WEAVERS COTTAGES WEAVERS LANE NEPTOWN

The origin of the name of the cottages is unclear. There is no record of a weaving industry in Henfield, and it may have just been a person's name. The cottages are shown on the 1845 Tithe Map and numbered four. The fourth one was on the site of the pub, but this had gone by the time of the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. I would imagine the cottages were built in about the 1820s. In 1845 No.1 was owned by Edward Cornford, and Robert Sayers was the tenant. Nos.2 and 3 were owned by Edward Pattenden, and living at No.2 were John Emsley and another At No.3 were James Dale and another. Edward Pattenden ran a stagecoach between Henfield and Brighton and lived at the house which is the present day post office. Members of the Dale family were still living in Neptown in the 1960s.

The early census records do not mention Weavers Lane: the entries are just recorded as living in Neptown. Weavers Lane is first mentioned in 1891, but not the number or name of the cottages. Going by the order of the listing after the pub it is reasonable to assume that living at No.1 was Harry H Browning b., along with his wife Fanny b.1852, and their children Fanny b.1876, who was a dress maker, and Henrietta b.1881 who was still at school. At No.2 was Henry J Boswell b.1858 who was a railway porter at Henfield Station, along with his wife Eliza b.1859, and children Eliza M, John, Annie, and Alfred. At No.3 was Henry Reeves a widower b.1826 and his widow sister Sarah Lawrence Reeves b.1830.

Weavers Lane is not mentioned either in the 1901 census, so again it's not possible to work out who was living at Weavers Cottages at that time. Things changes in the 1911 census, now living at No.1 is George Parsons b.1884 a fly driver, and with him his wife Florence b.1885, and children Sydney George, Victor, and a lodger William Archibald Holden who worked on the market garden. At No.2 were Alfred Sturt b.1888 a market garden labourer with his wife Kate b.1888 and daughter Kitty Louise May b.1909. At No.3 was Charles Chowne b.1882, a bricklayer's labourer, with wife Annie Elizabeth b.1882, and children Florence Elizabeth, Marjorie Alice, and Ivy Edith.

People who would have been renting these cottages did not tend to stay in the same place for any length of time; this was especially true in the 19th century. However, in the 1921 census still at No.1 was George Parsons, but is now a chimney sweep, with wife Florence, and children Sydney George b.1905, who worked on the market garden, Victor b.1908 who was to spent his life also working on Greenfield's market garden, and Maisie b.1914. At No.2 were Winifred Caroline Goddard b.1887 with children John b.1909, Cicely b.1910, and Winifred b.1913. At No.3 was Isaac Jennings b.1873 with wife Annie C b.1891, and daughter Gladys A M b.1912.

In the electoral rolls between 1931-1932 Elizabeth Gillett was living at No.1, and up to 1937 Florence Gillett was also living there. Goddards were at No.2 since 1918. Also between 1923 and 1937 Harry Jack Golds, who was in the Royal Navy on HMS Ripley, gives Weavers Cottages (No number given) as a contact address. He was born in 1901 and had married Florence Mary Golds in 1936. He died 1/11/1943 at Mearns Quay, Aberdeen, possibly an accident, and is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and on the Henfield War Memorial in Cagefoot Lane.

The next census is what is called The 1939 Register which was carried out just before the war. At No.1 was Thomas Albert Sawyers b.1885, a brickyard labourer, his wife Margaret Alice b.1889, and probably Thomas' mother Alice b.1856. At No.2 were Henry James Goddard b.1885 who was the

widower of Winifred who was there in 1921. With Henry was his daughter Cicely Godfree who had married Henry H Godfree in 1933. The couple's two children, Coral M b.1937, and Richard J b.1939, were also in the house. Three more children followed after the war twins Florence E and Shena R in 1946, and June M in 1947. Still at No.3 were Isaac Jennings, his wife Annie and daughter Gladys.

Between 1945 and 1948 members of the Tandy family lived at No.1: George H b.1885, Christopher, and Greta b.1908. In 1948 Albert V Barwick with his wife Maria and young son Colin were at No.1. In the early 1950s Cyril Maslen and his wife Gertrude were living at No.1 and continued to do so until the death of Gertrude in 1963. Still living at No.2 between 1945 and 1948 were Henry H Godfree and his wife Cicely. Isaac Jennings died in 1954, but his wife Annie continued living at No.3 until her death in 1962. Isaac and Annie's daughter Gladys Annie M had married Sidney G Peters in 1947 and they had moved into No.2 by 1949. Sidney used to work in a shop at Upper Beeding and used his model Standard car to get there. The car was parked at the side of No.3, and Gladys used to open the gate for him when he came home.

No.1 Weavers Cottages 1960s-2000s

In 1967-1968 Celia M Arnold was at No.1. In 1969 Christina E Humphreys is there, and Between 1969 and 1973 Paul A Hubner is there with his wife Vida J D. In 1974 Jack L Waters comes to No.1 and remains there until 1979. Miss Nellie Holder, the daughter of George, then moved into No.1 and probably stayed there until her death in 2000. In 2003 John A Harris, Ms Sarah J Harris, and Ronald Simms were in No.1. Also listed in 2003 is Oliver V Simms. 2005-2006 Andrew G Moss. 2007-2010 Heath and Michelle D Wilcox. 2011-2015 just Michelle D Wilcox. 2011-2014 Michael and Alison Chapman were there. In 2015 it was Liam K Wilcox.

No.2 Weavers Cottages 1960s-2000s

In 1967-1968 Ian L and Pauline Budgen were at No.2. Edward S and Penelope K Tull came in 1974 and stayed until 1976. They were followed by Ian G and Patricia R Kydd until 1982. Next to move in were Norman Tipton and Amanda Green. They only stayed about one year and were followed by Shelley Day and Dr Andrew A Sclater in 1984. In 1985 it was Keziah Stevens at No.2 who stayed until 2002. In 2003 Ms Pamela Durand may have been there. Between 2002 and 2004 Craig R Forbes was there. In 2008 it was Timothy W and Sarah J Cork. In 2011 it was Simon Margrie and Nichola M Allen. 2018-2019 it was Katherine L Dennis, and Jason and Annette Gallacher. These were followed by Dominic Matthews 2019-2022.

No.3 Weavers Cottages 1970s-2000s

Between 1974 and 1976 at No.3 were Arthur A and Ann F Parsons. From 1977 until 1979 it was Richard and Helen P Gascoigne-Pees. Nigel T J and Deborah A Colgate followed them until 1984. Next in No.3 was Timothy J Parsons. When he married Sandra M Mewett in 1990 she joined him at No.3 and the couple remained there until about 1998. At No.3 in 2002 were Steven J Morris and Dawn L Fox. Between 2003 and 2006 it was Gavin N Macleod, Samantha Cooke, and Carrie Anderson. Between 2010 and 2024 it was Pericles Rospigliosi and Michelle Villanueva. It was in the 2000s that the extension was built on the southern end.

Nos. 2 and 3 in 1974

Weavers Lane c.1975

Weavers Lane c.1924

Research carried out by A.V.Barwick November 2024