

HOUSE HISTORIES

INTRODUCTION

Inspired by David Olusoga's BBC series *A House through Time*, Snodland Historical Society is embarking on a project to compile as much as it can regarding the history of Snodland houses, especially the older ones, and the people who lived in them. This is a mammoth task which will never have a proper end, but is already proving fascinating to those who have begun work on the project.

It is likely that people who have researched their own family trees will be able to help us since much is likely to remain in family collections of documents and photographs. We would be very grateful for any help of this kind, which could be added to our findings.

Progress is likely to be quite slow, but we aim to create files for each side of a street, or a similar unit, and will put them online as soon as each of them is sufficiently ready to be seen.

COMPILERS

We will be grateful for any offers of help in compiling the material and provide some guidance on the format, below. This is to ensure that we maintain a uniform style throughout.

Already we are grateful to the following who have volunteered to help with the initial research: Andrew Ashbee; Michael Bailey; Valerie Brown; Josephine Crittall; Sarah Parris. Thanks to those who have supplied information and pictures which we shall include. We will prepare a list of their names which will be added here.

NOTES ON FORMAT FOR COMPILERS

1. Each house to be a separate file. We will combine them to create a single unit, such as one side of a road when we put them on-line. See the examples for details.
2. Text. Use Calibri font, 16 pt for headings, 11 pt for normal text.
3. Where possible the first page will include address, a picture of the front and such details as we know or can deduce from the photo. (Many photographs of pre-1914 houses were taken in 2007 by Roger Smoothy for the EPE project.)
4. Subsequent pages. Use the census returns, e.g. 1871-1911 as shown, using a Word table format for each one. Keep the spelling of names as shown there, even though this may vary. The 1911 census also includes the number of rooms. The instructions were: 'Write below the number of Rooms in this Dwelling. Count the kitchen as a room but do not count the scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom nor warehouse, office, shop.' (This caused some confusion.) Also new was the number of years of the marriage, the number of children born, the number (if any) of those who died. To save space this information will be entered beneath the 1911 census in the format [r.; mar.' ch.; d. = no. of rooms, no of years married, no, of children born, no of those who died. If all children lived then the last column is omitted] Then, where known, include previous censuses in which the family is found, but as plain text beneath the first table. This can include birth, marriage and death/burial records and previous addresses. If necessary, record where families came from (i.e. as shown in the previous census) and where they moved to. We are adding what we can from the 1939 census too, which gives dates of birth and

occupations. Some entries were 'officially closed' for individuals born less than 100 years ago whose death is not known to have been registered, together with all members of the armed forces. Addresses are sometimes difficult to sort out.

5. With people moving around a great deal, it may be difficult to decide where to put any biographical material – and what/how much to include. I think for the moment include everything you find. There should be an entry for each person in the Genealogy Section of the SHS web-site which may help. Also, some are shown in Directories (under Documents) and some in WWI/II (under People).

6. There was no standard numbering of the houses until the mid-twentieth century. Until then it was more general to number each terrace separately. Many terraces and individual houses were identified by their own names and it is sometimes difficult to work out the sequences.

7. ABBREVIATIONS. Use these to reduce the size of entries where you can.

b. = born; bap.=baptized; bur. =buried; mar. or M =marriage

Snodland Churches: AS =All Saints; BP =Baptist; CC =Christ Church; IC = Independent (i.e. Congregational) Church; NJ =New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian); Cem. = Snodland Cemetery

Other abbreviation should be obvious, i.e. 'lab' for labourer; 'gen' for general; 'wks' for works; the first three letters of the months.