

Rowhills Estate

During the 1930s, architect Raymond Lionel Wells continued building new properties in Rowhills Estate, within the copse previously bought by his grandfather Henry Wells. Building commenced with the properties Four Oaks, Chestnuts, Hazelwood and Firbank, followed by Abbotts Wood (now Abbottswood) and The Coppins (now The Coppice).

A 6-inch Ordnance Survey map Surrey Sheet XXII.SW, revised in 1938 and published about 1944, shows a development of a track leading down to Abbotts Wood and The Coppins.

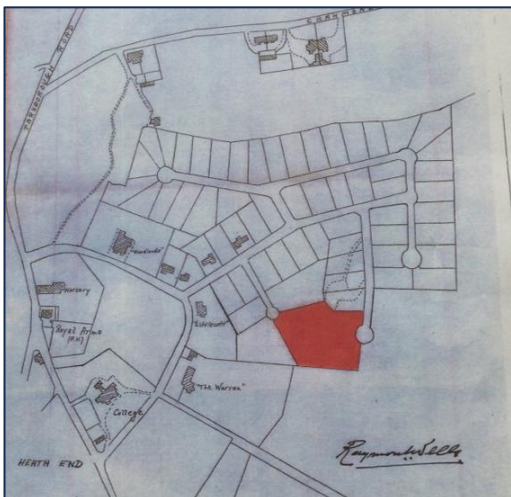


Littlecot

The Coppins

Abbotts Wood

1930s plan for building Abbotts Wood



1934 - a bathing pool on the edge of The Copse House, fed by natural springs



Abbotts Wood, Rowhills Estate



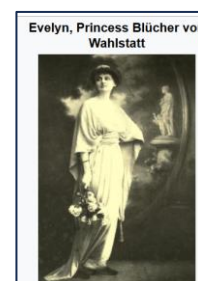
The first resident to move into the newly built house in 1937 was Vice Admiral Kenneth Gilbert Balmain Dewar CBE, questionably famous for controversy and a court case, despite a distinguished career.

Kenneth Dewar was a Scot, the eighth child of ten children, born in 1879 at South Queensferry near Edinburgh. His father James Dewar trained at Edinburgh University in medicine and was a general practitioner. In 1893, Kenneth followed his elder brother Alfred into the Royal Navy and a younger brother Alan did likewise. With an early specialism in gunnery, Kenneth became a Lieutenant in 1900, a Commander in 1911 and Captain in 1918.

Kenneth's illustrious naval career however took a potential turn for the worst, when in 1928 as captain of the battleship HMS Royal Oak in the Mediterranean, he and another naval officer put themselves forward for Court Martial in order to defend themselves, following a mutiny on board his ship. The trials were held in Gibraltar and were considered "notorious". Kenneth was found partially guilty for the incidents on board but the more senior officer Rear-Admiral Collard was compelled to resign his commission.

However, the 1928 reprimand that Kenneth received did not harm his career. He was subsequently appointed to HMS Tiger and The Tatler stated that "Kenneth had become popular especially in social circles." The Tatler wrote in detail in 1928 about his wife Gertrude Mary whom he had married in 1914. She was the daughter of Frederick and the Hon. Mrs Stapleton-Bretherton, grand-daughter of Lord Petrie and first cousin to the Earl of Granard. Her sister Evelyn, an authoress on Prussian aristocracy, was Princess Blücher, due to marriage to Prince Gebhard Blücher von Wahlstatt.

Gertrude and Kenneth

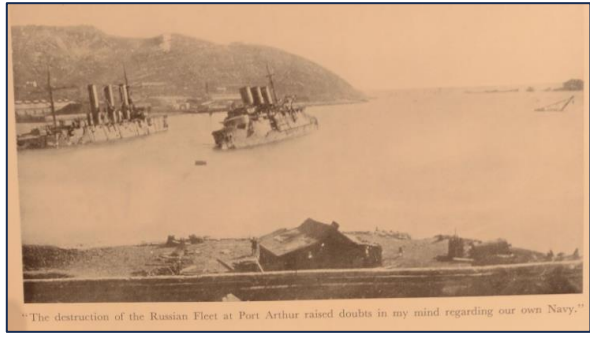
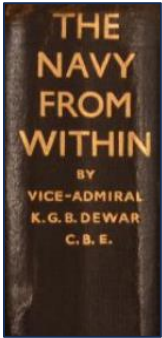


