

Bus Shelter Mural

Bushley Green



Elaine Guilding

Jan. 2022

The Bus Shelter Mural

Sept-Nov
2021



This is the bus shelter on Bushley Green. It is owned by the Parish Council, who early in 2021 decided to brighten it up with a mural. Elaine Guilding (a former Bushley resident) agreed to coordinate/design the mural, on condition that the whole village would be invited to participate.

The walls were lined with hardboard panels, and prepared with grey primer by Nigel Nicoll. After a couple of initial visits to check the space and measure the walls, Elaine made a rough design on paper for a mural on the back wall.

This commenced on 21st September 2021.



Above: Nigel blocking in the bench, and preparing panels for painting.

Below: Bushley Green



The first drawings were done in chalk. Although not really 'portraits', the characters on the bench are based on people I used to know when I was a child in the 1950s. Jim Starling, his wife Edith/Edie (*left*) and sister Louisa/Louie (*centre*), lived at Freebarns Well (also known as Freebands Well).

The chalk drawings were strengthened with charcoal, and a thin layer of acrylic paint applied on top. Grey and brown colours were used, to suggest an old photograph.



Edie



Louie



Jim



The initial design grew and grew, over and behind the Green and the cricket match, as people made suggestions and put in requests, until it spilled off the back wall. New panels had to be installed quickly on the left wall, to allow the design to spread down through the village.



The left wall was quickly covered with chalk drawings of 'the village'. Then began the task of painting the line drawings in order to prevent them being erased by wind, rain and crawling insects. This also acted as a base for anyone who volunteered to do some painting.





The mural grew to include the right hand wall, where the community notice board is situated.

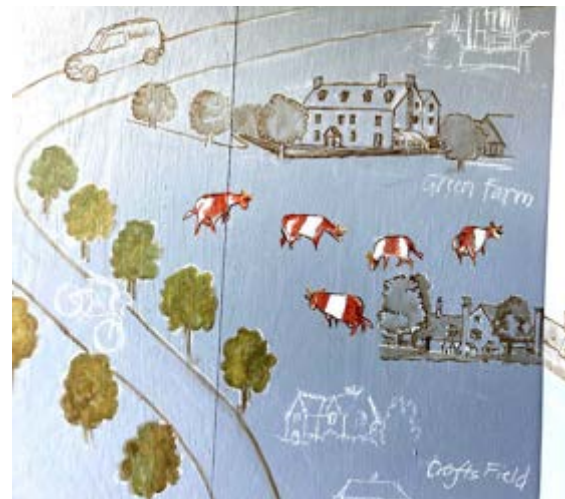
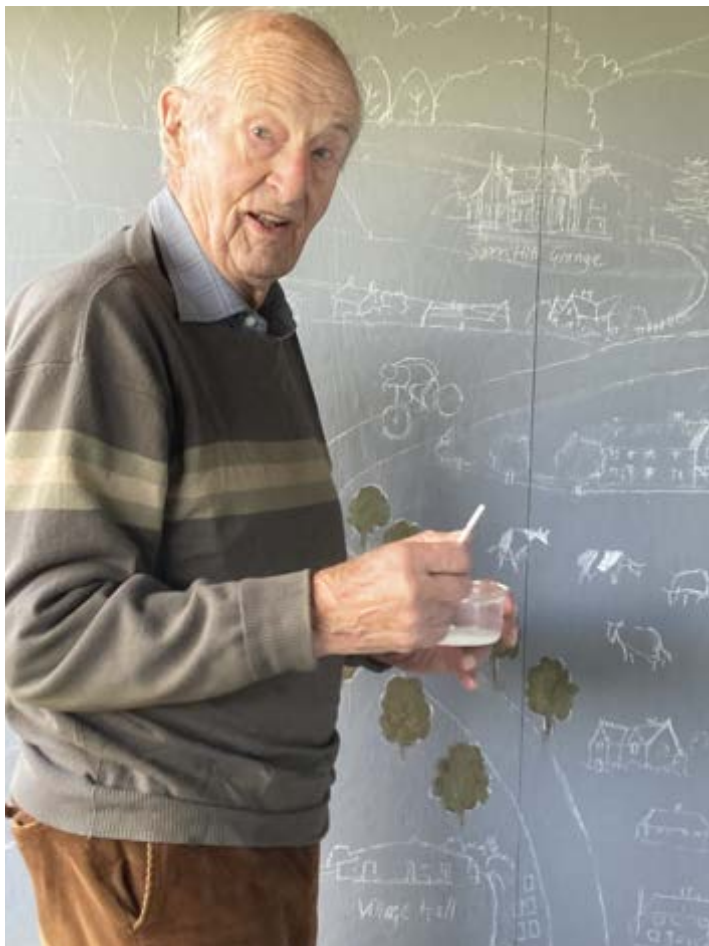
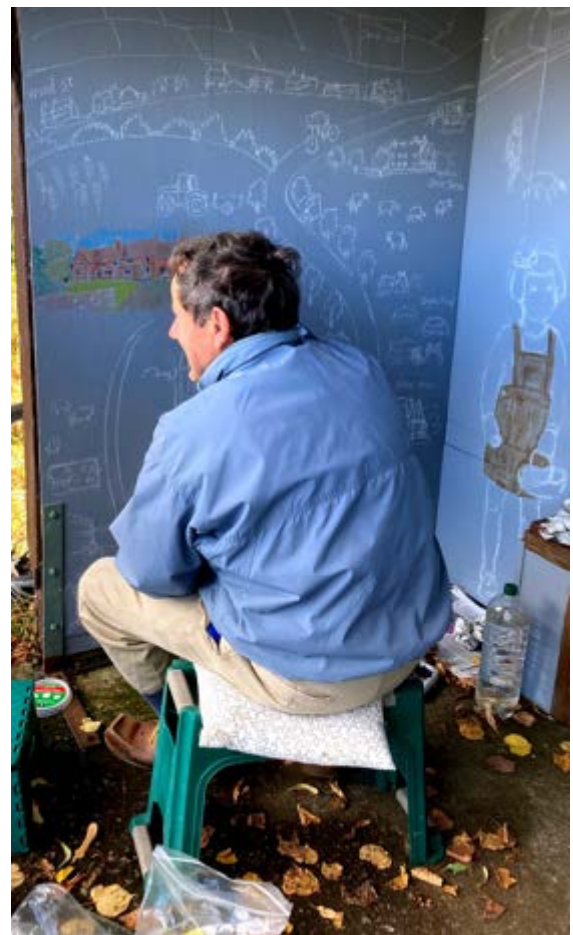


