

Building Record for Hurst Bowling Club Clubhouse

Church Hill, Hurst, RG10 0SJ

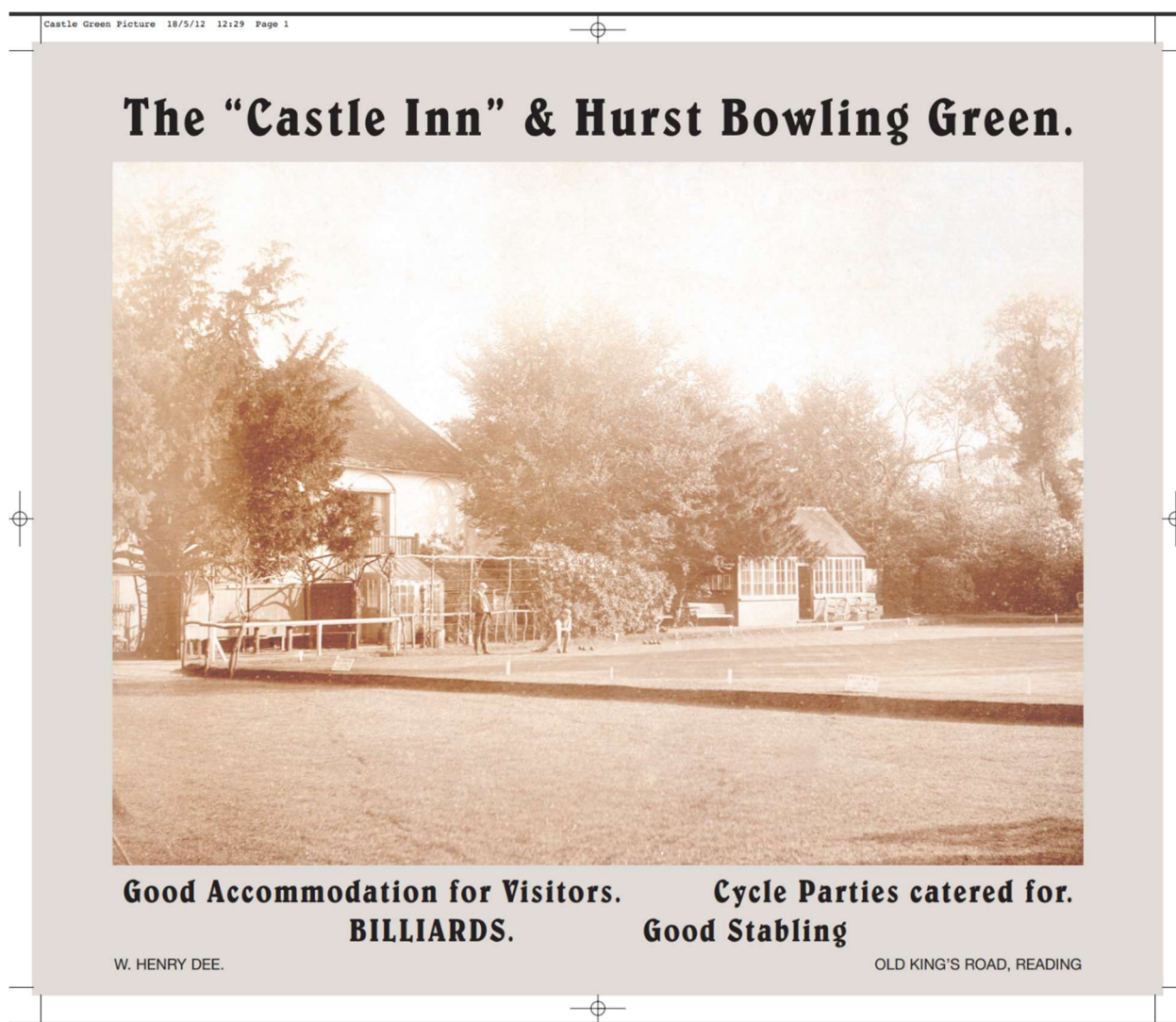
July 2024

Ref: Planning Application 240976

This record has been compiled as the Clubhouse is to be demolished and replaced in the winter of 2025/6. It is no longer fit for purpose due to changing ground levels, decay of the structure and the need to maximise space post-Covid.

