

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD  
AND EASTCOTE

# Local History Society

Journal 1992



A HUNTING WE WILL GO



# **The Journal of the Ruislip Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society**

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## EDITORIAL

Listening to familiar war-time tunes at the Society's January Lecture, I was struck by how much past and present merge into history. To many of us at the lecture, the 1940's are still part of our present - we lived through them! But to our children and grandchildren they are very much the past.

Even in the study of history, the present is very much in evidence. More and more records are now being put onto microfilm or microfiche. While this helps to preserve original documents from deterioration due to over-handling, it does in my mind take away something from research. To extract data from a microfilm copy of a document seems much less satisfying than reading an original document that was hand-written three or four hundred years ago, to say nothing of the headaches caused after peering at a microfilm reader for long periods!

However, modern techniques can be very useful in analysis of data. It is much easier to write information into a computer database and get the computer to sort it into any required order than sort it manually, especially if several different orders are required for different purposes. This is not to say that it is always quicker, my computer once took over twelve hours to sort a long list, but at least I could do something else while it did it.

Other researchers may disagree with me, but what really matters is the end result and the personal satisfaction obtained from the research.

After many years of research into the Ruislip census returns for 1851-1881, one of our members, Colleen Cox, has completed her book called *A Quiet and Secluded Spot*. Using the information she has obtained from the censuses, she has turned what could be dry statistics into a lively and interesting account of the people who lived in Ruislip at that time. The appendices will be an invaluable reference section for those people wanting to know who lived where in the Parish of Ruislip from 1851 to 1881. Karen Spink and other members of the Society helped Colleen to produce and illustrate what has proved to be a very attractive book.

Bob Bedford has continued with his double duties as programme & outings secretary, providing the members with interesting lectures and enjoyable outings. The weather somewhat spoiled our trip to Kings Lynn, when it rained continuously the whole time we were there.

The research group has been engaged in finding out the history of all the places of worship in the Ruislip area. The final results of their efforts will be seen at an exhibition in the Cow Byre in June, but some of their work is presented as articles in this issue.



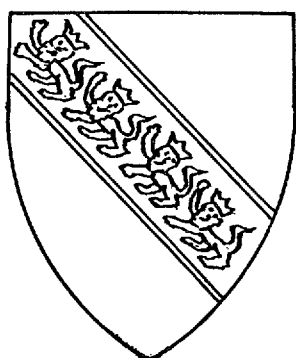
# HERALDRY OF THE HAWTREY, ROGERS & DEANE FAMILIES IN ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH RUISLIP

by Kay Holmes

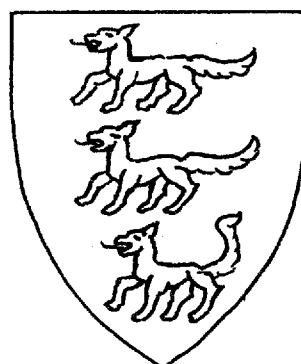
St. Martin's Parish Church in Ruislip has the largest collection of hatchments in the county of Middlesex. Of the eleven, six are connected with the Hawtreay, Rogers and Deane succession as Lay Rectors and owners of Eastcote House, in effect the local squirearchy.

The word 'hatchment' is a corruption of 'achievement', which means the whole armorial bearings - shield, helm, crest, mantling, motto, (and supporters where applicable). Hatchments were placed over the residence of a deceased person, and later removed to the local church. The background, black or white, shows whether the deceased was survived by his or her spouse. As hatchments are usually painted on canvas on a wooden frame, many have deteriorated or been destroyed. Ruislip is fortunate to have so many and in such good condition.

Chronologically, at each end of the Ruislip sequence are the Hawtreay monuments in the Chancel, and the Deane glass in the West Window. The earliest is the Brass in the Sanctuary, (replica in the Lady Chapel) to John Hawtreay, died 1595. It shows the arms of Hawtreay, three lions in bend, and of Lovett, three wolves - a 'canting' coat linking the name Lovett with 'lupus', Latin for wolf.



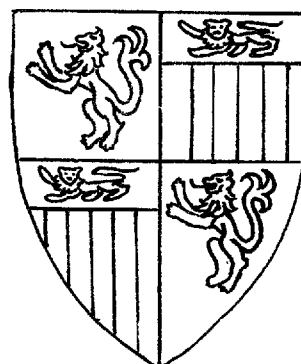
HAWTREY



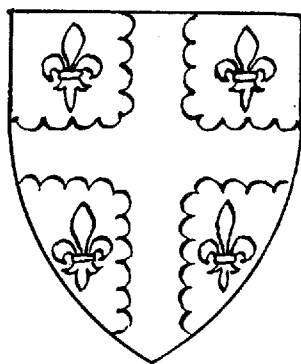
LOVETT

Also shown are the arms of Hawtreay impaling (side-by-side with) the arms of Lovett, for husband and wife. There is another of a shield of twelve 'quarters'; the first five, Hawtreay, Chequers, Paynell, Blackenhall, and Pipe with Harcourt, had been inherited through the blood line by John, but the remainder which are Hampden and Hampden alliances, came to John's uncle Thomas Hawtreay of Chequers, and could not come to the Ruislip branch of the family.

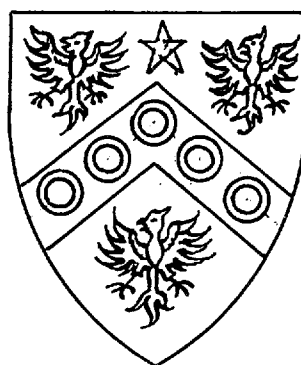
The most outstanding monument in the Chancel is that to Ralph Hawtreay (died 1638), and his wife Mary, née Altham. It bears the arms of Hawtreay, of Hawtreay quartering Checkers, Paynell, Blackenhall, Pipe, Harcourt and Noël, of Hawtreay impaling Altham, and of Altham - two coats quartered.



