

GRANARIES

Freestanding granaries were built in the corn growing South and East of England from at least the fifteenth century, and in more pastoral areas from the seventeenth century. Granaries were needed not only to store corn for sale but also to hold seed or fodder. They needed to be out of reach of vermin, especially rats, and to be well ventilated and have their walls sealed against infestation by insects. Therefore they were raised on mushroom-shaped staddle stones, had removable steps, and the floors inside were made of sea-stoned and fitted planks. Plastered walls and tile or slate rather than thatch roofs kept bugs away. Grain was packed in sacks or stored loose in wooden grain bins and granaries were ventilated by louvered windows, in order to prevent mould and germination. These raised granaries were clearly descended from the helm (also known as the hovel and hembles), a structure which placed the corn stack on a rough timber floor raised above the ground by low walls or saddle stones.

BRAMLEY GRANARY

John Clift donated the Granary to the parish on his death in 1990 and is now owned by the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish.

Originally located on Stocks Farm the Granary was move to its present location on Bramley Green at the corner of Minchens Lane. It is believed that putting skids under it and drawing it along with horses moved the granary.

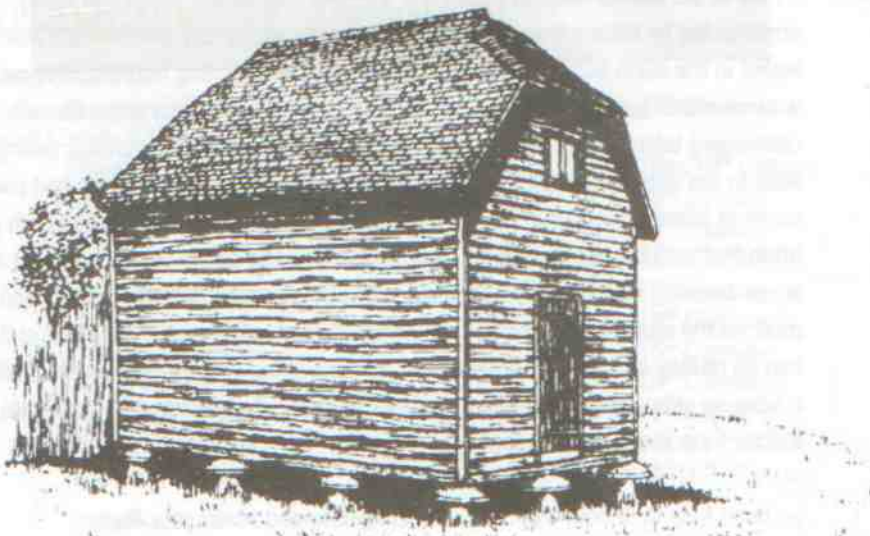
The Granary was built in the nineteenth Century, it is a rectangular timber-framed building with a half-hipped tile roof and weather-boarded walls reported to be made from ship's timber. It is raised upon twelve staddle stones.

As well as grain it is likely that beans were also stored because it is documented that women and boys would meet at the granary door about 8.a.m for their daily allowance of seed beans, at that time seed setting was a great business in the village.

BRAMLEY GREEN

Under the chestnut tree on The Green used to be the parish whipping stocks but there is no vestige left now. The spot was a favourite playground for the children, and they, no doubt, helped to destroy them. The Bramley people held their Maying at Whitsuntide on the Green, Miss Mary Russell Mitford in her book, "The Village", describes this village festival.

NB: Much of the above information has been extracted from "The Reminiscences of William Clift" and is available for sale at the Church.



The Old Granary, Minchens Lane, Bramley