## **Village Echoes**

## **Goudhurst Census through Time**

We've recently been obliged by law to fill in a census return or risk a £10,000 fine. This could be done either online or on paper or by phone. The census has happened every ten years from 1801 with the exception of 1941 because of the Second World War. The administration of the early census returns 1801-1831 was the responsibility of the Overseers of the Poor and the Clergy before being passed into the hands of the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrars in 1841. Most of the early returns were unfortunately destroyed, although in some isolated instances they have been preserved. However, they were usually nothing more sophisticated than a head count of the population with no names recorded. In all cases details remained confidential until 100 years passed.

The first record, in most places 1841, had names, addresses, occupations and whether they had been born in the present county. Ages were rounded to the nearest five years. The records were handwritten and often difficult to decipher. They are also of varying quality as they were conducted by local people. Door numbers rarely existed at this time and in locations such as a village or town centre people were frequently just listed as living in *the street* or in the case Goudhurst *-in the Town*. From 1851 all individuals were listed with their relationship to the head of the household, actual ages, their occupations and where they were born.

self on V	HOUSES		2.12.2007	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT,	Where Born	
PLACE	72 80 -		NAMES of each Person who abode therein				er Born County	fore in reland, Parts,
PLACE	Uninhabit or Buildin	Uninhabite or Buildin Inhabite	the preceding Night.	Males	Females	or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Whether in same C	Whether B Scotland, Ir or Foreign
Toy Conge	L	1	Am Denfold	43	-	Brickfager	401	
	-		Many bo		45	-	so	-
			Enely bo -	10	10	7	100	
		-	July Deufold	10		0 V.C	10	
or the Tower		_	and to	7	40	1	90	<u> </u>
	_		An. C. Bugges	1			200	
	-	-	Therivett 80.	-	3	1	80	
			Ged Buggs	1			do	_
	_	-	Terrole Infinit	-	61	the total	30	-
			Lanah Harvey		63	Burge Woman	San	
			Step Bushops	16		apprentice)	200	
1	_		Jam Judge	14		80-	yes.	

Extract from the 1841 Goudhurst Census

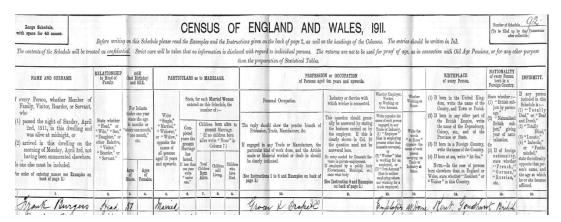
The extract above is from 1941 when Goudhurst and Kilndown was one parish. It shows William Penfold a bricklayer at the top with his wife and three children at Joye Cottage. Below them, described as 'in the town' are the family and employees of William Burgess, Grocer and Draper and so we know where they are. It reveals that William and his wife Anne weren't born in Kent but went on to establish a dynasty in Goudhurst. There was somebody described as a Nurse Woman, presumably a nurse maid for their children including a female baby not yet named. Below her are a servant and two apprentices, one only fourteen years old.

14	Goldwell House	1	William Buyels	Keau	wide bot	аррани	Sarure Enhant
			Mary E. de	Jan	lines 28		Kent- Goldhurst-
			ada C. Giller	heice	13	Achdur	· Junbudge Wells
_			Elizabeth Fancete	Serv	Unen -LA	Housemaia	" Hormonden
-	-	_	Sannah Buer	Sur.	unn. Ly.		Misalue Huelbrey
75	Beresford Road	4	- Michael Clancy	1 1,		ay. Lat.	Reland West - General
-	46	-	hung a se	wife	man 21		Ment goudnust.
		-	111 10	don	1		- A
	Chapel		13 Min 9.	arh			

Extract from the 1871 Goudhurst Census

By the time of the 1871 census William Burgess senior has moved away from the shop and was now living in Goldwell House. You can see that William had been born in Ewhurst, Sussex and his wife Anne had died as he was described as a widower. One of his daughters still lived at home, probably acting as housekeeper, together with a niece who was still at school. The household was completed by a housemaid and cook. William gave his occupation as appraiser, perhaps still involved in the stores as a consultant? Living at the stores now was his son William who was married and had six children. His entry on the census notes that he employed three men and two boys.

By 1911 there were at least eighteen people with the name of Burgess living in Goudhurst, some had been born in Cranbrook. Frank Burgess was now living 'above the shop'.



Extract from the 1911 Goudhurst Census

This is the last census that is accessible to the public but the 1921 version will be online in early 2022. 1911 was the first census to be written by people themselves and even more information was required. This extract shows that it was now required to include the length of marriage and how many children had been born and how many had survived. Not only did they have to give their address but also note how many rooms the home had. In addition, by also stating infirmities suffered, such as blindness, the government was able to record the rate of infant mortality, housing conditions and the health of the population, thereby showing how improvements should be made in the future. A comprehensive list of facts but still nowhere near as much information as we supplied in March!

Goudhurst & Kilndown Local History Society