

The Land Settlement Association (LSA)

In 1936 200 unemployed men marched from Jarrow to London in search of work and an end to poverty.

In the same year 1000 unemployed miners and shipbuilders moved to 20 different locations across England, including Foxash in Essex, to begin new lives as market gardeners.

The men from Jarrow returned with nothing.

The tenants on the Foxash LSA became part of a multi-million horticultural industry which still survives today.

The Jarrow march is well documented, yet very few people know about the LSA.

Foxash LSA

The story so far

Background:

In 2019 Jo Hutchins (nee Butler Nos 23 & 63), then Denise Thomas (nee Howe No 62) created 'Memories of Foxash Lawford' on Facebook to keep in touch with former neighbours and friends on the LSA. Lots of people have contributed names, photos, memories, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2509281159287653>

In 2015 a heritage trail was created in Sidlesham, near Chichester in West Sussex, to commemorate the LSA which had been established in the village in 1936. A website, exhibitions and a film followed. In 2017 volunteers helped to dismantle an LSA house. It is now in storage at The Weald and Downland Living Museum, awaiting funding to be re-erected. When it is rebuilt the LSA story, including both Sidlesham and Foxash as well as the other 20 LSAs across England, will have a permanent home.

<http://sidleshamheritagetrail.co.uk/about>

The Foxash LSA story below is work in progress and there are lots of gaps. Can you add more pieces to the LSA jigsaw with the names, dates and stories of former tenants?

Many thanks for your help.

Dr Bill Martin (and Jo & Denise)

Billm89@hotmail.com

Introduction

The **Land Settlement Association** (LSA) was a UK Government scheme set up in 1934 to re-settle unemployed workers from depressed industrial areas, particularly from North-East

England and Wales. Between 1934 and 1939 1,100 small-holdings were established within 21 settlements across England.

Abbotts Ann (Andover, Hampshire)
Broadwath (Cumbria/Carlisle)
Chawston (Wyboston, Bedfordshire)
Crofton (Cumbria/Carlisle)
Dalston (Cumbria/Carlisle)
Denham (Suffolk)
Elmsthorpe (Leicester)
Fen Drayton (St. Ives, Cambridgeshire)
Foxash (Colchester, Essex)
Harrowby (Lincolnshire)
Low Fulney (Lincolnshire)
Newbourn (Felixstowe, Suffolk)
Newent (Gloucester)
Oxcroft (Bolsover, Derbyshire)
Potten (Bedfordshire) 1st one
Sidlesham (W. Sussex)
Snaith (Humbersde)
The Abingtons (Cambridge)
Yeldham (Essex/Suffolk)
+ Boverton (Glamorgan)
Stannington (Sheffield)



This map (above) is taken from 'The Land Settlement Association' by K.J. McCready (1974).

LSAs were set up in rural areas where each successful applicant's family would be given a small-holding of approximately 5 acres, livestock and a newly built house. Small-holdings were grouped in communities which were expected to run agricultural production as cooperative market gardens, with materials bought and produce sold exclusively through the Association. All applicants were interviewed and given agricultural training before being assigned a property.

The allocation of smallholdings to the unemployed was suspended at the outbreak of the Second World War through the necessity of increasing food production; favour was then given to those already with horticultural skills. After the war the Association was incorporated within the 1947 Agricultural Act for statutory provision of smallholdings designed as a first step for those going into agricultural production. The scheme was wound-up and all the properties privatised in 1983, by which time it was producing roughly 40% of English home grown salad crops. The residual assets of the scheme were constituted as the LSA Charitable Trust, for the benefit of former tenants and to promote horticultural education.

LSAs in East Anglia

Three LSAs were set up in East Anglia. Abington (Cambridgeshire), Newbourne (Suffolk) and Foxash (Essex).

Foxash LSA

Original purchase – Good Hall Farm House & 744 acres of land. The farm land was subdivided into smallholdings for the LSA and some was planted as an orchard (Foxash Orchards).

The Museum of English rural Life (MERL) at Reading University will have the original bill of sale, acreage, etc.

A film 'Here is the Land' (1937) was shown in Dole Offices to recruit people to the LSA. A copy can be seen on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAQwZarA58c&t=7s>

These holdings are family holdings, with modern houses, averaging 5-10 acres. They are fully stocked and equipped for horticulture under glass and in the open, and for pig and poultry keeping.

Applicants must have been full-time wage earners in agriculture or horticulture for at least 5 years and should have £500 to £600 to invest.

The Association, which administers these holdings for the Minister of Agriculture, has facilities for arranging loans up to 75% of the total capital requirements.

For application form and illustrated folder write to: The General Manager (Ref. G/1958/1)
43 Cromwell Road, London SW7
(The Grower, November 1958)

1098 The Grower, November 29, 1958

SMALLHOLDINGS

SMALLHOLDINGS TO LET

Enquiries are invited by
**THE LAND SETTLEMENT
ASSOCIATION, LTD.**

from agricultural and horticultural workers wishing to make a start on their own. Holdings are available on several of the Association's eighteen estates, and Estate Managers are now interviewing prospective applicants.

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**The General Manager
THE LAND SETTLEMENT
ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(Ref. G/1958/1)
43 Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7**

Recession or depression. Whatever it's called it means a shortage of jobs and lots of people out of work.

Today as a result of recession it is generally accepted that people will have to be retrained and take a job that had never previously thought of doing.

Not so long ago this would have been almost unthinkable so a retraining or resettlement scheme set up by the Government some 60 years ago following the 1920s depression was something of an innovation.

The Land Settlement Association, partly financed by the Government and partly by private bodies and charities, was established to provide work and homes, mainly for unemployed miners from the north of England.

There were 10 estates throughout the country. One with 60 holdings was Foxash, covering 400 acres in Lawford, Ardsleigh and Dedham, each comprising a house, piggeries and between 4 and 7 acres of land.

Extract from 'Evening Gazette' Thursday April 27th 1995

The families who made fresh start

by LESLEY PALLET

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Among those first families were the Stubbs, who arrived at Ardsleigh station in April 1939, travelling south to a new life in a place they had never heard of and knew nothing about.

Mary Stubbs, now 90 and a widow, lives in Waldegrave Close, Lawford, and is believed to be the last of those early pion-

eers, at least of those who settled at Foxash.

Originally from Gateshead and still with a trace of the north-east accent, Mrs Stubbs recalled: "My husband George worked in a flour mill in County Durham which closed and he was out of work."

Mr Stubbs was given the chance of work through the Government scheme and although he was not keen, the family, Mr and Mrs Stubbs and three children plus Mrs Stubbs' father, decided to give it a try and were allocated 14 Coggeshall Road, Ardsleigh.

"It was quite a change," said Mrs Stubbs — something of an understatement.

The family had always lived in a town and at Foxash they found themselves surrounded by fields, no street lights and a house with no toilet.

"We couldn't believe it," said Mrs Stubbs.

Then there was a problem with the local people.

"We didn't get on at first. It was the different accents and the children (aged nine, seven and five) found the school, with only one classroom, quite different from what they'd been used to."

But the Stubbs did settle although many families did not.

"They didn't give it a chance," said Mrs Stubbs. She added:

"Yes it was a completely different way of life but it was better than being out of work."

It was also hard work. Mrs Stubbs recalled the long hours, the work in summer often starting at 4am.

All the family, which had increased by two more children, had to help and as the children grew up and married, their partners also gave a hand when needed, particularly during the celery season.

The Stubbs remained at Foxash for about 26 years and then moved to Waldegrave Close, where again Mrs Stubbs is the last of the first residents in that group of bungalows for the elderly.

VISITED

Since her husband's death, Mrs Stubbs has twice visited members of her family in Australia, flying for the first time in her life at the age of 70.

She has five children, ten grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren so is rarely without visitors.

And she has never regretted the decision to come south, admitting: "In the end I didn't want to go back to the north-east."