Kenneth Dewar became a Rear-Admiral in 1929 then Vice-Admiral in 1934. The couple and their son Kenneth Malcolm Joseph Dewar (1915-2000) moved to Chertsey in 1933 then when it was time for some quiet retirement, they moved to Abbotts Wood. Time to get the telephone installed, to write books and reflect on naval life.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Kenneth Gilbert Dewar	
Farnham > 1937	
Dewar, Kenneth Gilbert (Admiral)	Abbottswood, Heath End
Dewar, Gertrude Mary	Abbottswood, Heath End

**Dewar Vice Adml. K.G.B, C.B.E,
Abbots wood Heath end.....Aldershot 1110**

Their stay in Heath End was brief. By 1939, the Dewar family had moved to Bridge Vere, Littleworth Road, The Sands. Kenneth's frank memoir 'The Navy from Within' was published by Victor Gallancz, London in 1939, written just before the outbreak of the Second World War.



Quote
 "The destruction of the Russian Fleet at Port Arthur raised doubts in my mind regarding our own Navy."

As frequently happened in Rowhills, new tenants arrived swiftly. The next Abbotts Wood resident to arrive was (Frederick) Martin Lipscomb (1887-1970) OBE(1945) MRCS LRCP(1912) MRCP(1930) FRCP(1943). With him was his wife Dorothy Octavia née Robinson (1883-1970) and their two adult daughters Phoebe Margaret Lipscomb (1914-1993) and Sylvia Clephan Lipscomb (1917-2015). Son (John) Christopher de Bohun Lipscomb (1921-2002) was serving in the Indian Army at the time. This was a military family having both father Martin and daughter Phoebe becoming Colonels.

Military personnel resided in Rowhills due to its close proximity to Aldershot but did Martin know that his great-grandparents were buried at St Andrews Church, the Parish church of Farnham? Martin's great-grandfather "Charles Lipscomb (1751-1836) of the Parish of Old Alresford in the County of Southampton, Batchelor and Judith Wallis (1766-1834) of the Parish of St Frith, Spinster (with consent of John Wallis her lawful Father)" had married in Winchester in 1785.

Hampshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1536-1812 for Judith Wallis
 Bishops' Transcripts > Winchester: St Cross With St Faith > 1780-1790

1785 - 4811

No 48. Charles Lipscomb of the Parish of Old Alresford, in the County of Southampton, Batchelor and Judith Wallis of the Parish of St Frith, Spinster (with consent of John Wallis, her lawful Father) were married in this Chapel of St Cross by Licence this twenty sixth Day of May in the Year one thousand, seven hundred and eighty five by me William Hawkins Chaplain of St Cross
 This Marriage was solemnized between us Charles Lipscomb
 Judith Wallis
 In Presence of Wm Drutt
 Eliza Drutt - Tho Drutt

Kellys Directory for Alton in 1830 showed that Charles Lipscomb was trading in Alton High Street in both wool, corn and hops. The directory states that "the hop plantations around Alton were extensive and that the growers were a most respectable class. The hops there were considered equal in quality to those of Farnham and found a ready market and superior prices to Farnham."

CORN & HOP MERCHANTS & DEALERS.

Lipscomb Charles (& wool) High st

The Lipscomb family were well established in Alton yet in 1834, Judith Lipscomb was buried in Farnham and in 1836 her husband Charles Lipscomb was also laid to rest there.

Surrey, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1997				
Farnham, St Andrew, 1813-1875				
Judith Lipscomb	Farnham	Aug th 18 th	68	R. Saakey
Charles Lipscomb	Alton	Feb ^{ry} 1 st	85	R. Saakey

Three generations later, the highly educated Rev. Frederick Bell Lipscomb (1853-1899) married to Ethel Jane White (1862-1940) had taken a living in 1894 as Vicar of Flitwick, Bedfordshire.