It is not known when the building was constructed, or whether there was a previous structure. The *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette* May 26th, 1777, refers to "Meeting of gentlemen at the bowling green house every Friday"; this suggests some structure existed but is unlikely to be the current one.

The clubhouse is a wooden frame with wooden cladding and a corrugated metal roof, with no foundations and a wooden floor which rotted away and was replaced with a concrete slab in the 1990's. The earliest known photograph of the building is from 1900 and is shown below (the building to the right):



The entrance was moved to the right of the southeast elevation in the late 1990's or early 2000's, as shown in the 2010 photograph below:



At this time the floor was replaced as mentioned above, and the rotting and tilting building was reinforced by block and brickwork on shallow foundations up to window level in this photograph as well as the northeast and northwest walls to about the same height.

The windows were clearly replaced between 1900 and 1990, but there is no record of this change.

The door was moved again to the northeast wall, in March 2013, as this contemporary photo shows.



Exterior Photographs of building taken in July 2024:



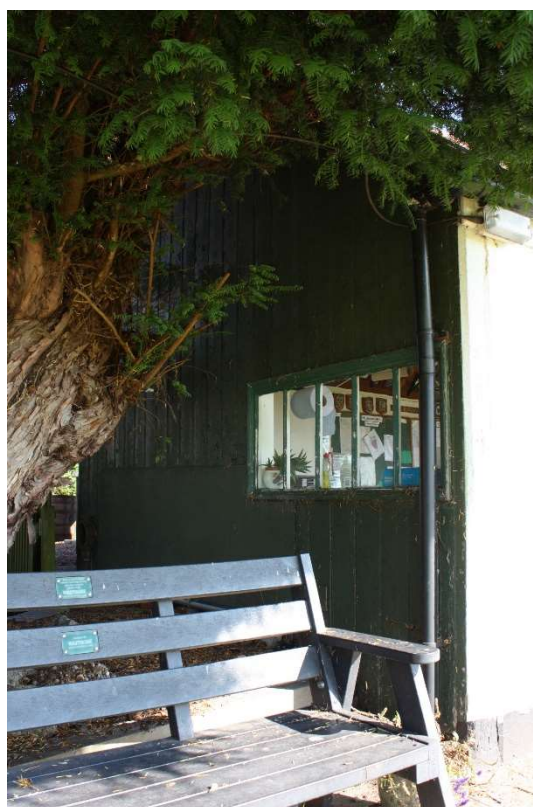
1. Context: Clubhouse, Pub and Church



2. Main side elevation from Southeast.



3. Main side, gable end with entry door. From East.



4. West gable, from SW.



5. West gable from Pub grounds shows disused door.



6. East Gable from pub garden, from N.

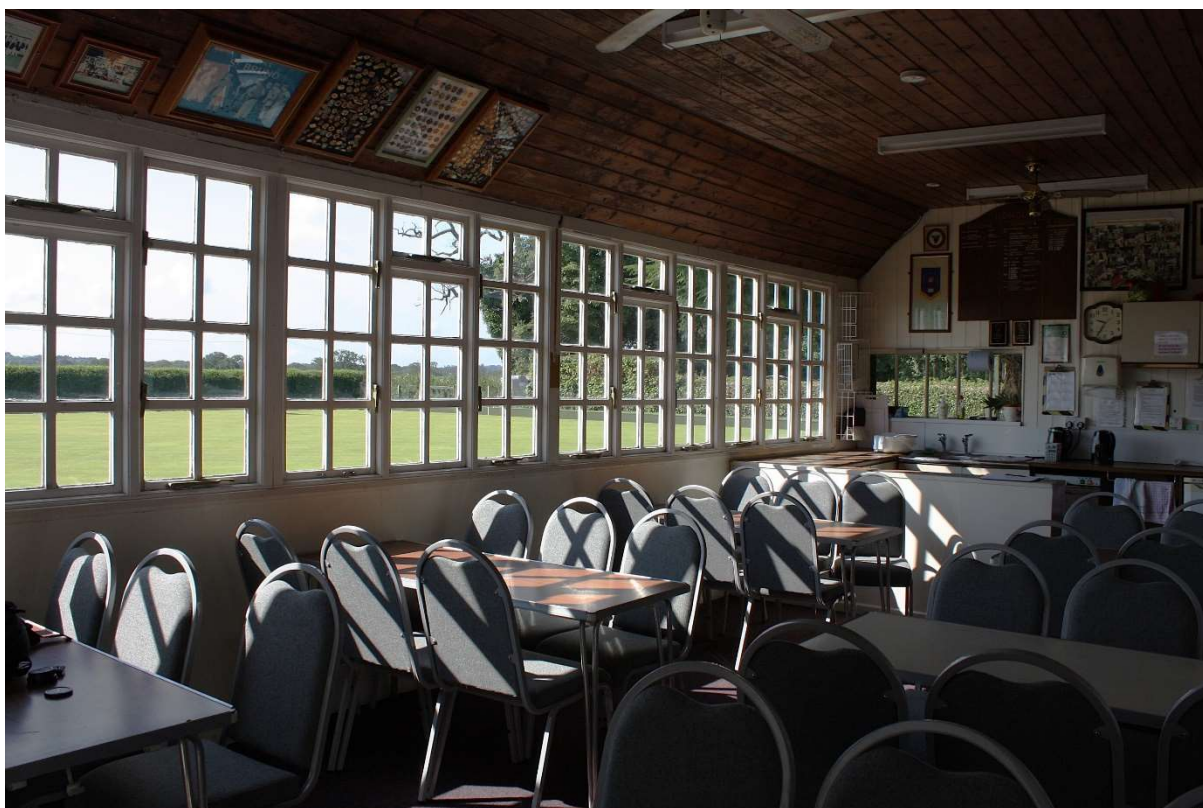
Interior Photographs of building taken in July 2024:



