

THE FORESTER beerhouse, later THE FORESTERS INN, subsequently THE FORESTERS ARMS public house, now THE PIG AND TATER public house. Cooper Road Charlotteville, Guildford.

Until the second half of the nineteenth century contemporary maps show that all that part of Holy Trinity parish lying to the south of Free School Lane, now Sydenham Road, was open country, almost the only building to be seen being the semaphore on Pewley Hill. The men responsible for changing the rural outlook were a local doctor who acquired the land, Thomas Jenner Sells, and Henry Peak the architect who was to become Guildford's first Borough Surveyor. Between them the two men planned a suburban housing estate that was named Charlotteville, after Dr Sell's wife, with Henry Peak laying out the roads which were named after famous medical men such as Harvey, Addison, Bright, Jenner, etc., and with Dr Sells disposing of the individual plots of land. The estate was planned as a mixed development of comfortable middle class villas and cottages for the lower orders together with shops, public houses and a church, etc. In fact, a self contained community developed with a vigorous life of its own that persisted until after the Second World War. Charlotteville had a cycling club, founded in 1907, that enjoyed a national reputation; there was an annual flower show with a more than local reputation; there was a working mens club; and numerous other associations that organised thrift clubs, annual outings, childrens' parties, etc. The public houses provided centres for many of these activities and the Pig and Tater still has a lively bar and a Cork Club, an organisation that exists to provide social activities on a charitable basis for "the village" as they still refer to Charlotteville.

One of the plots of land on the new estate, at the junction of Cooper Road and Cline Road, was purchased from Dr Sells on March 1st., 1869, by John Patrick, a tailor and habit maker, of 43, North Street, Guildford, and by James Cranstone Patrick, a collector of rates for Stoke parish, of Albert Villas, Stoke Fields, Guildford. On this plot a "messuage tenement shop" was erected, part of the premises being used as a beerhouse called The Forester. James Cranstone Patrick also purchased the adjoining plot of land in Cooper Road from Dr Sells on January 3rd., 1871. Shortly afterwards, on March 27th., 1871, John and James Patrick sold The Forester to John Patrick, a carpenter of Cooper Road, for £600. The area sold included the greater part of the plot purchased in 1869 with a boundary running diagonally across it to include a small portion of the plot purchased by J.C. Patrick in 1871. The large-scale O.S, Town Plan of Guildford, surveyed in 1868/69 and first published in 1871 shows that the Charlotteville estate was not then fully developed but it does indicate The Foresters Inn.

Since John Patrick's address was given as of Cooper Road it is possible that he was already the occupant of The Forester beerhouse and he remained there until 1889, when presumably he died, for Mrs Patrick continued as the occupant until 1906. In order to finance the purchase of The Forester John Patrick was obliged to borrow £400 which he did on March 28th., 1871, by mortgaging the property to Thomas Baker, gentleman, of 9, Upper Rock Gardens, Brighton, agreeing to pay

interest of £5-10s-0d per cent half-yearly from February 28th., 1872. Two years later, on April 29th., 1873, John Patrick purchased from Dr Sells an additional rectangular plot of land in Cline Road to the rear of The Forester. There were certain conditions attached to the sale by Dr Sells which are of some interest in the light of the reasons given for the most recent change of innsign. The local belief is that since the working class inhabitants of Charlotteville were in the habit of growing potatoes and of keeping pigs on their allotments this formed the chief topic of conversation when they met in their local public house which as a result became known by them as the Pig and Tater. The conditions imposed by Dr Sells on his sale of this plot of land to John Patrick were that no public house was to be built upon the site, that no house worth less than £8 p.a. and that not more than two houses were to be built upon it, and that there should be no piggeries there.

On May 5th., 1873, John Patrick sold The Forester and the plot of land he had just bought (almost certainly in collusion) to Frederick Webb of the Broadford Brewery, Shalford. Webb paid £50 for the plot of land in Cline Road (the same price that John Patrick had paid for it) and £700 for The Forester, but since this was still subject to the mortgage of £400 Webb paid this off and John Patrick received only £300 for his property. The Forester was now a tied house belonging to the brewery and it is possible that Webb developed or even rebuilt it. It was still legally a beerhouse but John Patrick advertised it as The Foresters Inn, for with 4/5 bedrooms it offered accommodation. John Patrick still described himself as a carpenter and also carried on the business of letting horses and traps for hire.

Webb's Broadford Brewery was acquired by Savill and Company and on January 6th., 1891, The Foresters Inn was sold by Frederick Webb to Ebenezer Savill, then of Eastern Terrace, Brighton, for £700, as well as two cottages that had been built on the plot in Cline Road, for another £300.

Following the death of Ebenezer Savill The Foresters Inn and the two cottages were conveyed by his executors to Cobham United Breweries on August 6th., 1913. This brewery closed down in 1922 and was put into liquidation: its properties were then acquired by Watney Combe Reid and Company Ltd., on December 31st., 1923.

The Foresters Inn continued under that innsign until the Second World War when it ceased to accommodate guests and it continued as The Foresters Arms public house from 1944. It is now the property of Watney Mann Ltd., and in acknowledgement of what it had always been called by the locals the inn sign was changed to The Pig and Tater in 1976,,

Mark Sturley

November, 1984.

Sources:

- 1) The title deeds have very kindly been made available by Watneys Southern (Phoenix Brewery), Richmond Terrace, Brighton, courtesy of Mr R. Manser.
- 2) Pictorial:, the saloon bar of the Pig and Tater has a pen drawing of the public house by G. Penton Stewart, 1976; a framed photograph of The Foresters Arms Old Folks Outing organised by the Cork Club, 1954; a framed cartoon in pencil of a pig and tater by S'.F.J. Moore, 1979; and a cartoon of the landlord, Bill Turner, by David Pratt, February 27th., 1983.

There is also a photograph of an annual coach outing for the regulars of The Foresters Inn in the possession of Mr R.E. Bookham, of 111 Oakfields, Broadacres, Guildford. It shows the charabanc outside The Foresters Inn and is dated c.1924.

- 3) The Guildford Directories can be seen in the Guildford Room of Guildford Public Library.

Occupants of The Forester beerhouse, The Foresters Inn, The Foresters Arms public house and The Pig and Tater public house.

(Compiled from the Guildford Directories and from the evidence of locals: neither source is entirely reliable.)

1869: Purchase of the plot of land from Dr Sells by John and James Patrick.
The Forester beerhouse erected soon after.

1871: Sale of The Forester to John Patrick he may already have been in occupation.

1873: Sale of The Forester by John Patrick to the Broadford Brewery henceforth The Forester known as The Foresters Inn. John Patrick remained in occupation until 1889.

1889-1906: Mrs Patrick, occupant.

1891: Broadford Brewery and The Foresters Inn sold to Ebenezer Savill.

1907-1912: William Perry, occupant.

1913: Savill's Brewery and The Foresters Inn acquired by Cobham United Breweries.

1913-1916: William G. Bass, occupant.

1917-1922: J. Ketchell, occupant.

1922: Cobham United Breweries and The Foresters Inn acquired by Watney Combe Reid and Co. Ltd.

1922-1947: B. Bookham, occupant.

1944: The Foresters inn became The Foresters Arms public house.

1948 or 1949 to 1956: Reginald Dean, occupant.

1957-1960: G.F.J., Connor, occupant.

1960-1965: Jack Mayhew, occupant.

1965-1971: G.C. 'Timpson, occupant.

1971-1984: N.H. 'Turner, occupant.

1976: The Foresters Arms became The Pig and Tater.