

Limpsfield-dot-Net

**Tenchleys Manor,
Itchingwood Common, Surrey RH8 0RE**
Latitude: 51.2403 / 51°14'25"N Longitude: 0.035 / 0°2'6"E

I, the Web-master for limpsfield-dot-net, have a large historical collection about Limpsfield.

This article about Tenchleys appeared in the first edition of The Country Home magazine The date of the magazine is unknown but judging from its style, the page size and letterpress printing on IA paper, the 1920/1930s would be a good guess. Unfortunately these are tear sheets rather than a complete issue.

Please send your comments to the Web-master



EDITORIAL

The first number of "THE COUNTRY HOME" has met with a very wide and cordial welcome, and we are greatly pleased by the many kind remarks that have been made about it. Moreover, the demand for the magazine shows that there was—as we imagined—a place waiting for it, and we have been so far encouraged as to add considerably to the number of its pages. Further, we venture to think that the present number will be found even more attractive than the first. May we ask our readers if they will send us such useful criticisms and suggestions as may from time to time occur to them?

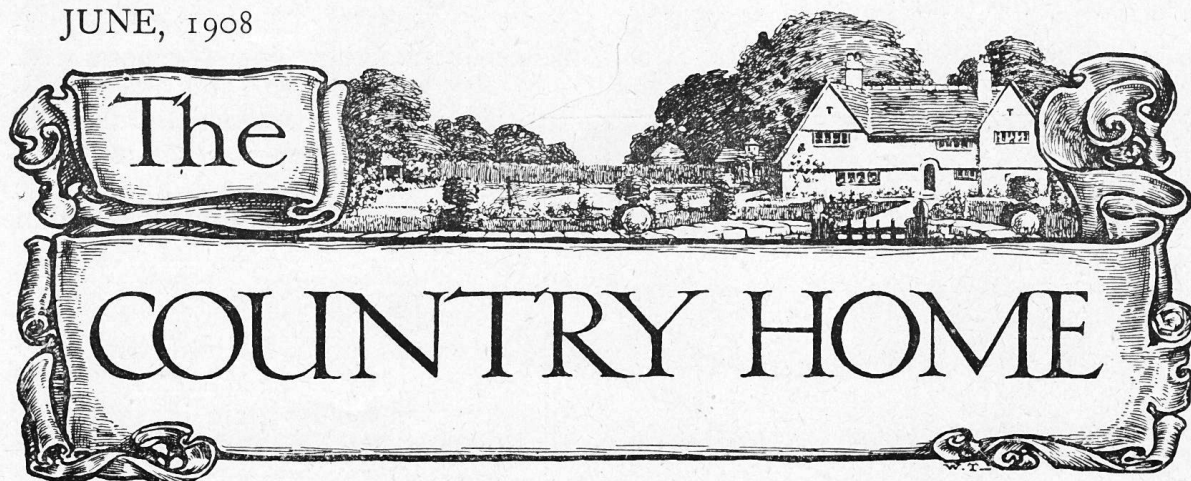
From a photograph by Edward Connold, F.Z.S.

