

Always known affectionately as “The Bottom Pub”, referring to its location in the Village, as opposed to “The Queen’s Head, known as the “Top Pub”



**THE COACH AND HORSES INN,  
SEDLESCOMBE**

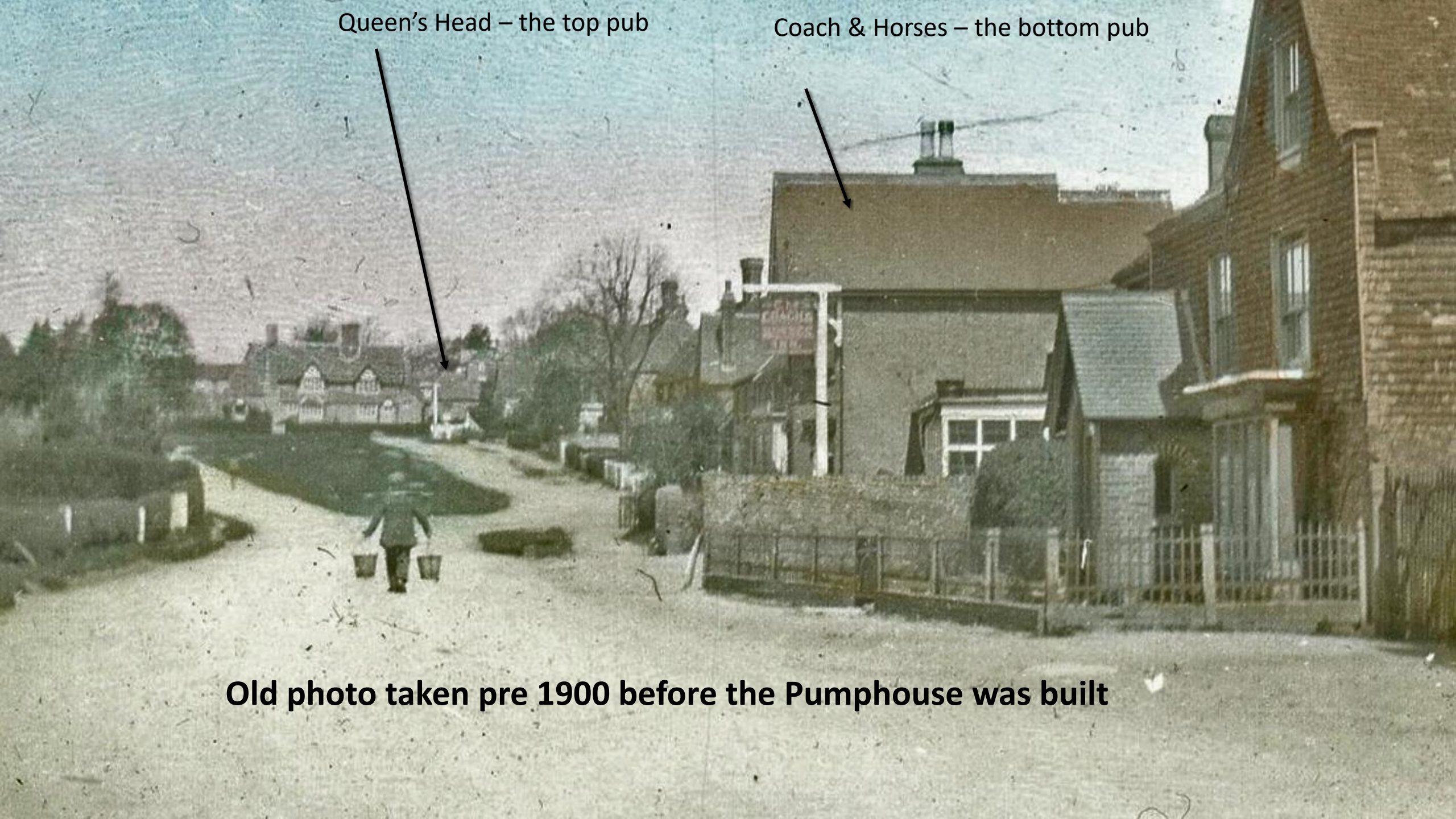
**By order of the trustees  
LICENSED FREE HOUSES**

**MESSRS PARSONS AND SON  
will sell by AUCTION at the CASTLE HOTEL, HASTINGS ON  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 1884 AT THREE O'CLOCK  
PUNCTUALLY, IN TWO LOTS**

THE FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE, THE RAILWAY INN, ROBERTSBRIDGE,  
**AND THE FULLY LICENSED ROADSIDE INN, THE COACH AND  
HORSES, SEDLESCOMBE (copyhold),**  
in occupation of yearly tenants , at adequate rentals.