1. View from doorway



2. From eastern corner



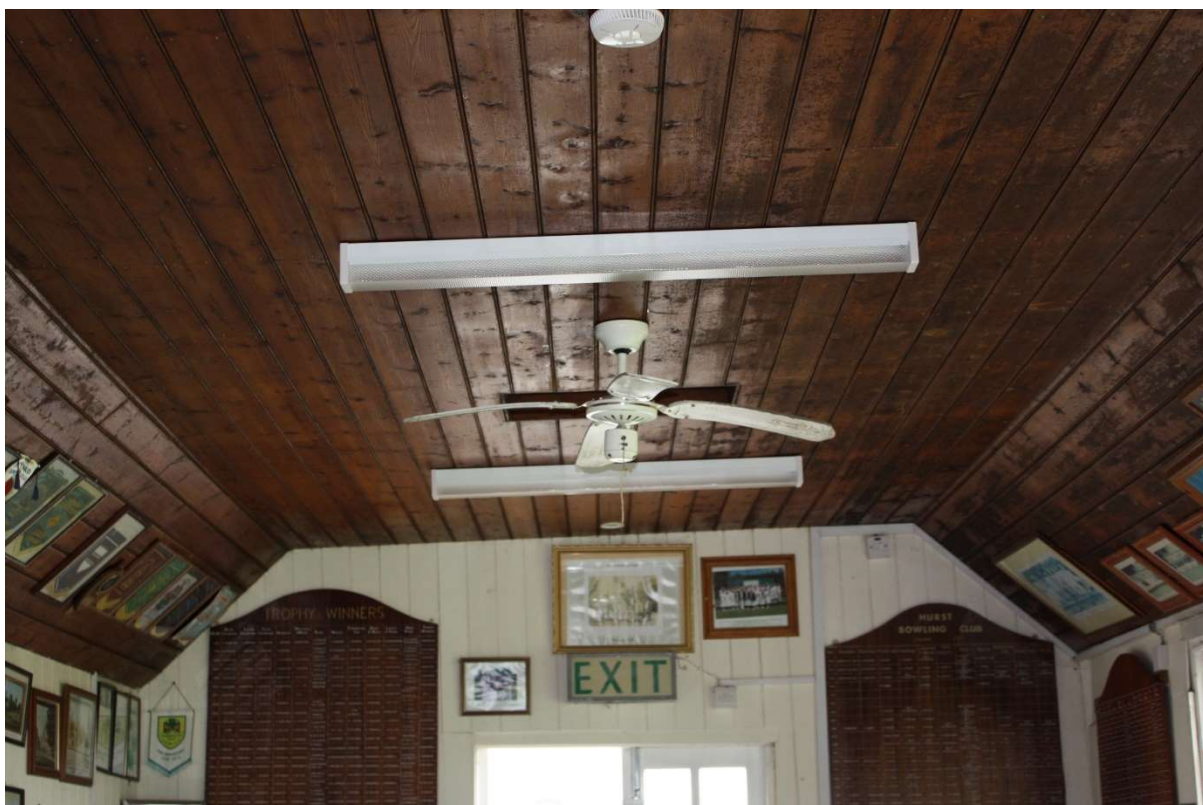
3. From northern corner



4. From southern corner