THE VICARAGE.—We hear that the Rev. F. Ashpittel is about to resign the ecclesiastical living of this parish, and that, on his retirement, after a visit to the Cape, he and his family intend to reside at Guildford, Surrey. The benefice is in the patronage of Major Brooks, and it is understood that his presentation is to the Rev. Frederick Bell Lipscomb, curate of Brightstone, Newport, I. W., since 1885. This clergyman is son of the Rev. F. Lipscomb, for nearly forty years vicar of Frogmore (Holy Trinity), St. Albans. He graduated as B.A. at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1875, and he proceeded to M.A. in 1879. He received holy orders as deacon in 1878, and as priest the next year, from the Bishop of St. Albans. Mr Lipscomb was curate of Prittlewell, Essex, from 1878 to 1880; of Brentwood, 1880-81; and of Frogmore, 1881-85.

FLITWICK.
THE VICARAGE.—The Rev. F. and Mrs. Ashpittel and family will set sail to-morrow for the Cape, South Africa, the voyage being for the benefit of the ex-Vicar's health. The Rev. T. Toolis, curate, will be in charge of the parish pending the coming of the Vicar designate, nominated by Major Brooks (as patron of the living),—the Rev. Frederick Bell Lipscomb, who has been curate of Brightstone, Isle of Wight, since 1885. He is a married gentleman with a young family.

In 1899, Frederick was riding his bicycle in Flitwick, visiting his parishioners when he was knocked to the ground by a runaway horse. Sadly, he died two days later, age 46, leaving his wife to care for their five children, all under the age of twelve. Frederick was so highly regarded, that subscriptions of about £40 were collected to install a stained-glass memorial window in the north aisle of Holy Trinity church at Frogmore.

Tragic though this accident was, Frederick Bell Lipscomb's widow Ellen Lipscomb was not exactly impoverished. When her solicitor father had died in 1891, he had left an estate of £62,000 to be shared amongst his wife and six children. Ellen White had, in the eyes of some, married beneath her.

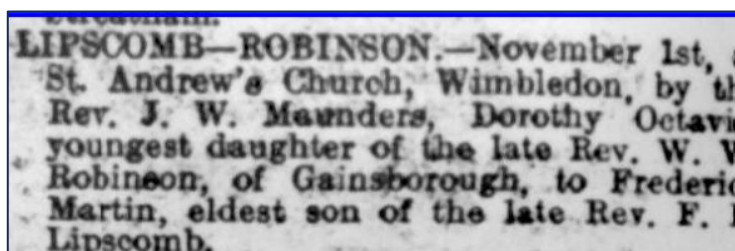
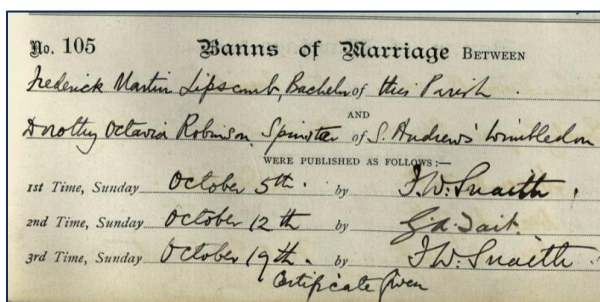
(Frederick) Martin Lipscomb was the oldest of the five children who had lost their father. He had been born at Brightstone, Isle of Wight where his father was curate prior to moving the family to Bedfordshire. Martin was educated at Bedford School and then after training at Kings College Hospital, he became a General Practitioner.

Martin's wife Dorothy Octavia, the youngest of nine Robinson children was born in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Her father, the Reverend William Wynn Robinson was a Unitarian Minister of Beaumontet Chapel and a schoolmaster. From 1908-1911, Dorothy trained as a nurse at Kings College Hospital, London and there she met her husband-to-be Dr (Frederick) Martin Lipscomb, who was House Surgeon at that hospital.

LIPSCOMB, Fredk. Martin, Bridge Cottage, Farningham, Kent—M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond. 1912; (*King's Coll. Hosp.*); late Ho. Surg. King's Coll. Hosp.