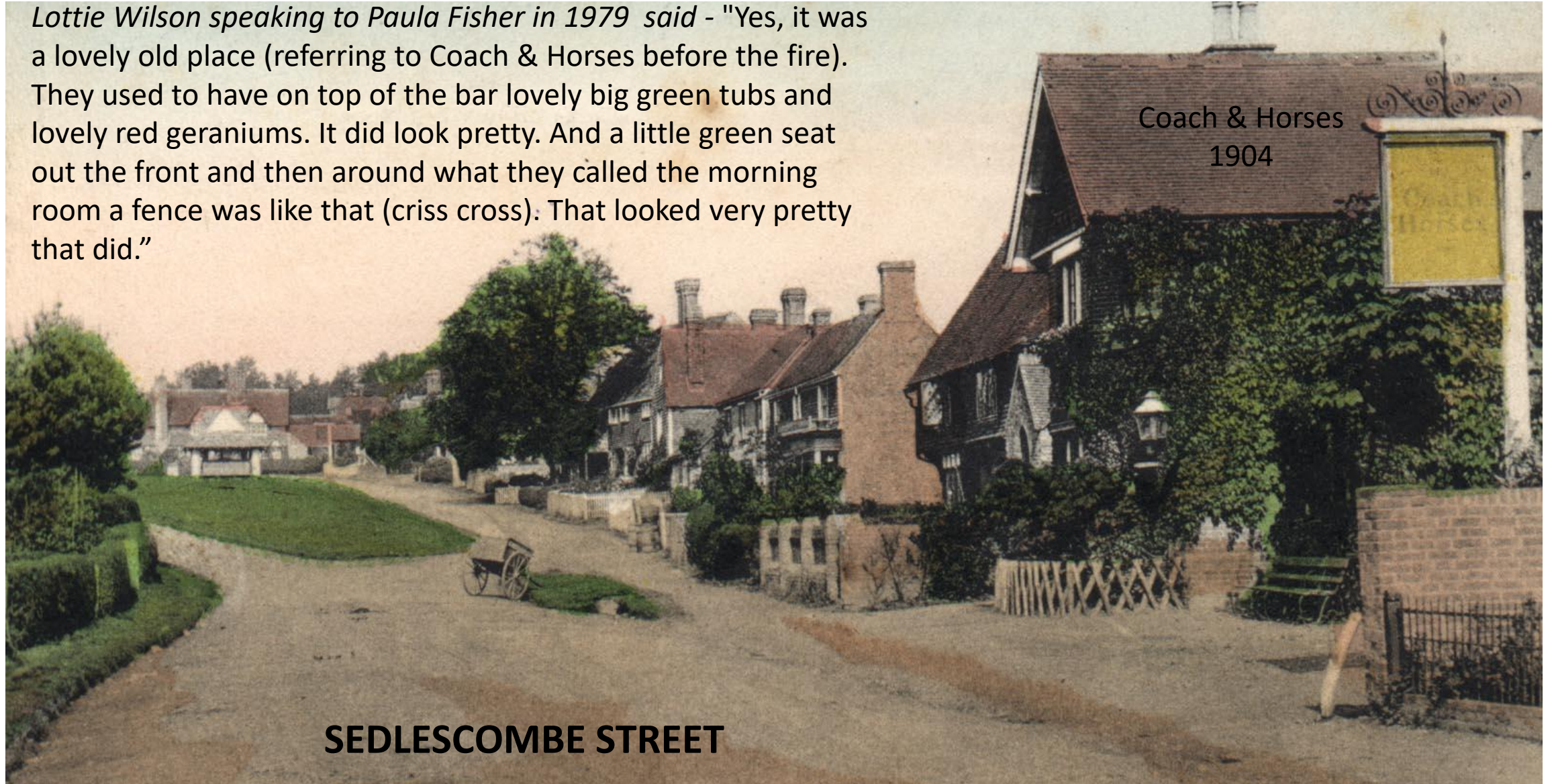
Queen's Head – the top pub

Coach & Horses – the bottom pub

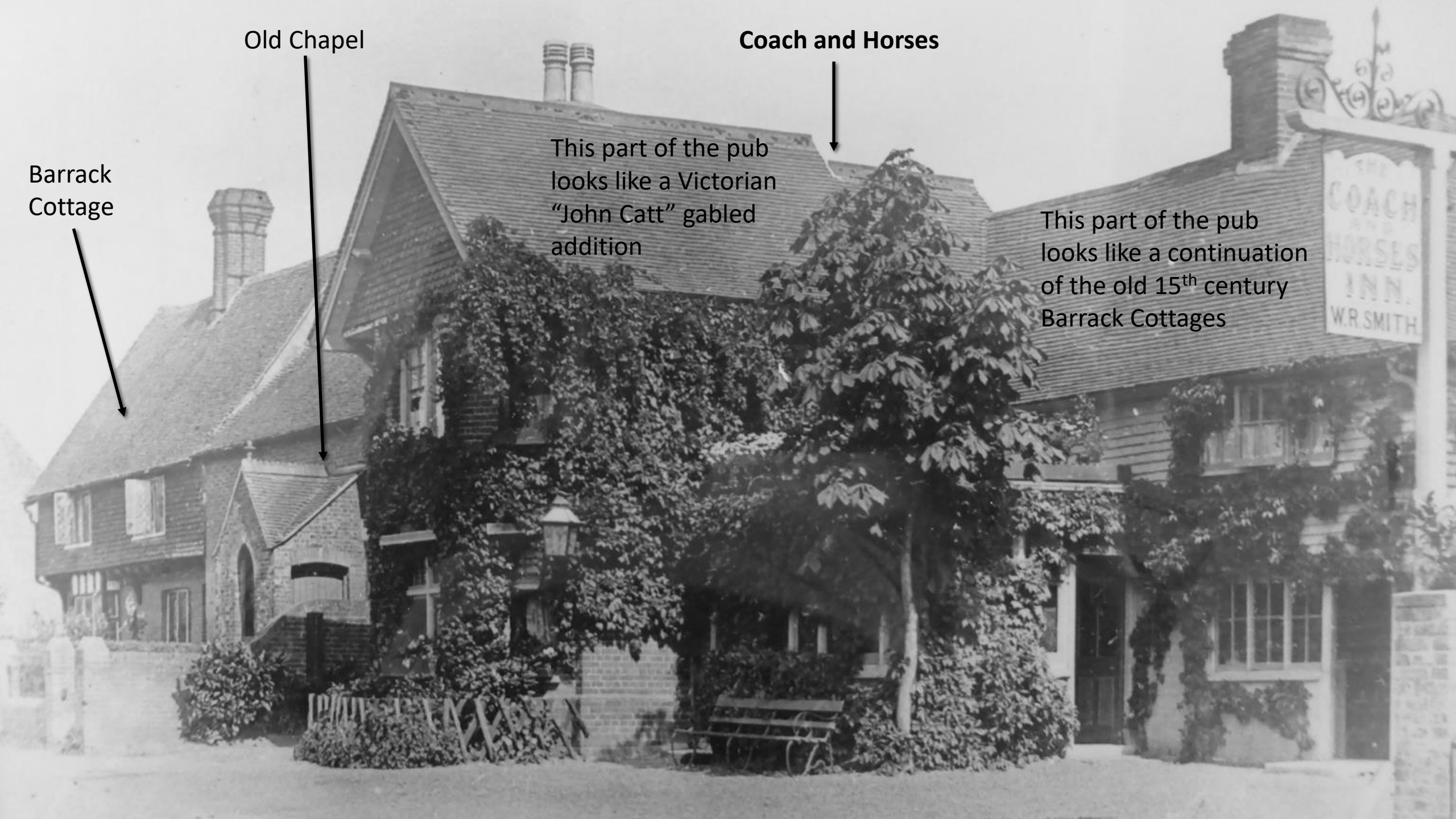


**Old photo taken pre 1900 before the Pumphouse was built**

*Lottie Wilson speaking to Paula Fisher in 1979 said - "Yes, it was a lovely old place (referring to Coach & Horses before the fire). They used to have on top of the bar lovely big green tubs and lovely red geraniums. It did look pretty. And a little green seat out the front and then around what they called the morning room a fence was like that (criss cross). That looked very pretty that did."*



**SEDLESCOMBE STREET**



Barrack  
Cottage



Old Chapel



Coach and Horses



This part of the pub  
looks like a Victorian  
"John Catt" gabled  
addition

This part of the pub  
looks like a continuation  
of the old 15<sup>th</sup> century  
Barrack Cottages