Twelve years ago, the Government pulled out of Foxash and the smallholders bought their properties although the salad produce is still sold through their own co-operative, now known as Foxash Growers.



Some of the greenhouses at Foxash cover vast areas. Pictured here are row upon row of lettuces.

Professor Wise was appointed by the Government in 1963 to report on the LSA. His findings published in 1967, recommended that the number of LSAs be reduced to 10. Foxash LSA continued for another 15 years, until the closure of all remaining LSAs was announced in the House of Commons on 22nd December 1982. LSAs were encouraged to continue as independent companies and tenants had the right to buy their houses and smallholdings. Foxash Growers was established and operated until July 2012 (Company Number IP24049R) Most former LSA independent companies have now ceased trading – Snaith Salads, a subsidiary of Yorkshire Salads is still operational.

In 1984, after the closure, a group of LSA tenants (cc 290) from LSAs across the country put in a claim for compensation, through their National Tenants Association, against the government. In 1991 the claim was settled in favour of the tenants.

“ What’s in a tomato? Years of experience, months of hard work and plenty of skill and judgement. At Foxash Growers in Harwich Road, Lawford, it has taken years of trials to get the perfect balance to produce just one variety of tomato. General manager of Foxash, Mrs Bridget Martin, explained just how much skill was needed to grow the cherry tomatoes they supplied exclusively to Marks and Spencers under the name Gardeners delight. Every week tests were carried out to make sure the standard stayed high.in the packing she, the tomatoes were sorted, inspected, checked and packed – so the remained right down the line. “I want to emphasis the professionalism involved. It’s a long haul, each grower is an individual professional in his own right,” Mrs Martin explained. The tomatoes were just one of many salad crops produced by Foxash Growers. The company was run as a co-operative which began trading at the beginning of 1984. Mrs martin said there were 36 growers in all – working 40 acres of glasshouses, backed up by 150 acres of outdoor growing. Each grower worked his own plot- which varied in size from 4.5 to 9.5 acres. A board of Directors was elected from the growers and they outlined the policies of the co-operative. The co-operative tyle of horticulture allowed the growers to pool together in the marketing of their produce. Without doubt the set up had become big business. Turnover last year exceeded £1.8 million – and Mrs martin predicted that would grow as Foxash became even better established. The co-operative sold to many well-known supermarkets. These included Sainsbury, Asda, Gateway, Argyl and Safeway. Marks and Spencer were also on their list and insisted on the highest quality. Each grower employed his own staff to help with picking or helping run the holding. The co-operative employed the packing staff. Although many were only casual labourers Mrs Martin estimated that the operation provided employment for around 300 people. A specialist haulage company – under the name Dedham Vale Nurseries Ltd had also been set up to transport the crops to the customers.”

Local Press – pre-1996, when Argyl became Safeway.

The propagation unit also became another independent company, Foxash Horticultural Services (FHS) which then produced plants for not only Foxash but also the former LSAs at Newbourne, Fen Drayton and Abington. FHS was run by two former ‘props’ employees Peter Spears and Gerritt Leppers with Albert Bruce, Phil Sollars and Dawn in the office, John Noy delivering the plants and Graham Cole making the ‘blocks’. GVZ glasshouses/Double Glazing Essex (CO7 7LT) now own the site.

Alan Marshall brought the orchards and home farm packhouse as he already had an orchard. He also employed former LSA staff and the company continued until ‘the supermarkets started to pay very little for English apples’.

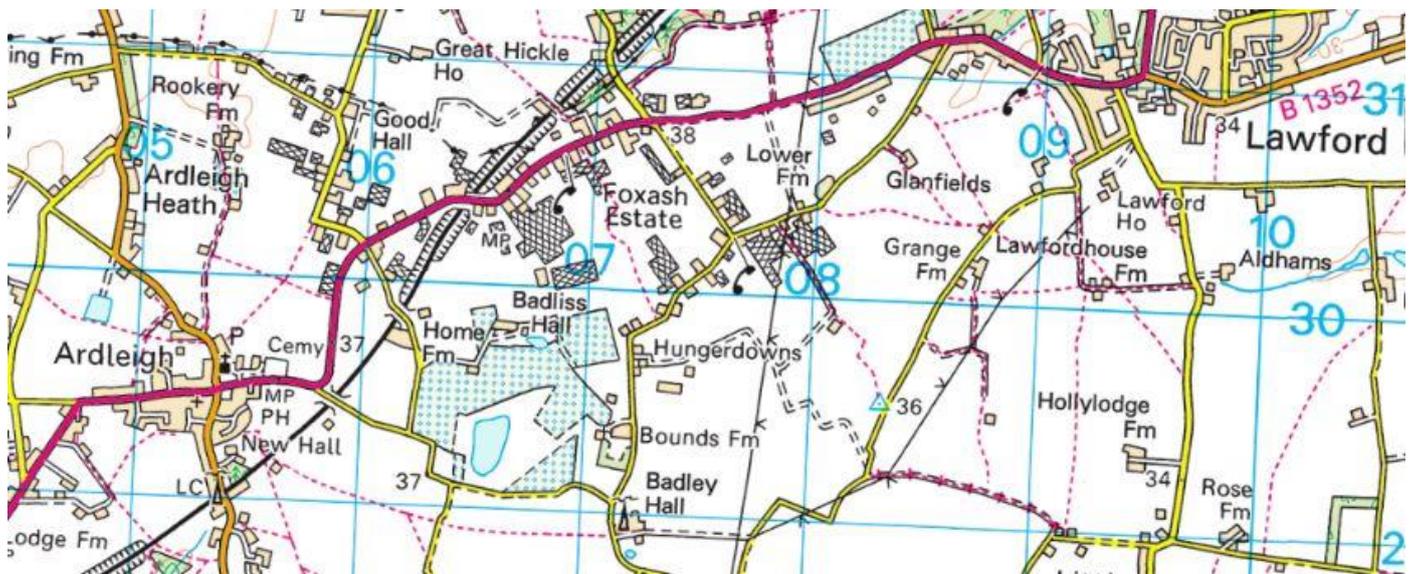


● Foxash Growers Ltd at Harwich Road, Lawford.

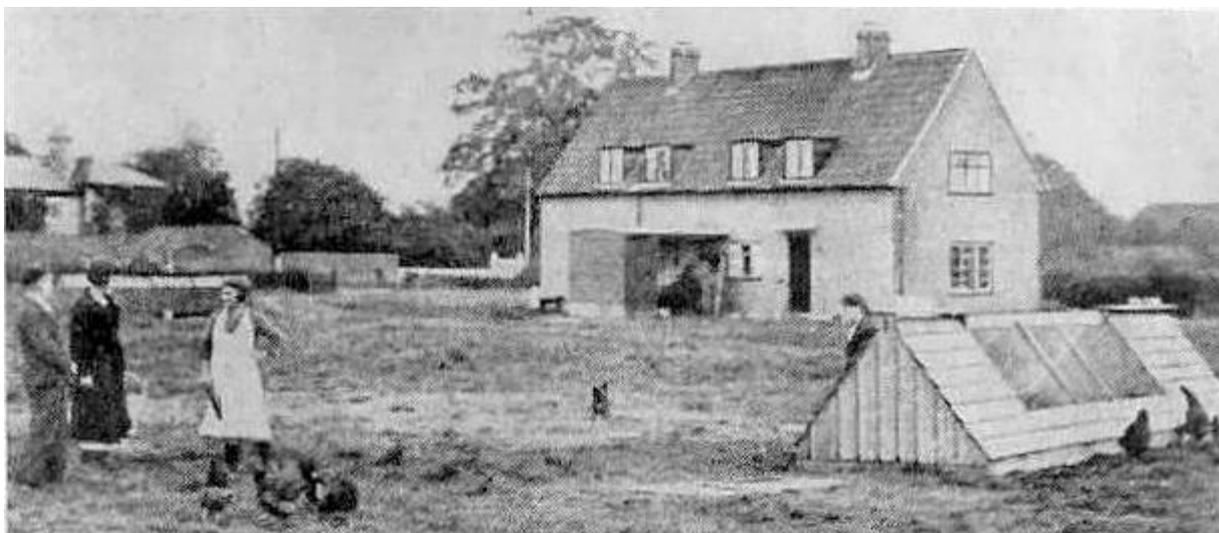


● Packing the cherry tomatoes are Suzanne Barrett, Ann Hardy, Anne Payne and Trisha Jones.

