"A Road of Distinction"

a noble history of Southcote Road

Part 1 - Walking Northwards - West Side

by

Anne Green Jessel
Over a period of time I have researched this road and have been taken back well and truly into the past. Most of my research was carried out when living at Hampton Towers. Also numerous visits to Reading Library within the Archive Department - pouring over maps, books, looking into various directories and Reading Review journals, Census returns, past estate agents, and searching for many pictures and... still searching, to help complete the scene. Results of my research below are as below and I would be overjoyed if anyone can connect to just some of the names mentioned.

I have found out who lived in the lovely detached houses and semi detached villas lining both the west and eastern side of the road - starting from late 19th century - their heyday - up until towards the late 40s when the old Southcote Road began to meet its demise. 50s/60s style architecture and apartment blocks sprung up from the blue print of these historical beautiful homes filling the road with "Courts". If our forbearers were to come back, they would probably be shocked at the totally unrecognisable style of living. Mainly around the turn of the century and into the early 20th century, residents were of local fame and fortune. They enjoyed gentlemens' lifestyles. But we must also remember families went through the arduous years of the Boer War 1899 - 1902; WW1 1914 - 1918 and WW2 1939 - 1945. Along with the ladies of the households, these highly fashionable homes included the butler; housemaids; other servants; governess's; nannies and grooms. **Part 1** will be walking northwards from the Bath Road to meet the Tilehurst Road. **Part 2** will be walking across the road Tilehurst Road end and walking southwards toward the Bath Road. A note: My first record of a home in Southcot Crescent is in fact the Bath Road of today - Lexden House. Similarly I will include just around the corner up the west side from the top most large house and its nearest neighbour - Kentons. Both these houses exist today albeit having experienced multi changes of use.

**NB:** Some gaps in household occupancy could be related to the years during the second Boer War 1899 - 1902; WW1 1914 - 1918
and WW2 1939 - 1945 (some conflicts were happening earlier); being vacant; in care of house staff; closing down awaiting decisions of sale; or sadly new planning for the road occurring around the mid sixties; or... I simply haven't tracked down the information!

N.B. The outlines are not necessarily the contours of the houses

Modern day leafy Southcote Road agj 2017

Modern day picture – a home of nobility. “Westfield” built circa 1881 of Southcot Crescent  agj 2017
"LEXDEN HOUSE" (1.)

Southcot Crescent (off the Bath Road) "Lexden House" started it's life around 1871. Recorded in 1871 census.

1871-1884 Mr Charles Edward Hitchcock 54 b. Colchester Essex lived here with his wife Mary Baker 55 b. Downham, Norfolk. They had a daughter Alice Mary 25 b. Colchester, Essex. In attendance was Harriet Starling 29 b. Lawford, Essex, who was the Cook. Mr Hitchcock's profession was in Pharmacy. Picture agj 1998

The 1881 census records show that Mr William Winter 26 b. Southampton Hampshire was in Charge of House along with his wife Sarah 37, also born in Southampton. They possibly moved in 1881 -1884. They had three children: Amy 6 who was a Scholar, Laura 3 and Louis 2, all born in Yateley Hampshire.

Between 1884 - 1886 Colonel Hon. William Henry Herbert resided at Lexden House.

1886 - 1912 Mr Charles Bradley 45 b. Ashbourne along with his wife Augusta 35 b. Reading moved into Lexden House. They had two sons Arthur 13 and Charles 12 both born in Reading. In attendance was Ellen Draper 23 b. Salisbury Wiltshire who was their Cook and Sarah Keble 21 b. Catmore Berkshire who was the Housemaid. Mr Bradley was a Head Pharmaceutical Chemist and Wholesale Druggist.

Many advertisements can be found promoting "Bradley's Pharmacy" also a Dispensing Establishment which was based in 46 Market Place Reading. "Eau de Cologne No. 4711 and Old English Lavender Water were
the feature of the day! Trusses and rubber hot water bottles and sponges. The shop building exists today. Present day occupiers are Chancellor's Estate Agent.

The house changed its name to...

60 Bath Road

Mr Alfred Callas lived in Lexden House from 1912 → No record of his length of stay. 

OUTCOME: It remained a family home and during the 50s became the home to Professor Clegg and family (now of University of Leicester).

Later during the 1970s the house was used as a Rest Home called Beech House until around 2014 when it was renovated and turned into an Executive Hotel. The name remains. Many of the fine Victorian fittings inside the house have been restored.

"WESTFIELD" (3.)

Southcot Crescent "Westfield" started its life around 1881. Nothing recorded in 1871 census. This first house was a grand opening to the road, just along and round the corner from Lexden House in Southcot Crescent.

The elegant mansion housed a gentleman Mr Thomas Moreland 58 b. London. He was a past Hounds and Kennels Keeper and lived with his wife Ann 57 b. Camberwell Surrey, and adopted daughter Etty 15 b. London. During his Mastership of the Old Berkshire Hunt way back in 1835 he'd had several huntsmen. He was at that time in residence at Sheepstead House Abingdon.

