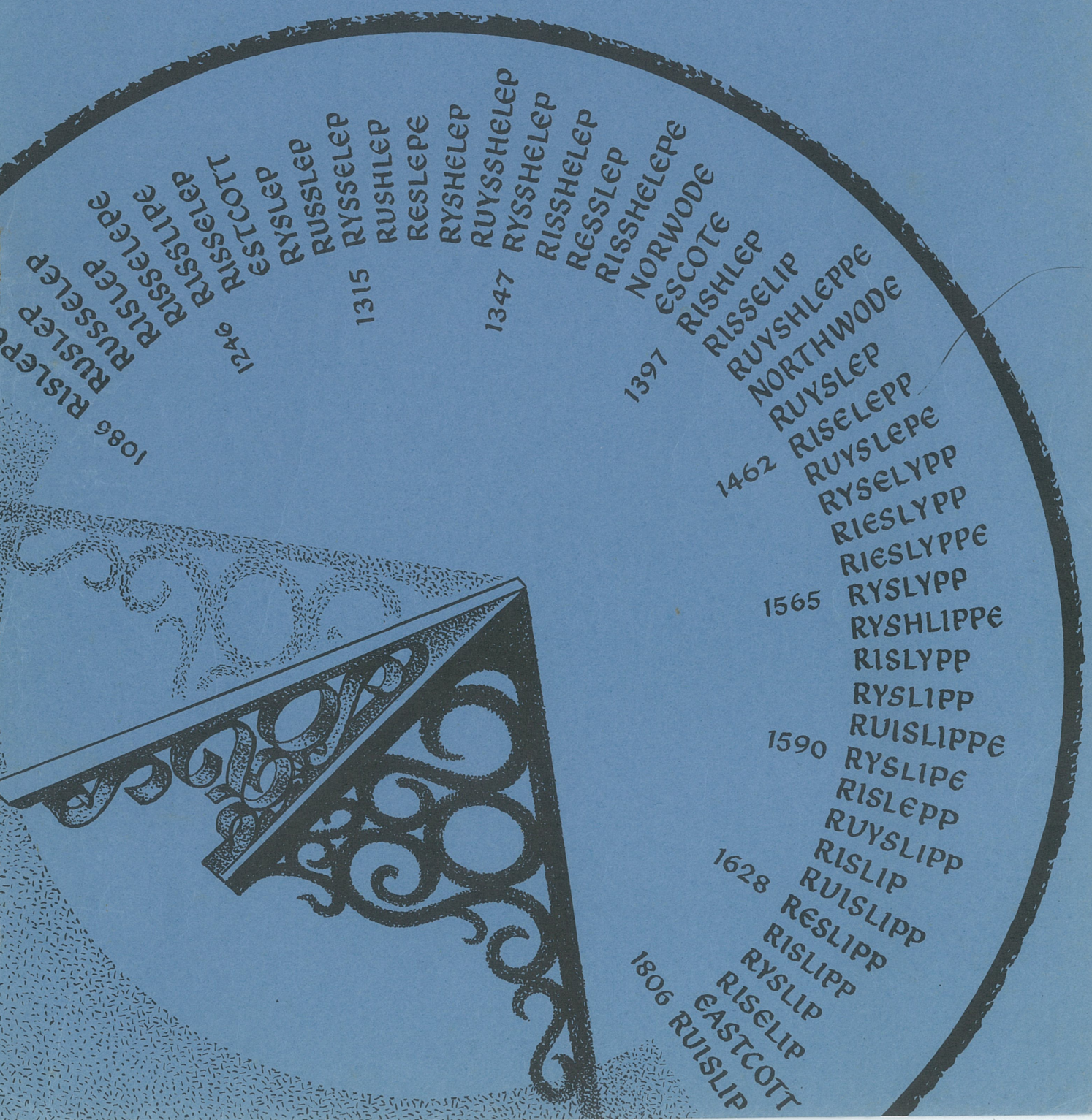


RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD
AND EASTCOTE
Local History
Society



JOURNAL OF THE RUISLIP NORTHWOOD AND
EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The year has been an eventful one for our Society. Rebuilding of the Manor Farm Cow Byre was completed, as was the renovation of the Almshouses, while work has commenced to restore the walled garden which formerly belonged to Eastcote House. An expert examination has suggested that the Great Barn at Manor Farm has been a feature of the Ruislip landscape for even longer than we ever imagined. Among the less welcome happenings was the destruction by fire of the Victorian granary which formed part of the Manor Farm complex, and the loss of two distinctive Edwin Gunn designed houses in Kingsend, which fell victims to 'development'.

In addition, Society members enjoyed a very full programme of Winter meetings and Summer excursions which greatly added to our appreciation of our heritage, both locally and further afield. The work of the Society would be unable to proceed without the tireless efforts of its Committee under the able Chairmanship of Len Krause. This year has seen some changes in Committee membership.

Our thanks go to James McBean, who relinquishes his post as Editor of this Journal in order to be able to devote more time to researching his special interests. We are grateful for the high standard set by his meticulous and scholarly approach. The somewhat daunting prospect of succeeding him has been considerably mitigated by his reassuring help and preparation.

We must also thank Victoria Preece for the excellent winter programmes she has arranged during her time as Secretary. (And of course many of us will long remember her charming production this Christmas of the Eastcote Mummings' Play). Her lively humour will be much missed and we wish her and her family well in their new home at Coldash.

The Society's strength - reflected in a succession of over-subscribed outings and full house Winter meetings - is derived from a fortunate combination of popular support and individual enthusiasm. When the Cow Byre re-opened in October 1980, the Exhibition on "Farming in Ruislip", which the Society staged at the invitation of the Local Authority, bore witness to the dedication of those who helped cope with over 4000 visitors.

When the Almshouses were opened to the public in July last year, prior to occupation by their new tenants, several hundred people came along and had the opportunity to appreciate something of this building's role in Ruislip's social fabric since its construction around 1570 - an opportunity greatly enhanced by an exhibition and itinerary compiled by one of our leading members, Eileen Bowlit.

The Committee's work is reflected in their tireless vigilance over the remaining reminders of our present past - rewarded frequently by preservation and restoration, and sometimes by a startling discovery. When the Society invited Mr. C.A. Hewett, renowned authority on mediaeval carpentry, to study the Great Barn, he highlighted many previously unnoticed details and suggested further work which might well confirm his estimate of the building's origins as early as around 1250.

A major challenge for the coming year will be to discover a possible replacement for the Granary and propose a practical plan for its re-instatement. Meanwhile something we can all take part in is this Summer's programme of outings arranged with his usual care by Robert Humphreys.

This year we have an unusually varied and original selection of reports and features and the Editor would like to extend the Society's thanks to everyone who has contributed to the 1981 edition of the Journal, not least our new typist, Mrs. Jan Rixon, who has skilfully deciphered our historic manuscripts.

SUMMER VISITS 1980

A thoroughly enjoyable series of summer visits were arranged for us by our Outings Secretary, Robert Humphreys. The following are brief accounts:-

HARROW SCHOOL : 22nd March

On Saturday 22nd March a large group of our members assembled at the foot of Grove Hill where we were met by Mr. Golland, a Master at Harrow School, and Local Historian, who was to be our guide.

After giving us a brief history of the school, (founded by John Lyon, a local landowner in 1571), we made our way up Grove Hill, stopping to look at some of the school houses where the boys live during the school term.

When reaching the top of Grove Hill, we crossed the road, and entered a school yard to come face to face with the Old School House, the left hand side being the original building erected in the early 17th century. Divided by a steep flight of steps, the right hand side was built two centuries later to conform with the original design.

We then made our way into the original building, possibly the most interesting of the many buildings seen. In earlier times all classes were taken in this room, and many famous names of old boys are carved on the timbered panelling.

Back down the steep flight of steps into the school yard, where on ceremonial occasions a role call is made, and each boys name is called out.

Crossing the road, we entered the Vaughan Library, and it was here that we were able to examine some old records relating to a Ruislip pupil.

On leaving the Library we noticed a remarkable architectural similarity to the Chapel, and we were then told that both buildings were designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, and both built in the mid 19th century.

Inside the Chapel we sat and surveyed the stained glass windows, and noticed the large numbers of memorials to past scholars. After leaving the Chapel we then stopped for a long look at the very fine view obtainable from the terrace.

We then crossed the road to enter the Speech Room, stopping to admire the fine statue of Queen Elizabeth I above the archway. This again is a Victorian building, and has an unusual crescent shaped seating accommodation, also a large stage stretching from one side of the building to the other. Sir Winston Churchill and other distinguished Harrovians are commemorated here.

From the Speech Room we proceeded into the War Memorial, and then above to the Alex Fitch Room (dedicated to his memory). A notable feature of this room being the stained glass windows depicting various important historical coats of arms.

The tour finished with a browse around a modern gallery which has been converted from the Old Speech Room. Here were exhibits of paintings, pottery and many other interesting items.

A fair percentage of the party were able to enjoy tea, which rounded off both an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks to Mr. Golland and his Harrow Boys who were most helpful. -

F. LEITCH.

GUNNERSBURY PARK : 12th April

Some twenty-five members and friends made their way to Gunnersbury Park House, just south of Ealing Common, on 12th April last to see an almost unique example of an early Victorian country house and park set now not in the green fields of rural Middlesex, but in deepest suburbia, close to the thundering North Circular Road.

In medieval times Gunnersbury was a sub-manor of Fulham. By the mid-seventeenth century the celebrated lawyer Sir John Maynard had built a fine Palladian residence on the northern slopes, a house subsequently the home of Princess Amelia, one of the daughters of George II. The two present Gunnersbury houses were built between 1805 and 1810, after the estate had been divided, and the larger mansion was the property of a branch of the Rothschild banking family from 1835 to 1917. A small museum was established in part of this house in 1929.

Now financed jointly by the London Boroughs of Ealing and Hounslow, it aims to illustrate the archaeology, history, topography and social customs of the area from pre-historic times to the mid-twentieth century.

There is only room to display at any one time a selection from the 16,000 or so items in the museum's collections, and we were fortunate to be given an interesting introduction to treasures of Gunnersbury House by curator Ann Balfour Paul.

The Entrance Hall is dominated by an 1804 Stanhope printing press, used by The Chiswick Press in the early nineteenth century. The Archaeology Room displays exhibits ranging from Stone Age times to the eighteenth century, almost all found locally or collected by a former Borough Engineer of Acton. In addition, a bequest from a Brentford resident brought the Museum some fine Bronze Age, Saxon and Viking weapons, excavated from Northolt Manor Site between 1950 and 1974.

In the former Drawing Room are two early nineteenth century carriages used by the Rothschild family, one in their dark blue and yellow livery for formal occasions in town, the other a four horse posting chariot designed for longer journeys. With them, also recently renovated, is a traditional Hansom cab, which incredibly was still in use in Ealing as late as 1933. Completing this transport section are various other nineteenth century vehicles, including a Werner motorcycle of about 1899.

The West Room is given over to social history and the permanent display features a collection illustrating the history of laundering, reflecting the importance of the many hand laundries which took advantage of South Acton's soft water at the turn of the century. Other exhibits also depict local trades and industries.

During our visit the Long Gallery, and indeed much of the Entrance Hall, were taken up with a fascinating temporary exhibition showing the development of the puppet theatre in London. To illustrate how this ancient form of entertainment has lost none of its appeal, the several children to accompany our group quickly disappeared into the lecture room, given over for the afternoon to a very up-to-date puppet demonstration.

Although now a little reduced from its original extent, Gunnersbury Park itself still covers some 187 acres, and contains facilities for a variety of sports and recreations. However, the Boroughs clearly make strenuous efforts to maintain the lawns and gardens in such a way that, with a little imagination, one can gaze out across the terraces to the green countryside and broad River Thames beyond the high Victorian brick walls. - MARTIN CARTWRIGHT.

OUTING TO HIDCOTE MANOR AND UPTON HOUSE : 17th May

Saturday May 17th and we were off on our first day outing of the season. After a pleasant drive through the Cotswolds, catching a glimpse of many familiar landmarks, we reached the gardens of Hidcote Manor where the coach party dispersed for lunch. We had a picnic in bright sunshine in a meadow where we fended off a stray sheep or two.

