Journal
April 1984

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society

JOURNAL OF THE RUISLIP NORTHWOOD AND

EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL : MARCH 1984

It was George Orwell who first ensured that 1984 would be a year to be remembered, but we are confident members will also look back on it as the Society's twentieth successful year.

By the time this Journal is published, we shall have helped host the Local History Liaison Group's conference, "Mediaeval Woodland and Agricultural Systems" at the Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip. In June we shall remember the work of local geologist Mr. S.W. Hester, who died in April 1983, with an exhibition in the Cow Byre.

Membership has been growing steadily over the years and the excellent programme of evening meetings has attracted an even larger audience. The Committee has felt for sometime that it would be wrong to restrict the number of members, so a change of venue has become necessary. The Society has been fortunate in being able to hire the church hall of St. Martin's in Ruislip.

Many will regret having to move from the Library, with its historic associations. We have met in the main library, once the Little Barn of Manor Farm, and in the reference library and children's library. We are most grateful to Mr. Philip Colehan, Chief Librarian of the London Borough of Hillingdon, to Miss Margaret Hoare of Ruislip Library, and to her staff for accommodating us.

There have been several Committee changes this year. Colleen Cox has retired as Programme Secretary and we thank her for organising the excellent winter meetings. She will continue as Vice-Chairman. We welcome in her place Denise Shackell. Ron Lightning has resigned as Minutes Secretary and Katie Clark will be taking over this job again. The Editor has also decided to resign after this year and has therefore worked "in tandem" with Sheila Jones-Owen who will take over next year.

I am sure the Society would like to thank all members of the Committee, our ever-watchful Conservation Panel representatives from Eastcote and Ruislip, and especially the Chairman and Secretary for their unstinting and tireless efforts over the past year.

We record with sorrow the death of one of our members, Evelyn Wells, an active member of both the local history classes and the Society.

I would like to thank the contributors to this year's Journal. While I would wish in no way to detract from the quality of the items included, regular readers will notice that it is the same authors who have once again submitted much of the material. Remember, it is your Society and your Journal - and our pages are open to publicise the researches of all members, however slight.

Finally, on a personal note, I am grateful to my husband for the help and technical advice he has given me during my term as Editor, and to our typist Jan Rixon for her patience and excellent typing.

CELIA CARTWRIGHT.

SUMMER VISITS 1983

WEST STOW ANGLO-SAXON VILLAGE & BURY ST. EDMUNDS : 14th May

After a damp Spring, May 14th gave promise of a fine day (the prelude of what was to be a wonderful Summer) and a coach load of optimists set off for the reconstructed Anglo-Saxon village of West Stow near Bury St. Edmunds. Here we were met by the resident warden who gave us a conducted tour around straw-thatched wooden buildings erected on the site of the original post holes of structures of a 4-6th century village which had been excavated between 1965-72. This excavation had revealed that the whole hill had been occupied by a complex of some eighty buildings with numerous pits and ditches, of the pagan Saxon period from c.400-650 A.D., that is, from before the end of the Roman rule to the coming of Christianity in the 7th century. It seems to have now been established that our Anglo-Saxon ancestors did not dwell in holes below ground as previously believed, but had stone hearths on wooden floors built over pits.

Archaeological evidence has revealed that walls and floors were of oak, the roof of hazel hurdling, the rafters of ash with a thatch of straw. The reconstructed huts have been deliberately built with equivalent iron tools such as were available to the Anglo-Saxons i.e. axes, adzes, spoon augers, chisels and draw knives. No nails were used and all joints are simple, either half-laps or mortise and tenons.

After lunch we proceeded to the Moyse's Hall Museum in Bury St. Edmunds to view the "finds" made at West Stow and surrounding areas. There is a fine collection of jewellery and weapons from three pagan Saxon cemeteries which clearly demonstrates the wealth and importance of the local aristocracy in 6th century East Anglia.

In continuing warm sunshine we walked to the Abbey Gardens, the site of the Abbey of St. Edmund, the martyred King of the East Angles who was murdered by Danish invaders in 869 A.D. In a lengthy conducted tour we visited the magnificent Abbey Gate and the site of the Abbey Church where a number of English barons gathering in secret in 1214 agreed they would compel King John to grant them their lawful rights which he did at Runnymede the following year. A short walk along Crown Street took us to the 16th century Cathedral Church of St. James and thence onto St. Mary's Church for a final tour of the 15th c. building with its magnificently decorated "Angel Roof" and also is the burial place of Mary Tudor beloved sister of Henry VIII.

This full itinerary left us little time to visit the other interesting features of this town and surrounding countryside but perhaps arrangements can be made for a future tour. - BOB BEDFORD.

RUISLIP'S DOMESDAY PARK : 18th May

A clear, sunny evening in May, a few hours snatched from weeks of wet and cloudy weather, provided ideal conditions for a walk in Ruislip Woods. Colin and Eileen Bowlt were the leaders of a group that contained members of the Local History and Natural History Societies. We were to spend most of the evening exploring the northern half of the boundary of the park that once existed in Ruislip and was mentioned in Domesday Book as "a park for wild beasts". A remnant of the ancient woodland enclosed in the park lies between the River Pinn and Sherwood Avenue. Once in the wood, we picked out the embankment that runs behind the houses in St. Edmund's Avenue and then followed it to the point where it is cut across by the path running up from

Broadwood Avenue roundabout. On the way, we were shown what might have been one of the entrances to the park. Mrs. Bowlt told us that the embankment would have stood about six feet in height, topped by paling, and would have been about twelve feet across. Its entire length would have been about two and a half miles.

East of the path from Broadwood Avenue, the embankment has disappeared, possibly smoothed out when the pylons were erected, but we picked it up again beyond Grub Ground (which was probably cleared for grazing in 1872) and followed it to where it meets Fore Street, noting a later embankment (16th century?) that runs north towards St. Vincent's. Mrs. Bowlt had mentioned previously that embankments still remained earlier this century along Bury Street, near what is now the library, and down to the High Street.

We looked at keepers' cottages and timber-framed farm buildings as we walked down Fore Street (so named because it runs in front of the park) and then turned to walk back to Manor Farm along the Pinn. Of chief interest here were the lines of willow trees which run down to the Pinn at several places and mark the courses, now dry, of an old drainage system. Mrs. Bowlt mentioned some of the old names - Grazing Moor, Osier Moor, Bats Moor - of the horse crofts that bordered the Pinn when the land there was part of the demesne lands of Manor Farm.

Trees, birds, flowers and mosses were Dr. Bowlt's especial care. He seemed to have a Papageno-like knack of summoning up a bird merely by mentioning its name or imitating its call: thus we saw the cuckoo and the woodcock at Grub Ground. But to begin with we looked at an oak tree near the Winston Churchill Hall and another on Pinn Way, both showing early growths of galls: the oak apple and the currant gall. Other trees we looked at included a hornbeam that was host to thousands of caterpillars of three different species: the green tortrix, the winter moth and the amber moth. We were shown a sessile oak (that's the one with stalks to the leaves) and a cloned group of aspens, not yet leafing. Dr. Bowlt set our minds at rest, once more, on the vexed question of coppicing and pointed out that more bluebells would grow where more light penetrated. (These flowers are amongst those that indicate ancient woodland). Others that we saw included the yellow archangel, which spreads slowly even in favourable conditions. Near the aspens we saw violets (the common dog) and slender spires of purplish bugle.

In the gathering darkness, it was with the eye of imagination that we saw the massed flowers of an earlier Ruislip - the kingcups and wild daffodils for which it was once famous. It was even more famous for its fritillaries. Here, the local and natural history aspects of the evening were blended, not for the first time, for, managed woods being a human invention, what we had been looking at is explicable partly by nature and partly by human influence.

Birdsong accompanied us throughout the evening, from that of the robin in the pine tree at Manor Farm to the woodcock marking out its territory at Grub Ground. Frequently, the cuckoo sounded its distinctive call and the chaffinches' chirrupping almost drowned that of the garden warblers, back from Africa about a week earlier.

The moon was bright as the very enjoyable walk came to an end where it began at Manor Farm. Pale, mysterious flashes - distant lightning? - briefly illuminated the sky. - R. HARDMAN.

OUTING TO EWELME, FAIRFORD AND GREAT COXWELL : 18th June

It was a bright and sunny morning when forty seven members of the Society set off shortly after nine o'clock for their visit to the South Midlands. An hour's journey took us to rural Ewelme, famous for its watercress beds, and where we were to visit the medieval model village built by the Duchess of Suffolk, the grand-daughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, in the 15th century.

The "village" consists of the church, almshouses and school and we were given a most informative talk by the verger, Mr. Grace, who also very kindly allowed us to use the facilities of "Room 13" in the almshouses. St. Mary the Virgin was built by East Anglian craftsmen and apart from a new chancel roof in 1945 is unchanged. There are many good fittings and memorials, the Chaucer and Suffolk tombs and the 19th century poppy head pews being particularly memorable.

Members then wandered through the courtyard of the almshouses and down the hill past the schoolhouse where we picked up the coach by the watercress beds. We left pondering over the good fortune of the people living in this oasis of civilisation in the grim days of the past with its opportunities for learning, scholarships to Oxford and in later life, a retirement to a sturdy almshouse.

In half an hour we reached Fairford where we gathered in Fairford Church for a talk by Mr. Jacques, the verger. This church was rebuilt c.1490-1500 by John Tame, a wool merchant. It is unique in that it contains a complete set of medieval glass which "endeavours to present the entire Catholic faith" (Pevsner). We listened with much interest to Mr. Jacques' interpretation of each window. Legend has it that it escaped destruction by the Puritans because the leader of the Cromwellian troops in the district was married to a local girl.

Our last visit of the day was to the great medieval barn at Great Coxwell, built by the Cistercian monks on land given by King John. It is 152½ ft. long and 51 ft. high. We arrived to a busy scene, many cars and a village fete in progress in the garden of the 17th century farmhouse opposite the barn (still used by the farm as a store). It was an idyllic scene! As the coach halted we were greeted by a brass band and were immediately made welcome by the local people.

For the next hour or so our members wandered round the fete and barn (leaflets provided by the National Trust) and most of us sampled the excellent and incredibly cheap refreshments.

We boarded the coach in the late afternoon and returned home through the Vale of the White Horse, very tired, but pleased to have had such good weather for the trip. - S. AYRES.

EXPLORING NORTHWOOD : 6th July

On a damp evening in early July some two dozen hardy souls turned out to join Colleen Cox on her walkabout around Northwood, tracing the development of the area in the 19th century.

Meeting at the car park in Green Lane, we were reminded of the fact that Green Lane was a road of considerable age, when it served the several old farms along the route, such as Green Lane Farm, where the main shops in Northwood stand now, and Greenhill Farm, now known as Green End.

The first shops on Green Lane were those in the block immediately adjacent to the present car park. Built in the early 1890's, the parade was initially known as The Pavement. One of the original occupants (at No.4) was a Mr. Marks, the butcher. He used to graze his animals on the fields of New Farm. His son apparently still lives in the locality.

Moving along Green Lane, we looked at the imposing house named Oaklands which was a private residence until it was sold to the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council for their offices in 1911. The block of shops in front of this building also bears the date 1911, giving rise to speculation that the estate was fragmented in that year. More recently Oaklands was sold to the Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue, who erected their new place of worship immediately behind the old house.

At the end of Oaklands Gate the Methodist church which finally settled here after a chequered career and several false starts to find a suitable site in the area.

Across Green Lane, Clive Parade is situated where the Northwood Hotel was erected after the opening of the metropolitan line station in 1887, to provide refreshment for weary businessmen returning from the city. There was strong local opposition to Carew's proposal to build a public house and he had to submit a petition to the licensing magistrates, which was met by a counter petition by members of the Northwood community, including, not surprisingly, the licensees of the existing hostelries. However, Carew won finally, and the Carew Arms was built, later called Maxwell House, before becoming the Northwood Hotel.

After the first world war Benskins, the owners of the hotel, donated the land and money for the erection of a war memorial, commemorating Northwood's dead. As a result of the fund-raising appeal, the Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital was built.

An interesting offshoot of all this was that the two minute silence kept at Remembrance Day services was inaugurated by an Australian who was then living in Northwood.