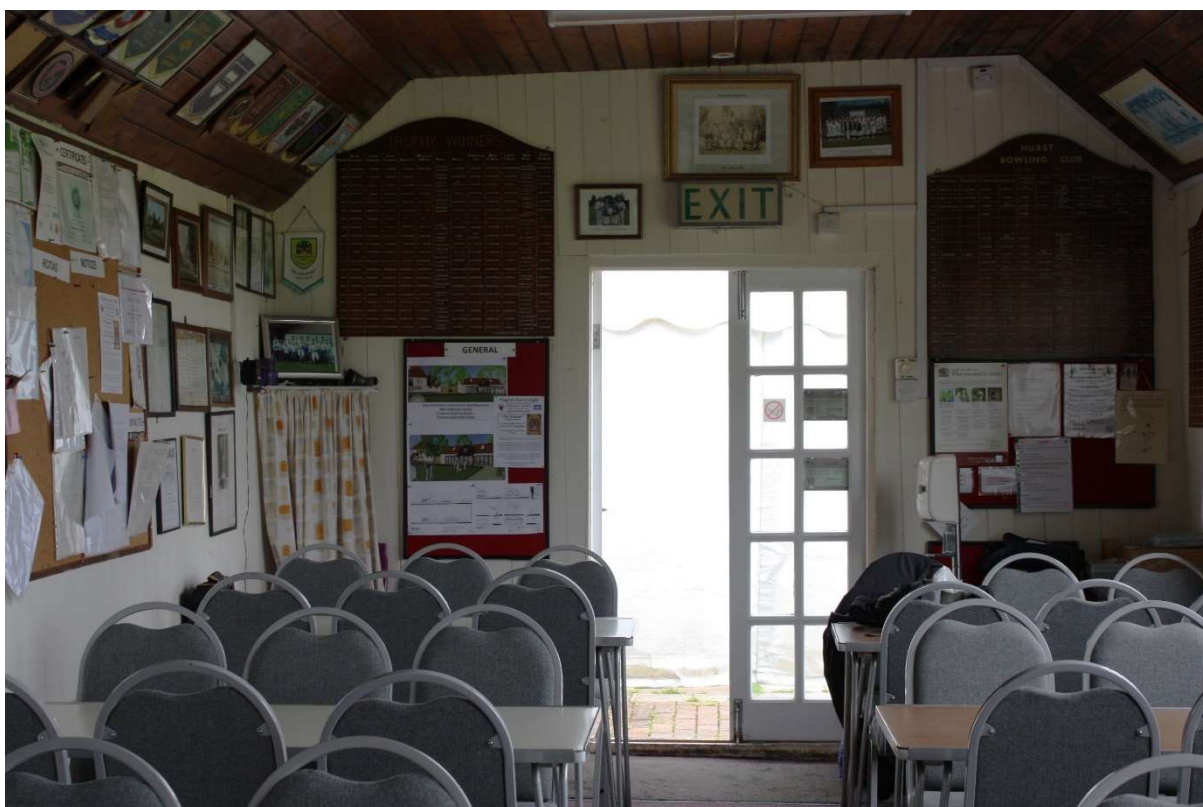


5. From western corner



6. Doorway

The door is vertical. The building leans due to historical decay next to pub garden.