Vita Sackville-West wrote in a description of the garden at Hidcote - "We must remember that the fashion of one generation becomes the commonplace of the next; but that is no reason why we should not pay a grateful tribute to the person who had the first idea." Major Lawrence Johnston's creation in 1905 of this gardener's paradise fulfilled all the expectations of those of us who saw it for the first time on that day. There was much that was familiar such as the spicey leaved choisia, the lychnis chalcedonica and the many varieties of peonies, but nowhere else, except perhaps at Sissinghurst, does one find rare plants grown in almost cottage garden settings. The many separate gardens, each enclosed by hedges or walls, the magnificent beeches beyond the Theatre Lawn and the walk through the clipped hornbeam hedges in the Stilt Garden through to the great gates which give a splendid view of the countryside beyond, are things we shall long remember. A garden rule, well demonstrated at Hidcote, is that of planting in the mass. One whole border, for instance, is planted with yellow Esperance peonies and we were fortunate in seeing quite a few still blooming with vigour and splendour.

Reluctantly we left Hidcote to go on by coach to Upton House in Warwickshire where we had another enjoyable visit.

One could talk at great length about the glories of the house and the beauty of the garden. There is a wonderful collection of 18th century porcelain, which we are told contains more pieces of the highest quality in its chosen field than almost any private collection in England. I particularly enjoyed the paintings by Lotti Guardi and Canaletto and of course the two Hogarths, scenes of London Life, Morning and Night, which I saw when lent to the Tate some years ago. After an all too short walk in the unusual garden, that at one point seemed to run down into a narrow valley that we would have liked to explore further, we were bound for Banbury. After tea, with Banbury cakes eaten for the first time, we had a delightful visit to the parish church and then we were on our way home.

We are quite sure that those who attended the outing had a wonderful day and feel greatly indebted to the Committee members of the Society who arranged this special day for us. - VERONICA MEE.

TOUR OF WINDSOR TOWN : 25th June

Two lady members of the Windsor Local History Publications' Group conducted a party of twenty four of our members on a tour of Windsor Town on Wednesday evening, 25th June, 1980.

We met our guides at the Guildhall and in the short space of two hours, saw much of the town that is missed by the general tourist.

From the Guildhall, we passed the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, and the nearby Masonic Lodge built by Sir Christopher Wren as a school in 1726. Also nearby, were the Royal Mews still used to stable horses.

After a short detour along Park Street where we admired the fine doorways of its Georgian houses, we went past the Central Station with its coats of arms of London and Bristol (the badge of Brunel's Great Western Railway) above the clock. Windsor's second station, on the Southern Railway, has a tower from which a watchman could signal the approach of Royal passengers.

On our return route, we saw the old House Hotel (1674), supposedly Wren's, in the pedestrian precinct leading to Windsor Bridge. A short walk along the river brought us to Curfew Yard - a modern restoration of historic buildings and in an archway here we saw the tiled reproduction of Hollan's "The Prospect of Windsor Castle".

These are just some of the treasures we saw of Windsor Town. We are grateful to our two tireless guides who seemed to have an inexhaustible knowledge of their town, for a most fascinating evening. - R.G.HUMPHRIES.

VISIT TO SINGLETON AND CHICHESTER : 19th July

There could hardly have been a worse start to a visit than we had on the 19th July, when, on a morning teeming with rain, a party of us set out to visit the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton. We were all equipped with raincoats and umbrellas, but even so, the prospect of spending a couple of hours or so at an open air museum on such a day was more than a trifle daunting. However, the nearer we got to Singleton, the lighter the rain seemed to become, and by the time we had arrived at the Museum it had completely stopped. We were most fortunate, because it would have been a great pity not to be able to take full advantage of a visit to such an interesting place.

The main purpose of the Museum, which opened to the public in 1971, is to rescue good examples of 'vernacular architecture' (buildings such as farmhouses, and small town and village houses) where these are in danger of destruction, and if preservation of these sites is impossible, they are carefully and painstakingly re-erected on the Museum's forty acre site. The grounds themselves are beautiful, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the chance to see the numerous buildings which ranged from farmhouses and farm buildings to a small market hall, and even a charcoal-burner's camp. The Museum is a private, non-profit making organisation, heavily dependent upon voluntary assistance, and how heartening it is to see such an ambitious project come to fruition.

I think we were all sorry when the time came to leave, but the coach took us on to Chichester, where we spent a leisurely afternoon, again filled with interest. The sun even came out in the afternoon, and although it was breezy, it was very pleasant for wandering around. We took the chance of visiting the Cathedral which dominates the city, and which, despite the ugly scaffolding for necessary restoration, is still very fine. The older part of the city is noted for its many attractive buildings as well as being a good shopping centre, and judging from the number of bags and parcels carried when we returned to the coach, most of us had taken full advantage of the local shops.

The journey back to Ruislip took us through some very pretty country, and, on our return, a most sincere expression of thanks was made to Mr. Humphreys for having arranged such an enjoyable day. - D. CAMPBELL.

OLD STANMORE : 23rd August

Last August Bank Holiday Saturday found our Society, not strolling along the pier at some seaside resort, but exploring Old Stanmore.

We were met by three members of the Stanmore and Harrow Historical Society, Messrs. Richardson, Porter and Abbott, who looked after us well.

First we went with Mr. Porter to the Tithe Barn, which is now a private house. He had arranged with the owner to let us in. In one room was a fire place, taken from the old vestry, and dated to the 16th century. It also had a small stained glass window of a man's head, taken from the bathroom by the previous owner, as "she did not like a man looking at her in the bath."

The neat room was dominated by a magnificent inglenook fireplace, "large enough for Father Christmas to hide in at our parties", we were told. After that we were taken to see the dining room with its Elizabethan furniture.

The house was featured in 'Home & Gardens' at Christmas 1978, and the magazine and house made us envious we could not have been at the festivities.

Next we were divided into two groups and taken by Mr. Richard and Mr. Abbott to the Stanmore Hill Conservation area, and back down to the Broadway. We stopped to look at many buildings on the way, including the Abercorn Arms; it had been the first coaching stop out of London on the way to Aylesbury, and the smithy, across the road, is still working - now modernised - but it has the old forge which they work on high days and holidays - but not the August Bank Holiday!

In the Broadway we got many strange looks from the Saturday shoppers as we stood and examined the buildings.

Then we rejoined Mr. Porter at the church, and he took us round the churchyard, and told us about the ruined and newer churches.

We saw the grave of Lord Jellicoe's 5 year old daughter, who was buried with her dolls in the coffin, and next to it the grave of W.S. Gilbert.

We thank the Stanmore and Harrow Historical Society for a pleasant and interesting morning, and wish them luck with their attempts to start a museum with the help of the National Trust. Mr. Porter's September talk will be all the more appreciated now.

VICTORIA PREECE.

CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM : 21st. September

A fine late summer day on 21st. September saw some twenty nine members and friends assembling at Newland Park near Chalfont St. Giles for a special open day at the ambitious new Chiltern Open Air Museum.

Not yet open to the general public, the Museum is nevertheless beginning to take shape, to preserve the everyday buildings from past centuries in the Chilterns from the threat of progress. Although normally fully occupied with rebuilding and restoration, the Museum's volunteer workers took time off to explain their aims to members of interested local societies.

While no building which can be preserved on its original site will be moved, the Museum plans to save from demolition the cottages, farmhouses, small town houses, farm buildings and workshops which reflect the distinctive Chiltern way of life.

Through collaboration with Buckinghamshire County Council, the Museum, which has been formed as a limited company and registered as a charity, has obtained the lease on a beautiful twenty five acre site in the grounds of

Newland Park College, with the promise of twenty further acres of level fields to add to the existing wooded slopes and open grasslands in due course.

Already a number of buildings have been carefully re-erected, while others including barns and a small manor house are stored awaiting repair. Eventually it is hoped to create a small town, a village round a green, farm groups, a workshop, together with all the amenities of a modern museum for the public to enjoy.

There is already plenty to see and to stretch the imagination in this adventurous project, which also includes a well documented nature trail. Clearly a place to which we should regularly return.

M. CARTWRIGHT.

REFLECTIONS ON A VISIT TO A MOSQUE IN ENGLAND : 4th October

One Saturday morning in October, the Society visited the new mosque at Regents Park designed by a British architect. What did I expect? Visions of a far distant golden dome shimmering mistily under the yellow disc of the sun on the horizon between fawn desert and blue sky as a daytime beacon to the traveller even as the light in the minaret was to the benighted; and visions of a glimpse into a cool shady tranquil court with sparkling fountain from a hot dusty street filled with the clangour of Baghdad's car-breakers quarter or shoppers gazing stonily at this intruder into their stronghold of the Shia denomination (Islam is no more one organization than Christianity). But in London that morning there was no sun to light up the bronze dome, the air was raw and underfoot, sodden leaves in a typical English autumn town setting. Even the call to the faithful to prayer "God is great ... and Muhammed is the messenger of God" never rings out from the low minaret as surrounding residents might object - if Charles Martel had lost the battle of Tours one Saturday in October 1249 years ago we might have objected rather to the bells of Ruislip Church.

The deserted and silent outside belies the hive of religious activity and noise inside, distanced from the secular world outside by the brown tinted windows. Before the prayer-hall (church) is reached there are various auxiliary areas and rooms (the church hall), through which echoes the call to prayer five times a day. In the entrance is a bookstall. Amongst the booklets on the principles of Islam are ones on the Palestinians' strivings, for in general Islam, unlike Christianity in this country today, structures every aspect of the life of its believers and is not divorced from everyday affairs (how many Christian church bookstalls have literature on the political-economic problems and struggles of their religious and cultural fellows, apart from encouraging almsgiving which anyway is one of the five duties of a Muslim).

Scattered around are groups of boys and girls of varying ages with teachers and blackboards. These classes ("Sunday" schools) are learning at various levels, classical Arabic to enable them to understand the Koran (God's messages to Muhammed "blessings be upon him") in the original majestic cadences and in its beautiful flowing writing (compare the Bible in King James's English) which with the religious law based on it (compare our old Canon law) makes a bond between all Muslims, even as the Latin Bible once did in Christianity - how many Christian Sunday Schools teach Hebrew and Greek so that their children may learn to read the Bible in the original instead of through translators interpretations? But as the Bible is a less unified book than the Koran and the text was handcopied for twice the number of centuries it is more riddled with mistakes, so the children would also have to learn the skills of textual criticism. For those who want to explore deeper into

the study of the Koran and the theology and history of Islam, there is a fine modern library, and space for occasional temporary exhibitions on these subjects where one was just being set out on early bindings of the Koran which, like Bibles in earlier times, might be magnificently covered.

Some of the children are fair skinned and, apart from many girls with long draped headscarves, they are mostly dressed in casual English style and not traditional clothes of Islamic countries. That this however is a "church" of some half a million people not yet fully integrated into the historical rag-bag that makes up English culture (and all cultures for that matter) is shown by the inclusion of a little mortuary with its clinical stainless steel equipment for preparation for transport to their homelands of the bodies of some Muslims dying here whose roots are still primarily in faraway lands.

Before entering the prayer-hall (church proper) worshippers must purify themselves by washing for which facilities are provided, and take off their shoes. The hall is carpeted for worshippers to sit on and prostrate themselves in the compass direction of Mecca, which is indicated by a very large canopy at the front of the hall. Attached to the side of this is the pulpit from which the prayer-leader conducts the services. These two features, which it is unusual to find combined into one unit, are of richly carved wood. As the elaborate energetic genuflections could possibly cause immodest distraction in a close packed group and the complementary roles of men and women in Islamic society are different, they worship together but in their own areas, the latter in a balcony with an openwork screen overlooking the hall.

During festivals worshippers may be much at the mosque so there is a kitchen to serve food for them there. At such times the congregation may be too big for the prayer-hall and it spreads out into the auxiliary areas, and if necessary the glass walls onto the entrance platform can be slid open so that this too can be used covered with an awning. We were made conscious that, that was perhaps not an ideal solution in our chill climate for when we came out of the mosque, though there was wan sunshine, there was a nip in the air. One could muse that of course a little physical discomfort, as in some inadequately heated Christian churches, would be small price to pay for the ineffable peace ("salam") given by submission to the will of God in this world of unceasing uncertainties which the experience of Man over thousands of years teaches we are practically powerless so far to foresee and curb, and then in the end perhaps only for the worst. No peace of mind is given to us by History, only irritation, cynicism and the oblivion of its fascinating study, as we are carried inexorably along by the forces different scholars claim to detect in it - technologically determined social evolution or epoch making men (and women) and events or cycles of growing and collapsing city civilizations or ever rolling waves of challenge and response or societies as expressions of the age old biological drives in changing environments or others as yet to be recognized, perhaps lurking in the records of our own local history.