THE  
COACH  
AND  
HORSES  
INN.  
W.R. SMITH

**BARRACK COTTAGES  
USED AT ONE TIME TO  
SPREAD ACROSS THIS  
GARDEN AREA AND  
BEHIND TOWARDS THE  
EAST TOO**

Barrack Cottage and  
Iltonsbeth (remaining  
15<sup>th</sup> century Barrack  
Cottages)

Old Chapel originally built  
in 1813 on site of part of  
Barrack Cottages

Pollards – previously  
Coach & Horses/King's  
Head pub – looks as  
though Barrack  
Cottages spread  
across here too



**MODERN DAY PHOTO**

In 1851, 34 people (14 of them under 16) lived in the 6 Barrack Cottages!

## **Boxing Day at the Coach & Horses, 1856**

**James GOLBY** (aged 35) who was an agricultural labourer and **John INMAN** (aged 45), a carrier, were in the Coach & Horses at Christmas 1856. They both lived in the Barrack Cottages next door (there were 6 cottages at the time). There was obviously “no love lost between them” and they soon became embroiled in an argument. Inman said he didn’t want any row with Golby, but Golby shook his fists in Inman’s face and spat twice at him. Inman was wearing a Sussex frock and wiped his face with it. A crowd of friends and relatives began to gather. Inman called Golby “a rogue” and Golby again threatened Inman with his fists.

At a subsequent court hearing, Golby was fined 5 shillings with costs.

**NOT SUCH A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS IN  
SEDLIESCOMBE! – at  
the Coach & Horses  
at least**

## **DRUNKEN WOMAN AT THE COACH & HORSES, OCTOBER 1878**

**INVOLUNTARY LODGERS.** The landlord James CAMPANEY reported that a woman named Hannah WILKINS, who doesn't appear to have been local, went into the Coach & Horses, laid down on the floor and refused to move. She was drunk and threatened to break the windows.

P.C. Foot was called and conveyed her to Battle Lock-up.

Later Hannah paid her fine of 10 shillings with 22 shillings costs.



IN THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, A VISITOR TO DIEPPE, FRANCE, WROTE THIS NEWSPAPER REPORT ABOUT HIS CHANCE MEETING WITH “OLD ALF AKEHURST”, LATE OF SEDLESCOMBE COACH AND HORSES

“I was suddenly struck by the sound of English voices and hearty laughter. I looked up and saw the lights of a brasserie and a sign ‘*Albion Tavern: Ye Olde Alf Akehurst from Hastings*’.

“By George! I had known him three years ago, when he kept the Coach and Horses in Sedlescomb. He used to ride postillion to the first Lady Brassey. How his name recalled the jingle of posting bells, the clattering of hoofs and electioneering times, of sanded floors, long Horsely pipes, high spindle chairs and ale-house ditties – long walks in Sussex lanes and long, cool draughts of English beer!”

Advertisement from the Penny Illustrated paper, 1894

**OLD ALF. AKEHURST,**

**WINE AND SPIRIT  
MERCHANT**

**THE COACH & HORSES  
SEDLESCOMBE.**

“Then there was what they called the old tap room where they used to play darts and games and, of course, they had an ostler as horses used to draw up there. The men had their bait, their pint of beer and gave their horses a rest and put their nosebags on.” *Lottie Wilson speaking to Paula Fisher in 1979*