At Westfield they enjoyed the services of a Housekeeper and a
There was a cottage attached where Cook Ellen Durman 22 lived b. Eversley Hampshire. Coachman William Tyler 55 and his wife Mary 54, both b. in North Lopsom Norfolk, also resided there.

1884 - 1899 Three years later Mr Walter Palmer MP Baronet and Biscuit Manufacturer moved in. Sir Walter along with his wife Jane and daughter Gladys aged 7 lived here for 15 years. There was also a brother-in-law mentioned in the 1891 census, Gentleman Milton Craig 26 b. Harecastle Staffordshire. Included in the household were a Butler, George Hooker 21 b. London; Ladies Maid Frances Bracey 26 b. Warlington Oxon; Cook Elizabeth Coxhead 26 b. Hampstead Marshall Berkshire; Kitchen Maid Tammy Newman 19 b. East Hendred; Housemaid Elizabeth Silver 26 b. Shinfield Berkshire.

Mr Palmer's Footman was Joseph Beckett 17 b. Newnham.

Extracted from Reading Review
"He was a biscuit manufacturer and a Conservative Party politician who sat in the House of Commons from 1900 to 1906. Sir Walter was the 3rd son of George Palmer who founded the firm of the famous world known Huntley & Palmer Biscuit Manufacturers. Sir Walter was to invent the "Breakfast Biscuit". Walter was a scientist who perfected this medicated biscuit using yeast in order to help his friend. In 1892 the biscuit was introduced to France and was such a success both at home and abroad, a new breakfast biscuit factory had to be built.

Sir Walter was educated at University College, London, and also at the Sorbonne in Paris. He became a director of the firm of H & P and was also the first chairman of University College, Reading in 1900. An engineering wing is named after him. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire. A well known agriculturist he wrote
a book on "Poultry Management on a Farm." Lady Palmer was well known in London for her interest in music. Both she and Sir Walter took part in many philanthropic works especially in regard to hospitals both in Ascot and London.

In 1900, **Sir Walter Palmer** was elected Member of Parliament for Salisbury. He lost his seat in the general election of 1906 by the narrow margin of 41 votes. It was in 1904 he received a baronetcy. When **Sir Walter** died in Newbury at the young age of 52, 16 April 1910, the Baronetcy became extinct.

During this period, the Westfield stables, accommodated two grooms by the names of Thomas Studley 19 b. Caversham and Henry Jordan 17 b. Reading. Living in Westfield Coach House were the Head Coachman/groom Mr William Rumble 29 b. Reading, along with his wife Martha 33 b. Dungate in Cambridgeshire. They had a small son William.

1899 - 1900 the occupancy of the house belonged to **Mrs Butler and Mrs Richards.** (Could **Mrs Butler** be the proud Mum of son - local boy Basil, who became Abbot of Downshire Abbey?) Not ascertained.

**Miss Kate Radcliffe** moved in shortly after. She ran a school for Gentlemen's Daughters for ten years until 1910.

1911 - 1927 witnessed the next occupier being **Dr Jamieson Boyd Hurry M.A. M.D.** He was a famous local Historian. He occupied Westfield until it became a **Carmellite Monastery** in 1927 to 1998. **Dr Jamieson** had been married in 1892 to the
daughter of Mr Arthur Hill ex Mayor of Reading 1883 - 87 Gertrude Louisa and produced a son and a daughter.

Quoted from Smith's Directory 1920

"Arthur Hill Memorial Baths were erected 1911 in memory of the late Arthur Hill Esq. of Erleigh Court, Mayor of Reading 1883 - 87 and presented to the borough by his children. The site was handed over by Dr Jamieson Hurry J.P."

Extracted from Reading Review

He acted as Secretary to the Reading Pathological Society and was Vice-President of the London Obstetrical Society. Upon his retirement he took up a Partnership with Dr. M. W. Coleman in General Practice and Consulting. He was Director of the Reading Gas Company, Chairman of the Reading Cemetery Company and President of the Reading Literacy and Scientific Company. Dr Jamieson was much interested in the promotion of public libraries and was a member of the Free Library and Museum Committee of the Reading Corporation. Dr Hurry prepared many books elucidating the History of Reading. The most famous of which are "Reading Abbey" and "King Henry Beauclere and Reading Abbey." He presented a memorial to Henry 1 which stands in the Forbury Gardens Reading the site of Reading Abbey (Picture). After forty years in Reading upon his departure to live in Bournemouth he presented a handsome picture of "The Parliament of Henry VI at Reading Abbey. A.D 1453."

In 1927 - 1998 Westfield became a Carmellete Monastery.

Extracted from "Getreading text 1998

In 1926 it was taken over by the order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a Christian group founded during
the Crusades. Their life was dedicated to a life of meditation and prayer. By October there were only ten Carmelite Sisters left and the Vatican gave its approval for them to move on. In the basement area of the house large slates were discovered where the nuns used to wash their habits. It took enormous strength to lift them away.