Foxash LSA: Organisation and property:



Foxash LSA had 90 houses, numbered sequentially 1-90. 65 smallholdings and 25 staff houses with no land. The LSA houses were semi-detached with the exception of 19, 20, 39 and 40 which were single. There may also have been a number of tied cottages from the previous Good Hall Farm (eg Good Hall Cottages) for LSA staff who worked with shire horses, then tractor and lorry drivers or employed in the packing shed, offices, stores or the propagation unit.





CLEARING A FIELD—Settlers on the Lawford Estate of the Land Settlement Association clearing up a potato field.



Photographed by Aerofilms in 1967.

- Hunters Chase 1-6
- Coggeshall Road 7-18
- Home Farm Lane 19 & 20 (Staff houses)
- Harwich Road, Ardleigh 21-30
- Harwich Road, Lawford 31-60
- Tile Barn Lane 61-66
- Hungerdown Lane 67-90

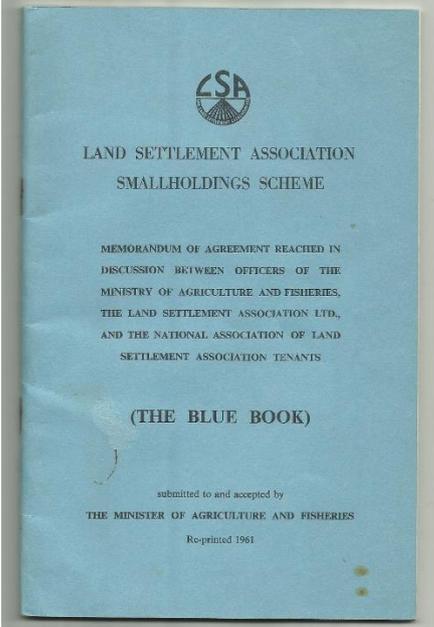
Maps of the original plots, giving the smallholding numbers are available at (MERL) Museum of English Rural Life at Reading University. Sheliagh Cheesman (No 7) has copies.



Old pic of Foxash Growers back in the Land Settlement Days! See more

Names include: Sid Titshall, Ken Francis, Robert Bruce, Peter Jones, Bill Mattieson, Bob Strange, John Barrett, John Noy, Colin Woods, Dennis Bush (?), Bob Cook, Sid Briggs, Bob Smith & David Groome.

Date???



The **manager** of the LSA, appointed by the government, lived in Good Hall House on Coggeshall Road. The adjoining farmyard was used for storing LSA machinery.



Foxash Farm on the Harwich Road was the base for **Central Services**, including **transport** (tractors and lorries) and machinery such as the soil sterilizer. John Noy was transport manager from the 1960s until the closure, living in Foxash House. The farm buildings behind the house were used as the LSA **stores** run by Bill Mathieson, where tenants could purchase tools, equipment, animal feed, fertiliser, etc. LSA machinery was also stored here.

The **Packing Shed**, where LSA produce was graded and packed before distribution to market, was built on land adjacent to Foxash House and run by Albert Bruce in the late 70s-80s. The LSA **Offices**, where tenants' accounts were managed and marketing of LSA produce took place, were accommodated in the same building. In the 1940s Edward Wiseman was the LSA accountant, prior to being book-keeper at Newbourne LSA. He left in 1952 to become accountant at Sidlesham LSA. The offices were located on the Harwich Road where Scofields Removals (CO11 2LR) is now located (2021).

The **Propagation Unit** (Props) was located at Home Farm (Home Farm Lane), managed by Peter Spiers during the 1960s/70s. It was dissolved at the closure and became Foxash Horticultural Services.

The Propagation Unit (Props) was located at Home Farm (Home Farm Lane), managed by Peter Spiers during the 1960 and 70's then dissolved and became Foxash services ran by Albert Bruce and Phill Sollars and Gerrit?? . GVZ glasshouses/Double Glazing Essex (CO7 7LT) now own the site.

A **Maintenance Unit**, based behind the LSA stores, was responsible for repairs to houses and glasshouses with specialist plumbers, carpenters, etc. The team was led by Phil Hooper, who later moved to Spain. "The maintenance man in the 1960s and early 70s was Bill Lay Flurrie who apparently fixed most things with a large hammer and some nails!! He needed to mix a small amount of cement at ours once and used the washing up bowl from the kitchen!" (Diane King, nee Chapman No 19)

A **community hut** where the first tenants lived while they were being trained and their houses were being built was situated near the stores. A second 'social club', located in front of packhouse, was built in the mid 1970s. This building became the offices for Foxash growers in 1988/89 when the present day Foxash Social Club was constructed on the playing fields using a former office from Warners of Ipswich – it was transported to Foxash in three pieces. (Ian Cook)



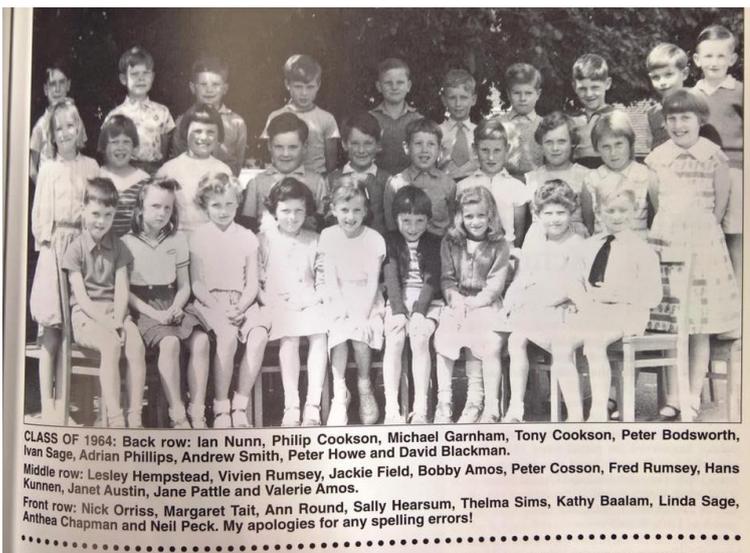
Sunday School mid 1970s (outside the second Community Hall)

John Barrett, retiring Manager plants a tree to mark opening of a new social centre (Mid 1970s)



Children on the LSA went to two different **schools**. A railway cuts the LSA estate in half with children on the Ardliegh side (Nos 1-30) attending Ardliegh St Marys CE Primary School and those on the Lawford side (Nos 31-90) going to Lawford Primary School in Wignall Street, moving site to Long Road in 1969. A bus was available for children going to Lawford, but children walked or biked to the school in Ardliegh. At the beginning of the LSA (1936) the school leaving age was 14, rising to 15 in 1944 and then 16 in 1972. The School Attendance Register lists the names and addresses of pupils, but also details of the previous school they may have attended and hence where they lived in the north-east of England before they came to Foxash. LSA

Lawford C of E School (1964)



Foxash LSA: Smallholdings, Tenants and Staff

Hunters Chase:

- 1: Staff House
 1939 Census: Gordon & Maude Candy (Lorry Driver),
 + Derrick Weddle

 - 2: Staff house
 1939 Census: Vacant
 + William & Margaret (Peggy) Mutimer (+ David, Ronnie and Beryl)
-

6: Staff House

1939 Census: ? & Beatrice Hallett (no occupation)

+ Gill & Charlie Carey (+ Paul, Susan and Tim)

Tim & Lorraine Carey (+ Nicole and Zoe)

.....