In Maxwell Road we looked at another old block of shops on the east side of the road, and noticed the decorative work to the upper floors, leading more than one or two of us to realise how often we go about with our eyes only at ground level!

Turning into Murray Road, we learnt that it was one of the earliest roads to be developed when Frank Murray Maxwell Hallowell Carew started to sell off parts of his estate for building in 1887. The houses built here were mostly occupied by professional people. The police station aroused controversy when it was planned, and residents were only pacified by an assurance that it would have a white lamp outside instead of blue (a distinction shared only with Bow Street station): a far cry from today when most local people are pressing for greater police presence in the area.

At the bottom of Murray Road we turned along Rickmansworth Road, passing Hills Lane on the right, a road mentioned in the Ruislip Enclosure Act of 1806. Around here were sand and gravel pits. Northwood sand is supposed to have been supplied to London as far back as the 16th century. Elkington's brick field in this area reminds us of the clay soil with which many of us are only too familiar, and many local buildings were built with Elkington's bricks, including the original brick arch of the railway bridge across Rickmansworth

Road, which was replaced with a steel girder one in 1961.

Just before the bridge, opposite New Farm Lane, we passed May Lodge, built in 1910 to replace the old Lodge Farm House, home of W.J. Page, builder.

Standing at the bottom of what we now call the High Street, we were reminded of its various names, including Half Mile Lane (the half mile being the length of the track from the main road to Gateshill Farm), Church Road (still applied to the northern section) and Clifton Road. The Iron Bridge public house was at one time known as the Clifton Hotel.

Walking up the High Street, we were very conscious of the fact that each block was built by a different builder, each with his own style of embellishment. On the way we passed Rose Cottage, home of Mr. Day, whose very clear reminiscences of Northwood in the early part of this century were published in an earlier edition of this journal. The houses on the left hand side were the earlier ones to be built. Shops started arriving in the 1890's and later even a cinema, now used as a luncheon club for senior citizens.

Crossing over Green Lane, we took a slight diversion to look at Gatehill Farm, a building with 17th century origins. The name is supposed to derive from Guy atte Hill. On the corner of Green Lane and Watford Road is a house which once formed two cottages for farm labourers working at Gatehill.

We concluded our walkabout along Green Lane, ending at the station - perhaps the start of Northwood as we all know it today. This, and the fact that Carew sold off his estate for development, specifying the value of the houses to be constructed in each road, made a greater contribution to the physical layout and social structure in Northwood than anything before or since. - JEAN BROWN.

VISIT TO THE CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM : 18th September

After a wet and windy morning, the afternoon sun shone warmly on the eleven members of the Society who visited the Open Air Museum.

Although there is still much to be done, the results of the hard work so far are clearly visible. The Arborfield Medieval barn and iron age house are now complete. A 19th century cattle shelter has been erected near the 18th century Rossway granary and work has started on a stable and cartshed nearby.

Due to the absence of the specialist bricklayer (called away to other duties at Chequers) little more than the foundations of the High Wycombe Toll house can be seen. Fortunately no such problem has affected the Haversham granary where a happy band of amateur bricklayers, both men and women, were busy "infilling" the timber frame of this early 19th century granary from Wolverton in Buckinghamshire.

Notices by assorted piles of bricks, timber and corrugated iron indicate future buildings which include a reconstruction of the timber store from Elliotts furniture factory.

An additional attraction was the Craft Exhibition where examples of lacemaking, lapidary, floral art, pottery, metal and woodwork could be seen and it was even possible to rub one's own fibreglass brass.

- COLLEEN COX.

OUTING TO SOUTHSIDE HOUSE, WIMBLEDON AND LINLEY SAMBOURNE HOUSE, KENSINGTON : 2nd October

In the morning, the visit to Southside House was combined with a tour of Cannizaro Park, and a visit to Wimbledon windmill.

Southside House was built in the latter half of the 17th century by Robert Pennington. In 1665 he had sent his family from London to escape the plague, to Holme Farm Wimbledon, and the existing farmhouse had a facade of Dutch bricks superimposed upon it and alterations made to it a short time later. The building, in this form, survived until the second world war, when two bombs fell on it. The line of inheritance has passed through the female line seven times, until the last owner, Mrs. Hilda Pennington Mellor Munthe, gave the house to the "Pennington Mellor Charity Trust" after the war. It is gradually being restored.

The building is a fascinating mixture of styles. The dining room contains a wooden mantel piece, carved in the style of a country artisan, and dating from the old farmhouse. The galleried hall is in the new "Dutch Gothic" introduced at the time of William and Mary. It has an impressive fireplace and a painted ceiling with "trompe l'oeil" perspectives, all somewhat overpowering in the small space. In the painted tapestry room is a hole cut in a panel in the wall, through which visitors stuck their heads to have their wigs repowdered after the ride from London, before entering the drawing room. The music room is an elegant room, with central divided pillars, created especially from two existing small rooms, for a visit of the Prince of Wales in the mid 18th century.

It was the mementoes, the family treasures kept for sentimental reasons, which proved most fascinating. There is Queen Ann Boleyn's vanity case taken from the Tower by her brother-in-law, and brought into the family by his daughter Philadelphia. More pathetic still are Marie Antoinette's pearls, picked up out of the straw after her beheading, and given to John Pennington by Josephine Bonaparte. There are even the cough drops taken by the Prince of Wales when he stayed at the house for military manoevres on Wimbledon Common. This is a house which evokes the past with effortless ease.

Linley Sambourne House, visited after lunch, is by contrast to Southside, preserved in its exact state from when it was built and furnished in 1874. Once the home of Linley Sambourne, an artist on Punch, it now belongs to the G.L.C. but is looked after by the Victorian Society. The house is terraced, classical Italianate in style, with four floors above a basement.

The interior has survived largely unchanged. Its original wall decoration, fixtures and furniture have been preserved, together with many of Sambourne's own pictures. Particularly notable are the stained glass windows and the William Morris wallpaper. Even the original ground floor cloakroom has not been modernised, but has its early tip-up type basin and a water closet of similar vintage. It is all beautifully kept, with gleaming polished wood which looks like new. Apparently Lady Rosse would not allow her brother Roy, a batchelor, to touch anything when he inherited the house from his father. It is her loving care which has preserved this Victorian gem for us.

- DELIA MONTLAKE.

L.A.M.A.S. - 18th LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE : 19th November

The "theme" chosen was "London and Military Conflict". The individual exhibitions set up by various London Local History Societies were mainly

pictures, maps and newspaper cuttings of the "London Blitz 1940/41". If you are of that era, it brought back vivid memories. Our Society exhibited a map of Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote where bombs fell over the duration of the second world war, also newspaper cuttings on a well kept secret in Ruislip Manor, where a shop (now Clifford & Clifford) near the station was used to plot enemy aircraft.

The Chairman, Mr. N.M.D. Fuentes opening remarks noted there were more in attendance this year and perhaps it was due to this Conference being the first with a set theme. This was followed by "London Blitz 1940/41" speaker Dr. C. Wood, Department of Sound Records - Imperial War Museum.

Dr. Wood presented his lecture from a mixture of his own and Capital Radio recordings and film excerpts of various Londoners experiences during that time, with background sound recordings of sirens wailing the warnings. He explained the method used in interviews by news correspondents, such as Capital Radio, was different to that used by pure researchers, such as himself. Dr. Wood tends to allow people to talk with as little interruptions as possible, whereas the media are looking for short, sharp sensationalisms. The Chairman in his summing-up concluded that only people old enough to recall the blitz could appreciate what was happening in the Lebanon.

The lunch time break began and plenty of time was allowed to enable people to view all the exhibits. The afternoon session began at 2.15 p.m., with Mr. C.W. Harrison on "Deptford Docks and Victualling Yard", it was illustrated with photographic slides of engravings and old prints. The number of historic facts Mr. Harrison presented was enormous and I will try to give the main facts in short paragraphs.

The Royal Dockyards of Deptford were in operation for three and a half centuries. Henry IV and V (1418) commissioned the fleet ships to be built here. Henry VII (1482) built and housed his navy with extra facilities ashore constituting a true naval dockyard; while Henry VIII (1513) founded a naval storehouse. An Inner pool and dry dock were established; expenditure being £19,000 per annum in 1544.

Elizabeth I visited the yard and Drake was knighted by the French envoy (on her instruction) to promote co-operation between England and France.

Inspite of the decline of the yard in 1611 to 1618, the two dry docks were retained and the yard was revived in the 1650's to support the first Dutch war.

Due to the proximity to London, the dockyard was regarded as England's premier for ship building. Peter the Great - Tsar of Russia, visited in 1698 and stayed three months studying techniques and was provided with accommodation next to the yard.

Six hundred and ninety two men were employed in 1697; by 1711 the dry dock had been lengthened and labour increased to 1100, by 1814 to 1500 employed in 25 trades. Shipwrights earned 2/1d. and labourers 1/1d. per hour. Employees were paid quarterly, quite often twelve to eighteen months in arrears. Tickets were given in lieu of money and frequently relinquished at half to third face value. These conditions caused pilfering which led to an allowance termed "chips"; a piece of wood no longer than three feet being carried under the arm daily, this gradually increased to three per day until 1790 when these practices were forbidden. There were many unsuccessful attempts of strikes and picket lines (nothing new it seems).

The yard was declining by 1820, the last wooden ship launched was HMS Worcester. It was reprieved by the advent of steam, when between 1840-50 mainly paddle steamers were built. By 1860 armour plating was replacing wood, being the epitaph of the yards, and the last built ship being HMS Druid on 13th March 1869.

The yard was finally sold for £70,000 when it was used for dealing with foreign cattle until 1946, and then as a newspaper and storage depot until 1980.

The Victualling Yard was established next to the dockyard during the 18th century. Initially run by private contractors, the navy had established their own victuallers by 1683.

The so called "Red House" site was run by the East India Company. It was destroyed by fire in 1720 and sold to the government in 1742, but was burnt down again two years later. The navy biscuits originate from this site. It was also used for cattle and pigs reception, also rum and beer were stored here. In 1790 it was rebuilt and expanded, a slaughter house and brewery established, covering thirty five acres.

In 1858 the victuallers yard received royal patronage. Henry James Arrow built the gates and many of the buildings still exist amongst the London County Council housing estate which was built on the site after the yard closed in 1961.

After tea Mr.A.M.Glass spoke about "London Barracks : Restoration to Reform". Before 1650 armies were recruited for specific campaigns, the only permanent army personnel were for fortified areas. They were kept in temporary accommodation, such as under canvas.

Charles II kept a standing army which necessitated the development of permanent barracks. Hampton Court Palace 1660, Kensington Palace Horse Guards Quarters 1689. Whitehall Palace Horse Guards 1663-64, rebuilt 1780. Many elements in parliament opposed permanent barracks in the 18th century. Due to Napoleon, a building programme of barracks created a post of "Master General of Barracks" in 1792. There was a five fold increase in barracks over three decades.

Barracks for the cavalry were built at Hounslow Heath, stables on the ground floor and soldiers on the first floor, the idea being that the heat from the horses below would rise to the floor above to keep the soldiers warm.

Special requirements for mounted artillery created the riding school in 1820 at St. Johns Wood.

Barracks had no heating or sanitary arrangements, causing considerable disease, such as pneumonia. There were no married quarters at first, in limited cases, a wife being permitted to live with her husband in the corner of a barrack room with a screen around. This was the only privacy available.

After the Crimean War a commission was set up to establish more barracks. It recommended new styles with larger rooms to sleep twenty four men, higher ceilings to help ventilation and some sanitary arrangements. Heating was still a problem in winter. Hounslow established married quarters (one single room) in 1860. Only 10% of men were allowed to marry and permission had to be obtained. Conditions gradually improved in 1816, canteens were being established, ran first by outside contractors and then by the army. The earliest garrison church was set up at Hounslow.

London was anti-royalist and encouraged Cromwell into insurrection. At one time London expected to be invaded by the Royalists and almost every Londoner used all their spare time to build and complete a circle defence, consisting of twenty eight forts and earthworks being carried out at utmost speed.

None of these fortifications remain today, except for one small area, the exact location of these fortifications is not known, however, quite a few streets exist which carry names appertaining to these defences.