**OUTCOME 1998**: All the buildings remain but have change of use. The main building has been converted into luxury apartments. Intense research ensured preservation orders on various tree specimens, and surveillance by the bat wardens from English Nature. Today, some of the extensive garden is occupied with adjoining blocks of flats. There is an area reserved for a nature walk. Many of the specimen trees remain. Within the old original brick walls, and still visible, are bricked up openings where the romance of coach and horses of the early days were driven through. Left picture shows the old walls separating Westfield and the next house "Turret House."

"TURRET HOUSE" (5.)

Southcot Crescent "Turret House" started its life around and before 1871. "Turret House" was a well built detached residence. It appeared in the 1871 census and was then occupied by Mr George Gilligan until 1922 b. Reading. By the age of 32 he had married in 1871 and was living with his wife Helen 32 b. London. The 1871 census indicates there were carers looking after the house. (Mr Gillingham travelled extensively.) They included mainly
agricultural staff: James Painter 38 b. Aldbourne Wiltshire. He was an Agricultural Labourer/Carer of the house and lived with his wife Elizabeth 36 b. Aldbourne. There were six children: John 14, James 11, Charles 8 Sarah Ann 6, Daniel 3 and Frederick 8 months, all born in Reading.

1881 census returns:
They had four children Beatrice 8 b. Reading who was a Scholar, followed by Kathleen 6 Scholar and Geoffrey 4 also a Scholar. There was baby John 2 and all were born in Reading. They employed five staff who were: Emma Webb 32 b. Caversham who was the Nurse; Phyliss Berry 25 b. Kidlington, Oxford, who was the Cook/Housemaid; Emma Bruton 28 b. Witney, Oxon, who was a Housemaid joined by Rhoda Pilgrim 14 b. Reading. Charles Gregory 17 b. Banbury Oxon held position of Groom.
The family occupied the house for 47 years.

Mr George Gillingham J.P. was a Leather Manufacturer and had a staff of 60.

Extracted from Reading Review
"He was the son of George Goyer Gillingham of Castle Hill Reading b. 1849. He was educated at Queens College Taunton and married the daughter of John Vanner J.P who was the late Chairman of Star Insurance Company. Their eldest son Geoffrey became a Captain in the 4th Argyle and Sutherlandshire Highlanders serving through the South African War and since then under the Colonial Office in British Guiana and Somaliland. The younger son John was a Lieutenant in the 19th Hussars and served through the South African War."

Mr Gillingham was a Justice of the Peace for the Borough of Reading and served on the Corporation in his early life. He was the President of the Local Liberal Unionist Association. He was very interested in all philanthropic work and travelled widely. He visited exotic places such as Egypt, Persia, China, Japan, America, The Balkans, and Africa. He loved golf, motoring and amateur photography. Mr Gillingham is a descendant
of a family who settled in this country shortly after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. *Picture :Reading Corporation 1879*

1891 Census returns: George Gilligan 42; Wife Helen 42 and Beatrice now 18; Not included in census returns were Kathleen now 16 Scholar, and Geoffrey 14 Scholar. Service staff in residence: Annie Palfrey 34 b. Wellington Shropshire, Cook; Ellen Pike 28 b. Elvesham Hampshire, Maid; Marie Barker 18 b. Wallington Oxon, Housemaid; Ellen Bradley 26 b. London, Housemaid; Edward Watts 27 b. Tilehurst Reading, Lodger/Groom/Coachman.

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1925-1927 Turret House was occupied by **Major Hugh Douglas Hawkins**
1928- 1929 **Mrs Mercer Laurence Lane- Fox.**

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1930 **Turret House** came onto the market. By this time the postal address was Southcote Road. Cooksey and Walker handled the sale at the Chamber of Commerce 156 Friar Street Reading.

*Outside Accommodation:*
"Turret House" - having a frontage of about 262 feet. A return frontage to WestGate (Westcote) Road of about 274 feet and an area of nearly 1.5 acres, with conveniently planned accommodation. Good outbuildings were included, namely: garage with stabling and conservatories. Electric light was installed; gas and mains water laid on with main drainage; central heating and no road charges.

*Text and pictures extracted from Cooksey and Walker’s sale details. Reading Archives*

*Inside accommodation:* Entrance; lounge; cloakroom; rear lobby; drawing room; dining room; morning room and library. Domestic offices leading from a secondary staircase were a
servants hall; butlers pantry; kitchen and scullery. Has good dry cellars.

Back to main house:
Second floor is approached by pitch pine staircase with mahogany rail leading to a landing with housemaids cupboard; bedroom 1; bedroom 2; bedroom 3; bedroom 4; dressing room or small bedroom and bathroom. All rooms are fitted in opulent detail.

Outbuildings: Gardeners tool shed; fitted stoke-hoe with boiler and piping for heating conservatories; a timber and galvanised iron open shed; 3 pit lights; span roof double conservatory; rainwater wells (inside and out); fowl house and run. Vinery with 7 vines; fruit room fitted with 22 trays; brick built and tiled range of stabling and garage having separate entrance with drive to the house. This Comprises: 3 stall stables and 1 loose box; harness room and garage for 2 cars.