Crab-Apple Blossom



Tenchley's, near Limpsfield

JUNE, 1908

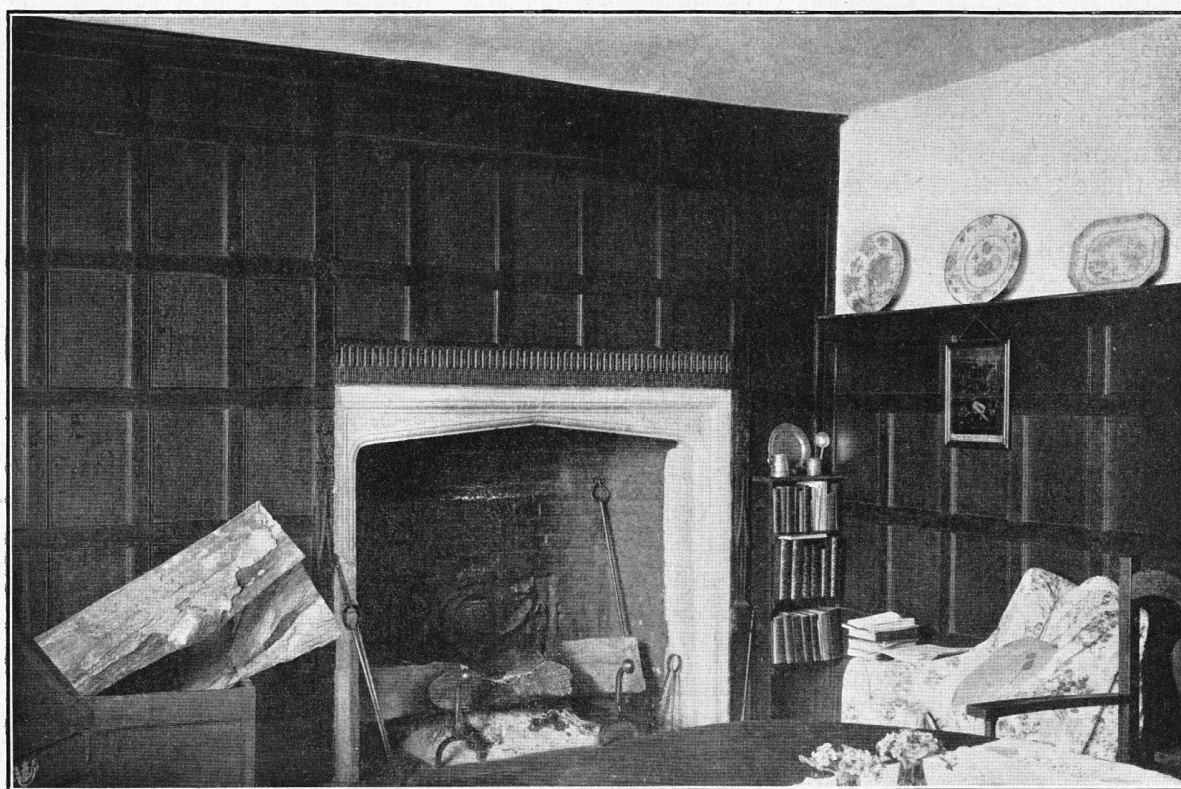


TENCHLEY'S

By NORMAN W. HUDSON

TENCHLEY'S is a beautiful old house, situated in the parish of Limpsfield, Surrey. The date at which the house was built is un-

known. Facing south, it is sheltered from the north and partially from the east by ground rising very precipitously to Limpsfield Chart, some



The Dining Room, Tenchley's, with a Tudor Fireback

known, but the edifice is probably over three hundred years old. Like most old houses, it is situated low down, although above the level of the mists rising from

300 ft. above it, from which magnificent views over Kent, Surrey, and Sussex may be obtained.

A woodcut of Tenchley's appears in

THE COUNTRY HOME

As will be seen from one of the illustrations, close to the house grows a magnificent old walnut tree with a hollow trunk, and this tree is locally supposed to be the repository of hidden treasure. The writer was once informed by a small boy that his grandmother had planted this tree, but as its age is probably contemporary with that of the house, he took this statement *cum grano salis*.

The interior of the house is remarkable for its magnificent old oak timbers

to bear the Royal Arms, while portions of the motto are still decipherable. The fact that one of the supporters is a dragon proves that the fireback was designed in the time of one of the Tudor Sovereigns, the unicorn (of Scotland) being, of course, not adopted until the time of James I., when Scotland was united with England.

Another of the illustrations shows a curious old latch, which opens downwards, on one of the doors. This door



The Hall, formerly the Kitchen, Tenchley's

Some very well-made Pot Cranes are seen in the fire-place

and panelling. The oak beam supporting the chimney stack in the old kitchen is so hard that it is impossible to drive a tin-tack into it.

The panelling is all hand-carved, and in the drawing-room reaches entirely to the ceiling. The drawing-room overmantel is elaborately carved, as will be seen from the illustration. The fireback in the dining-room, which also appears in one of the illustrations, is to some extent eaten away by fire, but is at once seen

opened upon a little room or cupboard containing a window, and it has been suggested that this little room was intended for the powdering of ladies' hair in the days of powder and patches. The little room no longer exists, as it was done away with when a new staircase was placed in the house some years ago.

The old staircase was very steep and had no turnings, and at the top there was a trap-door, which at night was shut

and bolted by the last of those retiring to rest. When these alterations were being made a very old Prayer Book was found beneath the flooring, but unfortunately it has not been left in the house.

There is a rather curious staircase leading to the cellars, the steps being formed by the quarters of a stout oak tree, the rounded portion being beneath and allowing the toes of the persons ascending to obtain a secure foothold on the step below.

There is also a shallow well in the cellars, which possibly formed the original water-supply of the house.

The house contains several mantelpieces carved in soft stone, which, owing to their similarity to those in other old houses in the neighbourhood, are supposed to be the work of a gang of travelling stone-masons.

During the last twelve years the whole of the paint and whitewash, which covered, or rather disfigured, the wood and stonework throughout the house, has been removed by the successive tenants,

and that vandal hands may never again desecrate the grand old beams is the sincere wish of the writer.

Our last illustration shows an interesting bit of stonework with a window, to be seen on the south side of the house, which seems as if it were older than any other part.

The whole surroundings of Tenchley's are exceedingly picturesque, and the neighbourhood is a delightful one to the lover of birds. Within the immediate neighbourhood no less than fifty-three different kinds of birds have been noted, including the nightingale, the kingfisher, and the golden plover. While the photographs were being taken during last month a thrush's nest was found (on Itchenwood Common) which was built right on the ground, with no more protection than a few tufts of grass.

In conclusion it only remains for us to express our thanks to Mr. W. K. Bowen for his kindness in allowing the photographs of the house to be taken.



A Piece of Old Stonework