The Chairman closed by saying he thought it had been an enjoyable and successful theme. - J. MITCHELL.

COMMITTEE 1983 - 1984

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EXHIBITION : FIFTY YEARS OF MANOR HOMES

by E. SPANIER

The theme of "Fifty Years of Manor Homes" attracted an enthusiastic public, when exhibited in Ruislip Manor and South Ruislip libraries recently.

The photographs showing the shopping centre in Victoria Road, and the changes in recent times, drew much attention; as did the more documentary part of the display. This included old rent-books, notices of sale and some appropriate newspaper cuttings.

In pride of place was a large-scale map showing the projected town plan of 1911 and, super-imposed, the actual development which took place.

Memories were stirred in several visitors, and this produced some names and addresses which may lead to further information. No doubt there is much more material available, since even the most ordinary items can prove to be interesting.

The research group is grateful for the support of the Society, and extends thanks to the librarians at Ruislip Manor and South Ruislip for their willing help and provision of facilities.

13TH CENTURY HABITATION AT THE SITE OF PARK HEARNE IN RESERVOIR ROAD INDICATED BY POTTERY FINDS

by C. BOWLT

Two pairs of 19th century cottages in the south-east side of Reservoir Road, one immediately beside the road and the other farther back, were pulled down during the summer of 1983 prior to redevelopment of the site. They had been empty for sometime and allowed to go derelict. Whilst the new foundations were being laid the area was examined for traces of former occupation. Most of the ground was too disturbed for possible structures to be recognised but several pieces of pottery were found indicating earlier occupation.

The site was formerly part of the hamlet of Park Hearne which stretched along the valley until most of it was destroyed in forming the Ruislip Reservoir in 1815. The homes and fields are well shown in Doherty's map of 1750 and were described some two hundred years earlier in the Terrier of 1565.

Three pieces of pottery were of the unglazed so-called "Hertfordshire grey-ware". This is dated to the 13th century and thus provides the earliest date yet known for Park Hearne as an occupied site. Hertfordshire grey-ware was thought to have been produced largely in Hertfordshire but in 1975 a medieval kiln full of broken wasters of this ware was discovered in Potter Street, Pinner.

Another piece of pottery was part of the base of a pipkin. This was a three-legged pot often said to be for cooking but no trace of burning is apparent in the Park Hearne fragment. It is of red (terracotta) ware with light brown glaze on the outside and green glaze in the inner surface. The leg is some 4 cm. long and had been moulded onto the pot with a ring of (decorative?) indentations. This was probably made in the 17th century.

The other three pieces of brown glazed red ware probably also date from the 17th or perhaps 18th century (brown glazed red ware is difficult to date).

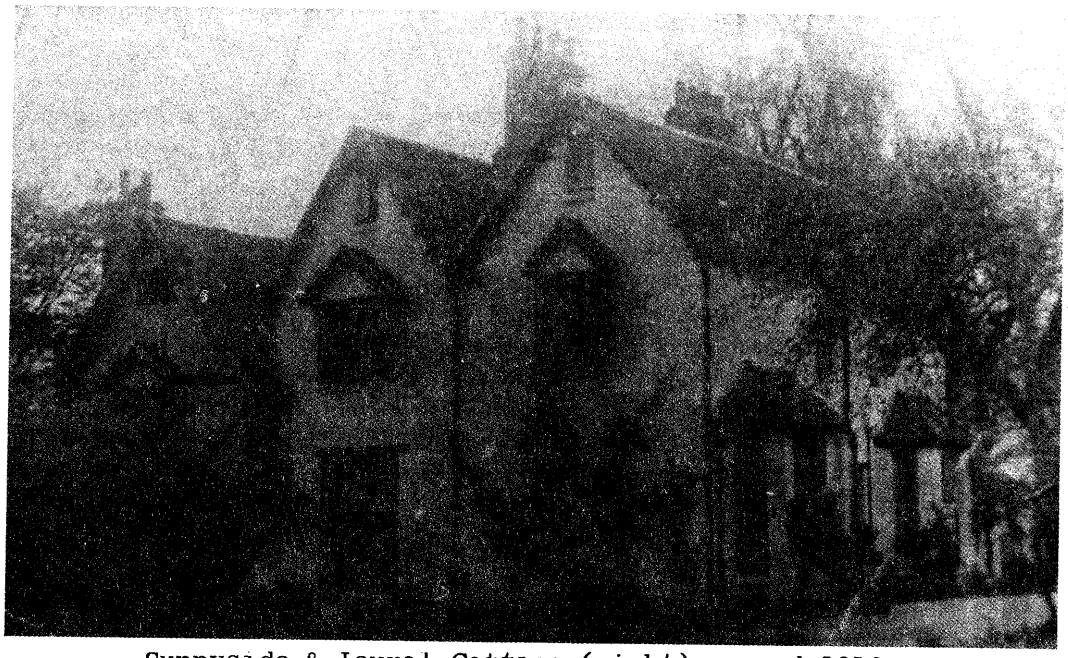
SUNNYSIDE AND LAUREL COTTAGE EASTCOTE: FROM PETTERIDGE TO KADUNA CLOSE

by KAREN SPINK & JAMES McBEAN

Sunnyside was a large white-rendered Victorian style house with tall double peaked gables and ornate barge boards standing in its own grounds on the south-west side of Joel Street opposite the grounds of Haydon Hall - attached to it was Laurel Cottage, a much smaller house. The site is an ancient one, known, with various spellings as Petteridge. This name is recorded in the list drawn up in 1565 by Kings College Cambridge when they made a survey of their properties in Ruislip. The holding was then occupied by John Walleston and comprised about 20 acres. It ran between Wylchers Street (Joel Street) and Fore Street with the "common river" i.e. the Pinn, as its south-eastern boundary. It appears again in the will of Richard Coggs in 1617 and in 1647 in the will of Richard Lyving who left his son John a yearly rent charge of £10 "issuing and going forth of all my freehold land ... lying and being in Ruislip parcel of the farm called Peter Wyches also Petridges". Later, John Coggs who died in 1690, was there. He is buried beneath the yew tree in St. Martin's churchyard; his tombstone describes him as of Pettrig. Ralph Hawtrey refers to Petteridge Bridge in his "Book of Accompts" of 1741. The name persisted in the records until the early 19th century and was in use as a field name as late as 1910.

By the time of the Ruislip Enclosure of 1806 the situation had changed. The fields on the Fore Street side had been taken over by Ralph Deane of Eastcote House and were probably farmed from Fore Street Farm further along the lane. An isolated house, grounds and paddock remained at the Joel Street side occupied by William Reading. The 1865 Ordnance map shows this building and marks it Laurel Cottage. This is where Sunnyside was built immediately next to. Thereafter the two properties seemed to be linked with Haydon Hall the home in the early 19th century of the Methodist divine, Dr. Adam Clarke. Adam Clarke was the founder of a Methodist class which met at Sunnyside. After his death a relative caused the Wesleyans to be turned out of their meeting place - giving rise to the eventual building of the Chapel (now demolished) in Field End in 1847. In 1841 a marriage settlement was drawn up between Adam Clarke's widow and John Harnet who is recorded at Laurel Cottage in 1871. Ten years later Sunnyside was occupied temporarily by the vicar of Ruislip the Rev. Thomas Everett. After the sale of both properties in 1883 Sunnyside was occupied by a series of apparently well-to-do people. During the first world war Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hardy and their young son Graham were the occupants. Mr. Hardy was a member of an Anglo-American syndicate, the Home Freeholds Company, which bought up land just before the war in the area now covered by Elm Avenue, Lime Grove etc. The land was divided into building plots and offered for sale.

Soon after the end of the war Charles Hardy returned to California and it was presumably at this time that Mr. Lee with his wife and two daughters moved from Harrow into their newly acquired home, Sunnyside. One of his daughters is Mrs. Doris Pugh, still a resident in Eastcote, who remembers those early days at Sunnyside. The picture shows the house as it was when they first moved in. Mr. Lee wanted a house with room enough for his billiard table and nearly bought the ill-fated Devonshire Lodge. Sunnyside at this time was a separate dwelling from Laurel Cottage and comprised living quarters and kitchen downstairs, four bedrooms and four attic rooms. There were over six acres of land extending down to the river Pinn on the south-east and on the north-west to where Gerard Avenue now lies. The approach from the as yet unlit Joel Street was across a wooden bridge over a deep ditch that ran into the Pinn.



Sunnyside & Laurel Cottage (right) around 1918.

Joel Street, Eastcote. Sunnyside and Laurel Cottage were on the left.

Sunnyside with all its extensions.

This ditch was liable to flooding during the winter and Laurel Cottage was often badly affected. Mrs. Lee used to travel around Eastcote in a pony and trap.

Mr. Lee, a commercial traveller, was an enterprising man and at the end of the war when housing was in short supply, he used part of his land as a caravan site to accommodate some of the homeless. The council eventually put a stop to this. It was Mr. Lee who laid out the tennis courts which still exist today. Many used to come down from London to play matches at Eastcote Tennis Club including staff from Bourne and Hollingsworth. At the time of King George V's coronation in 1937, Sunnyside was brightly decorated with bunting and members of the tennis club watched the coronation procession on a T.V. set in the grounds. The house and garden were floodlit for the whole week.

Mr. Lee built St. Michael's as a private school. It was evacuated during World War II and then bought by the Middlesex County Council and turned into a school for spastics. Sunnyside itself was much extended: - the room for Mr. Lee's billiard table, of course, plus other rooms some of which were let off as flats.

Mr. Lee eventually died and is buried in St. Martin's churchyard, Ruislip. The house and land was auctioned after the death of Mrs. Lee at a time when local house prices were deflated by the threat of the proposed D-ring road and was bought by Mr. Hawkins. It was eventually resold for the development of Kaduna Close.

The tennis courts have survived as have the old stables on the other side of St. Michael's school where Mr. Wright the coachman kept his horses.

Acknowledgement: I am grateful to Mrs. Doris Pugh for the information she has given me. - K.S.

Mr. Lee in the garden of Sunnyside.

Photographs kindly supplied by Mrs. Doris Pugh.

1892 FROM THE MIDDLESEX AND BUCKS. ADVERTISER

by H. DAVID

In 1892, Ruislip was still a small village, and a lot of the old village life was still preserved. There was little movement of population in and out, and little building activity except for extensions to existing farm buildings or schools.

Apart from agricultural goods, there was the sale of timber from the Ruislip woods. The farms did not change hands, except in case of death. Through the notices of sales we can see the value of properties, leases and rents, e.g. the weekly rent for a cottage was 3/-, a brick and tiled dwelling house in Bury Street was sold for £230, and the tenancy of Southcote Farm for £290 p.a.

Work opportunities, other than in agriculture were limited. Carters were required to take wood to town and a few domestic helps were sought including a cook, a maid and a nanny in Eastcote and Northwood.

The paper reports the deaths of the prominent and wealthy people in the area, e.g. Daniel Long, aged 79, highways surveyor and rate collector; Francis Henry Deane, aged 78 of Eastcote House; and James Foxlee of Eastcote Farm. We do not know how many people from Ruislip and district died in Uxbridge workhouse, as their place of origin is not mentioned in the death list.

The only Ruislip wedding reported is between two people of the same surname (Woodman).

The schools played an important part in village life, not least as centres of entertainment, (concerts, recitals). It appears that children were often kept away from school to help with work on the land. In order to encourage better attendance, the Vicar distributed money from the shoe club in accordance with days present at school. The Vicar also tried to influence the education in the church schools, e.g. in order to teach the children to economise, he tried to introduce the Penny Bank. This, however, was opposed by the school managers, who would have had to contribute the annual interest. The government grant for that year amounted to £91.

The villagers belonged mainly to the Church of England. One notable event of that year was that the effigy of St. Martin was placed in the niche close to the main entrance door of the church. There were frequent criticisms and unfavourable reports in the paper about the Vicar of Ruislip, Rev. T.M. Everett. He was said to have spent too much money on repairs to the church building and heating system. There were also objections to his insistance that only natural flowers should be placed on graves in the churchyard.

There were also Methodist strongholds with liberal tendencies at Eastcote and Ruislip Common. These seem to be even less favoured by the press, especially since they failed to provide a programme of musical entertainment. The visit of the Salvation Army to Ruislip Common chapel prompted a rather sarcastic report.