Garage or Coach House - 4 living rooms over, and WC - plus covered yard with WC.

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Mrs E.K. Huleatt moved into the house following the sale 1934 until 1940. She was "Head" of Turret House and mother of Miss H. C. Huleatt who had previously lived in Oakland Hall - Reading. Miss Helen Huleatt went on to live in Flat 4 129 Castle Hill in 1939/40 possibly after her mothers death.

Helen Cornelia Huleatt M.B.E J.P. was born in Shalford Surrey. She was the daughter of the late Brigadier-General Hugh Huleatt of the Royal Engineers. Miss Huleatt was educated at Upton House Slough, and the Eunice High School Bloemfontain, South Africa. During the war Miss Huleatt was Divisional Secretary of Chester Red Cross Society and Officer in charge of two voluntary hospitals.

In 1918 she received the M.B.E. She came to live in Reading at the end of the war, and in 1928 was elected to the Reading Town Council for Castle Ward. She took the town by the horns.
"She served on numerous committees. Namely education; health; finance; and general purposes; maternity and child welfare; public assistance; public libraries; watch; theatres licensing; and local pensions of which she was Chairman.

In 1934 was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Borough of Reading. Miss Huleatt was a member of St Mary's Parochial Church Council; Ruri-decanal Conference and Dioscesan Conference. She was president of the Reading Federation of Girls Club; and honorary secretary of the Central Girls Clubs. President of Reading Junior Conservative and Unionist Association; vice-president of Reading Women's Conservative Association; Chairman of Castle Ward Women's Conservative Association; Chairman of Castle Ward Branch of the Royal Berkshire Hospital Aid Committee; District Head of Reading Division of the Soldiers and Sailors Help Society; Governor of Kendrick Girls School and of St Joseph's Convent; Almoner of Christ's Hospital Trustee of Green Girls Foundation. Miss Huleatt was interested in all forms of sport.

Address: Turret House Southcote Road Reading."

A house sale was found in "Reading Review 1939" for the sum of three thousand, two hundred and fifty pounds - Nicholas Estate Agents which fits the description of Turret House.

1940 - 1949→ onwards. The house was split into six flats Part of the gardens made way for Waverley Court circa 1964.

OUTCOME: The house was eventually demolished and Kingswood Court was built on the site of the house circa 1976.

"TURRET HOUSE LODGE AND STABLES" (7.)
1871 in the adjoining cottage/stables at the time of Mr George Gillingham's residency were : James Glinch 29 b. Thatcham, Berkshire, who was an Agricultural Labourer. He lived with wife Susannah 38 b. Peppard, Berkshire.
They had two children Mary Elizabeth 11 and Martha Isabella 2, both born in Reading. John 13 a son of Susannah also lived here b. Peppard Berkshire, together with James’ mother Mary Elizabeth Glinch 60 b. Thatcham. 1888 - 1889 also housed Henry Shackler and Thomas Cooke from 1890 - 1891→. No record for the next five years until 1897 - 1898 when Henry King lived here, then short bursts of residency occurred. Richard Mortimer lived here 1899 - 1900 with no record the following year. Robert Mortimer was here 1902 - 1903 and for the next twenty two years no record. These dates included the 2nd Boer War 1899 -1902 and the Great War WW1 1914 – 1918. Ernest Searle resided from 1925 - 1927 with yet another gap in the records until 1934 when Alfred Cooke was here for five years. For the next seven years, and including and during WW2 years 1939 - 1945, no record. 1946 - 1947→ Mr Frank Herbert Malpress was in residence. The Lodge was turned into between 2 - 3 flats 1949 → 1964 to present.

**OUTCOME:**
The building exists today with the remains of the lovely garden wall which used to extend along the frontage of Turret House. The original boundary wall of the house leading down Westcote Road shows the archway entrance/exit for the coach and horses. Westcote Road was originally called Southcote Road West.

We next cross over the top end of what was then named Southcote Road West (Westcote Road). We proceed northwards to the next house on the west side of Southcote Road. Pre 1891 this was an area of recreation with tennis courts.
"IONA HOUSE" (9.)

Iona House Southcote Road built pre 1891.

1891-1893 Mrs Mary Ravenscroft was living in the house 70 b. Reading. She was head of house and was widow of William Ravenscroft living on her own means. Her son also William 43 b. Reading, was at this time living in the house. He was an Architect and Surveyor. During this period he had been renowned for designing the Masonic Buildings in Henley-on-Thames 1876; Abbey Wharf Offices 1881; and 1888 Streatley View.

(Information from archiseek.com)

There were many other buildings with his name. William's gift to Architecture exists today and indeed was very famous for his work. He was later to build a house for himself on the other side of Southcote Road, but more about that later.