Thanks for the opportunity of the interesting stimulation of visiting the mosque are due to Mr. R. Humphreys.

M.R.M. MULLER.

RE-OPENING OF MANOR FARM COW BYRE - FARMING IN RUISLIP EXHIBITION:

4th - 25th October

This exhibition was a vivid reminder that until this century practically everyone in Ruislip was employed on the land or in trades associated with farming. The first section evoked medieval times when Ruislip belonged to the Abbey of Bec - with its reminders of the Domesday survey, the customs of Gilbert Aldred, the wooden swing beam plough. A wattle enclosure around a cut-out pig attracted children's attention immediately and reminded us of the right of pannage. We were shown that crops were grown in rotation on the demesne lands of about 1000 acres - corn, rye, barley, oats, peas and beans. The storage of the harvest was demonstrated by a look across the farmyard to the Great Barn.

The Tudor section had details of the strips which had come under cultivation gradually during the medieval period in the form of the 1565 Terrier Map which shows that there were 121 people holding land in Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote with about five times that number living here and being employed by the larger landowners. This section also included early 16th century attempts at enclosure of certain common fields, depriving tenants of their pasture rights, which were upheld by an enquiry at Uxbridge in 1519-21.

Most houses were shown to have gardens, orchards and small enclosed pastures averaging 3 acres in Westcote and 5 acres in Eastcote. This display gave details of the Wallaston family in particular.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, farming practices continued in the established way, despite experiments elsewhere and John Doharty's map of the demesne in 1750 and an undated map of Hill Farm were displayed.

The visitor was reminded of the Parliamentary Enclosure of the common fields through the Bill of 1804 with a map showing the allotments made including the 3 areas of common land. Hay was shown to have become the main profitable crop and new farms were built as a mid-19th century map showed. Ruislip's farms from all periods were well illustrated in a series of photographs, prints and auction catalogues. By the 20th century the Ewers dominated the farming scene but the coming of the railways in 1904 doomed local agriculture.

Notable amongst a plethora of agricultural tools was a bagging hook used in Middlesex. Haymaking was especially well illustrated with pitchfork, rick-cutting knife, scythes, sickles, billhooks and a charming sunbonnet made and worn locally. A flail represented threshing and we were reminded how grain was winnowed from chaff. There were horse trappings, as well as reminders of local blacksmiths, especially the Tapping family. There was a birdscarer, a harrow, model ploughs, a seed lip and fiddle, and a huge balance in the centre which proved irresistible for budding young weights and measures inspectors!

In the adjoining room there was a special display of dairying from cow to shop counter with various utensils, churns, an egg-sorter, cheese-press and splendid local delivery cart, with trappings for the milkman's horse. On the wall was the history of Milk production and cheesemaking.

Exhibits and Contributors: The Society is grateful for the loan of exhibits and help in getting them there from:-

The G.L.C. Land Agency	
The Museum of English Rural Life	- University of Reading
Colin Roome	- L.B.H.

Mr. R. Mills	- L.B.H.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas	- Eastcote
Mr. G.R. Hinton	- Ruislip Common
Mr. F.W. Dalton	- Copt Hall Farm
Mr. M. Inwards	- Ruislip
Mrs. Pat Ashby	- Harefield
Mrs. K.I. Brown	- Cannons Bridge Farm
Mrs. V. Cresswell	- Ruislip
Mr. J. Tapping	- Eastcote
Miss M. Pearce	- Uxbridge Library
Miss M. Hoare	- Ruislip Library

We should also like to thank Mrs. V. Preece, Mrs. E. Bowlit and Mr. D. Tottman for their invaluable contributions in making enjoyable the visits of the many school groups who came to the Cow Byre Exhibition.

V.E. COWLEY.

MIDDLESEX FOR SIN : 15th November

"Derbyshire for lead,
Devonshire for tin,
Wiltshire for plovers eggs
But Middlesex for sin."

..... Thus, Dr. David Avery of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society opened his talk at the L.A.M.A.S. Conference held at the Museum of London on November 15th, 1980.

Dr. Avery has made a study of the Rolls of the Quarter Sessions held at Clerkenwell during the years 1612 - 1618, and this was a light-hearted account of his findings. The 560 cases in which sexual offences were involved ranged from "fathering an illegitimate child" (194 cases) and "keeping a bawdy house" (146 cases) to a case of wife-swapping in South Mimms.

Considerable efforts were made to establish paternity of an illegitimate child so that the father and not the Parish had to pay for the upkeep of the child. The mother was held responsible and could be given a whipping if the man named as father did not turn up in court.

Punishment was harsh and for offences such as bigamy, rape and homosexual acts, the penalty was death. Some of the accused would ask for a Bible to prove that they could read and thus claim "benefit of clergy". This might help them avoid hanging for a first offence but they would have the letter 'T' (for Tyburn) branded on their thumb and would not be so fortunate a second time.

However, the fact that only 22 men were accused of "frequenting a bawdy house" suggests that not all offenders were brought to trial and there was evidence that some members of the Watch could be persuaded to turn a blind eye.

The second speaker was John Richardson, author of several books

including the "Local Historians Encyclopaedia" who gave an illustrated talk on the buildings of Covent Garden, most of which date from the 19th century. He spoke not only of the past but also of the changes in the area since the fruit and vegetable market moved to Seven Dials and his views on the future for this fascinating district of London.

The last talk was given by Dr. Carr, an industrial historian who described the work of the Dockland Historical Survey. Most of the London docks were built at the beginning of the 19th century to deal with the increased volume of goods at that time requiring clearance by Customs Officers. The Isle of Dogs also has iron-making connections and the Great Eastern Steamship was built there by Scottish Iron workers who moved to this part of London in the 1850's. Traces of the links with Scottish Presbyterianism can still be found.

Dr. Carr's job is to collect and correlate as much information as possible of the industrial history of the area before it undergoes re-development and his talk demonstrated that there is still much of interest in this now "run-down" area.

In addition to the formal lectures, the conference provides an opportunity to see what other Societies are doing and to meet and discuss various projects with other enthusiasts. It is this which gives the day its particular appeal and I for one was sorry that there was not more time for a really close look at the exhibitions mounted by the other Societies.

C.A. COX.

HATCH END LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE : 14th February

The conference was on the theme of "The Changing Village" and the main part of the afternoon was taken up with 2 lectures, one by Dr. Pamela Horn on "The Village under Stress" 1780 - 1820 and the other by Eileen Bowlt on "19th Century Changes in N.W. Middlesex."

Dr. Horn presented a picture of village life in Georgian England with its problems of a sharp increase in population, of the upheavals associated with enclosures and of the tensions and hardships created by the French War from 1793 - 1815. On the other hand there were major improvements in agricultural methods which entailed greater use of labour - and people could enjoy themselves at fairs and markets, and even entertain themselves at home.

From her examination of the Census returns of Ruislip, Kingsbury, Northolt and Hayes in 1851, 1861 and 1871 and from other documents, Mrs. Eileen Bowlt was able to give a detailed picture of the household size, age and the social structure of these communities. Questions such as did most of the children attend school, how many young children worked and what proportion of women had employment outside the home were all answered by the Census returns.

Both lectures were followed by some lively discussion chaired by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and Alan Ball and members were able to gain some impression of other local societies' work from the exhibitions which were on show round the Hall. It was a most stimulating afternoon!

CELIA CARTWRIGHT.

PROGRAMME OF SUMMER OUTINGS 1981

- Saturday : Guided tour of the ancient and historic parts of Eton
25th April College ($1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hrs). Meet at the Main Gate. Car
2.30 p.m. park inside. This tour now fully booked.
- Saturday : Guided visit to R.A.F. Wartime Operations Room, Uxbridge.
16th May Meet at the Spitfire Gate of the Camp in Hillingdon Road.
3.00 p.m. Entry restricted to members who have booked. This visit
is now fully booked. Approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.
- Saturday : Day's coach outing to Elstow, Bedford. Mr. John Bailey
6th June of Chiltern Open Air Museum and Bedfordshire Historic
9.00 a.m. Buildings Research Group will be our guide. Itinerary
will include Mediaeval timbered buildings and other places
of historic and archaeological interest.
Leave St. Martin's Approach 9.00 a.m. Return by 7.30 p.m.
Bring your own lunch. Tea available at Elstow.
Coach fare £3.00. Children £1.50. Deposit of £1.00
required by 13th April.
- Wednesday : Evening tour of Pinner - its buildings and their history.
1st July Guide - Mrs. Pat Clarke of Pinner L.H. Society. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hrs)
7.30 p.m. Meet outside Woolworths in the High Street.
- Saturday : Day's coach outing to Museum of East Anglian Life,
18th July Stowmarket, preceded and followed by an itinerary,
9.00 a.m. devised by Mr. Bengé, through Suffolk's loveliest villages.
Several stops, including Lavenham - 15th century Church,
Guildhall and cottages. Lunch here, bring your own.
Tea at Stowmarket. Return by Bury St. Edmunds.
Cost £4.50 (£2.30 children) includes coach fare and
Museum entry. Deposit of £2.00 by 6th June please.
- Sunday : A tour of Harefield guided by Mr. Ashby followed by tea
9th August and a display of period costumes at his home. Meet
2.30 p.m. on the Green.
- Sunday : Chiltern Open Air Museum. Meet at the site in the
27th September grounds of Newlands Park College of Education, Chalfont
2.30 p.m. St. Giles. Tea and refreshments available. Route -
A.40 to Denham. Turn into A.412. Left turn at Naple
Cross traffic lights into Chalfont Road - as far as
College Gates. 50p. Entrance charge.

Please confirm bookings for June and July outings as soon as possible with the Outings Secretary, Robert Humphreys, Ruislip 37527. Accommodation is limited.

THE RUISLIP PARK ESTATE

by EILEEN M. BOWLT

PARK HOUSE

One of the most easily overlooked historic houses on the High Street is that now owned by the British Legion and properly called Park House. It stands end on to the street and two modern appendages, the Regal Florist and Chamberlain & Bickerton Estate Agents prevent passers by from viewing it properly and realising that an old house lurks in the background. Once it was the centre of a 40 acre estate bounded by the High Street & Ickenham Road with a drive leading to the front door. This impressive Park was not ancient, but created in the early 19th century, probably by Harry Edgell, Esq. owner of Kings End Farm who acquired the land piecemeal between 1790 and 1827.

1906 AUCTION CATALOGUE

The house is listed as of early to mid-19th century date on the Statutory List. The estate was divided into building plots and sold in a series of auctions beginning on 7th July 1906. The catalogue contains a number of photographs. One of the front of the house shows it as having a typical Georgian frontage, rendered white, a balustrade around the eaves, sash windows and a pretty verandah. Chimneys and roof ridges appear above the balustrade. The door is set slightly to the High Street side of centre and is in the half of the house which has three storeys. Although the height of the roof is uniform the western half has only two storeys, the windows of the first floor being taller and set at a level between the first and second floors of the eastern half. Is it possible that two separate houses were joined together at one time, or was a much older house extended and the whole modernised early in the 19th century?

The house was quite wrongly called The Manor House at the beginning of this century. The catalogue describes the interior thus:

"On the upper floor: Four bedrooms with stoves and closets, small light Linen Room or Bedroom. Landing lighted from an octagonal shaped dome.

On the Half space: Bedroom 14 ft. 9in. by 14 ft. 6in. 10 ft. high; Another Bedroom 14 ft. 6in. by 14 ft. 4in; Linen Closet; Bathroom with hot and cold water supply; Housemaid's sink, another lofty Bedroom; Two other Bedrooms and W.C. with lavatory fittings.

On the first floor: Four Bedrooms, 19 ft. 6in. by 14 ft. 8in.; 19 ft. by 13 ft. 8in.; 18 ft. 6in. by 14 ft. 8in. and 12 ft. by 12 ft; Dressing Room or Smaller Bedroom; W.C.