Apart from entertainment at the schools, there were concerts arranged at the churches. A much favoured activity seemed to be bell ringing, and the ringers of local churches exchanged visits with neighbouring parishes.

The Fair was held on Ascension Day, but, it was observed, the custom seemed to be dying out. There were no longer the traditional English merry-go-round,

Aunt Sallies, greasy-pole climbing and a babel of noise, just a solitary stall holder. There were also Bank Holiday festivities to which people came by train, on a cheap trip from Baker Street. Not only did visitors from outside the area arrive by this new and more convenient method of transport, but the church choir could have a day's outing to the seaside. As for sport, Eastcote was well represented on the cricket field, with the support of the local landowners, who offered their grounds for it.

In the field of public health, the paper reported an influenza epidemic in the Winter, and a few deaths from diphtheria. The main threat to health was the poor sewerage system, though any improvement was vigorously opposed by the ratepayers. Sewage flowed into the village pond and rain water drains, and the diphtheria cases were thought to have been connected with bad sanitation. A particular culprit was Haydon Hall, from which sewage was discharged into the water course, passing through the village. As for the drinking water supply, in 1892, twenty four households in Ruislip had to collect their drinking water from the village pump. When this broke down, they had no supply for three or four weeks, and this was only put right when the villagers concerned got together and paid for the repairs. The authority was very slow to re-imburse the money. Other difficulties included the danger of pollution through rubbish being thrown down the pump, through holes in the brickwork supporting the stone sink.

The few accidents reported, happened in connection with farm work, i.e. a man falling off a cart and another from a fruit tree.

There was no provision for the mentally ill, so the "wandering lunatic" was sent to the workhouse. He was not accepted there because it did not have the right facilities, and so he was returned to the police prison. Alcoholism was regarded as a great evil and threat to health, such that the Church of England Temperance Society was active in Northwood. Their meetings had speakers from the police force, and they also included some light entertainment.

Drunkenness was also the main cause of lawbreaking, resulting in quarrels, disorder and violence. Other lawbreakers included poachers in the Ickenham area, rowdy youths throwing lit crackers into houses, and others creating a nuisance in the area of the more wealthy (Northwood). A few people received a summons for not having a licence for their dogs and were fined 10/-, approximately the same amount as for poaching. The fine for drunkenness and disorder was 5/-. There was only one serious case, in which a man with previous convictions was charged with fraud and forging £300. He was tried at the Central Criminal Court and sentenced to five years penal servitude. The law was not always on the side of the wealthy, since the charge of theft of a crow-bar by a labourer was dismissed, as was the case against a gypsy for having used a carriage without a licence.

Although, on the whole, the old village life continued, there were some changes. The coming of the railway meant that Londoners could visit Ruislip and the Lido, whilst the villagers could travel more easily to other districts.

There was also a change in politics, since for the first time, a choice of candidates was offered in the election of Guardian of the Poor. The "people's man and friend", Mr. Collins, was elected, and later he was highly praised by the paper for his dedication to the office.

In the general election, the Conservative candidate was elected, against strong Liberal opposition. Liberal supporters included the chapel goers of

Eastcote, and haymakers in Ruislip. As the election was at harvest time, many voters, especially supporters of the opposition, were kept away, according to the paper.

The general situation in the country also influenced the Ruislip area. The unemployment problem, for instance, was stressed at a local meeting of the Primrose League. Formerly, outside labourers came for harvesting, but this was no longer required and only "natives" were employed.

We see from the paper that 1892 did not witness any outstanding events and the area remained a poor agricultural community. Nevertheless, there were already signs of changes yet to come.

THE RESEARCH GROUP REPORT

The Research Group have been energetically pursuing a number of projects during the past year. Some of these studies have been written up and can be read elsewhere in this journal.

Several card indexes are being compiled in order to make sources of local history material more accessible. Sources currently being analysed include "Outlook" - St. Martin's Parish magazine, census returns, the Westcote rental of the Terrier, and the local newspapers.

Other work being undertaken on the censuses include studies of family size, place of birth and the analysis of population in terms of age pyramids.

Tape-recordings, written accounts, and old photographs are being collected as part of a project on the history of living memory. Individual properties such as Eastcote Cottage, Sunnyside, St. Catherine's Farm, Eastcote, the Old House and Green Cottage, Bury Street, and the old hamlet of Kingsend are being studied intensively to produce a fuller account of their ownership, tenure, rental and use.

A photographic record of Northwood High Street has been compiled, and this project is being developed to include a study covering the history and architecture.

The value of this type of work was demonstrated by the Exhibition "50 Years of Manor Homes", staged in September in Ruislip Manor and South Ruislip libraries, which attracted a great deal of local interest. The exhibition featured a map on which the actual development had been carefully superimposed on the projected Ruislip Town Plan.

The Research Group which meets every two months in Ruislip library on the Monday prior to the regular Society meeting is indebted to Eileen Bowlt for her enthusiastic leadership. New members are always welcome.

C. CARTWRIGHT.

SOME ASPECTS OF RUISLIP WILLS OF THE 17TH CENTURY

by JAMES McBEAN

A list of testators of the parish of Ruislip whose wills were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in the 17th century:-

Esquires and gentlemen

Thomas Marsh	1616
John Smith	1619
Ralph Hawtrey	1638
Henry Welsted	1659
Henry Harriott	1659
John Hawtrey	1663
Augustine Wingfield	1664
Charles Hawtrey	1698

Husbandmen

John Perryman	1654
John Biddle	1655
George Tame	1656
Richard White	1657
John Butterfield	1659
William Stanley	1660
Edward Higgison	1675

Yeomen

William Winchester	1600
Henry Nicholas	1611
John Cole	1615
William Nicholas	1628
Richard Preist	1628
Edward Head	1633
Richard Lyving	1647
John Fulmer	1654
John Nicholas	1656
Thomas Nicholas	1658
Edward Edlin	1658
John Coggs	1659
John Lyon	1661
Ralph Timberlake	1663
Henry Robins	1673
Edward Brooks	1682

Widows

Ann Walliston	1626
Winifred Arnold	1632
Mary Hawtrey	1647
Ann Osmond	1653
Isabella Nelham	1654
Agnes Gladman	1655
Bridget Oswin	1657
Sibilla Martin	1659
Joan Harriott	1663
Susan Christion	1672
Mary Wightwick	1678

Labourers

William Saunders	1647
Thomas Tanner	1663

Tradesmen		Testators not designated	
James Finch	1653	Ralph Robins	1621
John Preist	1671	William Robins	1653
John Duck	1679	John Redding	1671
John Biddle	1694	Elizabeth Preist	1697
John Hudson	1697		

Introduction

(In this article the date in brackets is the date the relevant will was proved).

> "In the Name of God Amen I William Stanley of Ruislip in the County of Middlesex husbandman being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory praised be Almighty God do make my last will and testament in manner following First I commend and commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker trusting in Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer to inherit eternal life in his heavenly kingdom ...."

It may be thought the testator of this will was a person of pronounced religious beliefs and so it may be, but an examination of other wills of the period show that this kind of wording with few exceptions, was common to all. The rather fulsome preamble reflects the influence of the church on men's lives some three hundred years ago but it has to be remembered also that wills were proved in an ecclesiastical court and the wording of the document pays respect to this fact. In very early days all law was administered by church and state side by side but the resulting friction led to a change giving the church its own ecclesiastical courts. These courts dealt with such matters as the administration of church lands, conduct of the clergy etc., and, probate of wills. A will might have been proved in any one of a tangle of courts from the lowest, the archdeaconry court, to the two senior prerogative courts of Canterbury and York. After 1858 things were simplified and all wills are recorded in the Principal Probate Registry in Somerset House. This article deals with aspects of only those Ruislip wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) in the 17th century and a list of testators is set out above. There are many Ruislip wills in the Commissary Court of London and, interestingly enough, a random check turned up the will of Joseph Puddiphant (1684) who lived in a messuage in Northwood which by its description might well have been The Grange. There are no Ruislip wills in Lambeth Palace archives. It is supposed that during the Commonwealth only the Canterbury court functioned but it is prudent not to overlook the lower courts during this period.

The Canterbury court was used by persons of substance but not exclusively so. Many of the Ruislip people using the court had very little to dispose of, two were designated labourers, a widow, Winifred Arnold (1632), had only £6 to leave but still her will was proved in the senior court.

Wills contain many points of interest from a local history point of view but they have limitations principally because there are so few of them. Accordingly it is unwise to try and establish any sort of trend from their details; they are best considered individually. Nevertheless, there are several interesting features which are enlarged on below.

The number of P.C.C. wills for the parish of Ruislip in the 17th century is fifty three. The number of burials in the century is not known since parish records are not available for the whole period. However an approximation would suggest that only about 2 or 3% of parishioners made wills proved in the P.C.C. Thirty one of them were proved during the monarchy, three during the civil war and nineteen during the commonwealth.

Family Names

The names of a large number of the inhabitants of our parish in 1565 are known to us through the examination made of the list of landholders drawn up by Kings College Cambridge, the then lords of the manor. One of the first things noted about the testators of the following century is the recurrence of a great many of these names.

In 1565 six names survived from 1245 and of these three carried on into the 17th century in Ruislip wills i.e. Preist, who witnessed a will as late as 1698, Robins occurring throughout the century and Richard White (1657). Other witnesses bearing names from the previous century are Nathaniel Wheeler (1671), Richard Hale (1672) and Henry Barringer (1679). The Hawtreys of course, continue with an early reference to their associated family the Wallistons (1626).

The names most frequently occurring in Elizabethan times i.e. the Fearns, Nicholas, Reading and Winchester all appear in the 17th century. John Reading (1671) is buried in the nave of the parish church with Henry Welsted (1651) beside him. John Smith gentleman (1619) is another name which recurs; his is the only will given by word of mouth (a nuncupative will) - it was given to Henry Welsted and subsequently proved by the court.

The list of testators will show many other familiar names. More recent work by Celia Cartwright on the Ruislip signatories of the 1641 "Protestation" has considerably increased our knowledge of the names of the inhabitants of the parish in the 17th century.

"To the poor of Ruislip ...."

By the 17th century the responsibility of the church to look after the poor had ended and late Tudor legislation had passed the duty on to the parish. But the moral conscience of the more well-to-do members of the public, prompting them to think of their less fortunate fellows, was still alive and gifts of money were frequently made in wills. Ruislip was no exception and the following list sets out the bequests to the poor some three centuries ago:-

John Hawtrey	esquire	£10	Augustine Wingfield	gent.	40/-
Edward Edlin	yeoman	£10	John Cole	yeoman	40/-
Thomas Marsh	gent.	£ 5	John Coggs	yeoman	40/-
Henry Welsted	gent.	£ 5	Joan Harriott	widow	40/-
John Nicholas	yeoman	£ 5	Ralph Robins		40/-
Ralph Timberlake	yeoman	£ 5	William Robins		40/-
Mary Hawtrey	widow	£ 5	William Winchester	yeoman	30/-
John Reading		£ 5	Henry Harriott	gent.	20/-
			Richard Preist	yeoman	20/-
			Winifred Arnold	widow	20/-

Almost all of the esquires and gentlemen made gifts, nearly half the yeomen and three of the eleven widows; none of the husbandmen, tradesmen or labourers made gifts.

Not all gifts to the poor went to Ruislip. Thomas Marsh left £5 to the poor of Hendon, Henry Harriott stipulated that if he were to be buried in St. Sepulchre in the City 40/- was to go there. John Cole's 40/- was to go to Uxbridge, Pinner benefited by the wills of Edward Edlin £5 and Richard Preist 20/-. Ralph Timberlake gave 20/- to Harefield.

It is to be remarked that no gifts were made to the church.

Officers of the church sometimes benefited. Ralph Timberlake, John Coggs, Edward Edlin and William Robins all left gifts to the preacher of their funeral sermon. Ralph Timberlake who seems to have been a wealthy and influential member of the parish as well as a generous one, even remembered the parish clerk and left him 10/- while John Nicholas made sure the occasion of his burial would resound through the village by making a gift to the ringers. A conscience stricken William Winchester left twelve pence to the vicar for tithe he said he had forgotten to pay. Susan Christion left instructions that the comparatively large sum of £6 was to be laid out at her burial - was this spent in funeral decorations or in solemn festivities?

