

Harbour Heights (formerly Sunnydene) Cobb Road, Lyme Regis

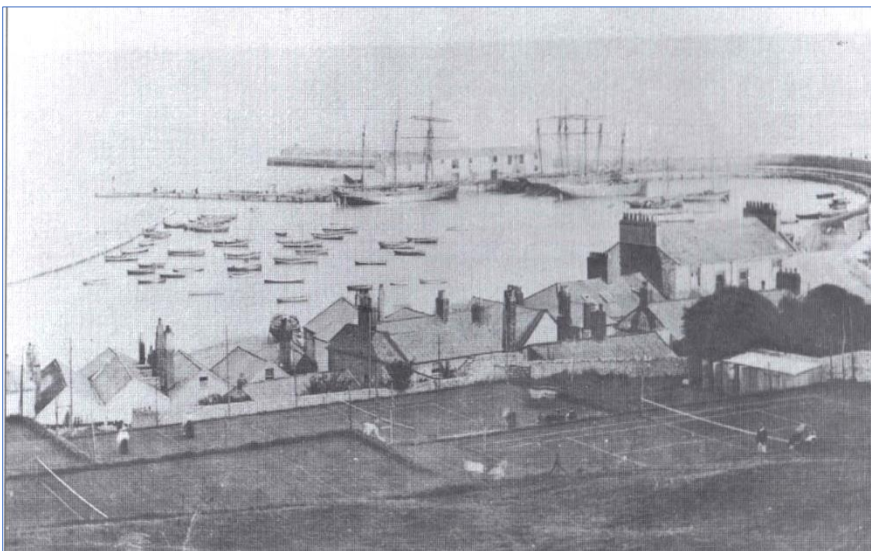
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Graham Davies, April 2022



Harbour Heights, Quilleys and Glenholme have all been built on part of the tennis courts as shown in the photo from the 1880s. The 'tennis grounds' were still there in 1903.

Glenholme appears in the 1911 census whilst the earliest reference to the name Sunnydene, found by the author, was in the 1922 Electoral Register.



Cobb harbour with tennis courts in foreground, perhaps the 1880s

SUNNYDENE

Guest House

THE COBB

LYME REGIS

1959 Advert



*This attractive Guest House facing the Old Cobb and Harbour
and the whole expanse of Lyme Bay
stands in an acre of lawns and lovely garden with
private path to sea front*

Bathing permitted from house

*Fitted Basins and Interior Sprung Mattresses
in all Bedrooms*

Comfortable Lounge Separate Tables in Dining Room

Garage and Parking

Brochure on application to Mrs. FRANK COOPER

S.A.E. for Reply please

On Feb 14, 1962, a landslide in the Cliff House (today's crazy golf site) area overlooking the sea front devastated five properties, including Sunnydene, which became unstable and extensively cracked. Mr & Mrs Law, who had bought the guest house only 14 months previously, evacuated the house, first staying at the Cobb Arms for a few days and then in a caravan loaned to them by a friend. Following the necessary repairs to Sunnydene, the guest house was open for business again by the end of that year. Following the complete redecoration of the guest house in 1961, Mr Law had valued the property with its contents at about £8,000.

Of the other damaged properties, Cliff House, The Chalet and Wings restaurant and tea garden were subsequently demolished, whereas Cliff Cottage, built on a raft, toppled backwards but was jacked back into position and saved. (Source: newspapers)

Originally owned by Frank Radford, auctioneer, Sunnydene was purchased by Frank Cooper in the later 1930s, and set up as a guest house/private hotel by 1938.

Sunnydene continued as a guest house until the early 1970s, when by 1974 it had been renamed Harbour Heights Hotel. It remained a hotel until the late 1980s when it was converted into a house and flat.

Timeline

Frank Radford lets the property:

1922-30 Richard & Gladys Berry

1933-34 George & Lizzie Hollington

Mr G T Hollington, Sunnydene Cobb Road. (Quarters rent of £27-10-0 paid to the estate of F E Radford) (Hillman & Bond, 1933)

Sunnydene valued at £2150 (Hillman & Bond, 1934)

Maid (capable) Required after Christmas. Two in family. plain cooking essential. Good wages and outings – Hollington, Sunnydene, Cobb Road, Lyme Regis. (Taunton Courier, December 1934)

1935 Cecil & Mildred Weeks

1936 Lieut-Col Robert H Cunnington (retd)

To: Col. Cunnington, tenant of Sunnydene, there is a dangerous wall at the bottom of his garden. Mr Cooper, the owner will get it repaired by his gardener. (Hillman & Bond 1936)

Frank Cooper buys Sunnydene:

1938-55 Frank & Winifred Cooper

Sunnydene: Board Residence. H & C in all bedrooms. Electric Light. Separate Tables. Garage. Lawns and garden run within a few feet of sea front to which there is an entrance. Tariff on Application. Tel 233. Resident Proprietors: Mr and Mrs F Cooper (1938)

Hillman & Bond To Mr J E Farrar, Reading, Sept 1942:

Both Highcliffe Private Hotel and Sunnydene would not entertain dogs. Buena Vista Hotel was full until end September. Victoria had no objection to a dog and a provisional booking had been made.

1955-59 Winifred Cooper

1961-70 Percy & Stella Law

The above timeline refers to known dates that a person(s) occupies a property. Unless stated, no distinction is made between owner or tenant. Occupations may well extend beyond the known timeline.

References

Lyme Regis 1903 O.S. Map.

Hillman & Bond, solicitor's copy letter books, 1933-42.

Lyme Regis Electoral Registers, 1910-81.

A & F Wiscombe correspondence, 1939

Lyme Regis Guide Books, 1930-84

British Newspaper Archive.

Local newspaper collection – Ken Gollop.