On the Ground Floor: Spacious Square Entrance Hall leading to principal Staircase and opening onto Dining Room, 18 ft. 6in. by 14 ft. 3in. (exclusive of recess for sideboard) and serving lobby; elegant Drawing Room, 29 ft. 6in. by 19 ft. 9in. exclusive of bay 11 ft. 6in. by 4 ft. 6in., 13 ft. high with French casements opening to covered verandah to lawn.

(In this room is a handsome Statuary Marble Mantlepiece).

Comfortable Library 15 ft. by 13 ft. 9in. opening upon verandah; Billiard Room 22 ft. (including two bay windows) by about 15ft. 6in.; and 10 ft. 6in. high. Kitchen, Housekeeper's Room and offices."

This imposing mansion stood in equally attractive grounds which had two sheets of ornamental water (one exactly where the Police houses stand in the Oaks today, the other to the north of Manor Road) a Rookery, Shrubbery, a walled kitchen garden, greenhouses, and a Vinery.

Ruislip Village and its surroundings receive favourable mention.

"There are few districts around London ... possessing so many residential attractions as Ruislip and its neighbourhood. The Park is within 3 minutes walk of the Stations on the Metropolitan and Great Western and Great Central Railways with their excellent service of trains from which London is reached well within the half hour

"The District possesses a perfectly rural charm, as though one were a hundred miles away. Adjacent is the pretty village, with its old Priory reminiscences and beautiful old Church, which is regarded as the finest specimen of its period in the County of Middlesex.

"The proximity to the Ruislip Woods and Reservoir, with its excellent fishing and skating in the winter season; and the Golf Links, afford ample facilities for recreation, and there is excellent shooting to be had within very easy reach."

One wonders, did people walk faster, were the trains quicker, and the winters colder than now?

PLAN OF ESTATE 1906

The plan accompanying the auction catalogue shows that although the estate was surrounded by High Street, Sharps Lane and Ickenham Road, the N.E. corner (from the Swan to the George) and the S.W. corner (Beefeater Restaurant and its car park) were always excluded from it. The plan shows Church Avenue, Manor Road, and King Edwards Road marked in, but these roads did not actually exist in 1906. Church Avenue and Manor Road are both on the line of old footpaths which crossed the Park, leading from Gt. Kings End and Lt. Kings End respectively, to the Church. Access to them from the village was over a stile at the end of Park Lane (now The Oaks), just beyond Park Cottages.

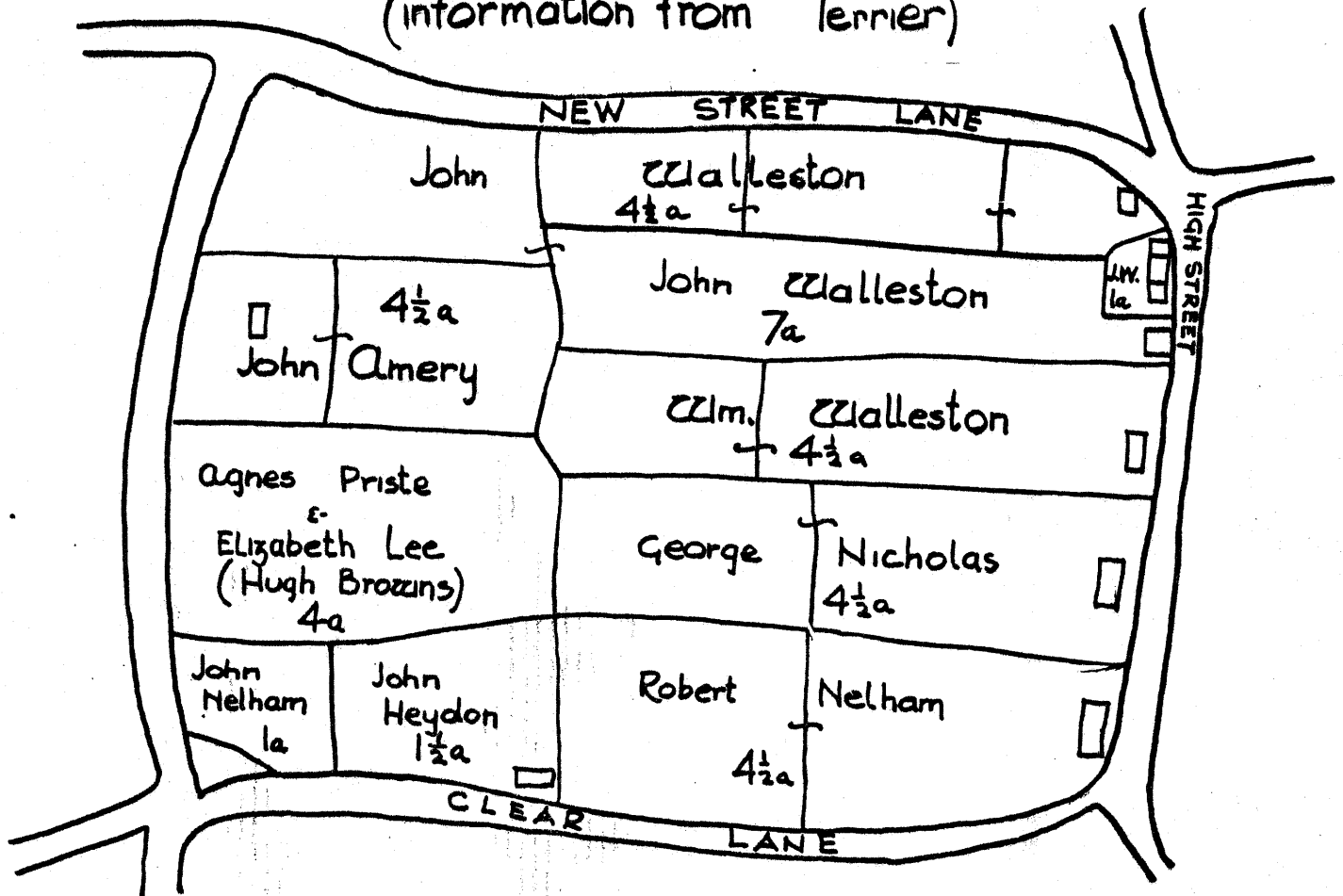
Three buildings other than Park House stand within the estate; A Lodge on the corner of High Street and Ickenham Road. A photograph shows it to be a pretty, single-storey house, half-hidden by rhododendrons at the front and with a circle of tall trees behind. It has a pedimented porch supported by two columns with Doric capitals and windows curved at the top. The carriage drive sweeps away into the distance. A man in a cloth cap is closing a six-barred, white gate. There is a wooden fence on either side.

Orchard Cottage stood in Ickenham Road in a triangular plot of ground, just below the junction with Church Avenue. It had been Ruislip's first Police Station from 1842, but was probably of 16th century date. On the 1866 25 in. O.S. Map it is marked as a Mounted Police Station. The Twitchen family moved into it in 1914, called it Bye Way Cottage and served teas to trippers. It stood between Byeway House and St. Cloud.

Park Cottage was on the south of Sharps Lane near the George car park, hidden behind the high red brick wall (still standing) which protected at least part of the Park estate. Mr. Mills in an article in the 1975 edition of this journal has described how the red brick wall ran along Park Alley.

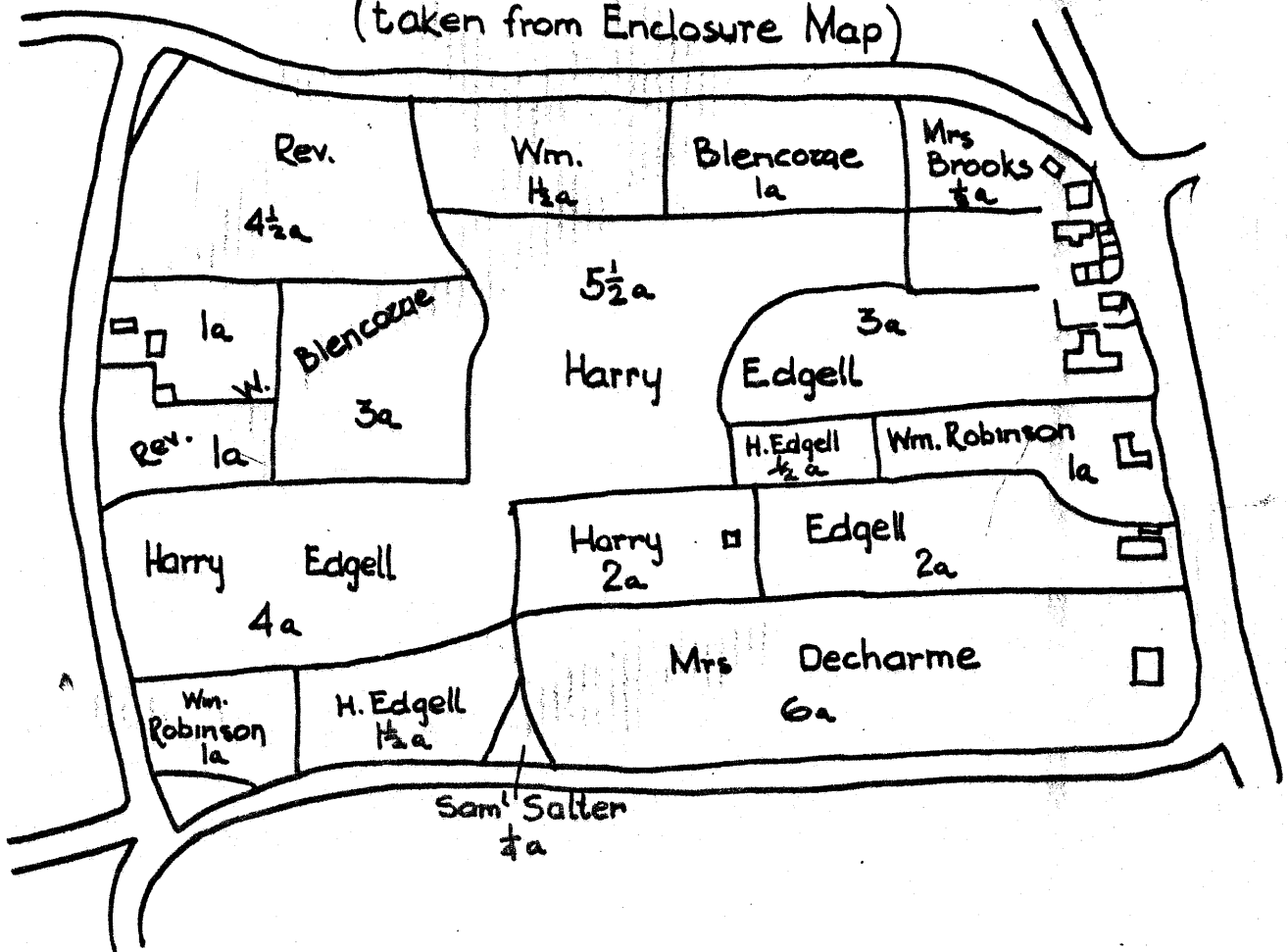
Ruislip Park Estate 1565

(information from Terrier)