Joining them were Mrs Ravenscrofts' niece Alice 33 b. Reading; Frederick Ravenscroft 14; Harold 10; and Edgar 8 all of whom were her grandsons. They were all born in Reading. Helping in the household were: Elizabeth Robey 23 b. Farnborough, and Ellen Shorter 19 b. Cookingham, Berkshire, Cook and Housemaid respectively.

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Iona House was to have two more short time occupiers.

1893 - 1894 → Mr Herbert Laurence followed by
1897 - 1899 Mr Thomas Hayden Searle.

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1900 - 1908 Mr Thomas and James Allsop was to reside in Iona
1909 - 1919 → Mr Robert James Allsop.

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1921 - 1936 Dr Earnest Duncan Fraser Rowland was living here
1936 - 1940 → Mrs Fraser Rowland is recorded as on her own

1944 - 1947 Mr Graham Bezer lived in the house.

1947 - 1958 → Dr Harold Lauder MRCS LRCP took up residence. These were the years of a medical fraternity, with Dr Ernest Duncan Fraser Rowland and a relation Dr Edward Walton Rowland in the next door house "Inversnaid" during this year. OUTCOME: Demolished following this period.
By 1964 Wisdom Court had been built and was occupied. Dunleary Court lay behind.

"LOW LADY" (part of 11.)
Southcote Crescent "Low Lady" appeared in the census 1891. According to the Ordnance survey map 1877 both Iona House and Inversnaid House were built on the site of a previous recreation ground and tennis courts. "Low Lady" No. 11 Southcote Road 1938, was attached to Inversnaid (No.11). As yet I cannot find any connection or information about "Low Lady."
1942 - 1949 → No record.

"INVERSNAID" (11.)
Inversnaid Southcote Crescent built pre 1891.
1891 - 1892 Mr Thomas Cooke 44 b. Tamworth, Warwickshire lived here with his wife Frances 34 b. Sydney, Australia. They had nine children namely: Eva 9 and Edith 8 both born in Tamworth. Sons Etienne 7; Alwyn 6; and Waldyce 5 were all born in Reading. Winifred 3 and two further sons Bruno 2 and Louis 1, and baby Sylvia under 6 months were also born in the town. They were cared for by Caroline Smith 30 b. Kingsclere, who was the Sick Nurse; and Emily Baleman 15 b. Great Marlow Buckinghamshire who worked as the Under Nurse. Harriet Wright 21 b. Chasetown Staffordshire was employed as the Cook and Minnie Tucker 18 b. Reading worked as Housemaid.
Mr Thomas Cooke was a well known Head of Wholesale Clothing and Manufacturer.

1894 - 1895 was a short term occupier Captain Charles Turner followed by 1897 - 1906 Charles Edwin Morris

In 1908 - 1915 the house was occupied by Siegfried Schuabacker and at the end of his residency, there was to be the start of a medical dynasty.

1915 - 1926 Dr Edward Walton S. Rowland M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P. London, Cantab (?relation of Dr Ernest Duncan Rowland of "Iona House") set up a practice. During the next 4 years Dr's Cane and Alcock joined the force until 1930 with Dr Edward Walton Spencer Rowland continuing until 1931-32. Dr Alcock eventually lived at 63 Cottesmore Court, Stanford Road, London W.8. He died in 1960.

Extracted from the Reading Mercury October 1960

"Dr Stanley Alcock, was a foremost practitioner in Reading. He died in a London hospital a few days following his retirement aged 63. He was born in Derby followed by education at Derby School and Reading University where he read medicine. Dr Alcock was a keen sportsman captaining university cricket teams and represented them at football. Following university he joined the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and served as a Captain in France during WW1. In 1923 he came to Reading forming a Partnership with Dr Rowland and Dr Cane. The surgery first operated from Inversnaid and then moved to Western Elms Lodge, Oxford Road. Here he continued his medical practice for the rest of his medical career. He sat on numerous committees acting as Chairman or Executive Member. These included the Entertainment Committee for War Weapons and Reading Warship Week; Reading Savings Committee; United Entertainments and Publicity Committee of the Salute Army's Campaign in 1944."
Dr Alcock's tremendous interest in football saw him as a Member of the Directors of Reading Football Club. During the late 50s he moved to "Homestead, Burghfield Common although he continued his practice at his Reading address where he was the Senior Partner. Golf was another favourite past time and he could be seen both at Sonning and the Berkshire Club. Dr Alcock was a founder member of the Executive Council of Reading National Health Service which started in 1947. He remained a Member of the council until 1950. Until 1948 he was Chairman of the local Obstetric Committee. He was survived by his widow and two sons all of whom lived in London. 1932 - 1936."