Servants

The employment of servants in Stuart times was usual from the huge retinues of the lords and nobles down to the one or two in the households of yeoman farmers. But these were mostly short term and perhaps disinterested persons always ready to get away by marrying or other means. These anonymous servants sometimes benefited from the will of a well-to-do testator who left them gifts, almost, it seems from a sense of duty. For example, John Hawtrey (1663) left 40/- each to his servants of four years standing, 20/- to the others. Henry Welsted (1654) 40/- to all his servants; Mary Hawtrey (1647) £5 "to the rest".

The reading of wills of the period seems to show however, that some servants were in a different category, clearly valued by their masters, remembered by name and rewarded. Of the fifty three wills read, eleven contained bequests to individual servants almost all by wealthy testators with the one exception of a labourer, William Saunders (1647) who especially mentioned his servant Susan Herman with a gift of 5/-.

Of other servants who appear to have been valued there is Alice Smith perhaps personal maid to Mary Hawtrey who received £5, Joan Harriott (1663) left £5 to Jane Botton and £5 to Richard Lightfoot, servants. The rather more cautious William Winchester (1600) left his two servants a good ewe sheep each and a noble (the only mention of this ancient coin). Edward Edlin (1658) tops them all by leaving his servant Sara Taylor a house he owned, occupied by William Truelove. An interesting legacy was made by Henry Harriott (1659) to Robert Bensen, sometime his servant, of two Books of Entries and all the other books concerning the Common and Statute Laws of England.

The tenor of these not inconsiderable gifts seems to show that persons designated as servants may sometimes have been considered valued friends.

The Comparative Value of Legacies

Values change so much and so quickly that it is not possible to make an

accurate comparison between present day values and those in Stuart times. Some guidance, however, is given by the fact that in 1610 the Rutland magistrates fixed the day wages of a mower at 10d. and a reaper at 8d; Gregory King's estimate of the income of a farmers family was £42-10s. a year; John Butterfield (1659) of Ruislip thought it worthwhile to make a bequest to his four nephews and nieces of twelve pence each.

The parishioners of Ruislip would nearly all have derived their income either from their wages in which case they would have had difficulty in making ends meet, or else from their freehold, leasehold or copyhold land. Anything like an accurate assessment of their worth is impossible without a knowledge of the size of the holding, rent, outgoings etc. Inventories are few and Legacy Duty with its details, was not imposed until 1796. Nevertheless it is likely that the money a testator had to dispose of bore some relation to the profitability of his farming or other employment during his life. The results of calculation on this rough and ready basis in the case of the fifty three Ruislip wills merely confirms what is to be expected i.e. the gentlemen had more money to dispose of than the yeoman, the yeoman more than the husbandmen and they more than the labourers. Where do the tradesmen fit into this financial and social scale? All the five Ruislip tradesmen were men of comparative substance, more prosperous than any of the husbandmen and quite a few of the yeomen. John Biddle (1694), baker, and the wealthiest of the five had a total of £425 to give away; the only yeomen to match this figure were John Fulmer (1654), Ralph Timberlake (1663) and Edward Brooks (1682). Edward Brooks was of Askett (Eastcote) and seems to have been the local money-lender since much of his money was on loan to various people in Eastcote, Northwood, Pinner and Harefield. One wonders how much time he spent in the fields and how much in the counting house. Edward Edlin (1658) left gifts totalling £300; Henry Nicholas (1611) £240. At the lower end of the scale of yeomen was John Lyon (1661) who had no more than a total of £40 to bequeath.

Married women did not make wills during the lifetime of their husbands. Their bequests usually concentrated on household goods ("stuff"), furniture and linen. Isobell Nelham (1654) distributed her furniture and three shillings in cash. Susan Christion (1672) had £30 to bequeath. She asked to be buried in the flaxen sheet she had appointed for the purpose.

In spite of the fact that present day values are probably more than a hundred times greater than in the 17th century, a reading of the available wills of the period gives the impression that except for the very few, life in Ruislip was hard and the rewards meagre.

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The commencement of this article sets out the preamble to the will of William Stanley (1660) who made provision for his loving wife Ann to receive the interest on the sum set aside for the children until they came of age. Ann, unfortunately, was apparently not good at managing (!) and it is possible to imagine the expression of affectionate exasperation on William's face as he gave strict instructions that Ann was to have nothing to do with the capital sum which was to remain safely in the care of his loving master Ralph Hawtrey.

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Acknowledgements

E.M. Bowlt : Ruislip in 1565. Transactions of L.A.M.A.S. Volume 30, 1979.

A.J. Camp : Wills and Their Whereabouts

Maurice Ashley : England in the 17th century

I am grateful for the help given me by the staff of the Probate section of the Public Record Office, London.

Notes: Other aspects of 17th century P.C.C. Wills and wills in the Commissary Court of London remain to be dealt with in a later article.

All the P.C.C. wills have been copied and will be lodged in the local history collection.

P.C.C. wills are in the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane. They are indexed under place names for 1381-1700 thereafter names of testators only (PROB 12). The wills in the Commissary Court of London are at Guildhall. Reference 9171 and 9172.

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CHANGES AT UXBRIDGE LIBRARY

During the next few months, due to the redevelopment of Uxbridge Town Centre, Uxbridge Library will be undergoing extensive re-organisation. All departments will be affected, not least Local History. All the storage facilities are now at the Civic Centre, and this has meant that local newspaper files are no longer available for instant use, but must be ordered two to three days before they are wanted. However, the microfilms are always available, and it is preferable that these should be consulted, as frequent use is damaging to the original papers.

As part of the redevelopment, the rear of Uxbridge Library will be demolished, including the area where the Local History Collection is situated. Its new home will be the first floor of 21 High Street, which can be reached via a door from the present Music Library. There will be three rooms available, one of which will be a public search room, while the other two will be a work room and storage space. The material will now be kept in proper archive storage boxes, which will assist greatly in its preservation and also the ease with which items may be found. The public search room will contain the books and other items at present on the shelves in the Local Collection. In order to increase security, the door to the public search room will be locked and access will be given only on request. Although this will cause inconvenience, it is necessary, because of the recent theft of some valuable items.

However, this is only temporary accommodation until the new library is completed. The new building will have a purpose-built local history room

with environmental controls, good security and excellent research facilities. There will also be a permanent local history display area. It is hoped that this will be ready for use in 1986.

During the next few months, staff will be busy packing the collection, and as the time for the move approaches, much of it will be unavailable. Therefore, if you have more than the most general inquiry, please make an appointment before visiting the library, otherwise the information may not be available. The move is due to take place in April. To make an appointment, telephone Uxbridge 50600 and ask for Mary Pearce, Carolynne Cotton or Sheila Johnson.

SHEILA JONES-OWEN

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PROGRAMME OF SUMMER OUTINGS 1984

Saturday 12th May 9.00 a.m.	:	Coach outing to Greenwich, including a river trip from Westminster to Greenwich. Depart St. Martin's Approach.
Wednesday 23rd May 7.30 p.m.	:	A walk in Ickenham with Eileen Bowlt. Meet at the Pump.
Saturday 9th June 12.45 p.m.	:	Coach outing and guided tour of recent excavations in the City of London. Depart St. Martin's Approach.
Wednesday 1st August 7.30 p.m.	:	Further afield in Northwood with Colleen Cox. Meet at Green Lane Car Park.
Sunday 16th Sept. 8.45 a.m.	:	Coach outing to Southsea to see the Mary Rose and new museum. Depart St. Martin's Approach.

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CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Newland Park, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks.

In 1984 the museum will be open on Wednesdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. from Easter Sunday until the end of September.

Admission £1.00. (50p. for under 14's and O.A.P's).

NOTES ON THE WILL OF JOHN HAWTREY 1663

by JAMES McBEAN

The Hawtreys of Eastcote House have such a long association with our district that it is sometimes difficult to place the family in chronological order. The John Hawtrey of these notes can be identified by the fact that he is sandwiched between the two well known Ralphs. Ralph-with-the-Ruff (d.1639) was his father and the Ralph who lived to be 99 years old was his son.

Wealth

The family was well known for its local importance, wealth and possessions holding valuable leases as well as freehold land. It is from these sources that their income would have been derived but just how much this was in the case of John Hawtrey and how much of it was profit is not possible to say without details of the estate accounts. However in drawing up his will, the total value of John's legacies must give some indication of the wealth he had accumulated. The figure is about £4,000. This was at a time when Gregory King's estimate of a gentleman's income was £280 a year; a day labourer earned 8d. to 10d. a day and it was worthwhile for John Preist of Ruislip to reward his executor John Hale with a legacy of two shillings and sixpence. Present day values must be something between fifty to a hundred times greater than in the 17th century and on this reckoning John Hawtrey was not just wealthy - he was very wealthy indeed. Moreover so far as comparison is possible, with the exception of his aristocratic neighbours at Haydon Hall, in terms of money he stood head and shoulders above the other esquires and gentlemen of Ruislip his nearest rivals being Thomas Marsh who left legacies totalling £750 and Henry Welsted £560. The Hawtrey wealth must have been no small factor in the influence and authority exercised by the family in Ruislip.

James Hawtrey

Florence Hawtrey has written a book on the family which includes several family trees and latterly Mr. K. Holmes has brought to light the researches of Mrs. Louard, a descendant. In addition there are many articles and accounts of the Hawtreys. All these sources agree that John Hawtrey had four sons Ralph, John, Edward and Richard. It is therefore a considerable surprise to find in the will that there was a fifth son James. One's first uncharitable reaction is that James was illegitimate but this is highly unlikely.

There are instances of illegitimate offspring being provided for in a will but they are usually dealt with separately apart from the family whereas James is placed in what looks like chronological order between his brothers Edward and Richard. Moreover he is treated in exactly the same way as Richard receiving a considerable legacy at 24 years of age and an allowance in the meantime. It is odd that James does not appear in the written accounts of the family. Nor is he commemorated in the Hawtrey tombstones in the chancel of St. Martin's church.

Apprenticeship

The Hawtreys are thought of as landed gentry, the head of the household immersing himself in the administration of his estate and taking his place as a rural dignitary. John Hawtrey had attended University and the Inns of Court but in the 17th century these were quite often merely fashionable means whereby the sons of the gentry completed their education without worrying too

much about either a degree or practising law. Against this background therefore it is unexpected that John made provision in his will incase his sons should be apprenticed:-

> "....if my executors shall bind out either of my two younger sons as apprentices...."

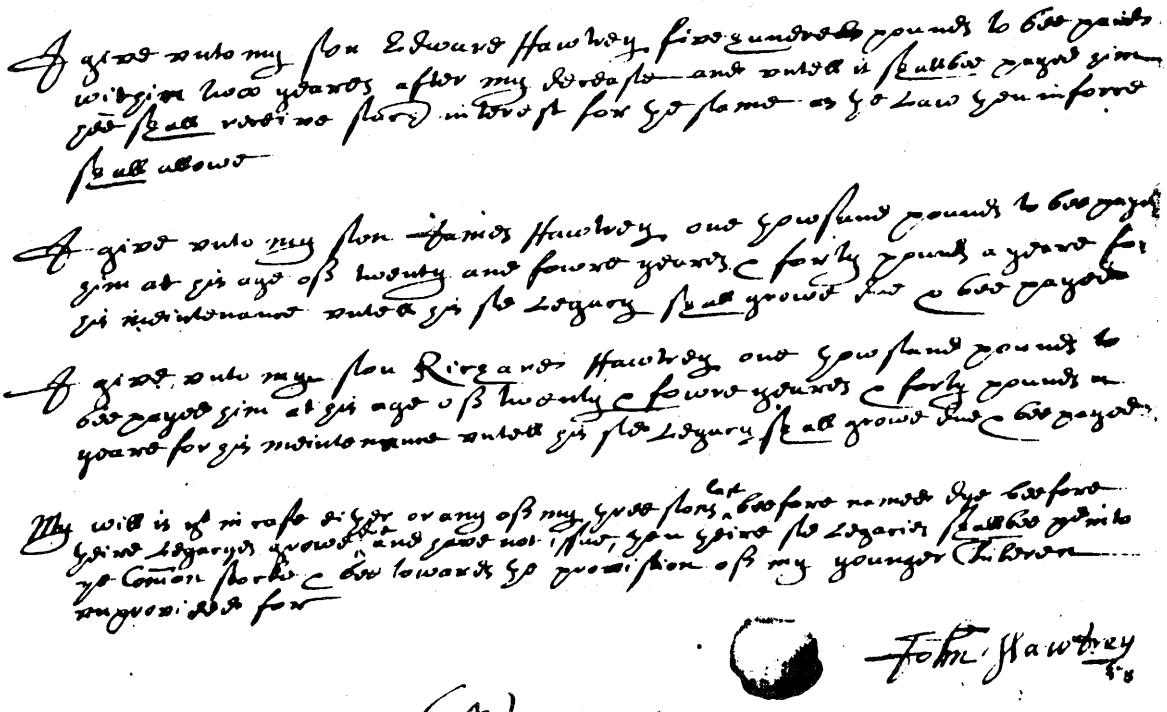
This of course is very different from the parish apprentices who were farmed out by the Overseers as quickly as possible and often condemned to an unhappy period of their young lives. The wealthy merchants of the cities required a high standard from their apprentices. The élite merchant tailors of Bristol required a good standard of literacy, the Barber-Surgeons of London demanded latin and even the troublesome London apprentices contained young men of superior birth.

