

## Round and About in the Parish

This is the story of how Judy and Major Maurice Beachcroft came to buy Sun House. In the spring of 1949 Mr Hawkins-Turner, who lived at Danehill, told Maurice of a house for sale not far from them in Chelwood Gate. Maurice and Judy went to see it, but thought the house, a modern concrete and flat-roofed “box”, not to their style, while the garden was too big. So they had a nice afternoon with the Hawkins-Turner’s, but turned the house down. Sometime later they heard once more from Mr Hawkins-Turner that the house was now on the market again. Would they have another look? It seemed like an omen. They went, and this time-maybe the weather, or their mood, was different, they fell for it. They moved to Sun House in October 1950

It was one of the earliest concrete houses in the style of the School of Le Corbusier and was mentioned in the Shell Guide to Sussex (old edition). Also mentioned in Pevsner’s Guide to Sussex. The Architect was Colin Lucas, of Connell Ward and Lucas.

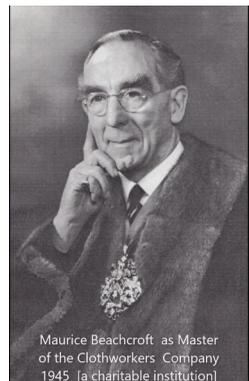
During the 1940’s the property had a rear extension, in keeping with a modern theme, and this is how it looked when purchased by Major Maurice Beachcroft. (next page)

Their gardener, was Stanley Awcock, who had made the garden out of the forest for its first owner Dr Karslake-Eccles in 1932. He tended the garden until the death of both Maurice and Judy and he was invaluable to them.

The next photo shows Stanley Awcock in just part of the garden - he always made sure there was a colourful display of annual flowers. Stanley kept the garden in immaculate condition and didn’t have any of the modern equipment that we have today.



Sun House, 1930, then known as Sunlight Cottage



Maurice Beachcroft as Master  
of the Clothworkers Company  
1945 [a charitable institution]



Sun House was altered substantially in the 1970's by Kathy and Gerry Green - the balconies were filled in and the concrete flat roof lies beneath a new tiled roof. It was completely changed

When we purchased in 1983 I was determined to mow the lawn and refused any assistance. I mowed just once (only part of it) using a small petrol mower. I couldn't then move a muscle for about three days afterwards and you can be very sure that our next purchase was a garden tractor. How Stanley managed all he did I shall never know.



My thanks to Patrick Awcock, the late Mary Beachcroft, and the Archivist at the Clothworkers Company

**Jill Rolfe 740446**

