



THE HAYWARDS AND LINGFIELD GUEST HOUSE



North Street Cottages in 1896

CHARLES FORSTER HAYWARD

Charles Hayward was a successful architect, a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). He is best known for his designs for the boarding houses at Harrow School. His plans, drawings and sketches show his skill as a draughtsman. Several of his plans and drawings of the Cottages at North Street have recently been discovered in a hidden drawer. Hayward bought the row of cottages in 1896. In the following two years he restored the 15th century building, which is believed to have been the Guest House belonging to Lingfield College.

Samples from several timbers in the medieval frame were recently 'dendro-dated' by the Domestic Buildings Research Group. Analysis showed that the timbers were probably felled in the winter of 1473/74, building would have started shortly after felling, probably in the opinion of the experts in 1475.

During the restoration a large double-height 15th century window was revealed behind the plasterwork in the front (east) elevation. The window had been hidden and

thankfully not destroyed by the many conversions over its lifetime. The window was fully restored by Hayward. The building had once been an ale-house called the 'French Horn' before conversion to cottages.

Shortly after the completion of the restoration Hayward hosted a Dinner for the men who had been involved in the restoration and their wives. Fortunately for us he kept a record of the Guest list:

R C Head, The Builder; C R Head and R Head his sons; J Payne, Bricklayer and his wife; J Glover, E Head, W Charman senr. and W Charman junr. Carpenters, G Bryant, Labourer to Payne, and his wife; E Wallis, plumber; F Steer, ancient tenant and his wife; C Sales, Carpenter; G Farmer, helper to Payne; W Steer, Gardener and helper to Payne; A Steer, Gardener and helper to Wallis; E Harling, helper to Wallis.

All sat down to Dinner on December 30th 1897 with several of Haywards' neighbours and family, including his son Arthur.

Charles Hayward's diary of 1859 reveals something of the real man, putting some interesting meat on the dry bones of history. On 29th January that year Hayward went to hear Charles Dickens' own reading of *Gamp and Pickwick*. Dickens' public readings of his books and short stories were a popular attraction at that time. In 1856/7 Charles Dickens had purchased a country rectory, Gad's Hill Place, at Higham, 3 miles from Rochester. He found the vast burden of expenditure sufficient reason for undertaking public readings. He had previously staged successful public readings of his books for charity but the first organized 'tour' began in June 1858. Large audiences acclaimed them. 'Men as well as women were moved to tears at the pathos as well as the farce'. Dickens continued his career of public performances for eleven years.

Another entry confirms the war hysteria of that time. In 1859 fear of a French invasion seized the country. In a wave of patriotic enthusiasm numerous rifle volunteer units were raised. On the 8th June 1859 Charles Hayward joined the Victoria Rifles. From June to December that year Charles drilled, paraded and trained with the Victoria Rifles. On one occasion 200 riflemen mustered at Apsley House, the home of the Duke of Wellington, Hayward wrote 'Feed on Ices – the General there'.

In September 1861 Charles Hayward was a passenger onboard the steamship 'Great Eastern' which was built in 1859 to carry cargo and passengers. During a storm he made a sketch of the 'Grand Saloon during storm'. The National Maritime Museum owns a lithograph based on Hayward's sketch.

Hayward frequently made sketches, wherever he went and on whatever paper was to hand. In the Hayward Collections, held in Lingfield Library, is a sketch on the back of a concert programme of his plan for the new Stable (now the garage of Barn Cottage), which was built to house his pony and trap.

Whilst rummaging in the an old chest in the undercroft of St Peter & St Paul's Church Charles Hayward discovered fragments of medieval (c.1440) glass. According to

Nigel Saul the fragments came from a window in the south wall of the chancel. Charles Hayward was responsible for fixing the fragments back in the south wall of the chancel in 1899.

His first wife Lucy Emilia, the mother of his four children, died in 1891 aged 49. He married Charlotte (called 'Carrie') in 1898.

Charles Forster Hayward's initials are included in the decorative ironwork in the gate to the Guest House. He died in July 1905 and the Guest House was left to his wife for her lifetime.

ARTHUR BALDWIN HAYWARD, 1874 – 1954

Arthur Baldwin Hayward was born on 6th July 1874 the son of Charles Forster and Lucy Emilia Hayward. Arthur was the youngest of 4 children. His mother died in 1891 in Guildford at the age of 49.

He trained as an architect and lived and practised from his Great Russell Street premises in London. Arthur inherited Lingfield Guest House on the death of Charlotte Bessie Hayward in 1930.

He had a passionate love of history. In 1933 he and Stanley Hazell, who lived at The Garth, wrote a book on the History of Lingfield which is still used as a valuable text by local historians. Mr Hazell had also written a short pamphlet history of the church which was sold for 2d. The proceeds from the book and the pamphlet were 'devoted to the Church Restoration Fund'.

In 1935 Arthur Hayward hosted a 'Loan Exhibition of Articles of Antique and Local Interest in the Garden Room'. The Garden Room was owned by the Haywards and is the building on the opposite side of the path, formerly called North Street, which is now Barn Cottage. During the Second World War the Garden Room was used by the W.V.S. From that headquarter the Women's Voluntary Service organised accommodation for refugees and evacuees. Another Loan Exhibition was held after the war in August 1952. Lingfield Parish Council lent old wills and documents relating to Lingfield Charities, the Inclosure Award relating to Lingfield and surrounding common lands; and details of the population in 1851.

Arthur never married and having no descendants to carry on the stewardship of the Guest House was intent on leaving it in reliable hands. He left details of those plans, written on 20th August 1936, which were set out as instructions to his Executors, then added a footnote in 1945.

'I originally offered the Guest House to the National Trust but that body would not accept the stipulation I made that no alteration should be made to the building...although I am aware of certain inconsistencies and anachronisms in the restoration I find them quite harmless...As the Surrey County Council accepted this condition I have left it to that body...

I should like to see the Cottage [Barn Cottage] occupied by a man who would act as gardener and outside custodian and I hope he will be a great man, an ex-serviceman if possible...

The Curator should be either a retired Architect or Museum official...I have in mind the Curators of the Soane Museum, only on a more modest salary... The whole of the rest of the building to be used as a Museum and repository for the safe custody and study of books and manuscripts, maps and documents relating to the locality. I have a picture in my mind of the place becoming a haven of rest...for the village...while every day and all day it is open for genuine students to study its Architecture and contents and particularly the interesting documents...a centre of culture and antiquarian study for the whole of the community...

I want particularly to avoid the place having a cold hard Museum kind of atmosphere...a place which once having visited it one wants to come again...'

Arthur Hayward died in 1954. Arthur had expressed his wish, in an earlier will of 1945, to be buried at sea or cremated whichever shall be more convenient and with the least possible ceremony and expense but that wish is not mentioned in his last will. He is buried in the lower graveyard, with his father and step-mother.

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Sources and further reading

Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens

The World of Charles Dickens by Angus Wilson

The Collegiate Church of St Peter and St Paul Lingfield by Nigel Saul,
ed. Ian Dobson, 2001

A History of Lingfield by Arthur B Hayward & Stanley Hazell, 1933

Surrey History Centre: Plans of Lingfield Guest House by Charles Forster Hayward
and Arthur Baldwin Hayward