dodson (née Pepper), from Mountsorrel, who were regular visitors to the farm.

The electoral roll for 1920 shows the Goward family living at the farm, and they can be traced right through until the 1950s.



Wood Lane heading from Quorn to Rothley. Note the large rocks and old gateway on the right-hand side of the road on the apex of the bend. This was where the track led up to Buddon Wood Farm.

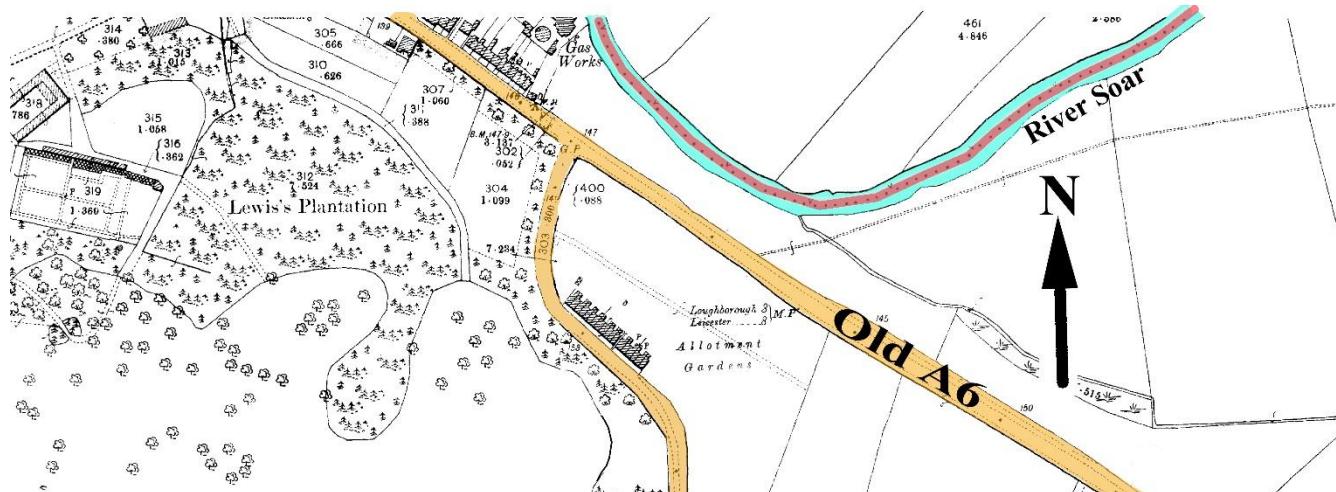
Buddon Wood Farm was another casualty of the quarry. It disappeared in the 1970s, when it was buried without even being demolished, under a mountain of earth, to form a bund or barrier between the rim of the quarry and the road.

It seems that the recent proposed quarry extension will take in Buddon Wood Farm. Will the old farmhouse be briefly revealed, before it is finally blown up to extract the granite below?

This article was produced by Sue Templeman on behalf of www.quornmuseum.com. Thank you Les and Olive Hall for sharing their memories and photographs of Woodside Cottage, and thanks also to Margaret Manning for photographs of Buddon Wood Farm. If you have any photographs of old Quorn, (even in poor condition), Sue would love to hear from you. Please contact sue@quorndon.com or 01509 412112 or pass a message through the Parish Office.

Postscript:

After the article had been published, Michael Pervin contacted Sue Templeman. Apparently when *Bygone Quorn in Photographs* was being compiled in the late 1970s, Michael was a pupil at Rawlins School, and many photographs were put up in a classroom asking if pupils could throw any light on the subjects. Michael recognised the picture of Woodside Cottage as being where his grandparents, Frank and Louisa Hall had lived and was his mother Edna's childhood home. He believes that because his name was Pervin, that was how the confusion arose. He was pleased to put the record straight!



Quorn Park
(Belonging to the Farnham's,
at Quorn House)

