

## WOODGATERS, Shipley Road



The site of Woodgaters would appear to have a long history of occupation. The Sele Priory Charters of 1254 to 1266 mention a John Wluard of Crockhurst at a " gate called Wodegat "

There are several other references in 14<sup>th</sup> century documents, and in 1570 the will of Roger Gratwyke of Sullington, Yeoman, bequeaths to his son,

Richard, a croft called Woodgates in Southwater. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the property is in the ownership of the well-known Caryll family.

1916 picture from sale document.

In 1840 it was part of the Burrell estate, being farmed by a tenant called Scutt. By 1856 a large house had been built on the site and the census of 1861 records the household of Percy Burrell as totalling fifteen. It was purchased for £ 2,400 in 1887 by Sir William Stirling Hamilton.

In 1938 a Mr Bowles bought Woodgaters with 15½ acres for £ 1,865. In WWII it was requisitioned by the War Office. Nissen huts were erected in the grounds and it became the HQ of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division.

Press cutting mid 1990s

### 50 YEARS AGO

Five families from the Horsham district are the first squatters in Sussex, for last evening they walked into Woodgaters camp on the Southwater-Shipley Road and took possession of five Nissen huts there. The camp comprises 15 huts, with only a few sparsely occupied by a gang of German prisoners, and the five huts which the squatters have seized are an isolated section. All the men of the "occupation force" are ex-Servicemen, three of them recently returned from the 14th Army. They have all been living in one or two rooms with their families.

After the war, the house was taken over by Horsham Rural District Council and used for housing local families. Some of the Nissen huts were occupied by squatters. The property was put up for auction in 1954 by Mr N Bowles and the sale notice in Country Life offered 14 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, and stable block with flat over.

It was bought for £ 3,950 by Countess Maria Hulme-King, wife of one of the King and Barnes Brewery family, who subsequently demolished three wings of the house. The name of the house has since been changed to "Woodgetters".