Claire inspects the mural, 1/10/21



Tim was the first to paint his own house, Payne's Place, on the mural. This inspired others to have a go at painting their own houses.

1/10/21



Peter painted the Ayrshire cows, which used to be at Green Farm.

Peter is the last Guilding to farm in Bushley after nearly 200 years.



Trees under-painted



Tree painting:
Poppy and Tess



Tree painting:
Ann



Susie adding layers of colour to the trees



Trees and pheasants on the Green



October 2021: The bus shelter becomes a meeting place for local residents...
... who then found themselves on the mural!





Ted painted his dog, Sky



Charles painted Katie



Jane painted herself with her two dogs ;
Autumn walks home from the school bus.



Pearl and Jill painted their dogs, at play on
the Green



Herbie, the runaway



Nelson, the rescue dog



Ruby, the Starlings' dog

Mural volunteers i



Mural Volunteers ii



Mural volunteers iii



Mural volunteers iv



Mural volunteers v



Mural volunteers vi





By chance, soon after we started to create the mural, Guy Combes arrived from Arizona to visit his mother in Bushley. He and his partner, Andrew Denman, are professional bird and wildlife artists. Susie Combes lives opposite the bus shelter and brought them to see the mural; so of course we begged them to paint some birds for us. Here are the results!



Guy Combes painting a red kite on the mural



Guy and Andrew painting birds on the mural

Photos by Cindy Combes



The right wall of the mural: the 'nature' wall, with birds and animals seen in Bushley.

Completed 5/11/21

Right wall details:



The cyclists on the mural represent the many cycling groups who travel through the village on a regular basis. They were painted by Nigel, a member of Bushley's own cycle group.



The decommissioned phone box next to the bus shelter has actually been painted green. But everyone who was asked, voted for a red phone box on the mural!



Adventure Cat belongs to Tess and Poppy, who live nearby.

Right wall details, continued:



The great spotted woodpecker (left) and the green woodpecker (right), both commonly seen in Bushley gardens.

They were requested by Jane, who then painted them.



The cuckoo, fox and rabbits (above), hedgehog, butterflies and mouse (below) were added at the bottom of the right wall, for children to paint at half term.