3: Staff House

1939 Census: ? & Diana Moles (No occupation)

1960s/70s Jack & Edna Brown

1987-94 Steve & Louise Dodson (+ Lucy and Mark)

4: Smallholding on opposite of the road

1939 Census: Arthur Crawford LSA smallholder, market garden, pigs & poultry)

+ Ray & Shirley Green (+ David and Andrew)

19??-present John & Jane Woods (+ David and Steven)

5: Smallholding on opposite of the road

1939 Census: William & Annie Easton (Trainee LSA Colliery Hewer)

1963-75 Ron & Elaine Smith + Neil & Tina

1970s/80s Bob & Marion Cousins

1980s-present Charles & Gillian Carey, then son Timothy.

6: Staff House

1939 Census: ? & Beatrice Hallett (no occupation)

+ Gill & Charlie Carey (+ Paul, Susan and Tim)

Tim & Lorraine Carey (+ Nicole and Zoe)

Ron Smith

Coggeshall Road

Good Hall House (Managers)



1939 (Census Estate) Ian & Alice Mathers (arrival & departure dates ?)

1960 Mr Strange (General Manager)

1960s-75 Mr Barrett (or Horticultural Adviser?) before Colin Edwards

1975-83 Colin Edwards (+ Stephanie, Ian and Cathryn)

1983 + Mrs Bridget Martin (Foxash Growers)

Good Hall Cottages

1939 (Census) Arthur & Annie Rose (Agricultural Labourer)

William & Ellen Norfolk (Farm Labourer)

Cecil & Hilda Burley (Agricultural Tractor ?)

Arthur & Emma Rice Farm (labourer)

1960/61 Charles & Gillian Carey (then No 88 until 1964, Tim & Lorraine Carey No 6 1975-present 2021)

- 7: 1939 Census: Frederick & Lilian Beaumont General labourer LSA)
+ Frank & Mrs Deeks (+ Robert and Mary)
+ John & Mrs Browning
+ Paddy & Nancy Sharp (+ Adrian and Deborah)
1975-present time (2021) Sheilagh and Laurie Cheesman + Stuart, Rebecca, Alexander & Hannah.
(Rebecca died 1982 and the LSA put on several fetes and carnival floats to raise money for the liver disease foundation in her memory).
- 8: 1939 Census: Robert & Janet Elliot (LSA)
+ Jack & Mrs Farrow
+ Rowley & Mrs Biggs
+ Sue & John Lane
1964-present day (2021) Arie (Harry) & Corrie Vander Steen + Ella, Petri, Carolyn + Christine, David & Susan
- 10: 1939 Census: Henry & Doris Gray (LSA Coal Hewer)
1970s/80s Sue & John Lane
+ Fred & Eileen (?) Jarvis
- 11: 1939 Census: William & Edna Hood (Trainee LSA) + Marjorie, Edith, Arnold and Ellen.
1970s Reg Jeffery
+ Dellow
- 12: 1939 Census: Percy & Millicent Jolly(Tenant LSA)
1970s Bernard & Mrs Houghton (+ Joy and Anna)
+ Mr/Mrs |Randal + David & Helen.
- 13: 1939 Census: William & Sarah Irwin (General labourer LSA)
1970s Fred & Cath Ward (+ Linda & Gillian)
- 14: 1939 Census: George & Mary Stubbs (Flour miller) + Billy, Sonny, Ena, Alan and Margaret

+ Edward Nicholson (Mary's father)



Mr & Mrs Tim Ward (+ Phillip and Vivien)
1970s/80s John & Mrs Holmes

15: 1939 Census: William & Mary Robertson (LSA Smallholder)
Alfie & Rita Roberts (+ David, Paul and Michael)
1970s Mr D. & Mrs Arrowsmith

16: 1939 Census: Thomas & Sarah Grant (LSA Smallholder)
Sid Titshall
+ Colin Woods
+ Gert van Zanten

17: 1939 Census: Norman & Alice Lamb (Dairyman LSA Trainee)
1970s/80s Des & Pat Tring (+ Mary, Susan and John)

18 1939 Census: John & Harriet Hodgson (Miner now LSA)
Dave & Margery Lewer (& 2 daughters)
Michael Ward
1980s Robert Auld (Foxash Grower)

Home Farm Lane (LSA Propagation Unit & staff houses)

19: 1939 Census: Reginald and Florence Barrell (LSA Horticulture, propagator producer)
1970s John & Gwen Chapman + Anthea & Rosalind

20: 1939 Census: William Gallimore (Late technical Adviser Poultry) now Clerk RAOC Colchester (Royal Army Ordnance Corps shooting team)
+ Mr Smith (Manager of props)
+ Gerritt and Betty Leppers + two daughters

Harwich Road, Ardleigh

21: 1939 Census ?
1960s George & Annie Riddout (+ Andrew and ?)
+ Brewers family

1950s/60s Pauline and Andrew **???** Family name?. The family emigrated to Argentina. Don't know how they got on there, or why. Rodney Purkiss
1960s-80s George & Annie Riddout (+ Andrew & Pauline)
Brewers Family

- 22: 1939 Census: Donald & Susannah Lennox (General Labourer, now LSA) & daughter Margaret (Egg Tester) & son Edward (Learner horticulture and market gardener)
1960/70s Joe & Margaret Aherne (+ Elizabeth, Maureen and Eileen)
1980s Peter Jocelyn
+ Mr & Mrs Cullum (+ Geoff)
- 23: 1939 Census: George & Ellen Johnson (Builder labourer)
+ Mr & Mrs Hopkins (+ Catherine & Steven)
+ Richard & Angela Butler (+ Jamie and Judy)
+ Roger & Tina (Teenie) Stewart (+Joyce & Steven)
1970s Peter Spears
- 24: 1939 Census: ? & Edith Bridge (?)
Mr Riddlestone (came from newbourne after being flooded out)
1961-97 Roy and Tina King (+ Brenda, David and Diane) (See story)
- 25: 1939 Census: William & Mary Atkinson (Public Works Contractors labourer)
+ Valerie Moore (Polly Noy) +Gary, Neil and Sarah
+ Colin & Anita Nutt
+ Jones family
- 26: 1939 Census: Joseph & Gladys Casey (Tenant LSA)
Beaumont
1970/80s Lawrie & Connie Ellis
- 27: 1939 Census: William & Lily Mc Call (LSA tenant)
Billy & Daisy Beales (+ Ray and Janet)
1970/80s Ray & Rhona Beales (+ Stephen and Natalie)
- 28: 1939 Census: Charles & Ellen Knights (Labourer heavy work)
+ Eileen or Elaine Piermain (maiden name) **husband's name ??**
- 29: 1939 Census: Mark & Polly Brewster (Collier now LSA) + Windsor, Sylvia, Gwendoline & Katholine.
+ Mr and Mrs Mutimer
+ Graham & Marie Howe + Ashley and a daughter
- 30: 1939 Census: George & Johanna Wood (Market Gardener LSA)
1951-1960 Dick & Madeline Purkiss (+ Rod and Claire)
1960s/80s Brian and Rosemary Liverton + Philip Susan & Michael
Philip Liverton
+ Dawn Hutchinson (worked in the office)

The Bridge ?

