

## VILLAGE ECHOES

### WATER COLOUR PAINTING

From time-to-time people donate things to our archive, which they have recently discovered or no longer want. Not everything is suitable for us but one item, as a result of a declutter, was gratefully received into our collection.

It is a watercolour painting of Goudhurst Village Centre painted in about 1910 by M L Holdich, of whom we know nothing. Perhaps you do?



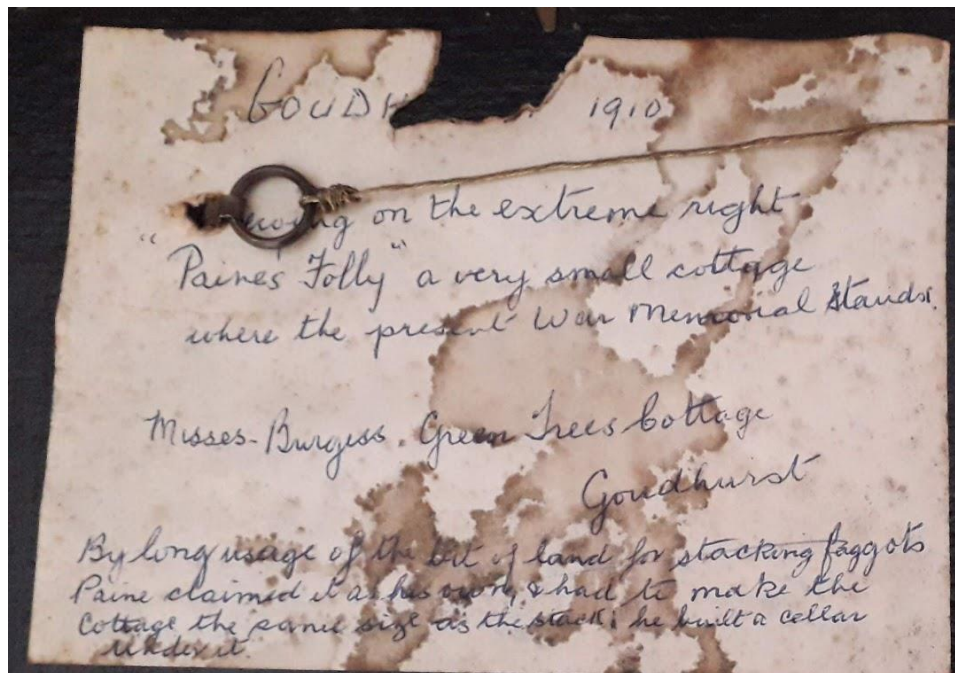
It shows a very quiet scene of the centre of Goudhurst with just one vehicle disappearing down Clay Hill. On the pond to the left of the picture is a small hut-like building. Could this be a duck house?

To the right is one of the last depictions of Paine's Folly, which was demolished in 1924. To read a full and interesting history of this tiny cottage, originally built on common land for wood storage, see Village Echoes July 2012 on our website, written by Gill Joye and John Benfield. At the time of this painting, it was occupied by a Miss Rubridge

Overlooking the pond is Hughenden House, then called Wall Pond House and occupied by married couple John and Elizabeth Allwork and John's brother Charles. The brothers ran a grocer's and

draper's business from the building, that had been started by their father in 1844. Another brother opened a branch in Kildown in about 1895.

This Grade II timber framed house was built in the 16th century and extended in the 17th and 18th centuries. At various times in the past, it had been a house, a shop and warehouse and even had a blacksmith's forge at the back. It became Hughenden in 1936.



The rather damaged label on the back of the painting dates the picture to 1910 but must have been written sometime after, as it refers to Paine's Folly 'being where the War Memorial now stands' and that was unveiled in November 1924. It also gives a brief summary of the history of this small cottage. The message is signed by Misses Burgess of Green Trees Cottage, Goudhurst. These were three unmarried sisters; Alice 49, Caroline Mary, bookkeeper, 45 and Annie Martha Burgess 43. However, by 1935 the ladies had moved to Delaware, Beresford Road.

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