About 1900

SEDLESCOMBE

106

1900

The Forge

Forge House

Sellens & Cramp

Barrack Cottage

Old Chapel

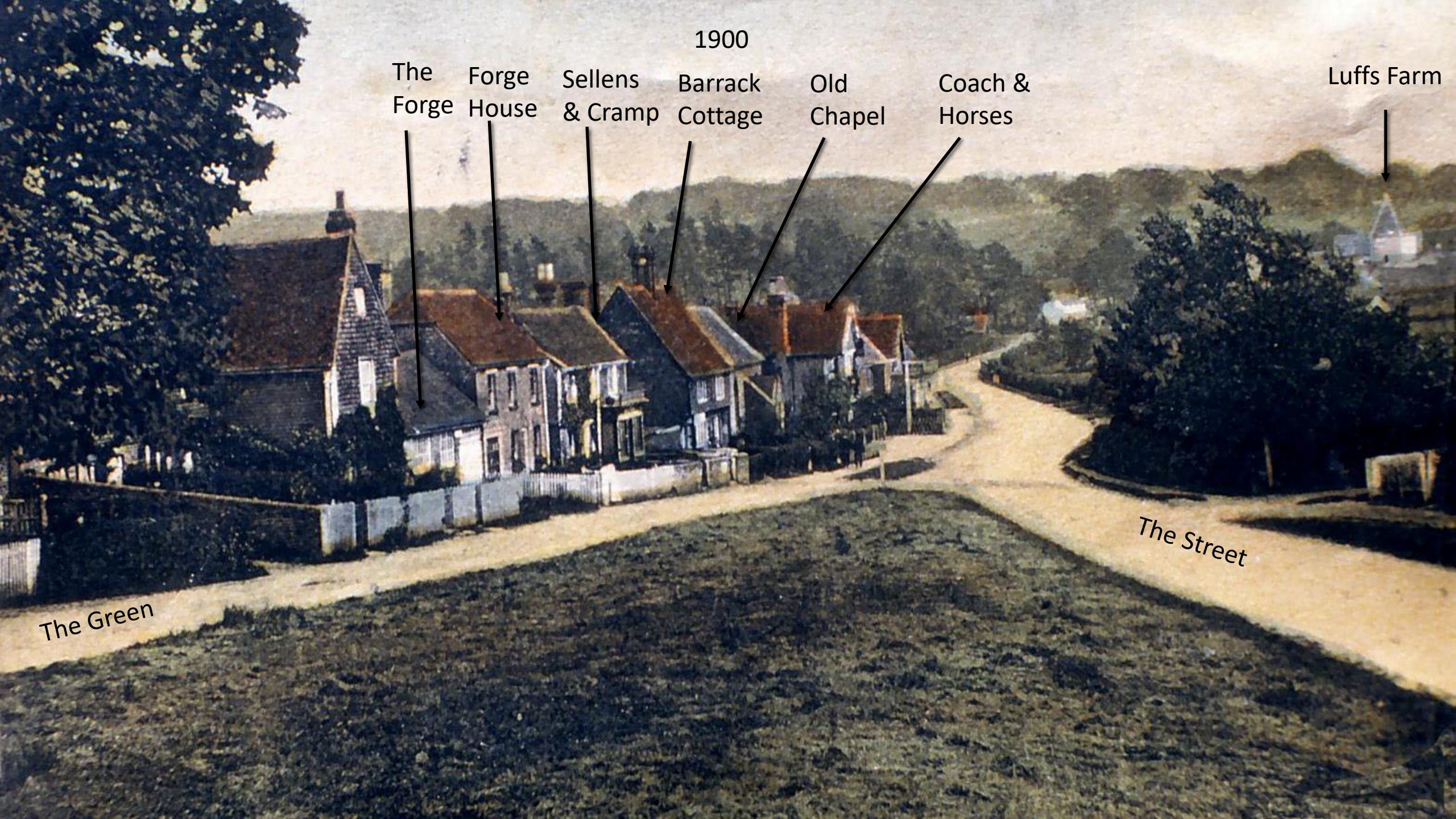
Coach & Horses

Luffs Farm



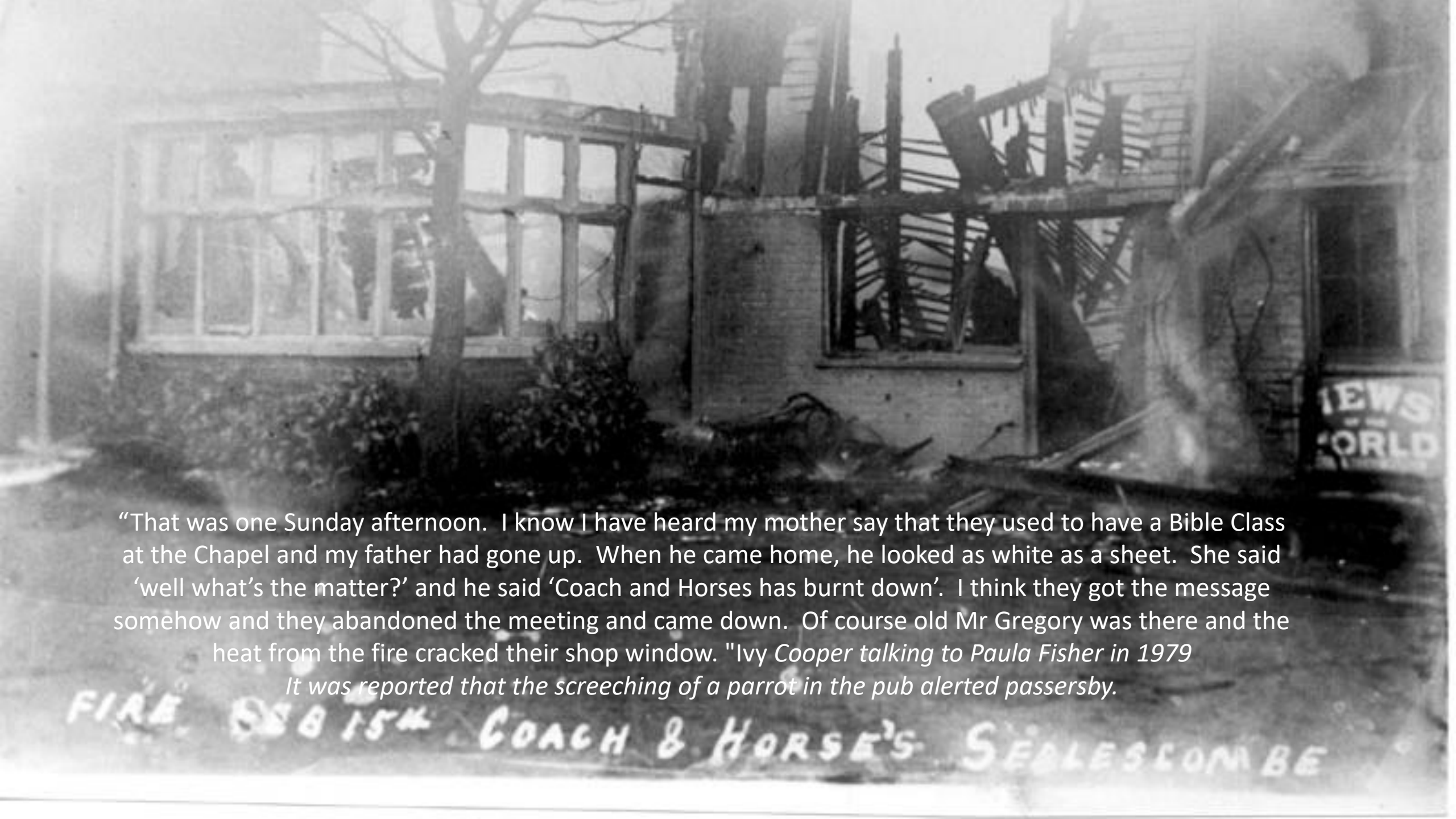
The Green

The Street





WHILE MR FIELD THE LANDLORD went for a Sunday afternoon walk with his family on 15 February 1914, The Coach and Horses was gutted by fire, the flames no doubt fed by the ample supply of highly inflammable spirits on the premises. Much of the charm of the old structure was lost in the rebuilding.



“That was one Sunday afternoon. I know I have heard my mother say that they used to have a Bible Class at the Chapel and my father had gone up. When he came home, he looked as white as a sheet. She said ‘well what’s the matter?’ and he said ‘Coach and Horses has burnt down’. I think they got the message somehow and they abandoned the meeting and came down. Of course old Mr Gregory was there and the heat from the fire cracked their shop window.” *Ivy Cooper talking to Paula Fisher in 1979*