Harwich Road, Lawford

- 31: 1939 Census: Frank & Sarah Bridge (Builders labourer market gardener LSA)
1970/80s Doug and Mrs Constantine (+ Edward, Ellenor and Stuart)
1998-present Maxine & Andrew Smith + Chris & Ryan
No 31 1998-present Andrew & Maxine Smith (+ Chris & Ryan)
No 32 after Phil Sollars - Mark Munson date ? Then 2019? Gary & Pui Morgans
- 32: 1939 Census: Alfred & Violet Wilcox (Coal miner trainee LSA)
Bill Matheson
Mark Munson
1970s Martin Thornton LSA staff (moved from Newent LSA) moved to No 49 as tenants
1982 Phil & Rosemary Sollars (+ Richard and Angela)
1993 Phillip & Jill Sollars
? Mark Munson
2019 Gary & Pui Morgans
- 33: 1939 Census: John & Esther Eggenton (Ex-miner Trainee LSA)
+ Dennis & Mrs Lawrence (+ Paul, Alan and Diane)
+ Colin and Andrew Davy (now croft Nursery No 33 & 34)35: 1939 Census: Septimus & Mary
- 34: 1939 Census: James & Alice Willis (Colliery labourer underground LSA)
1970s/80s Dick & Mrs Davy (+ Colin and Andrew)
- 35: 1939 Census: Septimus & Mary Hodgson (General Labourer)
Bill & Alice ?
1970/80s Peter & Julie Wensak (+36)
- 36: 1939 Census ?
+ Eugene & Ellen Wensak (+ Peter)
1970/80s Peter & Julie Wensak (+ Rachel and Ashley)
- 37: 1939 Census: Robert & Kathleen Smailes (Market gardener LSA)
+ Peter & Carol Jones, Margaret
2005 Ivan & Judy Sage
- 38: 1939 Census: John & Emma Bryden (Market Gardener LSA)
Pre 1976 The Dorling family
1976-present (2021) David Thea Dunn (+ Olaf, Sasha, Benjamin, Stefan)
- 39: 1939 Census: Frederick Baalham (Farm Labourer) John Crick (Carpenter), Herbert Bradford
(Plumber) + John & Nellie Jay (Farm Labourer),
+ Lionel & Mrs Shopland
+ Michael & Chrissy Knights
- 40: 1939 Census: Harold & Olive Thurman Veg Grader & Peeler LSA)
+ Mr and Mrs Mann
+ Dave & Veronica ?

41/42 & 43/44 Staff houses ?

- 41: 1939 Census: Albert & Dorcas Jones (Mines department)
19?? -68 Edwards family until 1968
1968-Present time - Robert & Chrisine Cook (+ Julie, Sarah and Ian)
- 42: 1939 Census: Harold & Annie Owen (Mines department)
Pre 1997 Dennis & Margaret Bush (+ Nick, Chris, Amanda and Sally)
1997-present Richard Blackman & Sarah Mills
- 43: 1939 Census: Ivor & Phyllis Davey (unemployed colliery hewer)
+ Dennis & Judith Titsall (+ Frances)
+ Linda and Colin McCracken
+ Russ & Steph Williams
+ Pete & Ruth Amoss
2021 Mick & Maureen Young
- 44: 1939 Census: Percy & Edwina Day (Smallholder)
1970 ? -present David and Eileen Wilson + Shona & Rowena
Eileen very active in the county W.I. David breeds and shows pedigree Suffolk sheep. He also used to grow parsley crops.
??? 1970/80s John & Mary & Hawkins (+ Neil, Bridget and Simon)
+ Linda and Colin McCracken
- 45: 1939 Census: Gilbert & Margaret Matthews (Trainee LSA)
1970s Gordon Reed
1980s David & Denise Spurgin
- 46: 1939 Census: John & Ella Beall (LSA Smallholder)
1960s John & Brenda Noy, before moving to Foxash House in 1969
+ Ken & Mrs Frances
+ Ken & Anne Day
- 47: 1939 Census: John & Margaret Duncan (Retired OAP)
1970s Bosworth family
- 48: 1939 Census: John Wainless (Trainee LSA),
1970s/80s Albert (Packhouse Manager) & Beryl Bruce (+ Nigel, Sarah and Andrew)
- 49: 1939 Census: ? & Lilian Fulthorpe (no male/occupation)
1970/80s Gill & Martin Thornton (+ Karen, Simon, Victoria and Ben) Previously on LSA staff (No 32)
- 50: 1939 Census: ? & Louise Grant (no male/occupation),
+ Sonny & Dawn Titshall
+ Cheryl Snell
+ Dawn Hutchinson (worked in the office)

Foxash House (2 flats in 1960s)

1960s Arthur Jones - packhouse manager and Mr Barrett - accountant.

1970s John (Transport Manager) & Brenda Noy (+ Steven, Gary and Donna) (+ Kathryn, Shirley and Robert Moore)

+ Günther and Carole Welge

51: 1939 Census: ? & Vera Craisie (No male/occupation)

1939-19?? John Trimby

Wilfred & Trimby (+ Karen and Sally)

52: 1939 Census: Robert & Jane Gardner (LSA Smallholder)

1970/80s Colin & Lesley Jackson (+ Nicolette, Paula and Christine)

+ Ben Innes

53: 1939 Census: Patrick & Georgina McPadden (Shipyard Labourer/Trainee LSA)

1970/80s Colin & Pat Newton (+ Rosemary, David and Philip)

+ Alf & Hilda Kemp (+ Rowena and Veronica)

54: 1939 Census: Reginald & Nellie Davies (LSA Trainee)

+ Mr Mann

+ Frank & Nellie Nutt

55: 1939 Census: Stanley & Dorothy Bloxham (LSA Smallholder)

+ Colin & Mrs Grant

1970s/80s Mervyn & Pauline Allen (+ Cathryn and Simon)

56: 1939 Census: Thomas & Mary Mulley (LSA Smallholder)

+ Horrie & Mrs Haws

+ Sissy & Bill Minter

57: 1939 Census: William & Elizabeth Collinson (LSA Smallholder)

Pre-1961 Sid Bailey & wife

1961-97 Roy & Barbara Cooper (+ Caron and Sandra (Archer) (Photo Roy Cooper) (See story below)





- 58: 1939 Census: Henry & Isabel Edwaine (?) (LSA Smallholder)
1970/80s Derek & Mrs Bennington (+ Clare and Richard)
- 59: 1939 Census: James & Florence Thornley (Public Works Labourer)
1970/80s Ken & Wendy Crowhurst (+ Paul, Peter & Eddie)
- 60: 1939 Census: Gwiligan & Sarah Kenvin (LSA Trainer) + son Thomas Labourer Tomato Nurseries)
1970/80s John & Joan Cosson (+ Peter, Paul and Keith)
+ Mr & Sue Harris (+ Simon, Jayne and Mark)

Tile Barn Lane



- 61: 1939 Census ?
1970s Norman Bailey
+ Frank & Doris Bailey
+ ? & Michelle ?
+ Gary & Diane Short
+ Trevor and Pam Leggett (+ Tammy and Kim)
+ Andrew & Sue Simpson (+ Ruby and Matilda)
- 62: 1939 Census ?
1970/80s Brian & Dorothy Howe (+ Denise)

+ Brian & Angela Howe
+ Mr & Mrs Booker (+ Elaine and Nigel)

- 63: 1939 Census missing
George & Anne Riddout- Emigrated to Argentina then returned to No. 21 1960ish
1959-69 Jan & Jenny/Jantje Kunnen, Jan, Gus Hans and Ron (See story below)
1970/80s Richard (Dick) & Angela Butler (+ Jamie, Judy, Jo and Robert) (Photo)



+ Kim & John Booty (+ Hallie and Harry)

- 64: 1939 Census ?
1970/80s George & Mrs Gifford
+ Mr & Mrs Close (+ Colin, Barbara & ?)
- 65: 1939 Census missing
Mr & Ivy Cooper (+ Alan and Roy)
1972 -2011 Ivan & Wendy Clarke
2011- present (2021) Andy & Caroline Hunt (nee Clarke)
- 66: 1939 Census ?
1970/80s Alan & Barbara Austin
+ Peter Sampson

Hungerdown Lane

(67 and 68 were never built as war broke out)

- 69: 1939 Census: Henry & May Vickerstaff (LSA Smallholder)
David & Trixy Balham
1970/80s Roger and Sheila Balham (+ Andrew and Darren)
+ Dot & Keith Keys
- 70: 1939 Census: Arthur & Mildred Lower (LSA Smallholder)
+ Sid & Hilda Briggs (Sid was the LSA Agronomist and produce co-ordinator)
- 71: 1939 Census: John & Muriel Smith (Trainee LSA)
Arthur & Muriel Kemp
1970/80s Ray and Angela Kemp (+ Leanne and Mark)
- 72: 1939 Census: Stanley & Violet Smith (LSA Smallholder)

1970s Harry & Kath Franklin (+ Georgina and Johnnie)

1980s Chris Cordell

- 73: 1939 Census: William & Mary Huntingdon (Trainee LSA)
1970s Peter and Carole Halsall (+ Richard and Lucy)
+ Russell and Sylvia Howe (+ Lisa)
+ Mr & Joan Self (+ Steve)
+ Dave & Rita Jury (+ Ben and Rachel)

- 74: 1939 Census: Robert Pattison (LSA Smallholder)



1940-1942 Neville & Dorrie Belcham - Moved to Newbourne LSA.