7. Doorway



8. Internal fittings



9. Internal detail



10. Internal detail



11. Ceiling detail



12. Ceiling detail

Addendum

Much of the historical record of the Bowling Club is believed to have been destroyed many years ago when it had been stored at the adjoining pub. **A few surviving items were deposited at the Berkshire Record Office in 1993**

BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE MISCELLANEOUS UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS
D/EX 1209. Minutes, accounts and miscellaneous papers of Hurst Bowling Club,
1905-1987. (3 vols, 8 bdl, 3 doc)

Deposited in August 1993 (acc. 5257; acc.5265); August 2012 (acc.9069)

Cat: KW 12/1993; ET 6/2013 Schedule of accessions Acc. 5257: 4, 5, 6, 12, 7, 8, 9
Acc.5265: 1, 2, 3, 6, 11 Acc.9069: 10-14

Further items were deposited in August 2013

MISCELLANEOUS UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS D/EX 1209

HURST BOWLING CLUB

1. Minutes, September 1934-October 1951. 1 vol

(Includes minutes of the annual general meeting, 1935-1939 and 1941-1950, secretary's report, 1936, with newspaper and magazine cuttings relating to Berkshire Bowling Club events.)

2. Minutes, February 1964-April 1993. 1 vol
(Includes minutes of the annual general meeting, 1,964-1992, chairman's report, 1982, 1988 and 1990- 1992, captain's report, 1983-1988 and 1990-1992, and report of the Greens committee, 1983.)
3. Accounts, comprising income and expenditure accounts and annual balance sheets. Includes (at the end of the volume), lists of members, 1956-1962 and 1964 and lists of patrons, 1962 and 1964. From 1970 to 1986, accounts relating to individual members, and Green Upkeep accounts, are recorded separately at the end of the volume.) 1 vol
- 4/1-3. Letters from W G Grace. 1 bdl
(Relating to bowls matches played at Crystal Palace between Hurst and London County Bowling Clubs, 1905; includes copy photograph of W G Grace playing bowls at Hurst, 1905.)
- 5/1-2 Newspaper cuttings relating to money raised by Hurst Bowling Club for the Royal Berkshire Hospital. 1 bdl
- 6/1-2 Menu, 1952, and copy menu, 1951, from Hurst Bowling Club annual dinners. 1 bdl
7. Photograph of members of Hurst Bowling Club at Chelsea Hospital 1 doc
- 8/1-4 Letter and other papers relating to Hurst Bowling Club 240th anniversary games. 1 bdl
- 9/1-2 Hurst Bowling Club rules and revised rules. 1 bdl
- 10 Mounted newspaper cutting of a letter to the editor of *The Bowls News* by Herbert Hobbs, Honorary Treasurer of Hurst Bowling Club. (Relates to a previous report in *The Bowls News* that the formation of a new Wokingham club would mean that there would be no Hurst Bowling Club. Hobbs writes to correct this and states that the Hurst Club would revert to its original title of 'The Hurst & District Bowling Club'.) 1 doc 1930
11. Photograph of members of Hurst Bowling Club, 10 l doc 1899 May 1899. 1 doc
- 12/1-2 Photograph of Hurst Bowling Green. 1 bdl
(Originally titled 'The "Castle Inn" & Hurst Bowling [c.1900] Green' but the lettering has been scratched out. Includes a photocopy of the photograph taken when the writing was complete.)
- 13/1-4 Transcript of 'Souvenir Programme for Hurst Bowling Club Annual Supper', 1951. [c.2010] [See D/EXI209/6/1 for copy of the menu. 1 bdl
- 14/1-2 Copies of paintings of Hurst Bowling Green. 1 bdl 1.
1. Copy of painting titled 'Hurst Bowling Green' by [Francis Vingoe], n.d. [c.1910]
2. Copy of painting of a rural scene showing people playing bowls in the foreground in front of a large white public building [possibly a pavilion] and a church, not titled [possibly of Hurst?], n.d