LIPSCOMB, Frederick Martin.	2, Wilton grove, Wimbledon, London. S.W.	1912, Aug. 3 E.	Mem. R. Coll. Surg. Eng., 1912. Lic. R. Coll. Phys. Lond., 1912.
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1913 was the year for wedding banns to be read three times and then on 1st November 1913 Frederick Martin Lipscomb married Dorothy Octavia Robinson.



1913. Marriage solemnized at *St Andrew's Church* in the Parish of *St Andrew Wimbledon* in the County of *Surrey*

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
105	<i>Nov 1st 1913</i>	<i>Frederick Martin Lipscomb</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Doctor</i>	<i>Bridge cottage Farningham Kent</i>	<i>Frederic Bell Lipscomb Dec.</i>	<i>Holy Orders</i>
		<i>Dorothy Octavia Robinson</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>14 Mayfield R.</i>	<i>William Wynn Robinson Dec.</i>	<i>Unitarian Minister</i>

Married in the *Parish ch* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Establishment* by *J.W. Maunders* or after Banns by me,
 This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Frederick Martin Lipscomb* in the Presence of us, *Mildred Robinson* *Uthel Jane Lipscomb* *J.W. Maunders* *Vicar*

Daughter Phoebe Margaret was born in Farningham, Kent in 1914, her sister Sylvia Clephan was born in Bombay, India in 1917 and their brother (John) Christopher de Bohun Lipscomb was born in 1921 in Haywards Heath, Sussex. The name Clephan was the maiden name of Sylvia's maternal grandmother.

Frederick Martin Lipscomb (1887-1970)



Dorothy Octavia Robinson (1883-1970)



Actress sister Kate Mildred Robinson (1872-1956)



Following some time spent in general practice, Martin was gazetted as a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, mobilised in November 1914, and then served in India and Mesopotamia until 1921.

1914

Lipscomb, Frederick Martin (Lieut. on probation), supplementary <i>ibid.</i> Confirmed 11142
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1917 London Gazette

Capt. Frederick Martin Lipscomb, from R.A.M.C., Spec. Res.
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1915 Out from Liverpool to Bombay, India

<i>Mrs D.O. Lipscomb</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	31	<i>10/12</i>
<i>Miss P.M. Lipscomb</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		

1917 St Andrews Church, Nasik, India, baptism of Sylvia Clephan Lipscomb.

WHEN BAPTIZED			SAID TO BE BORN			Child's Christian Name	Sex	PARENTS' NAMES		Abode of Parents	Quality, Trade or Profession of Father
Year	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day			Christian	Surname		
1917	May	27	1917	March	28 th	Sylvia Clephan	F	Frederick Martin & Dorothy Octavia	Lipscomb	Nasik	Captain Royal Army Medical Corps

Back in the UK, at the Royal Army Medical College, Martin gained further medical qualifications and returned to India. Martin, now Major Lipscomb took short breaks in England one of which was in 1938 to 1939 renting the large property Abbots Wood at the far end of Rowhills.

UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960 for John C Lipscomb

Liverpool > 1927 > Oct

<i>Mrs F.M. Lipscomb</i>	<i>The Wyllies Cottage Buckfield</i>	<i>Haywards Heath, Sussex</i>								43	6
<i>John C. Lipscomb</i>											

1937 Bombay to London

BOMBAY	LIPSCOMB Frederick	2	50			<i>Glyn Mills & Co. Ltd. Whitehall, S.W.1.</i>	9	Major R.A.M.C.
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When the Lipscomb family moved into Abbots Wood, the two daughters were young women of voting age.

Farnham > 1938

Lipscomb, Frederick Martin	Abbots Wood, Heath End
Lipscomb, Dorothy Octavia	Abbots Wood, Heath End
Lipscomb, Phoebe Margaret	Abbots Wood, Heath End
Lipscomb, Sylvia Clephan	Abbots Wood, Heath End

Dorothy's sister Kit joined the family in 1939.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Henry James Robinson

Farnham > 1939

Robinson, Kate Mildred	Abbots Wood, Heath End
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<i>Abbots Wood</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Lipscomb Dorothy</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>24 Oct 83</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Private means</i>
				<i>Lipscomb Frederick</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>21 Aug 21</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Student</i>
				<i>Robinson Kit</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>24 Oct 72</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Private means</i>

Phoebe followed in her father's footsteps and joined the women's army forces. Her brother (John) Christopher de Bohun Lipscomb also joined the army and went out to India with his regiment.