The left wall: the road through the village, past and present

Completed 12/11/21



Left wall : details, stories and historical information



Built in 1889, **Sarn Hill Grange** (top right) is shown as it looked in 1932, when the Dowdeswell Estate was sold. Having been a private home, riding stables and an Old People's Home, the house was developed into 8 separate dwellings in 2003.

The houses in **Wood Street**, just below Sarn Hill, were each painted on the mural by their current owners. The pigs reference the piggeries which were in Wood St until 1975, and the pig buildings have now been converted into two contemporary residences. Wood Street used to be the main route to Tewkesbury, via a ferry over the River Severn, before the Mythe Bridge was built.



There were Ayrshire cows at **Green Farm** for most of the 20th century. Now there are no cows, and the barn has been converted into a separate residence.

The 1940s bungalow adjacent to Green Farm was demolished in 2008. **Bramley House** (top right) was built on the site.

The white van on the road belongs to **Woody's Fruit & Veg Ltd**, based in Tewkesbury. The van began to make regular deliveries to Bushley during the pandemic of 2020/21.

The **scarecrow** (left) is one of many, made by local residents, which have appeared in the village on special occasions for many years. 'Jack Straw' was made by Keith, who painted it on the mural.

Payne's Place (bottom left), currently owned by the Troughton family, was built by Thomas Payne in the 15th century. It is said that Queen Margaret was sheltered here after the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471.



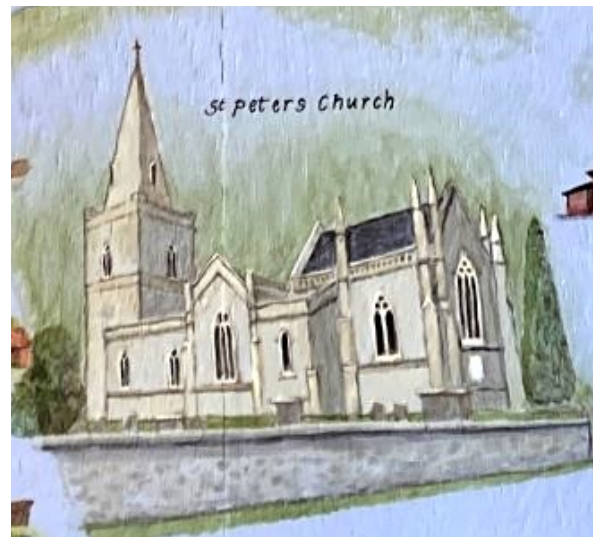
Left wall stories (continued...)

St Peters Church (*R*) is the third church to have been built on this site. It was erected by the Dowdeswell family in 1843.

The Village Hall (*lower R*) was opened in 1970, after several years of fund raising by the village. It replaced an earlier wooden building.

The children in front of the Village Hall represent the **Playgroup** which started in 1978 and ran there for many years.

The Community Garden (*to the right of the VH*) started in 2021 on a piece of land owned by the Village Hall. It is entirely volunteer run.



The Old School House (*left*) was converted into a school from an earlier farm house for the Pull Court Estate, in 1843.

Notable schoolmasters were:
James W. Rusling (1861-1878)
and Alfred Nash (1878-1917)
The school closed in 1948.



Double Gates Farm (*bottom left*) was named after the double gates across the road, when the road through the village ended here. After the Mythe Bridge was built in 1829, the Bushley road was paved through to the Oxhey. The Wynter family, who farmed at **Double Gates Farm** from the 1950s to 1980s, had a pedigree herd of Jersey cows. Every morning and eve, the cows crossed the road from the milking shed to the field opposite. This scene from the mural, shows the 1960s school bus waiting for the cows to cross the road in front of it.