1970/80s Claude and Joan Nunn (+ Ian, Kathleen and Mick)

+ Mark & Sally Bellenie (+ Victor and Emily)

- 75: Vacant at time of 1939 Census
1970s Gert Van Zeyst
+ Victor & Lillian? Houghton
+ Heather & Greg? Gregory
+ Trevor & Linda Woolnough (+ Victoria and David)
+ Karen & James Roadnight (+ Georgie)

- 76: 1939 Census: John & Maria Calvert (LSA Smallholder)
1970s Stan and Mrs Leonard
+ Karla & Philip Brenton

- 77: 1939 Census?
1970/80s Ted & Bronn Dunn

- 78: 1939 Census: Joseph & Jane Smith (LSA Smallholder)
1970s Len & Kathleen Hull
+ Anton & Hillary Popiolek (+ Max, Tom and Lydia)

- 79: 1939 Census: Emily Greenwell (father not available) **Greenwell also at No 3?**
1970s Marlene & Terry Smith (+ Kay)
+ Cyril Bradford
+ Lindy & Nick Winship

- 80: 1939 Census: Lancelot & Hannah Bruce (Trainee LSA + son sand quarry labourer)
1970/80s Don & Mary Phillips

+ Colin & Theresa Springett (+ Danielle)

81: 1939 Census: Thomas & Isabella Brinklands (LSA Smallholder)
1970s Gerald & Emily Houghton (+ Patricia, Kevin and Ruth)
+ Bond

82: David & Mary Cramb (Trainee LSA 1939 Census)
+ Claude & Mrs Nunn



Claude J Nunn

1970s Wrobel (Christopher, Nicholas, Jonathan, Sarah and Erica)
+ Liz & Mick Eastall

83: 1939 Census: Wilfred & Rosa Trimby (LSA Smallholder) Later Wildred was a forklift driver
1970s Jean & Wayne Plant
+ Alec & Mrs Blackman (+ John and David)

84: 1939 John & Doris Trimby (unemployed painter 1939 Census)
John & Mrs Maltster (+ Elizabeth & Susan)
1970s John & Mrs Watts
1980s David & Mrs Stock
+ Alfie & Rita Roberts (+ David, Paul and Michael)

85: 1939 Census: Thomas & Isabella Brinkshanks (LSA smallholder)
1970s John and Mary Knights, (+ John and Joanne)

86: 1939 Census ?
1970/80s Dougie and Joan King (+ Gary, Trevor and Philip)

87: 1939 Census: Cyril & Phyllis Williams (LSA Smallholder)
1959—66 Allan Cooper (Brother No 57) Family emigrated to Australia in 1968.
1970/80s Joan & Alan Roberts.

88: 1939 Census ?
1961-64 Charles & Gillian Carey (then No 6 1975- son Timothy present time)
1979-87 Ian & Thelma & Ian Scrutton (+ Lee and Emma)
+ Ernie Goodhall
+ Richard & Christine Kimberly

89/90 - 1939 Census ?

+ George & Ena Howe (+ Brian, Gillian, Russell, Graham, Peter and Valerie (Polly))

George was the Orchard Foreman.

+ Stan & Vera Peck

1970/80s Peter & Marilyn Bell (Bought both sides of the house)

Also on Census numbers, but no address?

1. Bertram & Nellie Franklin (LSA Smallholder)
2. Arthur & Mary Lane (LSA Trainee)
3. ? & Margaret Greenwell (LSA Smallholder)
4. Frederick & Gladys Westgarth (LSA Smallholder)
5. Robert & Doris Cleverton & 8 children (LSA Smallholder)
- 5b (?) Thomas & Elizabeth Armstrong (LSA Smallholder)
6. John & Elizabeth Clark (LSA Smallholder)

Foxash LSA Stories: No 8, 14, 24, 57, 59, 63, LSA Office & Facebook Memories

Number 8: Arie Van Der Steen (Harry)

We as a family came over to England from Holland in December 1957, when dad (Arie Van der Steen – known to all as Harry) began work as a foreman for a Dutch market gardener in Hull. A chance encounter with a government official led to him accepting a tenancy with the LSA and so our move to number 8 Coggeshall Road happened in October 1964.

The first years were spent growing the usual salad crops, tomatoes, lettuce and cucumbers but by the end of the 1970's he had 4 acres of glass and with increasing oil prices, tomato growing became less profitable so dad began to research the feasibility of different crops in his quest to try something different. His research took him back to Holland where radish production was at that time known as "red gold!" A meeting with M&S led to a three month trial of radish growing which necessitated a large investment in machinery for a packing line that complied with their exacting standards, and in 1981 the radish line was born making dad the first UK grower to grow radish on a commercial scale. There was much scepticism on the part of family and other growers – after all how many radishes did people actually buy! Fortunately it wasn't long before his gamble began to pay off and a certain amount of envy ensued when it became apparent how profitable it actually was. Foxash estate doubled its income when radish production was in full swing, which pleased Mr Edwards the estate manager! He formed a partnership with other growers, firstly David Dunn and latterly Alan Roberts, and at the height of production 3 million bags were produced in one year with contracts initially solely with Marks and Spencer but as production grew, they also supplied Sainsburys, Safeway, Tesco and even British Airways, producing radishes packed in cone shaped bags.

It was noted at the Dutch auctions that there was a large drop in orders from M&S resulting in a visit to the radish line from students and tutors from a horticultural college in Eindhoven.

The radish line created employment for locals and family alike and although much of the work was monotonous the staff created their own entertainment with singsongs etc to while away the time.

Dad retired in 1992 and still lives at number 8, Alan continued the radish business until he retired in 1996.

Ella Garnham (Daughter)

No 14: Stubbs

My grandparents George & Mary Stubbs lived at 14 Coggeshall Rd, Foxash. They moved there during the depression from Gateshead Co Durham in April 1939-69, they were early pioneers of the Foxash estate, hard working and brave.

(Beverley Bryson, granddaughter).

0 EVENING GAZETTE THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1995

Gateshead to...Ardleigh

The last of the Foxash pioneers has no regrets about coming south

RECESSION or depression. Whatever it's called, it means a shortage of jobs and lots of people out of work.

Today, as a result of the recession, it is generally accepted that people will have to be retrained and take a job they had never thought of doing before.

Not so long ago this would have been almost unthinkable, so a retraining and resettlement scheme set up by the government some 60 years ago following the Depression was something of an innovation.

The Land Settlement Association, partly financed by the government and partly by private bodies and charities, was established to provide work and homes, mainly for unemployed miners from the north of England.

There were ten estates throughout the country. One, with 60 smallholdings, was at Foxash, covering 400 acres in Lawford, Ardleigh and Bedham.

Each smallholding comprised a house, piggeries and between four and seven acres of land.

Among those first families were the Stubbs, who arrived at Ardleigh Station in April 1939, travelling south to a new life in a place they had never heard of and knew nothing about.