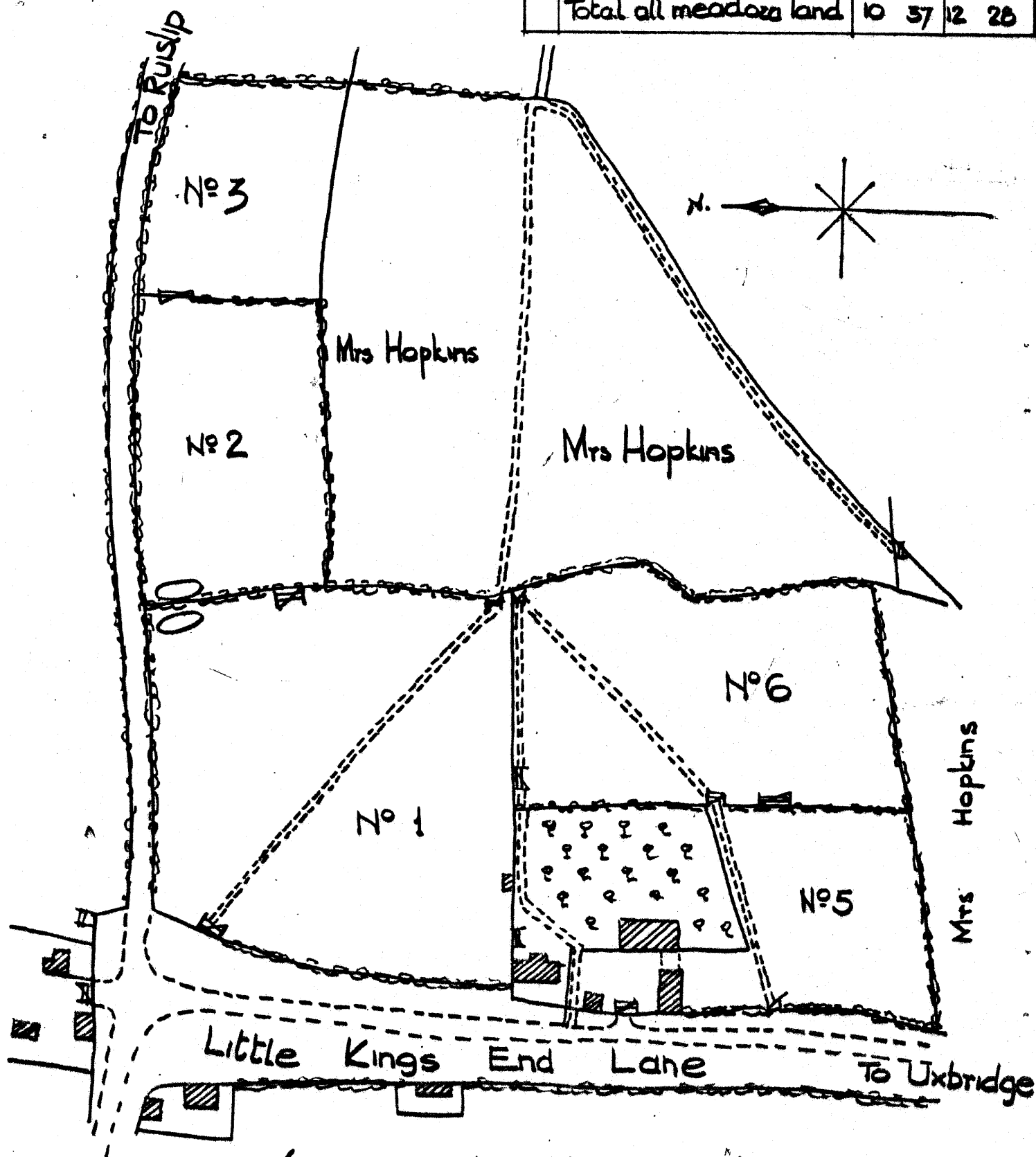
Ruislip Park Estate 1806

(taken from Enclosure Map)



PLAN of an estate at Little Kings End in the parish of
Ruislip in the County of Midd. belonging to the Rev. Mr
Wm. Blencow and
Thos. Stack Esq.

No	Contents	Customary			Statute		
		a	r	p	a	r	p
1	Four acres	3	1	30	4		13
2	Middle Field	1	1	18	1	2	20
3	Upper Field	1		30	1	1	26
4	Orchard yard & garden	2	19		2	38	
5	Pightle	3	29	1			17
6	Field below the orchard	2	2	31	3		37
Total all meadows land		10	37		12	28	



(GLRO. Acc. 538/2nd Dep. 3660. Wilshin)

It may have continued at a right angle along the back of the Swan & George property and along part of Sharps Lane around the kitchen garden area. The cottage is not shown on a plan of 1870 but appears on one dated 1888.

THE AUCTIONS

The estate was offered for sale as 113 lots in July 1906 by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper of Old Jewry, the auction being held on the estate. At least three sales were held, two in 1906 and one in June 1911. Bidding does not seem to have been brisk. Many lots were called in having failed to reach the reserved price. The police wanted land for a new Police Station and bought the Post Office, then run by Mrs. Gooderson and standing on the corner of Park Alley. A contemporary newspaper cutting says; "A freehold corner site, on which stands the Post Office and two cottages was first offered, the biddings commencing at £600 and quickly advancing to £840 at which price it was knocked down. The Police Authorities it was stated wished to acquire property and it was believed they were the purchasers." The new Police Station was eventually built in 1963. Three bids were made for Park House itself, which was being offered with 4 acres of garden. At £1125 the auctioneer said that he was not going to sacrifice this fine old building at this figure and he had no doubt that it would be sold in the course of a few days. He was probably optimistic. Uxbridge Street Directories, which covered Ruislip, give no resident for Park House from 1904 to 1913, when the name F. Brewer appears. According to the newspaper account only four plots were actually sold at one of the 1906 auctions. By June 1911 there were still 63 plots to be sold, but the roads had been properly made and about 50 good class residences and shops already erected. The First parade of shops was between Ickenham Road and King Edwards Road. Gradually the whole estate disappeared under houses and shops. We are fortunate to retain the house itself. The Brewers seem to have continued in residence during the First World War. A break in the run of local street directories makes it difficult to know who if anyone, was living there in the 1920's. Perhaps some long term resident may be able to remember. Park House was certainly empty for at least two years before it was purchased by the British Legion in 1930.

EARLIER HISTORY OF THE ESTATE

1806 Enclosure Map The accompanying plan is based upon the Ruislip Enclosure Map. At that time the area was divided into several small enclosures, several of which were already in the possession of Harry Edgell. He had about 19 acres. There was a house standing on the site of Park House itself. Probably Harry Edgell extended and improved it about 1826 for the Rate Books for 1827 show that the Annual Value of the property had increased by £10 because of "improvements to the mansion". Three more houses stood along the High Street roughly where the Post Office, Barclay's Bank and Currys are today. They had been demolished to make way for the Lodge, Rookery and carriage drive before 1870 when the next plan is available. Byeway Cottage belonged to Samuel Salter, the Rickmansworth brewer, which suggests that it was a Beer House, if not a full scale Inn in 1806. At Lt. Kings End the Rev. Wm. Blencowe had a 12 acre estate based on a farmhouse with outbuildings in Lt. Kings End Lane (Sharps Lane). That house was still standing in 1870, although the land had been emparked. By 1888 that house had also been demolished. This sketch map of Mr. Blencowe's estate, undated, but about 1800, shows the footpaths which became Church Avenue & Manor Road,

1565 Terrier To discover the earlier history of the estate it is necessary to look at the information given in the King's College Terrier of 1565.

The area enclosed by High Street, Ickenham Road and Sharps Lane was divided as follows: JOHN WALLESTON had five cottages, four closes of land and two orchards. The first cottage lying north against New Street Lane (now Sharps Lane) was apparently the old George. The next three cottages said to abbutt east upon High Street were No. 6 High Street, the Swan and an old cottage which appears from old drawings of the back of the Swan to have stood between the two. Naylor Cottage which was demolished some years ago was probably a 19th century front to this cottage. The fifth cottage in which John Walleston lived was possibly Mrs. Gooderson's shop. It does not appear that any building stood on the site of Park House. William Walleston, George Nicholas and Robert Nelham had cottages along the High Street, presumably the ones shown on the 1806 map. John Heydon had Byeway Cottage and John Amery, the house which later belonged to the Rev. Wm. Blencowe.

OWNERS OF THE PARK ESTATE

Having been created as a "gentleman's estate" early in the 19th century, Park House was not destined to remain in the hands of any one family for long. Harry Edgell who was a Barrister left Ruislip and took up residence in Iver sometime before 1832*. He continued to hold some property in Ruislip and was buried here in 1863, but Park House had been sold to Orlando Stone by 1832, a Linen Draper in the City, originally hailing from Thame, Oxon. By 1841 Stone had settled in Richmond and Henry Hill both owned and occupied Park House. The occupation of the estate taken from Rate Books up to 1866 and Street Directories thereafter is as follows:

	<u>OWNERS</u>	<u>OCCUPIERS</u>
1839	Orlando Stone Esq.	Orlando Stone Esq.
1840	Henry Hill Esq.	Henry Hill Esq.
1849	Vaches Esq.	Pearse & Stone
1853	John Spinks Esq.	George Smith Esq.
1858	John Spinks Esq.	James Griffin Esq.
1859	Spinks Trustees	James Griffin Esq.
1860	Spinks Trustees	Unoccupied
1862	George Smith Esq.	Unoccupied
1863	F.O.F. Delmar Esq.	F.O.F. Delmar Esq.
1865	James B. Lister Esq.	James B. Lister Esq.
1871	R. Parnell Esq.	
1878-88	Not mentioned in Directories.	
1889	C. Thompson Esq.	
1890	Kent	
1893	H.F. Craggs, Esq. J.P.	
1899	Cornelius Thompson Esq.	
1904-12	Not mentioned in Directories - auctions taking place.	
1913	F. Brewer Esq.	
	Gap in Directories from 1916 when, F. Brewer still resident to 1927.	
1928	Not mentioned.	
1930	British Legion.	

Several of the people named in this list are commemorated either by monuments or windows in St. Martins. There was at least one marriage connection between Park House and Haydon Hall - L.J. Baker & Catherine Thompson. It would be a fruitful line of research for someone to discover more about the lives and activities of these people.

Sources Auction Catalogue 1906, Uxbridge Library: Auction Catalogue 1911: Enclosure Map of Ruislip 1806, copy available at Ruislip Library: 1565 Terrier King's College R.36: Rate Books G.L.R.O. (Middlesex Records) DRO/19/E2/1-60: Street Directories, Uxbridge Library.

* 1832 Electoral Roll for Middlesex: Plans of Ruislip Park 1870 & 1888 Ruis. Lib.

HERALDRY OF THE WEST WINDOW IN ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, RUISLIP

The West window of St. Martin's Church, restored in 1869-70, bears five coats- of - arms, four of which were identified in a previous article, (1980 K.W. Holmes), as Packe; St. George's, Windsor; King's College and Deane. The fact that the lion in the Deane arms was shown couchant instead of rampant is an indication that the designer or the glazier was capable of error. The fifth coat was tentatively attributed to Blackler or Blackhall. However, by comparing the arms in the window with those of Lawrence Ingham Baker, as given in Fox-Davies' "Armorial Families", significant similarities become apparent.

Arms: West Window

Paly or and Sable
on a chief gules

three bezants

Crest:

a swan's head erased argent.

(In pretence: Thompson).

Arms of L.I. Baker

Sable
on a chief gules

an estoile between

two bezants.

Crest: in front of

a swan's head erased argent

an estoile between

two bezants.

The father of Lawrence Ingham Baker was Lawrence James Baker, a man of wealth and position (see article by K.J. McBean Journal 1979) who was a likely contributor to the restoration of the window. His first wife was Ellen Katherine Thompson. It seems reasonable to deduce that, despite the admittedly major discrepancies, the arms in the window are intended for those of Lawrence James Baker.

K.W. HOLMES.

STOP PRESS

A new Watford Local History Museum housed in the old Benskins Brewery (50 yards down from Watford High Street Station). Open from Friday March 20, 1981.

STOP PRESS

A Date for your diary: On Saturday June 13th and Sunday June 14th 1981, there will be Open Days at Park Lodge Farm and Knightscode Museum in Harefield; 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

MISS BRAYBROOKE REMEMBERS EASTCOTE FROM THE 1920's

by CELIA CARTWRIGHT

Miss Braybrooke's parents had got to know the Ruislip area by coming out on the train from the East End to go for walks, while they were courting. They decided they would like to bring up their family in the country and moved to Eastcote in 1914. There were no building societies in those days but the Braybrookes took out a £5 share in the Ruislip Manor Cottage Society and rented one of the Society's houses in what was then called Frog Lane. This was an earth road until the end of the 1930's and is now called Fore Street which was in fact its original name. The house still stands at the corner of Coteford Close, and it was there that Miss Braybrooke was born.

In the early days of the First World War, Mr. Braybrooke was one of only four passengers who commuted daily to their city offices from Eastcote Halt. There was a wooden sentry box where tickets were bought, but to get the train to stop and pick you up, you had to stand on the platform and wave a flag. At night, travellers stopped the train by waving a light.

At this period in Eastcote, there were five large houses - Eastcote House, Haydon Hall, The Sigers, Eastcote Lodge and Highgrove House. The village, which then centred near the junction of Eastcote Road and Field End Road, was served by a General Shop, later 'Buttons', then Havard Roberts, where you could buy anything from groceries to socks, shoe laces, and even stamps. The cost of sending a letter was then 1½d., a postcard was 1d.

