

# Cottage Life

**By 1333 there are records of 21 inhabitants on a list of Wimbledon taxpayers. A 1616 survey recorded 45 small homes; 160 years later, there were 1,000. People were attracted by work in Wimbledon's big houses and related trades. While household servants in grand homes 'lived in', outdoor workers were given a cottage tied to their job.**

Workers' cottages were not the romantic thatched homes of Victorian paintings. Hanford Row has some of the oldest surviving Wimbledon cottages. They were built in the 1770s and had just three rooms. The landlord, John Hanford, who owned the estate, was taken to court because the cottages' cesspool was judged a risk to the inhabitants.

The Burford family lived in one of the cottages. In 1840, grandmother Sarah lived there with her son Thomas, daughter-in-law Sophia and their four children. Thomas and Sophia stayed in Hanford Row, each moving in with a daughter. Thomas eventually died in an almshouse.

Hanford Row, Wimbledon

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