*It was reported that the screeching of a parrot in the pub alerted passersby.*

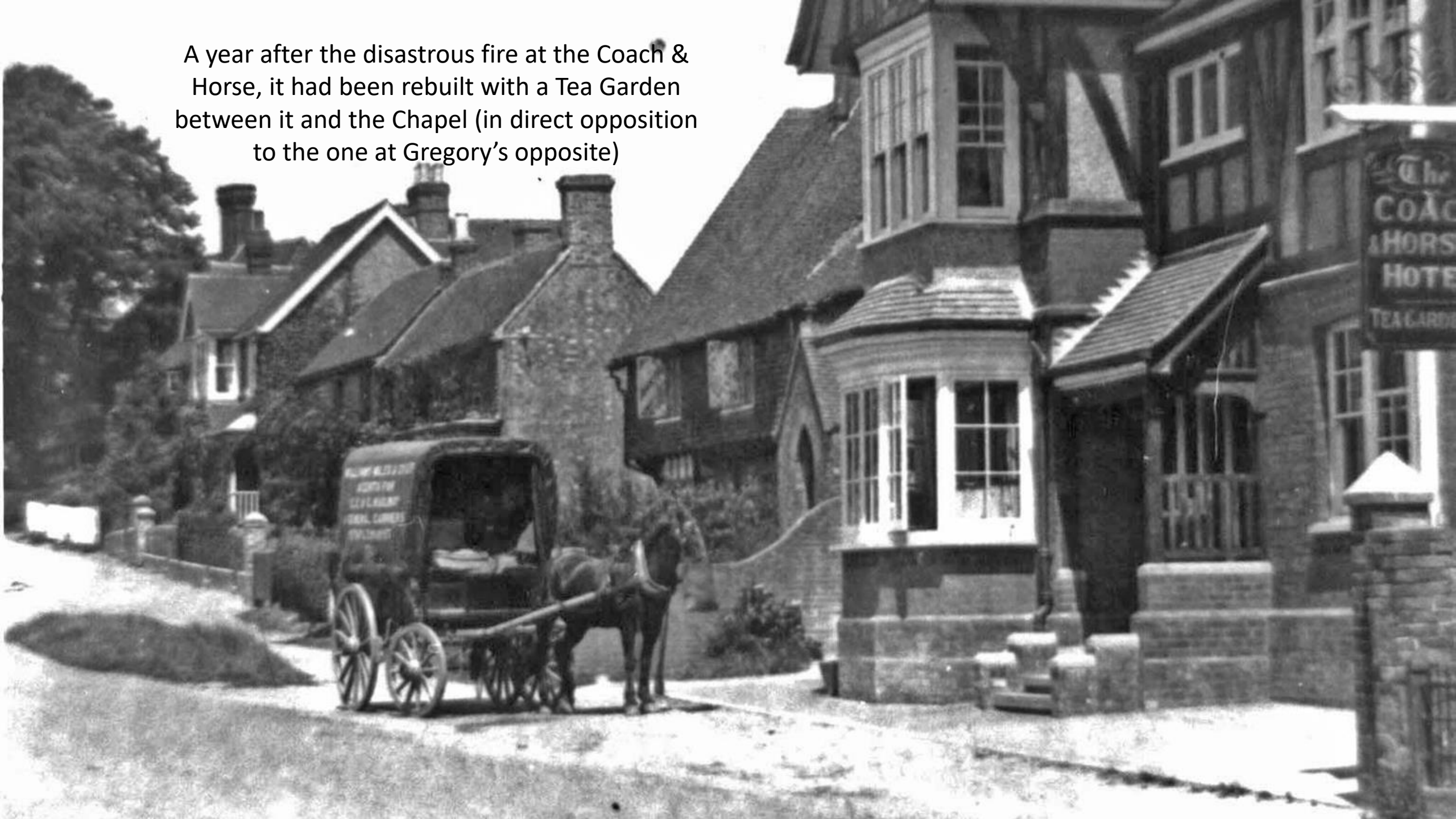
FIRE 888 15th COACH & HORSE'S SEALES COM BE



They brought the old fire engine from Battle which was manually worked and the village men took turns all afternoon pumping from the stream. But they couldn't save the old place. *Edgar Boxall speaking to Frank Johnson and others in 1984*

FIRE FEB 15<sup>th</sup>. COACH & HORSE'S SEDLESTON BE

A year after the disastrous fire at the Coach & Horse, it had been rebuilt with a Tea Garden between it and the Chapel (in direct opposition to the one at Gregory's opposite)



## STORM HAVOC AT THE COACH & HORSES IN THE 1930s

“A vivid flash of lightning that came with a deafening thunderclap paralysed Sedlescombe’s electric light supply one Sunday evening when it struck the village transformer.

“The same flash struck 3 wireless aerials that met on a tree behind the Coach & Horses Hotel. The wireless set in the hotel lounge was blown off the shelf, smashing a window and was shattered.

Next door at the Tithe Barn tearooms, the lightning flash split the window curtains and put their wireless set out of action!”

## AT THE COACH & HORSES IN THE 1930s





“When they reached the village, they made straight for the Coach & Horses pub and the window at the side of the building where under-age customers were served.

“*‘Four bags of Smiths crisps please’* said Willie grandly, feeling around in his pocket for the precious shilling which he proffered to the landlord.