The road from Eastcote to Ruislip was very rutted and on either side there were tall hedges where wild roses bloomed in June. There were more shops in Ruislip, including a toy shop kept by Mr. Hailey, who had a walrus moustache. The village sweetshop was next door, and on the opposite corner was the butchers, Crookall's, which boasted "By Appointment to the Dowager Queen of Sweden". Further along the High Street was Notts the drapers, and opposite a row of about six shops.

SCHOOL

Miss Braybrooke went first to Northwood School, which was built in 1910. The way to school led along a footpath across the field then up Joel Street - a long walk for a little girl of 2½ miles. Miss Braybrooke remembers that there was so much of interest on the way home that her mother would only begin to look for her if she did not get back by 6 p.m.

At about age 11 Miss Braybrooke moved to the Uxbridge County School which was then at the Greenway (later Bishopshalt). She walked to Ruislip Manor Station then took a train and a tram to the Greenway. Later on she cycled. In her second year, the school moved to the new Bishopshalt site, where Bernard Miles taught them while their English Teacher, Miss Hill, was away ill. Bernard Miles introduced Miss Braybrooke to the works of Kipling, and when asked by a pupil how to spell perspiration, he replied S-W-E-A-T!

On Sundays she went to Sunday School in an army hut (the billiard room) where the petrol station is now, near the end of Fore Street. St. Lawrence now has a hut on its present site with a priest-in-charge. Coteford School was originally built as a community centre for amateur dramatics etc.

THE SEASONS

The (school) year was marked by the changes of the seasons which brought their different activities. At haymaking between May and July, the children

were allowed to play in the hay on the way home but only when it was cut.

Mr. Tippet who lived in a turning off Fore Street in a wooden home built on stilts grew more raspberries than he could pick and the children used to pick them for 3d. a basket; the basket contained about 3lbs.

Walking in the woods was a favourite occupation particularly at Easter time when the anemones were out. There was a public footpath from where Grangewood School is now, over to the back of the Lido, but it was more fun for the children to follow the course of the streams, hiding when they saw the gamekeeper who carried a gun.

In the Autumn, they could play conkers or gather acorns on Grubb ground which they then sold to farmers at 3d. for half a bushel. A penny (old) would buy 10 aniseed balls, or a liquorice stick; sherbet dabs, gob stoppers and black jacks were $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each and a celluloid doll cost 1d. They played in their seasons; whip and top, skipping, marbles, balls on walls, fives and hop-scotch. On November 5th they had fireworks in their back gardens.

Most families had a Christmas party but they always took place after Christmas. In the winter of 1927 or 28 there was a lot of snow which was so deep it came over the tops of the hedges and the children went tobogganing down Haste Hill.

There was always plenty going on in the village. Mr. Braybrooke was one of the first people to understand wireless. They had crystal sets first. For mending people's sets he would not charge but was often paid in kind. The family put a marquee up in the garden for friends and neighbours to hear the first church services to be broadcast on the radio loud speaker (valve set).

There was very little traffic in Eastcote in those days. Only about four of the residents owned cars, one of whom was the Doctor. He lived in Pinner. There was also one in Northwood but none in Eastcote. A favourite occupation for Miss Braybrooke and her friends was to sit on the bank outside the grounds of Highgrove House, and count the cars going past; this was not a very rewarding occupation as they could wait as long as an hour to see just one car. It was considered very naughty to ask for a lift! Miss Braybrooke came home on a scooter (the foot sort) but had a bicycle from about age nine or ten and learned to ride it on Grubb Ground.

When the family were ready to go on their summer holiday, Miss Braybrooke ran round to fetch Mr. Wright the coachman from Haydon Hall who took them and their luggage round to the station.

Various tradesmen delivered their goods in those days; such as the baker and the ironmonger. Pedlars came with various notions including skipping ropes. Milk came in a big churn with a tap and a jug was filled from it. Crookall's the butcher, rode round in a motor bike and side car and Miss Braybrooke often had a ride on the side car. He came for the orders and then brought them back later. The Braybrookes grew their own cooking apples but Miss Braybrooke can remember the first grapefruit (which they ate like an orange) bananas, dates and tangerines at Christmas, which were delivered by the greengrocer who also brought the eggs. In the 1930's health stores began to deliver with things like pine kernels and dried bananas. Later 'stop me and buy one' Wall's icecream tricycles were in evidence.

THE MOVE TO PARK AVENUE

Land in Park Avenue began to be sold for development in 1930's. The first house to be built was 'Woodlands' and the road was then run along to it. Miss Braybrooke's house was built next and contains oak beams from Fore Street Farm and The Sigers, an old house in Eastcote dating from the 15th century. The fire basket in the lounge, came from the Old Barn House in Eastcote Village, and the forge re-made the iron bars for the fire, where they had burned away.

JIM TAPPING'S MEMORIES OF EASTCOTE FORGE

A working smithy until the early 1950's, Eastcote Forge was kept by at least three generations of the Tapping family. At its busiest period during the early 1920's some sixty horses a week were shod, including all those from the local Robarts, Goldings and Ruislip dairies.

Mr. Ted Tapping also ran the forge in Bury Street for a period, and early this century Frederick Tapping (Jim's father) had a wheelwright's business making tip carts and governess carts and brakes, using elm and ash obtained from estates near Watford.

The forge was open from six in the morning until six in the evening, with half day closing at 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays. A source of business was the Black Horse opposite, where at the height of stage coach travel horses were changed on the route to Ascot. Later, when the area became popular for excursions from London, charabancs and pony traps brought cockney trippers to Eastcote.

The forge made its own horse shoes right up until just after the last war, when they were bought in ready made. But ready made shoes meant each day's work began with two hours 'shoe-bumping' - shaping the shoes for the horses to be fitted that day. 'Slack', the special kind of coal needed to fuel the red hot smithy fire was supplied by Ewings of Northwood. - CELIA CARTWRIGHT.

HIGH GROVE, EASTCOTE. DECEMBER 1980

Since the demolition of Eastcote House and Haydon Hall, the Society has followed the fortunes of High Grove with keen interest. When in October 1978 fire gutted the building, there was apprehension that we were to lose the last of our great houses, the homes of the former Eastcote gentry. Arrangements were made to visit the burnt out shell and we were sympathically received by James Payne the architect in charge and were able to express our concern. Mr. Payne gave us the encouraging news not only that the Authorities had decided to rebuild High Grove, but that as far as possible the exterior would be faithfully reproduced to the original designs of Edward Prior. It was obviously not possible to replace the moulded plaster ceilings, fireplaces etc., since almost the entire roof had fallen in and they were almost totally destroyed. Fortunately the Society has some photographs as a record.

The work of restoration was completed in December 1980 and once again the Chairman and members of the Society were shown over the building. It is most satisfactory to be able to record that the Authorities have carried out their promise to the full and that the appearance of High Grove is now almost exactly the same as it was when newly designed and rebuilt one hundred years ago. - K. McBEAN.

GEORGE SITWELL AND GEORGE WOODROFFE OF HAYDON HALL, EASTCOTE

by J. McBEAN

=====

The name Haydon derives from a family which Laurence Morris tells me appeared in the 14th century court rolls of the Manor of Ruislip and continued as a personal name in Eastcote until 1562. William Say of Ickenham (1505-1582) in his will left a ring to each of his daughters who were married and to their husbands, one of them being Thomas Haydon. It is generally supposed that Haydon Hall was built in 1630 by Alice Countess of Derby and daughter of Sir John Spencer on the site of "Haydons". The property passed to her great granddaughters and in 1675 was bought by George Sitwell.

GEORGE SITWELL

George Sitwell was born in Eckington in Derbyshire in 1634, the younger son of George Sitwell a Royalist who suffered in the Civil War but who had determination enough to re-establish the family fortunes which he did by his involvement in the iron trade. The elder Sitwell became one of the chief ironmasters of Derbyshire at a time which saw the rapid rise of the English iron trade. Detailed accounts of the various products of the family forges and furnaces located in Derbyshire are lodged in the Greater London Record Office.

The younger Sitwell had come to London and in 1660 was admitted to membership of the Mercers Livery Company, something of a surprise considering his iron trade background and equally surprising to find that his method of entry to the Company was by apprenticeship. His membership was supported by an Alderman of the City, an unusual procedure and something of an honour.

George Sitwell must have done well in London since he rose to be Master of the Mercers, the senior of the Livery Companies, in 1679 and again in 1687. This was an anxious and difficult period both for the Corporation of London and the Livery companies. Charles II had scarcely been restored to the throne when he cast the same covetous eyes on the wealth of the City as had his predecessors and as did his successor, James II. The Crown threatened the City institutions and challenged their ancient charters and insisted on the right to displace or remove Masters, Wardens etc. of the companies and in fact Sitwell's second term of office as Master in 1679 came about because of this very thing i.e. the removal from office of William Ivatt.

George Sitwell's connection with Eastcote began back in 1668 when on 14th December of that year there is recorded his marriage at St. Andrews Undershafft to Elizabeth Hawtrey "spinster about 17" one of the many children of Ralph and Barbara Hawtrey of Eastcote House. Some seven years later in 1675 the Sitwells acquired Haydon Hall as their home.

Whether George Sitwell overreached himself in his ambition to fame and fortune in the City or for other reasons the fact is that he got into financial difficulties culminating in 1693 in his bankruptcy. The list of creditors makes interesting reading and as might be expected in the days when it was the custom for money to be raised locally by loans from individuals, the list includes well known Eastcote names, e.g. John Turner, Mary Coggs, John Crosier, and heading the list, Ralph Hawtrey. The bankruptcy was resolved by the intervention of Sitwell's brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Franklin who paid £1,383.17.0 and took over Haydon Hall for a total of £2,500. It was Sir Thomas who rebuilt the house, that is, the centre part as we saw it before demolition in 1964.

George Sitwell died in 1708 aged 74 and is buried in St. Martins, Ruislip.

His wife Elizabeth was buried beside him on 3rd. September 1712 although in her will she is recorded as of St. Olaves, Southwark. She left a legacy of £5 for the poor of Ruislip.

George Sitwell was a remote ancestor of the present day poet and prose writer Sir Sacheverell Sitwell.

Sir Thomas Franklin's aunt Elizabeth had married Sir Christopher Musgrave (1632-1704), 4th baronet and Member of Parliament, of Eden Hall Cumberland whose forefathers had taken a large part in the turbulent history of the border counties. Their younger son Joseph Musgrave (whose memorial is in Ruislip church) inherited Haydon Hall. The property passed to the Clarkes of Swakeley and in 1799 was bought by George Woodroffe.

GEORGE WOODROFFE

On the wall of the south aisle of St. Martins there is a plain black and white oval shaped marble plaque with a Latin inscription commemorating Elizabeth Woodroffe wife of George Woodroffe of Haydon Hall. She died on 2nd. September 1809 at the early age of 47 and is buried in the Woodroffe tomb in the churchyard of St. Nicholas, the parish church of Chiswick.

George Woodroffe was born on 24th February 1755 the younger son of Plukenett Woodroffe a Chiswick family, and one of six children. Since his will refers to his wife Ann he must have married a second time. He had two sons and a daughter and his town house was at No.23 (later altered to 45) Upper Gower Street. He is likely to have been one of the first occupiers of the House since Horwoods Map of London of 1799 shows the road finishing in open fields a few houses to the North. The house is still there on the west side of Gower Street close to the British Museum and although altered a little, still retains its elegant Georgian outline and black painted ironwork. In 1796 Woodroffe was appointed chief protonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, no doubt something akin to a chief legal administrator of the present day High Court of Justice; clearly an important law official and doubtless a wealthy one. He held the office for 26 years until his death in 1822. Reading through the Law Lists of the period it is interesting to see that his colleagues included Harry Edgell whose memorial is also in Ruislip church and William Mainwaring the Middlesex Member of Parliament and magistrate both referred to by Evelyn Wells in her account of the Edgell family. Until its removal to the Strand in 1888 the Court of Common Pleas was held in Westminster Hall next to the Houses of Parliament and another of the Eastcote gentry, John Humphrey Babb of High Grove, was an officer of the House at this time. Neighbours both at their country houses and at their work!