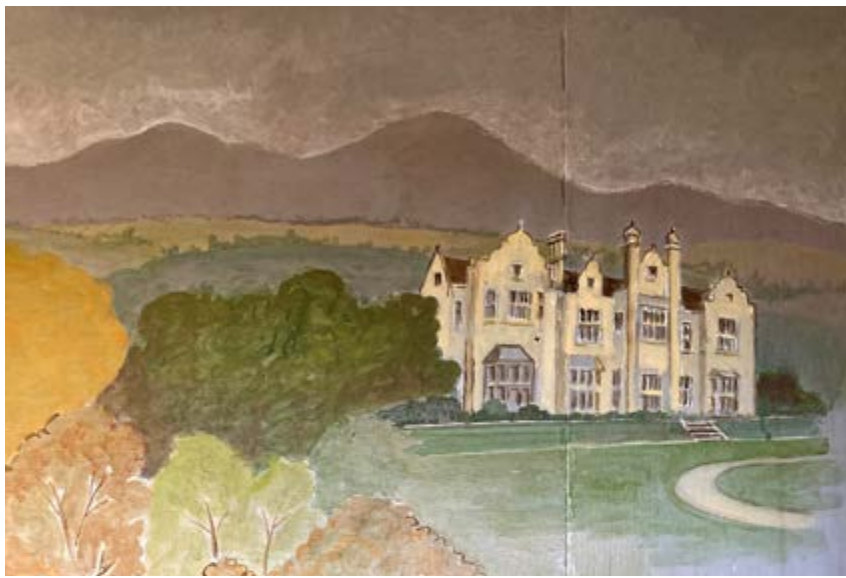


The back wall of the mural was completed on 15/11/21.

The weather throughout October had been glorious - inspiring the colours of the trees on the mural. But the days were getting shorter and cooler, and camping lights were required to work after 4 pm!

The Starling family, seated on the bench in 1956, were painted in grey-brown, to contrast with the bright colours of Bushley today. Their small-holding, **Freebarns or Freebands Well**, is shown here (*left*), with their hens, Stella the cow and Ruby the dog. The name of the smallholding changed several times over the years, and it is believed to have once been a pub called 'The Queens Head'. Thought to have been over 500 years old, most of the original house was demolished in the late 1970s. A new house, sympathetic in design, was built on the site.

The child standing to the left of the bench was originally intended to be me, as I often went into Tewkesbury on the bus with Mrs Starling. But as other viewers have identified with her, so she has become a 'concept': any child of the 1950s, living today but with memories of the past, watching the changes in the village over the last 65 years.



The present Pull Court (from the ancient word Pwll, meaning 'pool') was built in 1839. It replaced an earlier timbered manor house owned by the Dowdeswell family since 1628.

With the death of the last squire, the house, together with the whole estate of Bushley, was sold off in lots in 1932.

Since the early 1950s, Pull Court has been a school. It is currently occupied by Bredon School.



Yew Tree Cottage is named after two yew trees which grow in the grounds. For over 100 years the striking topiary in front of the house has made it instantly recognisable.

It is known to have been a farmhouse in the 18th century, but had been converted into two dwellings by the mid 19th century.

The current owners, the Elwes family, have lived here for over 50 years. They painted their house on the mural.



The 'council houses' on Bushley Green were built in the early 1950s by Worcestershire County Council, who owned and managed them until the Housing Act of 1980. They are now partly privately owned, and partly managed by a housing association.

(This also applies to the houses at Croftsfield, at the other end of Bushley.)



The mural shows some of the many activities which take place on **Bushley Green**: cricket matches, dog walking, jogging, and many village events. Also shown is the Virgin hot air balloon, which can be seen in the sky during the summer months.

The current **Cricket Pavilion** (*left and below*) was built 60 years ago, and is now used for many social activities .



Joyce Rusling (*left*) is standing on the driveway to **Tilterdown Farm**. Born in 1922, she lived here all her life until she was 99 years old.

Her grandfather, Mr James Rusling, was schoolmaster at Bushley School, Secretary of the Pull Court Estate, and church organist for 50 years.



Bushley Cricket Club was founded in 1892, and today has thriving men's and women's teams.





By November, damp was affecting the bus shelter. Plastic sheets were used to protect the exterior walls until the mural was finished.

On completion, the walls were painted with coats of clear anti-graffiti varnish.

16/11/21



Colin Garfield, a local builder, donated and installed an inner membrane - placed between the outer and inner walls - to protect the mural from damp.

21/11/21



Colin and Nigel rebuild the bus shelter walls, after insulation.



Hugh nailing the name boards in the gable ends. 17/12/21

Hugh Jarman cut boards to be placed in the gable ends of the bus shelter. Onto these are written the names of all the volunteers who participated in the design and painting of the mural. They also record the date of the community project.





Christmas decorations were hung in the bus shelter in December, and it was one of the venues for community carol singing on 17/12/21.

(Right) Jess Townsend, one of the mural volunteers, sitting in the decorated bus shelter.

(Below) Bus shelter Christmas card design by Elaine