Mary Stubbs, who is now 90 and a widow, lives in Waldegrave Close, Lawford, and she is believed to be the last of those early pioneers, at least of those who settled at Foxash.

Mrs Stubbs, who was from Gateshead, said: "My husband worked in a flour mill which closed and he was out of work."

He was given the chance of work through the government scheme and although he was not keen, Mr and Mrs Stubbs and their three children plus Mrs Stubbs's father decided to give it a try and they were allocated 14 Coggeshall Road, Ardleigh.

The family had always lived in a town, but at Foxash they were surrounded by fields.

Then there was a problem with the locals.

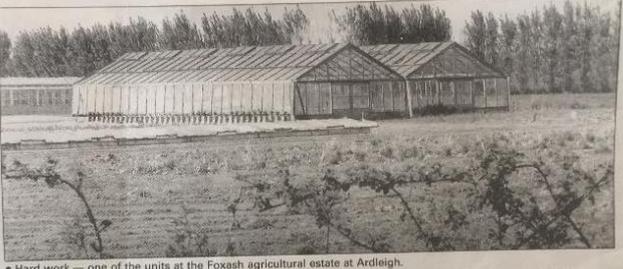
"We didn't get on at first. It was the different accents and the children found the school, with only one classroom, quite different from what they'd been used to. It was a completely different way of life, but it was better than being out of work."

The family remained at Foxash for about 26 years before moving to Waldegrave Close, where Mrs Stubbs is the last of the first residents in that group of bungalows for the elderly.

Since her husband died, she has twice visited her family in Australia. In fact, she flew for the first time at the age of 70.

And she has never regretted coming south. "In the end, I didn't want to go back to the North-East."

Twelve years ago, the government pulled out of Foxash and the smallholders bought their properties, although the salad produce is still sold through their own co-operative, now known as Foxash Growers.



• Hard work — one of the units at the Foxash agricultural estate at Ardleigh.

Among those first families were the Stubbs, who arrived at Ardleigh Station in April 1939, travelling south to a new life in a place they had never heard of and knew nothing about. Mrs (Mary) Stubbs, who was from Gateshead said "My husband worked in a flour mill which closed and he was out of work." He was given the chance of work through the government scheme and although he was not keen, Mr and Mrs Stubbs and their three children plus Mrs Stubbs's father decided to give it a try and they were allocated to 14 Coggeshall Road, Ardleigh. The family had always lived in a town, but at Foxash they were surrounded by fields. Then there was a problem with the locals. "We didn't get on at first. It was the different accents and the children found the school, with only one classroom, quite different from what they'd been used to. It was a completely different way of life, but it was better than being out of work". All the family which had increased by two more children had to help and as they grew up and married their partners also gave a hand when it was needed, particularly during the celery season."

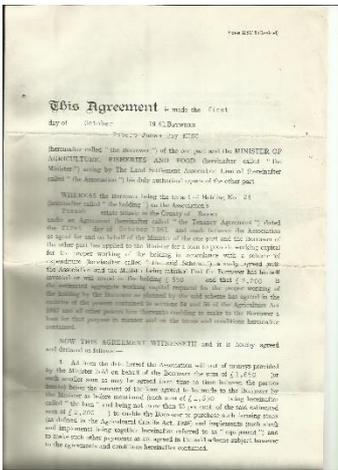
The family remained in Foxash for about 26 years and Mrs Stubbs has never regretted coming south. "In the end, I didn't want to go back to the north-east'.

(Extract from 'Evening Gazette' Thursday April 27th 1995)

No 24: King

Roy and Tina King moved into no.24 in October 1961 along with Brenda and David. I completed the family in 1965.. Dad has found his original contract. He was told at his interview that the average profit for the growers at Foxash was £1000 a year. In their first year they made £1400, more than double what Dad had been earning as a cowman. They retired to Bradfield in 1997. Mum died in 2002 but Dad is now 88 and still growing all his own veg and way too many tomatoes!!

(Diane King, Daughter)



No 57: Cooper

Stanley, Ivy, Roy & Allan Cooper moved south from Derbyshire in 1936, Stanley was a miner, all the mines were in a depression so they moved south for work. Stanley help build the hanger in Cardington which housed the airship R101, we then moved to Howell in Bedfordshire and worked in a glasshouse nursery. My father applied for a smallholding at Foxash in 1952/53, moved into a holding No. 65 Tile Barn Lane until their retirement.

My brother Allan moved into Holding No 87 Hungerdown Lane in 1959. They moved to Clacton 1966/67 before emigrating to Australia 1968.

I married in 1961 and with my wife Barbara moved into Holding No. 57.

A bit more about early days at Foxash No 57

CHICKENS

From day one we reared Chickens, in the battery house. They had just started to lay when fowl pest broke out in the area. The government instructed all birds within a radius of half a mile had to be destroyed. The ministry vets came and within 2 seconds they were all dead, the shed was locked. The dead animals were placed in a massive pit at the end of the holding. When the gas was cleared and clearance was given we brought some more hens from a holding in Cambridge and started again. The birds just started to lay when fowl pest re-appeared. The government gave us some compensation, with this we brought a glasshouse.

When Stanley (my Dad) moved to Foxash all the outside work was done by two horse's Captain and Champion, but as the growers began to grow a lot more the horses where put into retirement. We would hire a tractor but with over 60 growers all needing it at the same time it was time to invest in some machinery.

I am now talking about me my first bit of machinery was a four wheeled glasshouse tractor this had a front loader, rotavator, grass cutter, back lift subsoiler everything I wanted the next thing I bought was a two seater planter which was made for a glasshouse. Then we bought two Harvesters then a compost mixer and a blocking machine so I could mix all my compost and make my own lettuce blocks all seeded. I would make 10000 blocks on my own in a day.

I also invested in a watering panel which went set up would water all the glasshouses automatically with a time clock which I could program.

WATER AT FOXASH

As more and more glasshouses went up the mains water wasn't good enough the first thing that happened several grower's put in water tanks to store the mains water. I put in a 5000 gallon tank which was a great help. Then the powers to be decided we needed our own water supply so around the estate they put down several bore holes. We were surprised the estate sat on a lake so the idea was to build a well and a large reservoir. The place they chose was at the bottom of No. 57 and No. 58 Derek Bennington.

The contractors lived in a caravan at the bottom of the holding and manually dug a well until they hit water. They dug one at No. 58 Derek Bennington holding and one right in the corner of No. 57. They hit water first at Derek's so ours was filled in. The estate was given an estimate to dig a reservoir and a pump would be required at every holding and it would have to cross at least 5 roads. The whole idea was called off probably due to the expense.

The contractors gave us an estimate for digging our own wells, No. 57 and several other holdings took up the idea. A well and a borehole was dug next to our tank. The well was about 20 feet deep then a bore hole sunk from the bottom of the well until they hit clay, there was plenty of water. When the pump started working the water looked awful all sand, the contractor wasn't bothered but it started to run clear. I couldn't use it until it had been annualised. About two days later it was all ok so it could be pumped into the tank. This worked on a ball valve cut off which was brilliant.

LITTLE GEM LETTUCE

Myself and one other grower done several trials with Marks & Spencers. They gave us different seeds for us to trial, they wanted a new line in their store's. I filled my landlords glasshouse up with them it was a fantastic sight all the colours of the rainbow, red, purple and all the different greens, long and short. The following year we planted one whole bay of a small Tom Thumb Lettuce and one whole bay of Little Gem. The Little Gem was very promising, when the Tom Thumb was ready Marks & Spencers sent 4 ladies to cut them. They turned up about 10 o'clock on a very hot day, they moaned the whole time it was too hot for them. The produce was sent to the Colchester Store. A phone call came through, stop cutting the produce were going rotton on their shelves, they had been cut in the wrong conditions. We used to finish cutting just before the sun got up so they were always cool so that was the end of them. But the little Gem took off but the season was short. They wanted them all summer, we started growing them outside as well and that's when the fleece came into its own so we could grow from April until October. We grew them for about ten years or so this wasn't enough they wanted it for twelve months, that was the end of our good times with imports better weather and cheaper labour.