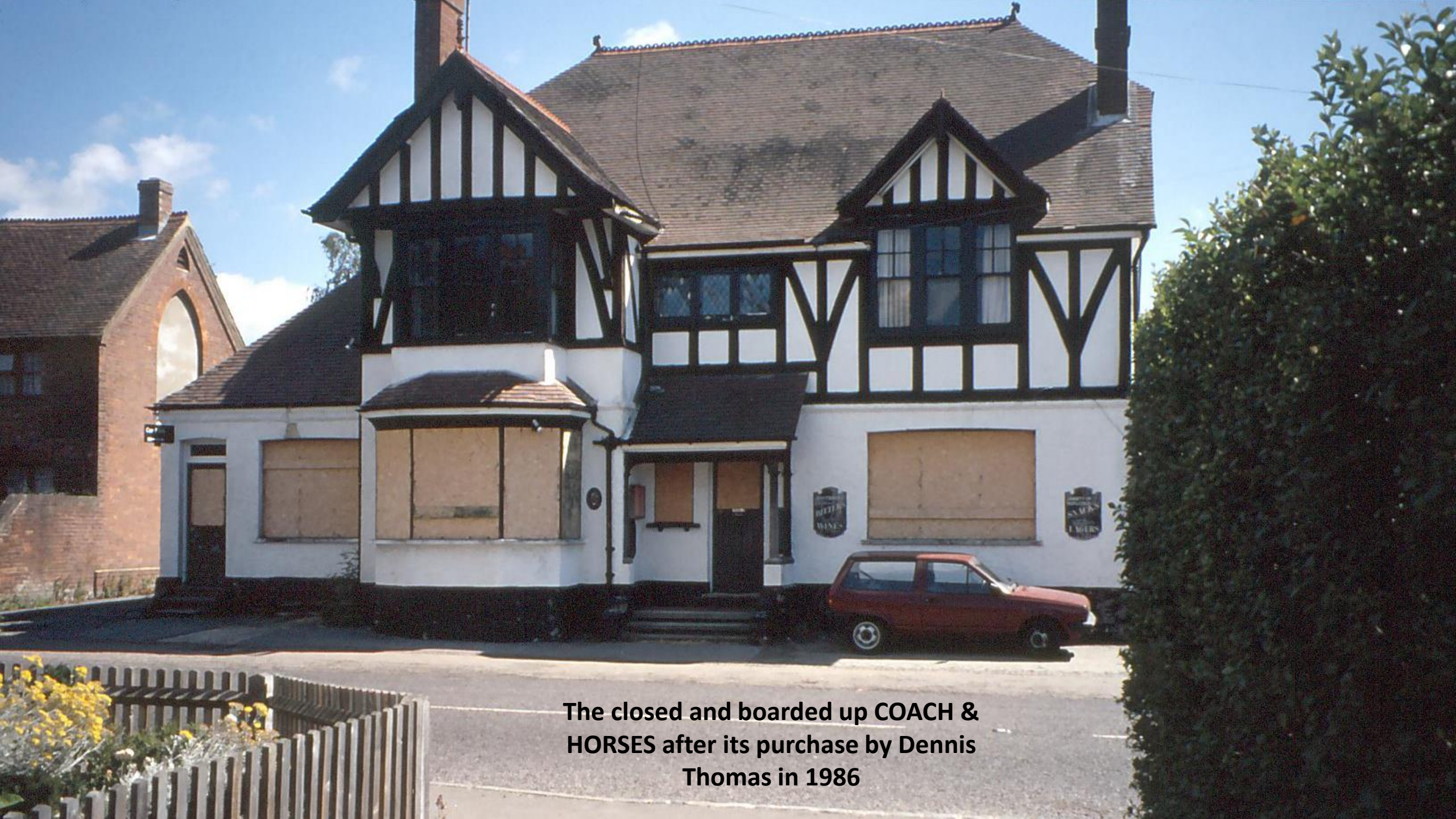
“*‘Are there any other kind?’*”, the Landlord muttered grumpily. When the fat, crinkly bags were placed in front of them, they all made a grab for them. *‘Don’t open them until we get to the pump, we’ll eat them there’*, Willie said.

*Extract from “More Cotton Reels” by Sally Cotton reminiscing about her childhood in Sedlescombe*



**SEDLSCOMBE FOOTBALL CLUB DINNER AT COACH & HORSES IN 1949. (l-r) Pat Angel from Moorhurst, Westfield, Eric Fellows, School House, Balcombe Green, unknown, Harry Godwin (died young from TB) and Bryon Angel**





**The closed and boarded up COACH & HORSES after its purchase by Dennis Thomas in 1986**



Dennis Thomas chose the name “Pollards” as Mr Pollard was the landlord of “the bottom pub” when he was a boy



# THE END

PART OF THE 2020 SEDLESCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY VIRTUAL EXHIBITION  
COLLECTION ADDED TO BATTLE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE 2024

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