Inversnaid (originally no. 11) became No. 13 Southcote Road by this time. The road was beginning to see building change. Picture shows original entrance to "Inversnaid"

1932 - 1936 Mr George G. S. Field 30 b. Reading moved to Inversnaid. for a short time. Official title Col. G.S. Field O.B.E., T.D, B.A. he was married in 1923 Margaret Ursula Young. They had two daughters. Extracted from Reading Review "Who's Who" 1947 - 1948. He was educated at Cothill House near Abingdon, and Marlborough College and Exeter College Oxford, where he took an Arts degree. Mr Field was a Solicitor by profession and joined his fathers (Cllr. Charles Gynningham Field) practice in Reading, eventually becoming a Partner. Mr Field had a distinguished Service career in the Territorial Army. He'd held many ranks and had been honoured by appointment as Hon. Colonel. During WW2 Col. Field commanded (7th) Reading Battalion Home Guard, and was awarded the O.B.E. He was elected to Reading Town Council in 1932 at the time of living in Southcote Road, making a special
study of education and served as Chairman and Schools Governor on many Boards. He was President of Reading Rowing Club and member of Thames Conservancy.

1936 - 1938  Mr Frederick William Kent lived here during this time. No record from 1938 - 1941.

1942 - 1966 Dr Duncan Vasey MRCP, LRCP was in residence. 1958 circa - 1966 Dr J.E.K. Moore. Both continued practising medicine 1967→ No record. OUTCOME: Demolished. By 1970 Monck Court had been built and was ready for occupancy.

"KENTONS LODGE"

Built circa early1900s
We cross over the top of a "private little lane" (to eventually become Parkhouse Lane) down which we find the small Lodge House in the area of the end of the garden belonging to "Kentons" along the Tilehurst Road. Kentons was the original first neighbour to Denmark House, just round the corner. Residing in the Lodge were: 1894 - 1897 Joseph Shorter Coachman and James Healey Gardener;

1897 - 1899 James Healey, Gardener;
1899 - 1900 Ross Murdoch, Gardener;
No further record. OUTCOME: The Lodge remains as a private residence.
"DENMARK HOUSE" (13.)

Denmark House Southcot Crescent built pre 1865 according to 1871 census.
Denmark House is one of the four oldest - to be built in what started as Southcot Crescent along with Omer House on the corner across the road; Breccles and Westfield. By 1891 the postal address was Southcote Crescent. Pictures courtesy of Tony Pretlove

Roman coins were found within the garden area of Denmark House and its future neighbour - around the corner - the house called Kentons.
The first occupier of the house was Mr John Omer Cooper who resided around pre. 1865 - 1871. Mr Cooper was having a house built he had designed, across the road on the opposite corner. "Omer House 1865". He lived in Denmark House until new owners moved in as below.

1871 - 1883 circa a very large family occupied Denmark House.
**Richard Young Bazett** 58 b. St Pancras, London lived with his wife Mary Ann 34 b. Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope. They had a large family of eleven children namely: Harriet 18 b. Gatton, Surrey, who was a Scholar. Laura 15 and Henry 13 were both born in Paddington, Middlesex; Maria 11; Ellen 10; twins William and Charles 9; Richard 7; Arthur 5; Mary 4 and Sibella 2 were all born in Reading. They were looked after by six staff: Charlotte Harriss? Davies? 41 b. Llandisilio, Pembrokeshire, who was the Governness. Harriet Hadley 32 b. Reading, Cook; Ann Butler 32 b. Long Witterman, Head Nurse; Emma Butler 26 and Emily Young 19 were both born in b. Watlington and were 2nd and
3rd Nurse. Emma Jane Harvey 23 b. Ickford Buckinghamshire, was Housemaid.
The picture below denotes a young family enjoying a moment in the sun with their nurse/governess.

It could almost be akin to the young children belonging to the family Bazett. *Picture courtesy of Reading Library*

**Richard Young Bazett** was a retired Judge from the Indian Civil Service. The family lived here for around 12 years.

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1884 - 1893/4 **Henry Voss** 54 b. Church Knowle Dorset, lived here with his wife Clara 34 b. Brixton Surrey. They had two children at the time of *1881 census*:

**Mr Henry Voss** was a Civil Engineer. No *census returns for 1891*. Presumably the house was closed down whilst away. The postal address for Denmark House remains Southcot Crescent.

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1894 - 1936 **Alderman Charles Gynningham Field** came to live here. He had previously lived in "West Dene" for a period across the road. He was then **Councillor Charles Gynningham Field**. (Part 2).
Whilst serving as Councillor, Charles Gynningham Field 44 b. Wallingford had married the daughter of the late Lightly Simpson Esq., of London who was Director of the Great Eastern Railway and well known in the railway world. Councillor Field was one of Reading's most prominent citizens by serving and continuing in public services. He was also a well known Lawyer and Public Speaker and attained to the highest position in municipal speaking. He was a native of Wallingford and received his education at Lancing College Sussex. He was elected Mayor of Reading 1893. The opening of Tower Bridge took place during the time Councillor Field was Chief Magistrate of Reading and he was one of the guests entertained by the Lord Mayor on that occasion. During his time as Mayor, the Fire Brigade was inaugurated and he demonstrated great interest in this valuable organisation. Councillor Field also entertained Municipal Engineers. During the Brick Layers strike in Reading he represented and spoke for the organisation amounting to happy endings. Similarly the Carpenters Strike in 1898. For five years Councillor Field was Chairman of the Highways Committee in 1888 during which many road improvements were carried out. This distinguished gentleman took part and held positions in many of the Towns Institutions. Councillor Field also was greatly fond of sport and especially Association Football. Up until quite advanced in years he played football with the Reading Football Club being one of the eleven; and previously with the Herts Rangers in London. For twenty years he played first class football and as long ago as 1866 he played for Lancing College. All in all Councillor Gynningham Field had been prominent in the public and social life of Reading for 50 years. On three occasions he was Mayor of Reading and was granted Freedom of the Borough in 1934. Now Alderman Charles Gynningham Field he had been combining and practising his profession as a Solicitor for 64 years until his death in 1936. 1937 - 1948 Around the time of Alderman Field's passing it seemed the end of an era for Denmark House. No further record of individual occupancy of Denmark House.
1949 - 1972 circa *Kelly's Directory* record the house being divided into 9 flats
**OUTCOME:** Demolished.
By 1977 *Beacon Court* had been built. The garden was to be divided into further building lots.