WEATHER

The disaster that hit Foxash there was the terrible 1987 hurricane which hit the estate we lost one complete glasshouse plus hundreds of sheets of glass. My back still aches from picking up the broken glass when it comes off the roof it breaks into thousands of small pieces.

That wasn't all we were in bed when we lost the gable end of the house if you want too get up quick I would recommend it otherwise I wouldn't, we spent the next night or two under the table in the dining room we could feel the roof moving not a very pleasant experience.

Talking about broken glass, there was one occasion a swan decided to land on one of our greenhouses and was unable to take off again. An RSPB was called to help the swan but a lot of panes of glass was broken when the swan flapped its wings.

A tornado struck Newbourne Estate in Suffolk. There was a lot of damage, a van was organised from Foxash with buckets and gloves to help them clear up the mess.

Memories written by Roy Cooper (Smallholder 1961-1997)

No 59: Crowhurst

The Pack house did have an office where people would go and collect their returns. As the produce was collected the grower recorded what they were sending by placing a carbon copy book record (ticket) of what they had arranged to be picked in terms of quantity and type in a blue polythene bag. At the pack house office there was a Perspex covered tray (pigeon hole) for each grower. The pack house would place returns in each grower's pigeon hole conforming the collection and how it had been graded in the pack house. It confirmed what the sale price was and whether for example been given premium status for Marks & Spencer. Once a week on a Friday additionally a Bulletin news sheet was published and left in the pigeon hole. The Bulletin was edited by The General Manager Mr Strange (1960). There were pages from The Financial Director, The Pack House Manager and Transport Manger. The Pack House has a historic ship lap timber hall with fire places like those in the Great Escape. Social Functions were held there. On one end was the Sunday School where all the Children of the Estate went each Sunday. This was run by Mr Houghton on the Violin and Mrs Houghton on the upright piano. (1965) The Pack House had a small shop where growers could buy supplies such as chemicals, watering devices, seeds, boots , paint , overalls , etc. This was run by Mr Mathieson a Scotsman (1965). Later in 1970's a new Social Centre was created with a bar utilising what was a modular timber class room type building. The pack house at two main chilled stores. The Estate retained Lorry Drivers such as Mr who would live in accommodation abutting a grower. In fact all the management lived in Estate Accommodation. As a young person we would on occasion travel with the Truck Drivers to London. We would do a route around the Markets. Arriving at Stratford Market for example at 2 am in the morning, then Covent Garden and all the others.

(Peter Crowhurst)

63: Kunnen

My best recollection is that we arrived in Foxash in 1959 and left in 1969. We moved from Hopwas, near Tamworth, where my father was working as a nurseryman. It was this ad, that my father Jan saved, which suggested that date. All I have are photos and personal recollects, many of which have Ben posted on the Foxash facebook site. (Hans Kunnen, son - emigrated to Australia in 1969)

LSA Office: Rosemary Double

I worked in the office, and used a comptometer, I wonder how many people would know what it was. It was a little green one. Mr Strange was the manager, Mr Barrett the accountant, and Dawn in charge of the office. Loved my time there. Minnie and Aggie used to let me make the wooden boxes in my lunch hour, to make a few extra pennies!

Mr Barrett was the one Mum (Wendy) and I were struggling with last night. Wendy now 85. I used to deliver the papers and Mr Barrett and his wife were always polite. Always a small tip each week. Great mentions earlier of John Noy and Albert Bruce but got also to mention Dennis Bush who was so mellow and considered and his neighbour Robert Cooke who saved me one morning from Ian's Alsatian. Wendy was from Gravesend and finding herself in deepest darkest Essex in 1960 was a bit of a Culture Shock. She couldn't work out when she said hello lots of people down in Manningtree looked the other way. She hadn't realised the history and that to many Locals Foxash meant you were from the Estate. Seen from its creation rather like a Township for outsiders many of whom has strange accents and manners. To this day I still feel slightly and outsider although things have changed and people now move on more easily and normally. In the morning Wendy would be outside working as soon as the dawn chorus raised the day. Whether it was a heavy frost, snow ,spring showers, Gail's she would be out on the fields dawn till dusk. At 7 am she would come in and help me sort the papers. She loved that as she could have a good read and chat with me.

Mr Shopland used to drive around in his white mini with his Labrador hanging out the window - He seemed to have a Conveyor belt of lettuces and an army of Ladies cutting them. Everyone was left scratching their heads as to whether he had it right or wrong. His RAF patter seemed to carry a wave of authority. Mrs Mann (Pat Frost's Sister lived next door). Life is sometimes about saying the right thing at the right time. Good on you for thinking on your feet.

My grandmother had the Post office and Rose stores at the beginning of Hungerdown Lane. When my grandmother finished with the post office it was the Hearsums who took over.

I worked for Harry Franklin on evenings and weekends. We were the first ones to do prepacked lettuces. I then worked for Lionel Shopland cutting lettuces and celery. We used to wear bikini tops and shorts. When I went for my interview at the dentists, I had a fantastic suntan. The woman who interviewed me was very posh. Asked me where I got my suntan, I thought if I say cutting lettuces I won't get the job, so I said I had been to Spain! Rick worked for Brian Liverton, he put him in the greenhouse to pick tomatoes. Went in to see how he was getting on, and he was picking green ones, he was colour blind, so they gave him another job to do !

(Rosemary Double)

Memories on Facebook (Sandra Archer, Peter Crowhust & Denise Thomas)

I had forgotten about the ticket in the blue polythene bag. How I loved cycling to the pack

house to collect tickets from the pigeon hole and seeing Dawn in the office 'Happy Memories'. Yes and the house number was on the ticket - Yes I can see Dawn tapping away on one of those Ribbon Type Writers - Getting the return was either the outbreak of warmth and joy or an inquest into why the product had been so badly graded. (Sandra)

Yes, exactly!!! We always produced perfect produce, didn't we?!

If we got a dodgy return it was probably "because the crates/bins had been muddled up with those on the trailer from the main road. Just like your Dads used to say it was the "Tile Barn Lane lot" that let the side down! Dawn was a total legend! As was Wilfie and Carbie and Robbie, etc, on the pick up - there was no way our produce would ever have got muddled up, regardless of our Dads' teasing! (Denise)

Yes there would be grumbling that the tomatoes had all been sent to dump because someone was picking too ripe. Sid Titshall also used to collect in the 60's with Wilf. I wondered at how his rollie cigarette use to levitate on his lips as he spoke. (Peter)

Sid was also called Carbie because his bike had a carbide lamp on it and there was some tale of disaster with said lamp that preceded his nickname! Apparently there was a knack of getting the right ratio of carbide crystals and water to produce a good stream of gas that was then ignited to give the light!

If I'm right I think Sid tried to ramp up the gas production to get a brighter light and somehow managed to explode his lamp instead! He was well known for being a broad Suffolk lad and his phrase for almost everything was "huh, boy!" (Denise)

Lovely Story about Sid - Not heard that before - I also remember Sid Briggs who latterly became the "Fieldsman" - a sort of agronomist come coordinator and produce organiser role wasn't it? I know he was very clever and knowledgeable. He always seemed so Professional and respected. Sid Briggs was wonderful wasn't he! And the awesome Hilda too! When he retired we went into town and bought him a really special pair of binoculars from a shop in Colchester called "Scientific and Technical". My Dad was nominated to get them for him because Dad was relatively into lenses because of his photography knowledge! (Peter)

I can remember looking at the night sky out of my parents bedroom window through them (we wanted to make sure they were good before we wrapped them up for him) and I was astounded by the view through them! (Denise)

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Any corrections, amendments and/or additional information please contact:

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