> "From all the shires and counties of the Kingdom of England ... the sons of knights, esquires, gentlemen, ministers, yeoman and tradesmen come up from the place of their nativity and are bound to be prentices in London".
>
> (The Honour of London Apprentices 1647)

So that although it seems strange to consider a Hawtrey as an apprentice it was prudent for a wealthy father to make provision in case his son should enter a merchants trade even though he was himself deeply and traditionally involved in the management of rural affairs. By doing so he was providing the sons with a key to the wealth and prosperity that lay in the cities.

Note: John Hawtrey's will is in the Public Record Office under reference PROB 11/311.

An extract from John Hawtrey's Will.



(4)

ICKENHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

by H.G. WINCH*

The school was first opened in 1866 and at that time it consisted of one room 30ft. x 14ft. x 13ft. 9 ins. high and was situated at the corner of Austins Lane and Ickenham High Road. It was run by a group of managers and the teaching was carried out by a schoolmistress and two monitors working alternate weeks. A monitor at that time would have been required to teach the infants.

In 1873 the school was inspected and it is from the log book that was commenced after this inspection that information has been extracted about the school and its pupils. In 1873 the schoolmistress was Miss Anne Wilson and reading fairly good, writing fair and arithmetic weak.

The Buildings

In 1876 a new classroom was added with a doorway through to the old classroom, and a stove was fixed during the early part of the winter. By 1885 a new stove was required in the large room and a slow combustion stove was installed in January of that year, which answered the purposes admirably.

During the fourteen years that have so far been researched, the school was painted and whitewashed twice, first in 1880 and again in 1885.

A bazaar and fete was held in Swakeleys grounds in July 1883 in aid of the Building Fund and the takings amounted to £107.6s.9d. before expenses.

There must have been some form of sanitation at the school as in June 1884 the HMI report stated that something was wrong with the drainage of the boys closet.

A schoolhouse is also mentioned.

The Staff

Miss Anne Wilson remained at the school until December 1878. At this time the inspectors could not find anything satisfactory but hoped for improvement.

Miss Maud Gertrude Lowman commenced in January 1879, a Certified Mistress trained at Whitelands Training College. She resigned in December 1881.

Mr. Arthur Bourne Adhimar took up his duties in January 1882. He was a married man and his wife assisted with the teaching.

Throughout, the rector and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Pell, regularly visited the school and took lessons. Also Miss Clark from Swakeleys took lessons on occasions. When there were visitors at Swakeleys they also took the opportunity to visit the school.

In fourteen years there were four monitors, one of whom was indentured.

Organisation

The school year was split up into three terms. The summer holiday fluctuated in both time and duration, possibly depending on the haymaking when

all the family were required to assist with the work, either in the hayfields for the boys or at home for the girls to look after the younger children while their mothers worked in the hayfields.

The pupils were regularly examined on an annual basis by visiting H.M. Inspectors and also a church inspector made an examination of the school each May.

Whole day and half day holidays were given for various reasons, such as May Day, Examination Day, Whitsun, August Bank Holiday (first mentioned in 1883), to go to the meet at Manor Farm, a Village Wedding, Concert for the benefit of a Church Organ. Half days were given for Ickenham, Uxbridge or Ruislip Fair, Vicarage tea party, Swakeleys feast, School tea party, Chapel Anniversary tea party, Sunday School Centenary meeting, Cricket match at Swakeleys, to celebrate the gunpowder plot, to follow the hounds, to cross the Green for the hunt, a Choir Festival at Ruislip, Magic Lantern (the grown-ups watched this in the evening), to see the illuminations and sports at Uxbridge for H.M.'s Jubilee, Circus at Uxbridge.

Some of these events were held annually, together with other days and half days, or closing early with no reason given.

At religious festivals the children had to attend the church, every morning during holy week.

Finance

On average there were about fifty to sixty children attending the school and they had to pay a small sum of money each week, probably twopence.

There was also an annual grant paid after the Inspector's Report. Deductions were made from this grant for various reasons, such as in 1874 payments were withheld because singing was not sufficiently taught. The amount of the grant was determined by the number of children qualified for presentation and in 1874 the total amount paid was £30.14s.1d.

Discipline and Punishments

The children were often punished as a whole for inattention. The cane was used for disobedience, falsehoods, destruction of school property, playing truant, using bad words, rudeness etc. There was also mentioned punishment for taking wool and knitting needles out of school without permission, refusing to go to school when sent by parents, incivility, truancy - on one occasion the master had to hunt through the village for two children to get them to school and another boy who played truant was kept in and his dinner was sent from home.

A boy caned for falsehoods, had been giving trouble, he was mixed up with some bad companions who were leading him astray.

The parents of the boy caned for disobedience and destruction of school property, called to see the master in the evening and threatened to summons him if their child was caned again. The father had called before objecting to his child being kept in at any time to do tasks for punishment. The master wrote to the Managers about this.

On another occasion a mother visited the school in a very insulting manner saying she objected to her children being punished in any manner whatever. She threatened she would serve the master the same way if he did.

Attendance

A great deal of reference is made to the attendance of the children. If they were continually absent they were reported to the school Attendance Officer. The children could, however, ask for leave of absence.

One mother called at the school about her childrens absence and was very impertinent, saying she intended to keep her children away as often as she chose because the Guardians had refused to pay her children's school fees. Some children seemed to come and go, were taken off the books and then re-admitted.

Reasons for absence were given as picking up acorns in the Autumn, sometimes nearly all the school were away, except the little ones. The acorns would have been used to feed the pigs. Boys were away to assist the shooting parties at Swakeleys, haymaking, and something called "Tapping". The girls were absent to assist their mothers at home. Fifteen families had a high incidence of irregular attendance.

Reasons for leaving included - to go to Ruislip School, left neighbourhood, going into service, gone to live with relations, to work with father, in delicate health, mothers illness, to go to Boys School in Hillingdon, needed at home.

In fourteen years 108 children were recorded as admitted, of which 32 were infants, and six were visiting pupils, and 67 left. The actual number of children mentioned in this same period was 232, that is 98 boys and 134 girls. Seventy different surnames were mentioned.

Health

About ten families had a high rate of illness. The complaints included bad eyes, colds, chilblains, eruptions on the head, whooping cough, scarlet fever, measles, nettle rash, sore throats, itch, badly burned arm.

When whooping cough or scarlet fever were recorded the attendance was very low and on one occasion the children who had to pass through the village to get to the school were told not to attend. Some children had to be kept away from school during the winter months because they were not fit enough.

During the fourteen years two children had to be sent to the Cottage Hospital and another girl died after only three days illness.

Subjects

Reading, dictation, scripture and arithmetic appeared to be the main subjects with singing, needlework, geography and history also being mentioned. Miss Clark from Swakeleys regularly took reading and dictation. The Reverend Pell took scripture and his wife reading. In 1882 the master's wife took singing and needlework.

There was a different set of songs that had to be learnt each year and in 1874 for example, the list was - Oh! dear what can the matter be; Who may play all day; Winter song; The little robin; Peaceful slumbering on the ocean; Come when your're called; The stately homes of England and The Singing Lesson.

Arithmetic was the most difficult subject for the children and throughout the years this subject was always referred to as poor and on one occasion

extra lessons were given after school and once standard six had to spend one and a half hours in the evening at the school house doing arithmetic. When the master was away ill mention was made that no home lessons were given, so presumably the children had homework to do.

Weather

Some mention is made of the weather, mostly during the winter months. Late 1874 and early 1875 was a time of snowstorms and again in early 1876. There was more mention of snow in later years with some heavy falls and drifting. Two families, the Fords and Weatherleys, were always unable to cross the Green when the weather was bad. Fog is recorded only once in November 1884.

The only other record of any interest is in 1879 when after a few weeks bad weather in late May and early June, the school room became very close and the last lesson of the day had to be held in the playground.

The Families

It is not possible from the school records to work out how many children of school age were in each family, but this could be carried out by reference to the Census returns. Seventy surnames are mentioned and these included - Andrews, Allday, Bunce, Clarke, Couchman, Clayton, Edlin, Godleman, Hearne, Lavender, Lawrence, Montague, Norman, Stent, Sims, Turner, Winch, Weatherley, Wilden.

There are still forty two years to research - I will endeavour to extract all the information in due course.

* Miss Winch is a descendant of some of those mentioned in the Log Book, possibly a second cousin, once removed.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

Available from:

The Secretary,
29 Eastern Avenue,
Pinner, Middlesex.
HA5 1NW.

The prices quoted include postage

1.	A History of Ruislip (L.E. Morris)	£ 1 . 45
2.	Ruislip in Times Past (C. & M. Cartwright & V. Cowley)	£ 2 . 30
3.	Ruislip Woods (E. & C. Bowlt)	£ 2 . 00
4.	The Story of Northwood (W.A.G. Kemp)	£ 3 . 90
5.	Ruislip around 1900 (Research Group)	£ 2 . 50
6.	Set of 4 Postcards of Ruislip's Medieval Buildings (Tom Allum)	£ 0 . 35

EARLY YEARS OF WESLEYAN METHODISM IN NORTHWOOD

by COLLEEN A. COX

Before the development of Northwood in the 1890's there were only two Methodist chapels in the area - one at Eastcote and the other at Ruislip Common. These two small chapels could not meet the needs of the newcomers to Northwood who soon formed groups with others of similar beliefs to hold religious meetings and make plans for a chapel of their own.

The two main branches of Methodism in Northwood at this time were the Wesleyans and the Primitive Methodists. Kemp[1] records that the Primitive Methodists met in a house in Half Mile Lane (present Northwood High Street). In 1896 they applied to the Watford Circuit for permission to purchase land at the corner of Hallowell Road and High Street. A school chapel was built on this land in 1897 and a new church on the adjoining site was opened in 1903.

The Wesleyan Methodists also first met in private houses and in 1896 they too applied for permission to build a chapel. The difficulties they encountered, however, are revealed in the Trustees Minutes Book from which much of the following information has been obtained.

The earliest minutes date from March 11th 1896 and are those of a sub-committee appointed by the Watford Circuit Quarterly Meeting "to make enquiries as to a suitable site for the erection of a chapel at Northwood". Most of the committee members lived in Watford, including Mr. A. Trewin, a name still familiar to those who shop there.

The members of the sub-committee visited Northwood on June 13th 1896 and viewed several sites including one at the corner of Green Lane and Hallowell Road. They unanimously preferred the site on the corner of Murray Road and Maxwell Road where the Northwood Police Station now stands. Following the visit, the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund was asked to contribute £600 towards the purchase of the plot, the remainder to be raised locally.

The minutes of a meeting held three months later reveal the first of many difficulties. The contract for the purchase of the land had been signed on August 15th 1896 but legal difficulties had arisen and shortly after the Methodists were threatened with legal action by Mr. Simmons, the landowner, for their failure to complete the purchase.