"15 Southcote Road" (15.)

**OUTCOME:** A smaller block of 4 plus apartments were built within the garden of Denmark House to be extended, (later *Ross House* 1984 ) They were ready for occupancy.
1967 - 1972 *Mr Arthur C. Dewsnap*
1967 - 1969 *Mr Ash Morris*
1968 - 1972 *Mrs Ruth Lillo.*  Gap 1969

"17 Southcote Road" (17.)
1970 - 1972 →*Mr Hugh Fish.*
**OUTCOME:** It was demolished around 1996.
1997 A new apartment block on the site was built, known simply as..."17 Southcote Road."

1984 circa *Ross House* was built within the garden plot.

"KENTONS" (51.)

Was just round the corner into Tilehurst Road.
Kentons was built circa early 1900s and first neighbour in Tilehurst Road to Denmark House.  
1902 - 1913  **The Carrington family** first occupied Kentons.  

*Info. gleaned from documents sent with kind permission of Jim Benton and Tony Pretlove*

**Sir John Worrell Carrington** b.1847 St. Joseph, Barbados. Sir John retired as Chief Justice of Hong Kong in 1902 and moved to Kentons.  
**Sir John** was the fifth son of Nathaniel T. W. Carrington of Industry plantation, St. Joseph; he attended Lodge School and Codrington College in Barbados. He lived with his wife Susan Catherine whom he married in 1872 in England. They had five children namely: Catherine Worrell b. 1974 in St. Michael Barbados d. 1946. Catherine was laid to rest with Lady Susan who had died in 1928, in the Hemdean Road Cemetery, Reading; John Walsh b. 1879 d.1964; Charles Worrell b. 1880 d.1948; Ruth Alice b. 1884 who died very young in 1897. Ruth was laid to rest in Crowmarsh Gifford Churchyard. Edward Worrell b. 1888 d. 1915 in action in France WW1.

*Extract from kingscollections.org*

Captain Edward Worrell Carrington, R.A.M.C. was killed in France on September 25th/26th, 1915, aged 26. He was the youngest son and was educated at Marlborough, and then Keble College, Oxford. He then went on to King's College, London, and took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1913. He joined the R.A.M.C. as a temporary Lieutenant on August 10th, 1914, and was sent to the front soon after. He had been attached to the 2nd Battalion, Worcester Regiment for over a year. He was promoted to Captain on completion of a year's service, and last February (quote) received the Military Cross for gallant behaviour. *British Medical Journal 16 Oct. 1915.*
He is buried in Vermelles British Cemetery. All Saints Church Reading was THE family church and there are memorial, tablets and commemorative plaques honouring the Worrell Carrington family and their children. 

Extract from All Saints Parish Magazine contributed by Andrew Poynter, and with kind permission of Jim Benton and Tony Pretlove: 