George Woodroffe moved to Haydon Hall in 1799 having previously been at Barrowpoint Hill in Pinner and he was at Eastcote for the following 23 years until his death in 1822. He was a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex and as such ranked high among the local gentry. As part of his local administrative duties he frequently certified the correctness of the Ruislip rating assessments and on one occasion sat in judgement on the plea of Sarah Chilton for support, her husband being in the Militia, ordering a payment of 8/- per week. He was Vice President of the Auxiliary Bible Society of Uxbridge for 10 years, the Uxbridge Book Society and the Uxbridge Savings Bank. He made one appearance at a Ruislip Vestry meeting in 1807 and that only to consider the appointment of a sexton and the salary of the Vestry clerk. Did he find the doubtless imprecise nature of the proceedings (especially after an adjournment to the George!) too much at variance with the exactness of his

Westminster court? Certainly he never attended again and indeed was involved in a brush with the Vestry a few years later after he had carried out work in St. Martins church. The Vestry memorandum at the time is as follows:

April 17th 1811. Memorandum. George Woodroffe Esq., of Eastcott in this parish repaired two seats ... in the church of Ruislip (without the consent or leave of the Vicar and churchwardens). The above George Woodroffe Esq., claiming at the same time by virtue of a Faculty a right to two other seats as owner of the estate late Ed. Scropes Esq., Thomas Gregory. Vestry Clerk entered this by order of the Rev. D.C. Lewis.

This formal record seems to reflect the resentment of the Vestry at a seemingly high handed action. It is noted however that they were not prepared to take the matter further; a little surprising perhaps when the Faculty is examined since this not only restricted the privilege to Scrope and his family "exclusive of all other persons whatsoever" but existed only while he was a parishioner.

In 1812 the local landowners were considering the means of educating the children of the poor of the parish and Woodroffe was invited on to the Committee but he neither joined nor did he subscribe to the project as all his neighbours seem to have done. There is no record of his sons or his daughters being concerned with local affairs.

THE HAYDON HALL ESTATE

Information recently obtained from the Ruislip Enclosure Award shows that at the time (1804-6) Woodroffe owned "old" enclosures totalling some 53 acres and the Rate Book details his property as six cottages, two small houses, Haydon Hall Farm, the Ship P.H., as well as Haydon Hall itself. He was awarded two small areas of common land in the vicinity of Raisins Hill.

HAYDON HALL FARM

The land attached to this farm lay between Wiltshire Lane and Joel Street and extended north to include the lower part of what are now the playing fields of Haydon School. Most of this land has been developed by the Farmland estate. There is a photograph of the farm in Manor Farm Library. On the east side of Joel Street the farm fields are occupied by Gladsdale Drive which intersects the line of the former Giddy Street and Haydon Hall Drive running down to Giddy Street. The farmland continued eastward up the slope to the vicinity of Raisins Hill almost the backs of the houses in Harlyn Drive. It is pleasant to see that the latter area is still open farmland as part of Joel Street Farm.

THE HOMESTEAD

This was a name of a group of three black and white cottages owned by George Woodroffe. They were sited on the east side of Wiltshire Lane just south of the school playing fields in the centre of a long shallow strip of garden. Kemp says they were 16th century and photographs show an ancient timber framed and very picturesque group. Their unrecorded demolition in 1958 to make way for the present five bungalows was a considerable loss to Eastcote.

FORE STREET COTTAGES

Woodroffe owned two plots of land in Fore Street one of which was the site of a group of three cottages. They were sited at the lower end of the lane on the west side almost exactly where the road Wood Rise has been built, not very far from a roadside well. An examination of the 1865 O.S. Map shows they were a small terraced group perhaps akin to The Homestead but unfortunately no photographs or description of them seems to exist.

George Woodroffe died on 29th December 1822 and was buried in the family vault at Chiswick. Thereafter, apart from a passing reference in Brewers "Beauties of England and Wales" the only memory of him that remains in our district is the simple memorial to his wife and his hatchment in St. Martins Church.

The next owner of Haydon Hall in 1824 was to be Dr. Adam Clarke, Methodist divine and notable theologian.

NOTES:

1. The burial register for 1699 notes that Mary Coggs was buried "in linen".
2. The Elizabeth Woodroffe memorial was originally on the north wall of the nave of St. Martins.
3. The 1812 Vestry meeting was the real start to parish education in Ruislip but the exact wording of the Vestry minutes is worthy of note viz:

22nd September 1812 Committee have required estimates of repairing and making fit for reception of a certain number of children a room called the School room situate in the churchyard.

6th October 1812 The School room should be immediately repaired.

It looks as if a parish school existed in a School room in the churchyard (perhaps next to the almshouses?) some time before 1812.

SOURCES:

L.E. Morris. Address to the Eastcote Residents Association 1955; Trans. LAMAS. Vol.30., p.144; V.C.H. Derbyshire and Cumberland; Archivist Mercers Company; WEA. "Here Lyeth"; GLRO. Acc 85/4/309, 85/70 and Parish Records; Brownes Law List.

A revised edition of Laurence Morris' book 'A History of Ruislip' has now been published (with an index by Eileen Bowlt & Victoria Preece) by the Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society with Mrs. Ella Morris' kind permission. It can be obtained at local bookshops.

Price: £1.20

A NOTE ON GYDDYE STREET, EASTCOTE

by EILEEN M. BOWLT

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Gyddye Street is mentioned for the first time in the King's College Terrier of 1565. It led from Eastcote High Road up the southern section of Southill Lane and continued in a N.E. direction to the Common Wood. In the 16th century the Great Common Wood covered 860 acres and stretched from Ducks Hill to the boundary with Pinner. The first Earl of Salisbury, lessee of Ruislip Demesne at the turn of the 16th/17th centuries grubbed up 568 acres leaving only Copse Wood. From that time on Fore Street, Wiltshire Lane, Joel Street, Gyddye Street and Popes End Lane (now Catlins Lane) led not to the Common Wood, but to open waste used as rough pasture land, which started at the line that is now Norwich Road.

Four of these streets remain, now built up with modern houses, with a few 16th century houses still standing; Four Elms Farmhouse in Fore Street, Ivy Farm & Cherry Cottage in Wiltshire Street, The Woodman in Joel Street and St. Catherine's Farm in Catlins Lane. Victorian cottages are to be found in all four streets and the 18th century Joel Street Farm (Robarts) still stands. Only Gyddye Street has disappeared. In 1565 there was a cottage and a messuage at the bottom end, possibly the cottage which became "The Case is Altered" and the messuage on the site of Southill Farm (an 18th century building). At the top end a man called Matthew Randall held a cottage and 1 acres abutting east onto the Common Wood and west onto Gyddye Street.

By 1806 when the Enclosure Map was drawn the street is marked clearly but has no buildings on it except "The Case is Altered" and Southill Farm. Perhaps the northern portion was already disused as a section in the middle of the lane where it widened out slightly, was allotted to George Woodroffe of Haydon Hall to be enclosed. The 1866 O.S. 25" map shows Gyddye Street blocked just north of Southill Farm. Today an outbuilding of Southill Farm stands in the entrance to it and Glaisdale Drive has been built across it, but the intrepid walker (beware cows) can easily see where it ran and follow part of the old hollow track, by following the footpath from Raysons Hill towards Joel Street and scrambling under the barbed wire at the bottom of the field. The stream which crosses Joel Street has made its course down the northern portion. The old hedge is plainly distinguishable and contains specimens of old layered hawthorn (Midland type, *Crataegus Laevigata*) and Field Maple. Dr. Hooper in his essay "Hedges and Local History" considers that a hedge must be at least 400 years old before conditions are right to produce Field Maple. Midland thorn too is associated with old hedges. Post Enclosure hedges almost always contain common thorn (*Crataegus Monogyna*).

THE ORIGINS OF SCOUTING IN NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE

by FRANK EDWARDS

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Note: The following brief account is taken from "The Story of Scouting in Northwood and Eastcote 1914 to 1967" by kind permission of the author Frank Edwards. It is emphasised that the account reproduced here deals only with the early history of Scouting in only part of our area. Those interested can follow the whole of Mr. Edwards immensely interesting and detailed story in his book, a copy of which he has given to the Society.

K.J.M.

NORTHWOOD

On 17th August 1914 at North House, Chester Road, Northwood, Scouting in this district was born. North House was the home of the Townsends - Mrs. Townsend (after whom Townsend Way was named) was a Councillor. Her daughter, Miss St. Clair Townsend wanted to do her bit for the war effort and decided to endow Northwood with a Troop of Boy Scouts. Northwood was then little more than a village, the bulk of the population clustered round the High Street and Hallowell Road while nearby in the Pinner Road were the National Schools from which the first recruits were expected. For accommodation Miss Townsend had been promised the use of a shed on Mr. Foxlees New Farm for 2/- a week. A meeting of prominent citizens was called including the local clergy, Miss Rowland Brown of St. Helens, Mr. Harry Neal, Dr. Hilton as chairman and Dr. Richie secretary.

A Resolution to form a Scout Troop in Northwood with Miss Townsend as Scoutmaster was passed and since it was hoped that other troops would be formed the name of the "Local Association for the two Parishes of Northwood" was adopted. And so the 1st. Northwood came into being.

The Local Association undertook the financial support of the scouts but the scouts themselves were expected to provide their own uniforms of khaki hats and shirt, navy blue shorts and Troop scarf. (First quality 6d!)

This was wartime and it may be expected that the scouts played their part. St. Johns Church Hallowell Road, newly built in 1915, was turned into a V.A.D. hospital and over two thousand wounded soldiers were by 1919 nursed there. Another small hospital was established at Field End Lodge in Eastcote. The Old Barn House in Eastcote High Road, taken over by the War Office, was a hive of military activity and at Eastcote Lodge, also in the High Road, captured German officers were quartered. Some of the older boys formed Scouts Defence Corps. and after passing tests in drill and marksmanship were entitled to wear a red feather in their hats.

In the course of time the shed at New Farm at the end of New Farm Lane became unsuitable and the 1st. Northwood Troop after occasional use of the school, moved to a new hut donated by Mr. Harry Neal, sited on the Rickmansworth Road on land adjacent to the railway bridge. Then a piece of land was obtained adjacent to Acre Way on part of what was then Roberts Farm and a brick building costing £272.15.3. was opened in 1933, but the site was later absorbed in the Pinner and District Memorial Hospital. The Troop in 1938 then moved to a site southwest of Northwood Way but in 1949 had to make way for the new school and in 1952 settled on a site at the foot of the Hogsback.

For the first six years from 1914 there was but one Troop in Northwood and then in 1920 J.F. Terry, Headmaster of Northwood Preparatory School, formed the 2nd. Northwood. Unfortunately, however, in 1935 Mr. Terry died and this particular Troop went out of existence. A new 2nd. Northwood Group was formed in August 1946 instigated by Rev. A. Arthur and based on

the church of St. Edmund King and Martyr, Pinner Road, which had been built in 1937/38. After initial difficulties the Troop was restarted in 1951.

The short lived 1st. South Ruislip Troop was started by Hubert John Nolan in 1923 at Northolt Junction. The Troop encountered problems over the lack of a proper headquarters. For a time they had the use of the Northolt Institute and later the cricket pavilion but in 1927 they were forced to close down.

The 3rd. Northwood was a late arrival, founded by A.D. Stephens on 4th September 1953 and domiciled at St. Johns Presbyterian Church.

1927, which saw the closing of the 1st. South Ruislip also saw the opening of the 4th. Northwood Troop at St. Vincents Cripples Home (as it was then called) which grew from a dozen scouts in February of that year to three dozen in October. Their uniform was grey shirts with navy blue shorts and a royal blue scarf. Although all the scouts were handicapped inmates of the hospital it was an active Troop and the hospital authorities helped by providing them with a wooden hut in the grounds. This particular Troop closed down at the beginning of the war but was revived in 1941 with a Pack, and in 1945 with a Troop, only to disband in 1951.

1928, saw the founding of the 5th. Northwood by George Wilson who had originally been with the 1st. At first it was intended that the 5th. Northwood would take only boys from the parish of Holy Trinity or attending Holy Trinity school or choir, but eventually the Scoutmasters of the 1st. and the 5th. made an agreement whereby each Troop would draw recruits from its own side of the railway line. Initially the 5th. met at the school and then Mr. Nichols of Park Farm allowed them the use of one of his barns in the summer months; subsequently, they built a hut of their own on land adjoining Park Farm in Ducks Hill Road. Lord Ebury opened the hut on 6th May, 1929.