The nature of the problems is referred to in the minutes of a meeting held on January 30th 1897 which mentions "the pronounced objection of many residents to the erection of the chapel at Northwood". These residents were later to object even more strongly to the proposal to build a police station on the site, a battle they eventually lost after a High Court ruling.

By the beginning of June 1897 agreement had been reached to cancel the contract. The £50 deposit was forfeited and a further £15 paid to Mr. Simmons to cover the legal costs. The £600 loan had been repaid to the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund with £12 interest. Thus the Methodists found themselves 15 months after their first meeting still without a plot of land and out of pocket. Some three months later, however, new negotiations had taken place with a Mr. Allen who had a plot of land in Hallowell Road which was free from restrictions and which he was prepared to sell for £325. This site is now occupied by the Parish Hall of St. Matthews Catholic Church.

The trustees resolved to obtain a loan of £450 to enable them not only to purchase the land in Hallowell Road but also to pay off their debts. Advertisements regarding the loan were placed in the Methodist Recorder and the Methodist Times and a reply received from a Reverend Wesley Buttons who indicated that he was prepared to lend the money at 3½% interest. This offer was accepted in October and the purchase completed by November 1897.

Trustees for Northwood were appointed at this time, all but two of whom lived outside the area and the meetings were still held in Watford or Rickmansworth. The two exceptions were William Gregory and his son, also William, both of Eastcote.

Surprisingly there was only one meeting in 1898 and none in 1899 or 1900. An explanation for the lack of progress is found in the minutes for October 1901. The Rev. Wesley Buttons had withdrawn his loan and the only response to further advertisements had come from the Star Life Assurance Society which offered to lend any sum under £1,000 at 4½% interest. Reluctantly the trustees agreed to borrow £450 from the Society at what they considered to be excessively high interest.

In 1901 there were twenty six Wesleyans living in Northwood and in February of the following year one of them, Mr. Satchell a plumber of Hallowell Road, was asked to look after the site on behalf of the trustees. In addition the Treasurer announced that he was claiming exemption from paying £57 to the Uxbridge Rural District Council for making up the road in front of the site on the grounds that a place of worship was to be built there.

Six months later another building sub-committee was appointed to prepare a scheme, with the suggestion that the loan be increased to cover the cost of building a school chapel. These plans were obviously too long term for some members of the committee and in November 1902 it was resolved "that an iron building be secured immediately by hire or purchase as a purely temporary arrangement so that services may be commenced forthwith ". Despite this resolution, in July 1903 the members were still considering tenders for the erection of such a building. Mr. Satchell was asked to make enquiries as to the cost of hiring a certain estate office in Northwood but had to report in January 1904 that "the parties concerned would not let the building for any religious services whatsoever". This being the case the committee agreed to accept a tender from Mr. McManus for £135 to erect a temporary iron church.

The first trustees meeting in Northwood took place at the home of Mr. Sage in Kewferry Road. Yet again financial difficulties had hindered progress but Mr. Sage was appointed Secretary of The Northwood Trust and given a class book with a view to forming a society at Northwood.

Between February and September 1905 there was another burst of activity with seven meetings of the building committee. During this time an architect was approached to submit plans for a school chapel to seat about 300 people, later reduced to 250. The plans were accepted and a subscription list started but as once again they could not raise sufficient money the tender for the iron building from Mr. McManus, by now increased to £226, was accepted. At last it seemed that the Northwood Wesleyans were to have a place in which to worship.

In August 1905 the Secretary was instructed to order 200 chairs at 3s.9d. (about 19p.) each from Messrs. Glenister & Co. of High Wycombe, who offered a 2½% discount for cash within fourteen days and delivery at a cost of 2d.(1p.)

per chair. By September 300 hymn sheets had been ordered for the opening service; stoves, gas fittings and notice boards installed and the offer from one of the trustees of carpet and linoleum at a cost price gratefully accepted. This time there were no problems and the trustees meeting of September 30th 1905 was actually held in the new iron building, nine years after the first meeting.

The organ was purchased and installed by January of the following year and new trustees appointed including such Northwood men as George Sage, Herbert Gerner and Dr. Walter Kinton. The latter worked at the newly opened Mount Vernon Hospital and was the first choir master. Although he resigned from this position in 1906, he maintained close and active contact with the Wesleyans for many years and his wife was the organist until 1910 and assistant organist after that. Mr. Rippon replaced Dr. Kinton as choir master, a position he still held when the Wesleyans moved to Oaklands Gate.

A regular pattern of meetings now developed. At the annual trustees meetings major financial matters were discussed dealing largely with repayment of their debts. The officers were thanked for their services and frequently re-appointed; Mr. Rippon, the choir and the organists also thanked for their services and the ladies sewing meeting commended for their successful efforts in raising money. Regular outgoings included annual payments of 5s.0d. (25p.) to the General Chapel Fund and Metropolitan Building Fund and 10s.6d. (52½p.) to the "worn-out ministers fund"!

The local trustees meetings dealt with arrangements for special events such as the Harvest Festival and Chapel Anniversary and were responsible for the upkeep of the building.

In 1912 the newly appointed minister was welcomed. Although not mentioned by name it was almost certainly the Rev. C.W.L. Christian as his name appeared frequently after this and his daughter was appointed organist the following year. Kemp[1] records that he was retired and gave his services as minister.

Life outside the Wesleyan church sometimes intruded into the minutes as for example in 1915 when the Secretary Mr. Doubleday was requested to take steps to see that the cinema posters which had been pasted on the chapel fence were removed - a reference no doubt to the cinema opened in 1912 in the High Street and now the dining club of the Ruislip Northwood Old Folks Association.

Later that year the question of insuring the church against aircraft damage was discussed but considered unnecessary. In 1916 "further darkening of the windows to meet the requirements of the lighting regulations" was referred to the chapel stewards, with power to take the necessary action.

During the war years, repair and decoration of the building and repair of the organ and piano were frequently discussed but action deferred. Despite the difficult times, the debt was finally paid off in 1919. This was the year that Mr. John Fielding moved to Northwood and the Methodists owed much to his generosity. His name first appeared in a minute of the meeting in Marth 8th 1919 to the effect that Messrs. Collins, Fielding,Gerner and the Chapel steward Mr. Satchell be invited to serve on the committee to make enquiries as to a site suitable for a permanent church.

In December 1919 Mr. Fielding was appointed Treasurer of the newly formed Chapel Building Fund. Even while plans were being made for a permanent church conditions in the iron building were still the subject of much discussion.

In 1920 for example, the trustees agreed to replace the existing gas lighting by a system of electric lighting at an approximate cost of £30. However, action was deferred and the gas lighting remained.

In November 1920 Mr. Fielding by now Treasurer to the trustees reported that he had purchased the house "Sandy Hook" in Dene Road with adjoining ground extending to the railway and that he was prepared to hand over as a gift a portion of the land as a site for a permanent Wesleyan church. Needless to say this offer was accepted "with cordial expressions of gratitude to Mr. Fielding for his generosity".

Thus at last after twenty four years, a site for a permanent church was obtained. The first Trustees Minute Book ends on December 12th 1921 and the next book is missing. We know however, that no further major obstacles faced the Northwood Wesleyans.

The present building in Oaklands Gate was designed by William May Weir F.R.I.B.A. of Westminster and a stone tablet on the left of the entrance shows that Mr. Fielding laid the foundation stone on October 3rd 1923. The first service was held on June 14th 1924 and a commemorative plaque inside the church records the names of those who worked so hard to establish this Wesleyan church.

The modern manse near the church bears the name "Fielding" - a tribute to the man without whom the Methodists might have had to wait even longer for a chapel of their own.

I am greatly indebted to the Rev. Goodridge, present minister at Northwood Methodist church in Oaklands Gate, who allowed me to study the first Trustees Minute Book.

Reference [1] "The Story of Northwood and Northwood Hills, Middlesex" by W.A.G. Kemp.

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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

An exhibition entitled "Geology, Landscape and Man in West Middlesex" will be held in the Cow Byre from Sunday 24th June until Saturday 30th June in the Cow Byre, Manor Farm. The exhibition is in memory of the work of Mr. S.W. Hester, a local geologist.

SIGERS & EASTCOTE COTTAGE, WILTSHIRE LANE

by EILEEN M. BOWLT

Sigers

Wiltshire Lane was one of five Eastcote lanes which led in a northerly direction from Eastcote High Road to the Common Wood in the 16th century, the others being, Fore Street, Joel Street, Giddy Street and Catlins Lane (then called Popes End Lane). After 568 acres of the Common Wood was grubbed up by the Earl of Salisbury in 1608 the waste land at the top of the lanes was used for grazing[1]. Cottages had been built along the lanes and parcels of land enclosed piecemeal before the middle of the 16th century. The most northerly house standing there in 1565, called Sigers, belonged to John Ferne of Wiltshires and had four closes of land attached containing fifteen acres, bounded on the north by the Common Wood[2]. It appears to have stood in what is now the roadway of Salisbury Road.

Another house dating from the 16th century and also called Sigers stood east of Field End Road until the 1930's when it was demolished to make way for the Eastcote Park Estate. Sir Kenneth Goschen, Governor of the Bank of England and prominent in the establishment of the parish of St. Lawrence, Eastcote, was the last owner. The name is preserved in Sigers Close which lies some distance away on the other side of Field End Road. Sigers as a name first appears in the c.1245 Customal of Ruislip.

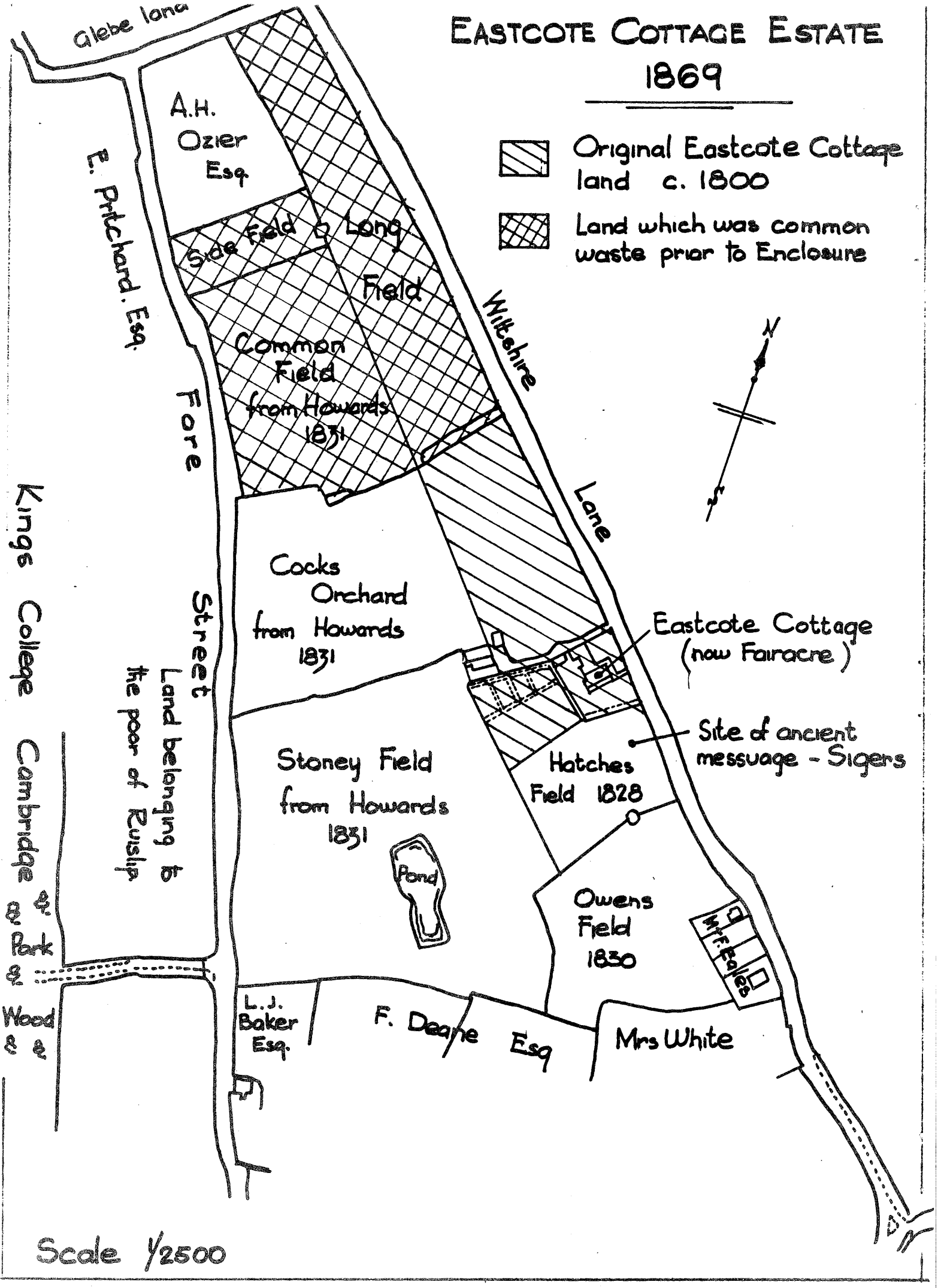
Sigers in Wiltshire Lane was still standing when the Enclosure Map was drawn in 1806. It was owned by Richard Hatch who appears to have occupied it from 1786-1827. Jane Hatch sold the "ancient messuage" to Mr. Henry Gardiner in 1828. The old building was apparently demolished shortly afterwards[3].

