

HUGHENDEN LAUNDRY

Hughenden Laundry stood in Paddock Road on the left as you walk up from Station Road. The building is still there and looks like a big brick-built garage. It was advertised in a large brochure about Birchington which was printed for 1903-4 and spoke of the work being done by “experienced laundresses” and also advertised that it had “spacious drying grounds”. The manageress was Mrs E Briscoe. She lived with her husband Frederick at 2 Hughenden Place, which is the short terrace of houses at the end of Westfield Road. It meant that her rear garden backed straight onto her “drying grounds” – and probably formed part of the area – giving her just a few yards walk to her job each morning.



Hughenden Laundry, **BIRCHINGTON.**

All work done by hand by experienced Laundresses.

Free Collection and Delivery in Birchington, St. Nicholas, Acol, and Westgate.

Spacious Drying Ground.

Mrs. E. BRISCOE,
Manageress.

In 1930 the laundry traded under the name of “Snowdrift Hand Laundry”. In 1929 it was owned and run by Mrs Cook and Mrs Gambrill, but by 1930 Mrs A. M. Gambrill was in sole charge. She lived with her husband Marshall Gambrill in Alma Cottages, at the far end of the drying grounds. This little terrace stands behind the shops in Station Road, but has a rear access into Paddock Road. In this photo you are looking along the front of Alma Cottages, down towards Paddock Road and the old laundry.



As was said earlier in this article, the building is still standing in Paddock Road but it is now used by a local resident for storage and a workshop for working on his car. It has an additional building at the rear of it, but this is not attached to the old laundry. The original “drying grounds” are to the right of the building and have now become the gardens of the short Hughenden terrace.

It is interesting to note that there is still a laundry in Paddock Road in 2010, but it is now at the corner of Station Road – and is called “Blue Monday”.