“In 1865 Sir John was named Island Scholar, won the Coleridge Memorial Prize that same year, and in 1866 was awarded the Rawle Scholarship. He matriculated at Lincoln College, Oxford, on 22 October 1868 and received the BA in 1872 at age 25. He was called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn, in June 1872. In 1891 he received the M.A. from Oxford. He was also the recipient of two honorary degrees: the College of Durham conferred on him the D.C.L. and St. Andrews University awarded him the L.L.D. A respected jurist, he held many public offices: Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal 1874-1875; Justice of the Peace, 1874; member of the Barbados House of Assembly, 1874-1878; member of the Legislative Council, 1878-1881; Solicitor General, 1878,1880 -1881; Acting Attorney General, 1880-1881; the President of the Education Board and Board of Health. When he failed to secure the position of Attorney General of Barbados, he decided to accept employment abroad. From 1882 to 1889, he served as Chief Justice of St. Lucia and Tobago. Sir John was Administrator of the government of Tobago from 1883 to 1885; Acting Chief Justice of Grenada in 1886 and Attorney General of British Guiana from 1888 to 1896. In 1896 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hong Kong where he remained until he retired from public service in 1902. While in Hong Kong, he served as Major Commandant of the Hong Kong Volunteer Corps and was said to be "the best Commandant the Hong Kong Volunteer Corps had ever had." Perhaps his most valuable contribution was updating the laws in
various British colonies. For his many accomplishments, he was knighted on 22 January 1897.
While in Barbados, his residence was "Norham" in Tweedside Road, St. Michael, but after his retirement, he settled in Kentons, Reading, Berkshire.
"Whilst in Reading although All Saints Church was his church he became very much involved in the final stages of the building of St Marks. He was a member of the All Saints Church Choir, also a Reader. Sir John had a strong interest in the welfare of Reading High School for Girls - presently the Abbey School, and many other affairs of the town.
He was the Connaught Road Childrens' "Sir John."
He loved children and on his walks down Connaught Road ensured his pockets were full of treats for the children who adored him and crowded around him. He was a very kind hearted Christian gentleman and was loved by many. There was much bereavement upon his death and "the children collected their pennies to send a wreath." Upon his death in 1913 Lady Susan with daughter Catherine acting as her companion, retired to the "Avenue" situated at the top of Western Elms Avenue. Now demolished. They remained keen members of All Saints Church until Lady Susan's death 1928. At this time she had been living in Lima Rest Home - the present day Lima Court.

1914 - Kentons was leased/bought by the Edward Montagu Brown family.
Extracted from Discovery National Archives.com
"Edward Frederick Montagu Brown died in action 1918 aged 34. He was Second Lieutenant in the Hertfordshire Regiment and buried in Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetry in West Vlananderen Belgium. He was the husband of Constance M. Brown, of "Kentons," Tilehurst Rd. Reading."
Information from Tony Pretlove. Also part extracted from wartime memories project. Red Cross WW1 records showing Mrs Montagu Brown, was a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse 1914 to 1915, working at Struan House Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital Hospital in Downshire Square. The hospital served the Great War 1914 - 1918. Now
demolished. **Mrs Montagu Brown** died in 1944 aged 61.

*Kelly's records* suggests that the house was occupied/rented by employees of the **Reading Corporation Swimming Baths**. This is conjecture.

1914 - 1915 **William A. Wolseley** Corporation Swimming Bath;  
1915 - 1918 **Mrs E.W. Orr** Corporation Swimming Bath;  
1919 - 1941 **Mrs Boyle** Corporation Swimming Bath.  
The **Tilehurst Road Corporation Swimming Baths**, a green glass domed very cold building - as has been described - was within the vicinity of what was to become the old canteen site of the once Crown Court building (Artillery Mews today). [https.www.lostlidos.co.uk](https://www.lostlidos.co.uk)  
1942 - 1944→46 **Miss G.S. Boyle**. She moved to Church Road Southbourne in 1947 where she offered services at St Katherine's Church. A church founded in 1886 to exhibit and strengthen the Anglican Catholic aspect of the Church of England.

1947 - 1948 **Mrs Herbert** (in private residency or associated with the Corporation Swimming Baths).

1949 onwards→ became **Kentons Registered Rest Home** for retired gentlefolk. Later to become a **Nursing Home**.  
1949 → Proprietor **Mr & Mrs Tucker**  
**OUTCOME: Kentons** house, 51 Tilehurst Road remains.
My thanks to
Reading Library Archive Department
Information from:
Reading Reviews No. 29
"Who's Who" in Reading 1947;48
Reading Mercury Oct. 1960
getReading 1998
Kelly's Directories 1871 onwards
Smith's Directory 1920 onwards
Ordnance Survey Maps Pre 1877;1877; 1899;1911; 1927; 1959/60; 1963
Census returns 1871 onwards.
Modern photos Anne Green Jessel
My thanks also to:
Lord Sale and Sele's Family (part 2)
Dion F. Bentley The Gables search (part 2)
David Ford - house search
Tony Pretlove - house search Denmark House and
Constance Montagu Brown of Kentons
and in association with
Jim Benton on the history of the Carrington Family of Kentons
Mr Raymond Simonds www.simondsfamily.me.uk (part 2)
Other information taken from
Discovery National Archives.com
cracroftspeerage
en.wikipedia
genealogy.com/ftm/b/e/e/Kate-Beevers (part 2)
victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk (part 2)
infed.org (part 2)
wartimememoriesproject
historicengland
kingscollections.org
webtrees townsley info; somerset online; (part 2)
geooglebooks(baronetage and knightage p 621)(part 2)
Supplement to the London Gazette 6th November 1945 (part 2)
magdalencourtschool.co.uk (part 2)
https://www.lostlidos.co.uk
http://www.pottsvctrust.org/P8407.pdf (part 2)

"It's good to remember these noble residents who once lived here"
Atmospheric picture of the Memorial Cross that Dr Jamieson Boyd Hurry of Westfield, Southcote Crescent, presented June 1909 in honour of Henry Beaucherc King of England 1100 – 1135. Forbury Gardens Reading, the site of Reading Abbey.

agj 2017