The 6th. Northwood was founded in January 1932 by the Rev. Jackson at Oaklands Methodist Church and in their first year the Troop grew to 20 boys. The Methodist Church had originally been a wood and corrugated iron building in Hallowell Road. When the present church was erected in Oaklands Gate in 1924, the old church was reassembled on the new site for use as a church hall and it was used by the Troop. In the early 1950's there were sufficient members to form two Troops although the Scouts reverted to one in 1957.

In order to get the 7th. Northwood started, Mr. Frank Edwards, the author of the book on which this brief account is based, was prevailed upon to make use of his considerable experience and so on the 21st. January 1959, and on the proverbial shoestring, the new Troop was launched. The Troop was based on the Joel Street Congregational Church (New United Reformed Church).

EASTCOTE

The 1st. Eastcote Troop of Boy Scouts started in 1931 at St. Lawrence Church, then a temporary building familiarly known as the "Tin Tabernacle". Eastcote was then a small rural community centred round the High Road. There were a few cottages in Wiltshire Lane and some scattered farms and a row or two of new houses in Fore Street.

The first Patrol - the Owls - was formed with Ron Mumby as Leader and Arthur Braybrooke as his second. The 1st. Eastcote left St. Lawrence after a while and first moved into an outbuilding of the Sigers and then when it was scheduled for demolition, the Group hired a room in Eastcote House. Here it remained until just before the Second World War when the building was commandeered by the Auxiliary Fire Service. Summer meetings were frequently

NORTHOLT FROM THE CENSUS TAKEN 15th APRIL 1861

The parish of Northolt, Middlesex was surveyed in 1751 and 1769. The map shows it consisted of the villages of Wood End, Northolt and West End. Also included was the small area and group of houses known as Greenford End, separated by about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile within the neighbouring parish of Greenford.

The number of people living in Wood End at the northeast end of the Parish was 70, in Northolt itself 242, in West End including Down Barns 298, and in Greenford End 41; With 4 people in a boat and 3 in a tent the total comes to 658.

The average size of household which included everyone in the house on the night of the census was 5.25 people. The average family size was 4.26 and the average age 24.4.

The largest family had 9 children; they were the Treadways of West End, the children (8 boys and 1 girl) ranged in age from 29 to 7 years and their parents were then aged 63 (the husband) and 57 (his wife).

There were 3 families with 7 children - the Munns of West End, the Baldings of Greenford End (the father was a Master Bootmaker, and Matthew Miles of Northolt, a Journeyman Baker who had been born in Rickmansworth. Henry Jackson of Wood End an Agricultural Labourer was a widower with 8 children.

AGRICULTURE

The importance of farming to the community is evident from the census. There are 15 farmers listed employing between them some 61 agricultural labourers. The size of farm though not mentioned in every case ranged from a holding of $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres to a substantial 380 acres. This farm, Down Barns, on the border with Ruislip and Ickenham parishes, which is still a working farm today, was the largest in the parish. The farmer, one William Beck, employed 6 men and 1 boy.

Some farmers appear to have carried on more than one trade e.g. two were listed as farmer and victualler. For this reason the number of men employed on each holding is not strictly in proportion to the acreage involved.

For instance the second largest farm was 246 acres in Northolt and employed 8 men. William Roberts employed just one man in his 90 acres in Northolt but Samuel Harbroe of the Hare and Hounds in West End farmed only 75 acres but employed 3 men.

BRICKMAKING

After agriculture the second most important element in the economy of the parish was the manufacture of bricks. In 1861 this industry provided employment for a total of 54 men and boys. One master brick maker lived in Northolt and employed 11 men and 5 boys: - 2 brick moulders, 2 brick makers, 1 brickfield labourer lived in Northolt while in the village of West End there lived 2 brick moulders, 43 brickmakers, 1 bricksetter, 1 bricklayer, 6 brick loaders and 3 brickfield labourers.

It is interesting to note that from the census of 1871 we see that the number of men and boys from the parish employed in this industry has fallen to just 10, posing the question as to whether the work dried up due to the completion of some major building project or to the exhausting of local raw materials. Whatever the reason for the change, in 1861 there was clearly no other major source of employment besides agriculture and bricks. The only household employing a significant number of domestic servants was that of the Rector.

SERVANTS

Indeed of the 124 households listed for the parish in 1861 only 14 included domestic servants, with a total of 26 people employed between them. Householders who had servants were mostly farmers who often employed a farm servant and a general servant.

Even a small household comprising just the farmer and his wife, or the couple with two or three children would employ a servant or two. There was a Baker and Grocer with two servants, one an errand boy of 15 and the other described as nurse/domestic servant who was 56; also a Beerhousekeeper with a general servant who was a girl aged nine, a publican with a general servant and nursemaid. The Samuel Harbroe victualler and farmer of 75 acres mentioned above employed a potman and two carters at the Hare & Hounds.

The household with the largest number of servants was that of the Rector. The Rector at that time was Douglas Gordon a Peer's son married to a Peer's daughter. He was also chaplain to the Queen and Canon of Salisbury. He and his wife had at that time 5 children. They had 6 servants:- a nurse/domestic servant, cook/housekeeper, laundress, housemaid, nurserymaid, and one man, a footman.

At the other end of the social scale John Gover, a haybinder, employed his sister-in-law as a servant. He had his mother Providence aged 83 and his niece living with him. Providence was still alive in 1871 at the time of the next census. From the Parish register we learn that she died in 1874 aged 96 (from her baptismal date) and for 50 years she was 'in charge of the Parish Church'.

SCHOOLS

There was a National school in the Parish, that is a school run by the Church of England Society which at this stage provided what primary education was available in rural England during the early and middle nineteenth century.

The National School Mistress was a widow Mary Ann Jarvis. She had 2 children and had a visitor on the night of the census, a William Godber, a Theological Student at Kings College London. He came from her home town of Stapleford, Notts.

There was also Mary Underwood who was a schoolmistress in Northolt presumably in the same establishment.

Of the children aged 16 and under listed in the census, 48 boys and 54 girls are described as scholars. As a total of 219 children are recorded in this age group it seems that rather less than half attended school. In the case of the brickmaking families very few of their children are described as scholars.

Of the children at school, 1 boy and 3 girls were aged 4 or under, so 4 appears to have been the age children could be accepted into school. One girl was aged 16 and just 3 boys were in the 13 - 16 age group but ten girls and 13 boys were in the age group 11 - 13 years, so it seems that 13 was the usual age for leaving school.

There were 62 children and young people listed as employed. There were 46 boys and young men who were mostly ag. labs. although this number also included an errand boy, a pot boy and a shepherd boy.

Sixteen girls and young women worked mostly as assistants or general servants. The youngest person employed in the parish was 9 year old

Anne Fields who was a general servant to a Beerhousekeeper in West End.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS IN THE PARISH

Besides farming and brickmaking the census lists men and women who followed the kind of service occupation which would go to make up a balanced village life. There was a journeyman blacksmith, baker, butcher, bootmaker, wheelwright, carpenter.

The census does not make it entirely clear how many pubs there were in the parish; specifically mentioned are the Hare and Hounds in West End and the Plough in Northolt, but there could have been as many as 4 such establishments in West End since a Beerhousekeeper, Publican (and Farrier), and Publican are mentioned. Wood End had a Beerhousekeeper and Northolt had another publican, the widow Susanna Harbroe. Two police constables are mentioned, Charles Croker who came from Somerset and lived in Northolt and Charles Moore and family from Wiltshire.

Both Greenford End and Northolt had auxiliary letter carriers.

WHERE THE PEOPLE CAME FROM

It is interesting to note that there must have been considerable mobility of population up to the point at which the census was taken since of the people living in Northolt only some 37% had actually been born there. A further 39% had originated from other parts of Middlesex but it should be remembered that Middlesex was then a very large county which included much of what we now regard as North East and West London.

A further 24% of the population had been born outside the county. While a good proportion of these came from the neighbouring counties of Bucks., Herts. and Surrey, a not inconsiderable number came from as far afield as Notts. Somerset, Wilts. and Suffolk. There were even 3 women who had been born in Ireland. Within these overall percentages, there was no significant difference in the mobility of men and women.

CELIA & MARTIN CARTWRIGHT.

EDWIN GUNN A.R.I.B.A. 1878 - 1958

By the demolition of Nos. 10 and 12 Kingsend, Ruislip, we have lost two good examples of the work of the architect Edwin Gunn.

Born at Stratford in Essex in 1878, Edwin Gunn studied at the Architectural Association winning the Advanced Design Medal in 1902. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1904 and was in private practice in Ruislip from 1912 to 1916. After war service he joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries becoming Superintendant Architect. In 1934 he retired to Minehead where he carried out a number of commissions. He is the author of a number of technical books.

Edwin Gunn was a specialist in domestic architecture and was responsible for the design of something like 200 houses from Lincolnshire to the south coast, a number in the Ruislip area. His pleasant designs and his use of good brickwork with dark tiled roofs added distinction to the street scene.

Edwin Gunn lived at No. 12 Kingsend for a time and had as his neighbour across the road F.H. Mansford, another well known local architect. They both belonged to that period of Ruislip's history which saw the beginning of the transformation of the area from countryside to suburb, a period well remembered by Mr. Mansford's son who kindly supplied some of the above information.

K.J. McBEAN.

SEVENTY YEARS ON - by THE SECRETARY

It seems appropriate in this year of Prince Charles' wedding to hark back to another Royal Occasion - the Coronation of his Great Grandfather on June 22nd 1911. James Frewin visited us in the Cowbyre Exhibition in October 1980 and later sent me a taped conversation with his brother William reminiscing about the Coronation Festivities in Ruislip in 1911. William was 6 years old and the family lived in Sharps Lane. Here it is:-

"This Coronation Business - I can tell you exactly what happened. It was in Manor Fields which was on the right hand side at Manor Farm where the Village had the sports and that. It was starting at Dinner Time and all the morning I reckon we had lectures on how we got to behave and if I had behaved like what Mum told me I'd have had a jolly poor day. I ain't got to take anything till it were handed to me and I'd got to say please and thankyou".

"It started in the afternoon with kids races and all we had for prizes was strips of blinkin' liquorice and tally bompers. They had one of these races for children - the cunning devils - they put up some apples on strings covered with toffee but they was such damn big apples that you couldn't get your mouth anywhere near them because your nose hit them first. Well, in the finish every kid gave this up and grabbed the apple and went off the field with it and didn't trouble to finish the race. Then it come teatime and the tea was laid out on trestle tables in the big implement barn in case it rained. We had bread and jam and sugary top cakes, quite a blow out, and of course, the kids there had never seen cakes like these except in Widder Mouldys winder, they thought thats where they lived they never had none. And of course old man Gray, the Parson, he was at the end of the table and he was a bit slow and a pompous old Buffer, and before he could say "Thank Gawd for what we're about to receive", half the little blighters had finished. It was as much as the women could do to fill the tables let alone handing you anything. If you didn't grabit you'd had it. Then we had the presentation of the mugs and I've still got me mug now."

"Then after tea the Old Folks. The funniest thing you ever saw in your life. They had a little pig 7 - 8 weeks old and they greased that all over and the old girls stood all in a row and then who got the pig won it. Well you never saw such a shambles in all your life. I can see it now, there was Billy Cottells missus - of course they all seemed old to me but really they was only about 30. All these women was chasing the pig but that buzzed off and no one was going to miss the fun."

"Then they had a hell of a big bonfire and on top a big stick with an enamelled jerry and the mens competition was to shoot with 12 bore guns this jerry. There was Billy Collins and Harry Colling in charge of the beer and I'm not joking I'd bet a shilling it was a "36-er" on a farm cart and it was come what may. My dad was on duty and he was handing beer at the cart and me poor old mum she had enjoyed the pig chasing but was too genteel for that. And then over Manor pond they had a farm cart with a big scaffold pole running out over the pond and that was greased like billy-o with a leg o' mutton at the end. Who got the mutton had it, but I mean most of 'em fell in the pond and at that time of day they didn't reckon on stripping down to their underpants like what they would today, but they was 3 parts cut.

"The old girls had a race to stick penny stamps on a card but the funniest thing was the pig chase and if any of the old girls showed a bit of lace the men all laughed and went back to the beer cart."

"At night I knows where we went, there was a house called White Lodge and Graham White lived there and had their kids there, and there used to be a little footpath at the side and we crept through the fence into the orchard and there was a wonderful lot of fireworks. And a good day was had by all."