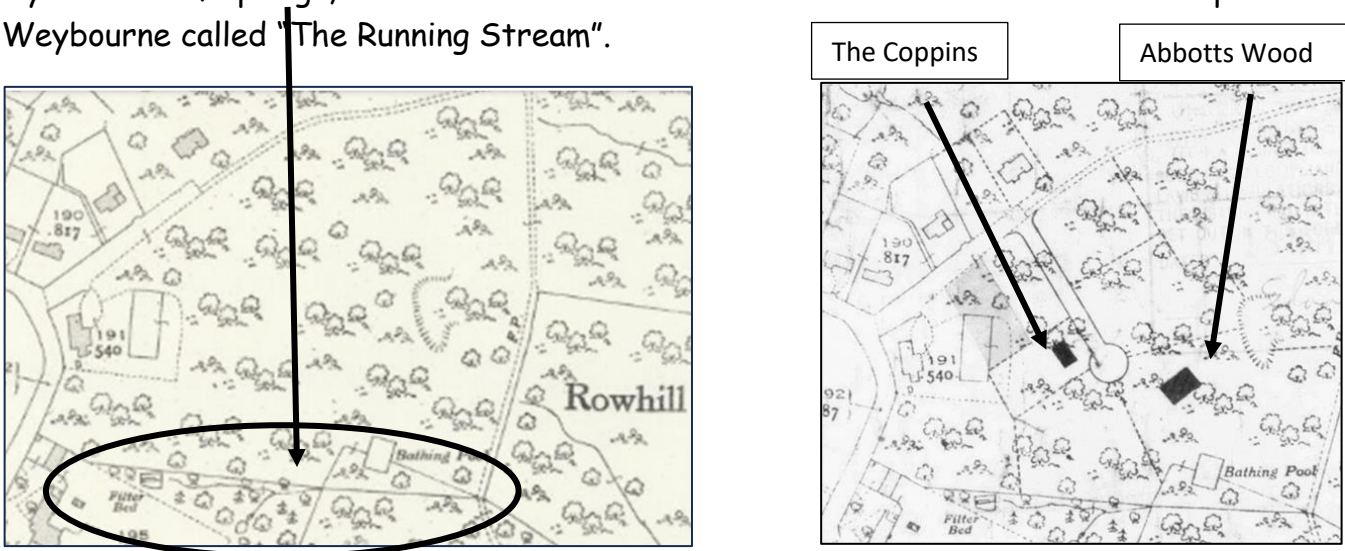
Sylvia took a different route and became a student at the Royal Veterinary College in Birmingham. In 1939 she was living with the family of her future husband Oliver Jones.

1	Jones, Oliver V.	M	2 June 81	M	Managing Director. 1st class
2	Jones, Ethel M.	F	2 Dec: 83	M	Unpaid domestic duties
3	Jones, Beryl A.	F	7 Oct: 15	S	mun. G.S. Teacher.
4	Jones, Oliver V.	M	14 June 19	S	Student Roy. Vet. College
5	Jones, Sylvia	F	28 Jan: 17	S	do.

While Dorothy, son Christopher and sister Kate stayed in Abbots Wood, Martin headed off to India as a medical specialist and commanding officer of the British Military Hospital, Multan. The Lipscombs were in Abbots Wood for many years so we will meet them again.