Eastcote Cottage

Slightly north of Sigers another house had been built, probably in the late 18th century, which came to be known as Eastcote Cottage. Fairacre now stands on the site. Francis Stubbs, Esq., is the first proprietor whose name is known to us. His ownership extended from about 1805 to 1820[4]. He had land in Kingsbury at the same period[5]. Francis Stubbs and all the other owners of Eastcote Cottage were members of the gentry or professional classes and socially superior to the yeomen and agricultural labourers in the houses around. The cottage was an early example of the small gentleman's estate, several of which appeared in Eastcote (Myrtle Cottage, Joel Street and Eastcote Lodge, Eastcote Road for example) midway between the farmhouses and the three great houses, giving the area a noticeably different social structure from Ruislip as reflected in the mid 19th century census returns.

The Enclosure Commissioners responsible for enclosing the waste, allocated the land lying between Wiltshire Lane and Fore Street where the council housing estate now stands, to several different people in very small plots. Francis Stubbs received the piece adjoining his garden just over half an acre in size. He bought up most of the other small allotments which faced onto Wiltshire Lane to give his house all the frontage to the top of the lane.

Henry Gardiner, Esq., purchased the estate from William Payne in 1823 and proceeded to acquire adjoining lands as they became available. The "ancient messuage" next door was his first purchase in 1828, followed in 1830 by a field to the south which increased the Wiltshire Lane frontage.


EASTCOTE COTTAGE ESTATE
1869
Original Eastcote Cottage land c. 1800
Land which was common waste prior to Enclosure
Glebe lane
A.H. Ozier Esq.
E. Pritchard. Esq.
Side Field
Long Field
Common Field from Howards 1831
Wiltshire Lane
Fore Street
Kings College Cambridge & Park & Wood & &
Land belonging to the poor of Ruislip
Cocks Orchard from Howards 1831
Eastcote Cottage (now Fairacre)
Site of ancient messuage - Sigers
Stoney Field from Howards 1831
Pond
Hatches Field 1828
Owens Field 1830
W.F. Eales
L.J. Baker Esq.
F. Deane Esq
Mrs White
N
Scale 1/2500

Finally the Howard family, owners of Ivy Farm (still standing on the corner of Egerton Close) sold him three fields on the east side of Fore Street, giving Eastcote Cottage a twenty three acre estate. He remained in possession until 1839[6].

Charles James Jenkins, Esq., of Albany Street, Regent's Park paid £1,700 for the estate in 1839[7]. After his death in 1850 his widow, Martha, sold it to Alexander John Augustus Mann, a Civil Engineer of Bexley Heath and his sister Jane Mary Mann[8].

Francis Stubbs, Henry Gardiner and Charles Jenkins resided at Eastcote Cottage but the Manns considered it only as an investment. They mortgaged it for £1,356 two days after taking possession and let the property[9]. Alexander Mann died in October 1860 and Jane having repaid the mortgage in 1869, put it on the market. The Sale Catalogue may be seen at Manor Farm library. John Todd, Esq., of 1 Alderman's Walk, London bought it for £2,950[10].

John Todd was described as a retired Australian Merchant in the 1871 census. His wife, three children and three female servants made up the household. His was the last family to inhabit Eastcote Cottage. Sometime before 1881 it seems to have been demolished as reference to it is missing from the census of that year and the 1897 O.S. 6in. map shows the site cleared of buildings. The reason for the demolition is at present a mystery.

Tenants During the Manns Ownership

The tenants were mainly professional people. Thomas Price, a Banker was there in 1850 and 1851. He may have interested himself in politics for he was entertaining Feargus O'Connor the Radical M.P. on the night of the census in 1851. O'Connor, a Chartist leader believed in settling working men on small holdings to give them independence, and formed a land co-operative at Rickmansworth for this purpose. The Prices were both in their early thirties and had three small children. They farmed their land. Their household included six servants, all of Irish birth. A man and his wife were employed as bailiff and dairymaid while their son was an agricultural labourer and their daughter a nursemaid. A nurse and cook completed the domestic staff[11].

The next tenant, Mr. George Baylis started a brickfield on one of the fields. His lease dated 15th September 1853 permitted him at his own cost and charges "to raise dig and get clay brickearth for the making of bricks, tiles, draining and other pipes or tiles upon Stony Field ... but upon no other part of the premises ... and manufacture the same into bricks and tiles draining and other pipes or tiles and to sell ... the same when so manufactured". Mr. Baylis was to pay £101 per annum rent and in addition rents upon his manufactures as follows: 1s.6d. per 1000 bricks of common size, paving, oven tiles and oven bricks; 9d. per 1000 draining pipes and tiles above 4 inches in the bore; 6d. per 1000 covering tiles; 6d. per 1000 draining pipes and tiles; 9d. per 1000 pantiles, hiptiles, gutter tiles and ridge tiles above 4 inches in breadth. For the first two years no rents were to be paid on manufactures not exceeding 1½ million bricks and 2½ million pipes and tiles[12].

Only four months later in January 1854 George Baylis assigned the residue of his lease to Robert Vaughan-Williams, a Barrister of Lincoln's Inn. Little is known of the fate of the brickfield, but a pond in Stony Field, presumably the kiln pond appears on later maps. The present Salisbury Road runs through it[13].

Thomas Burcham, a Barrister lived there in 1861. A batchelor, his household was composed of a cook, a house servant and a groom[14]. Later the Rev. A.A. Harland, curate at St. Martins lived at Eastcote Cottage paying like George Baylis £101 per annum[15]. He was there in 1869 when Miss Mann sold the property to John Todd, but moved out shortly afterwards upon becoming Vicar of Harefield. His parting gift to St. Martin's was the eagle lectern to be seen on the north side of the nave.

The House

Sale Particulars, 1869, describe a small country estate suitable for a professional gentleman. The house was sheltered by a verandah and possessed an entrance hall, breakfast room, dining room, drawing room with French windows, five bedrooms, two attics and a W.C. The offices included a butler's pantry, larder, kitchen, scullery, wash-house, beer and wine cellar. Outside were a cow-house, piggeries, cart and cattlesheds, a coach-house, stabling for three horses, harness room and a groom's room. Lawns, gardens and an orchard surrounded the house. It was a desirable residence, in a high position with clear views across fields to Pinner Green and hills beyond on one side and to Park Wood on the other. The auctioneers, Sedgwicks pointed out its other attractions; the close proximity to Pinner Station (now Hatch End), only twenty minutes drive "from whence the metropolis may be reached in a little over thirty minutes"; the "picturesque and highly respectable neighbourhood". Sporting gentlemen were advised that the Old Berkeley Fox Hounds hunted the surrounding country. Most enticing of all, here, was an opportunity for investment. The long frontage onto Wiltshire Lane "might be readily laid out in desirable sites for villa residences". There was no fear of competition or that the area would become spoiled by development as the writer of the Sale Catalogue assured prospective buyers that the property was surrounded by large estates (Kings College, Hawtrey Deane and Haydon Hall) "not at all likely to be built upon".

Fairacre

Sometime before 1881 Eastcote Cottage seems to have been demolished. There is no reference to it in the census. The 1897 O.S. 6in. map shows the site cleared of buildings. Fairacre was built on the same site before the first world war. It is shown on a 1913 edition of the O.S. 6in. map. W.A.G. Kemp in his "History of Eastcote" (page 41) says that it was built by Captain Bennett Edwards of Haydon Hall. Mr. Collins lived there for many years. The corners of Fairacre land are marked by iron posts embossed with a 'C', three of which remain.

The house was restored in 1978 and converted into flats. It forms part of a Borough housing scheme. Bungalows have been built on other parts of the land.

References

1. Kings College Muniments R 36, fol.42
2. " " " R 36, fol.24
3. Indenture, 23 July 1839; Ruislip Library.
4. Ruislip Parish Rate Books; G.L.R.O. DRO 19 E2 1-50.
5. Henry Sayer Map of Kingsbury, 1819. G.L.R.O.
6. Indenture, 23 July 1839; Ruislip Library.
7. " " " " " "
8. " 7 April 1851; " "
9. " " " " " "

10. Conveyance, 29 September 1869; Ruislip Library.
11. 1851 Census Returns; Manor Farm Library, Ruislip.
12. Lease, 15 September 1853; Ruislip Library.
13. Copy Indenture; Assignment of lease, 27 January 1854; Ruislip Library.
14. 1861 Census Returns; Manor Farm Library, Ruislip.
15. Sale Catalogue of Eastcote Cottage 1869; Manor Farm Library, Ruislip.

Brickfield Pond near Ivy Farm on site of present Salisbury Road around 1910-1920, showing some of the Lavender family.

Photograph kindly supplied by Mrs. M. Forrest.

TAPE RECORDING THE MEMORIES OF ELDERLY LOCAL RESIDENTS

by DENISE SHACKELL

What made me think about making recordings of old residents was a genuine interest in what older people have to say about Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote before the development of the large housing estates. Memory is notorious for its inaccuracy on facts. What can a recording give that written history cannot? It gives a very personal view of history.

A portable tape recorder is all that is needed to start. A good, clear recording will not only provide interesting information, it will be possible to extract passages to make edited versions. Selected sections can highlight the different ways in which people in the same area lived, worked or played.

To achieve a good quality result a little extra care is needed. The microphone is a sensitive instrument and it will pick up extraneous sounds that are not wanted. Fix it securely to something that can be placed near to the speaker, it is then possible for those involved in the interview to relax and concentrate on having a normal conversation. Placing the recording machine within easy reach of the interviewer enables adjustments to be made to the level of the recording during the session. Whilst setting up the equipment a test recording can be made and played back. This checks the quality and strength of the sound. It also satisfies the speaker's natural curiousity to hear his or her voice, probably for the first time.

An interview with a group of people causes problems. Frequent overlapping of voices and interruptions make the finished result disappointing. Interviewing one person is more satisfactory. It is even better if the interviewer speaks as little as possible and avoids interrupting. Let the person finish what they have to say before speaking yourself.

It is a good idea to make a list of the categories of information you want to record. Sometimes the speaker wanders too far off the point or begins to dry up. Then, a question from the list can set them off in the direction in which you want them to go.

Who should be recorded? Naturally the oldest because their memories are of the period before the big housing developments took place. These people are becoming very rare, so it is important to record them as soon as possible. After them the choice is yours; Anyone who has some interesting information to give.

Start by asking them their name (and maiden name if a married woman), date and place of birth. Then work chronologically through their early memories dwelling and expanding the areas that you think are interesting. Usually a session of one hour is enough, especially if the person is very old. A return visit can usually be arranged if additional information is needed.

When playing back the tape later, it is often surprising to find what information has been recorded. The next stage is to play the tape through again, this time making detailed notes, checking the numbers on the machine and writing these next to the relevant note. This will act as an index when making edited versions later.

Do you know of anyone who has lived in this area since childhood or before the housing estates were built? If you do, try recording them. If you feel you cannot tackle the task yourself, contact me.