

GARDENER'S GARAGE

The Gardener family had been blacksmiths since the early 1820s. Samuel Gardener was born in 1849. He and his wife, Fanny, had five sons and seven daughters. By 1912 his youngest son, Stanley, had taken over the business but was obviously not going to let modern inventions overtake him. By the early 1920s he was advertising himself as a "Motor and Cycle Engineer" at "The Garage, Southwater", which in the 1930s boasted the first petrol pump in the village.

The garage (and the earlier forge) was sited opposite the current entrance to Blakes Farm Road. Stan was a district councillor and Gardener House, the elderly people's flats, in College Road (demolished 2007), were named after him.



Bill thanks to Bob Piper



Photo thanks to Miss Gardener