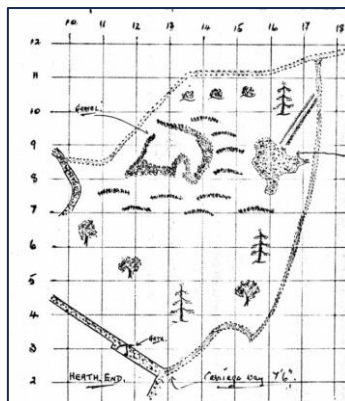
The Coppins, Rowhills Estate

The Ordnance Survey map Surrey XXII.14, revised 1934 and published 1935 shows the wooded land opposite to Firbank, Rowhills. This was all owned by the Wells Estate which had the pick of where the development should go, when building Abbots Wood and The Coppins. To the south lay a series of springs, which traversed west to east and then south towards the public house in Weybourne called "The Running Stream".

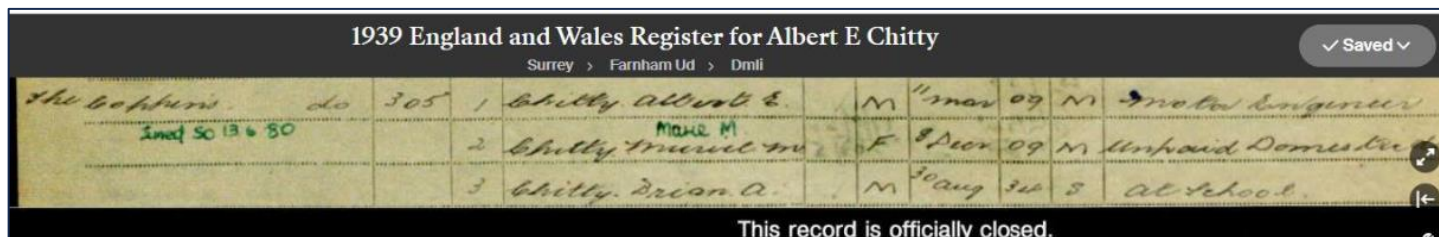


The Coppins was built in Rowhills Copse sometime in the late 1930s although the exact date has not yet been ascertained. A cul-de-sac off Rowhills and opposite to Firbank had been constructed to provide access to Abbots Wood. This provided a frontage for other building plots, of which The Coppins was the first to be developed.

Douglas Kempson's 1979 book "The Copse and its Fruits" discusses workings in Rowhills Copse including gravel pits. It has not been possible to ascertain how that affected the area being discussed, i.e. south east of Rowhills.



The first people to move into The Coppins in 1939 were from a well-established Aldershot family - Albert Ernest Chitty (1909-1994) and his wife Muriel Maud Chitty née Benson (1909-1996). Albert and Muriel had been married in Aldershot in 1933 and their son Brian Albert Chitty was born in 1934. They both had Grosvenor Road addresses and their families had probably known each other a long time.



Albert worked for his father's Aldershot car repairs and sales company called "Chitty & Sons". Head of the family was Albert James Chitty (1889-1968), a motor engineer. There were five children and two of the sons, Albert and the youngest Maurice worked in Aldershot. In the 1920s, Chitty and Hobbs ran a taxi-cab service at 36 Grosvenor Road. This property belonged to Albert Richard Hobbs, an off-licensee and grocer shopkeeper. The Chitty family home was 40 Grosvenor Road.

1930-1 James, 172 c.c.; good running order; £6. — A. J. Chitty and Sons, Broadway Garage, Aldershot. 1403a

AUSTIN "7" Saloon, 1935; sliding head, good order; licensed and insured; £60.—Chitty, Broadway Garage, Gordon-road, Aldershot. 9902a

Aldershot News in 1935 and 1939.

The 1930s garage address was in Gordon Road; other addresses were Upper Elms Road and 79-81 Grosvenor Road, Aldershot. Clearly the company business flourished because by 1939, garage proprietor Albert James and his family had moved to Cargate Avenue, a prestigious road in Aldershot.

The original size of the house The Coppins is unknown but the property was on a sizeable plot, leaving plenty of room for expansion in the future. Doubtless Albert owned a motor vehicle, if not more than one and perhaps a sizeable garage was an attraction. Let us leave him tinkering with his motor vehicle and walk to Weybourne.

On our last visit, we met residents in Rowhills, Rokeby and Weywood. Quite a lot of building has taken place in Weybourne since the 1920's, so maybe we can spot any changes.