ALTHAM



BANKES



CLITHEROE

Facing Ralph and Mary's monument is that for their daughter, Mary, who married Sir John Bankes and is famous as the defender of Corfe Castle. On a lozenge, for the arms of a woman, are the cross and fleur-de-lys of Bankes impaling the Hawtrey lions.

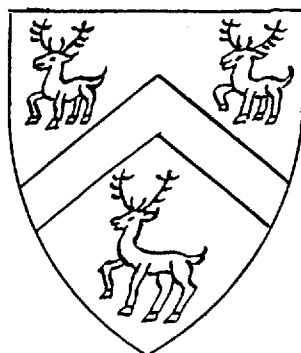
Beside Ralph and Mary's monument is that of their granddaughter, Jane who married James Clitheroe. It displays the Clitheroe eagles and annulets (rings), impaling the Hawtrey arms. The Clitheroe arms are shown on a cartouche, a useful 'neutral' form which can be used for a man or a woman, and allows the heraldic painter a more convenient shape than a lozenge in which to position the charges.

It will have been noticed that the Hawtreys used three or four lions in bend more or less indiscriminately. When the Middlesex Heraldry Society restored the painting on some of the monuments, the artists were made acutely aware how much easier it was to place three lions in bend rather than four, and this seems a likely reason for the eventual preponderance of three lions.

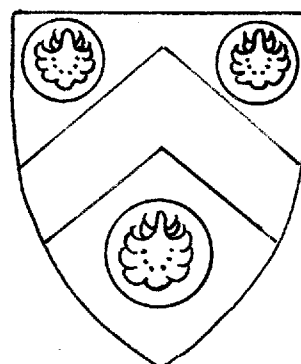
One cannot assume that the family kept a pride of lions and varied the shield according to the number of beasts in their possession at the time. The first Hawtrey to use the arms probably chose them because he liked the design; they may possibly allude to a feudal superior or to an event in his life or that of an ancestor. If there was a particular reason for the lions, it is lost and forgotten long ago. Very seldom is the 'meaning' of personal arms known after the death of the original owner and his immediate circle. This still applies today; it would add greatly to the interest of future students of heraldry if the rationale of a newly granted coat were to be recorded on the reverse of the Grant by the College of Arms or by Lord Lyon Court in Scotland.

There are several ledger stones displaying arms in the Chancel, many covered or obscured by the furniture. They are dated between 1689 and 1738, and commemorate members of the Hawtrey and Rogers families.

In the Tower are the hatchments relating to the family. The earliest is for Mary Rogers, née Dacers, who died 1705, and was the mother of James Rogers. It bears the arms of Rogers, a chevron between three stags, impaling those of Dacers, a chevron between three roundels each charged with a scallop shell. The white background to the Rogers arms shows that Mary's husband survived her.



ROGERS



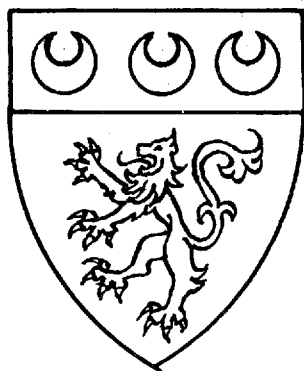
DACERS

The next hatchment in chronological order is that for Jane Rogers, née Hawtrey, wife of James Rogers and great great granddaughter of Ralph and Mary. The hatchment shows the arms of Rogers impaling the lions of Hawtrey. The background to the Rogers arms is white, showing that James had outlived Jane.

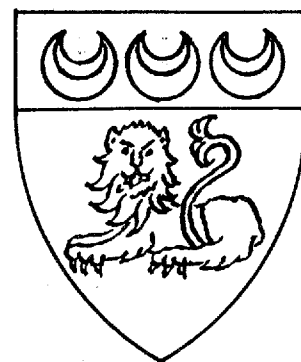
James Rogers' own hatchment tells more of his life story. In the centre are the arms of Rogers. On one side is a shield of the arms of Rogers impaling those of Arundell, six martlets, for his first wife, Frances Arundell. On the other side are the arms of Rogers impaling those of Hawtrey. The all-black background shows that James had married twice, and had died a widower.

The last Rogers hatchment is for Elizabeth, unmarried daughter of James and Jane Rogers. The arms of Rogers are shown on a lozenge, a diamond shape, for a single woman. A lozenge would also have been used for a widow.

There are two other hatchments in the sequence, for Ralph Deane's wife, Elizabeth, née Gosling, and for Ralph himself. Ralph was a cousin twice (two generations) removed of Elizabeth Rogers, and her eventual heir. The Deane arms show a lion rampant and three crescents, impaling Gosling's chevron between crescents.



DEANE 1



DEANE 2

The last heraldic commemoration of the Hawtrey-Rogers-Deane line is in the right hand light of the West Window. Francis Henry Deane, son of Ralph, was lay rector at the time of the major church restoration of 1870. However it will be noticed that the lion in this depiction of the Deane arms is lying down or 'couchant'. This may well be the correct version - Burke's General Armory gives *Gules, a lion couchant guardant Or, on a chief argent three crescents also gules* for Deane of Deanelands.

Of the four centuries long connection of the Hawtrey-Rogers-Deane family with Ruislip, three are recorded by this remarkable series of memorials and hatchments, a portion of our local heritage worthy of study and preservation.

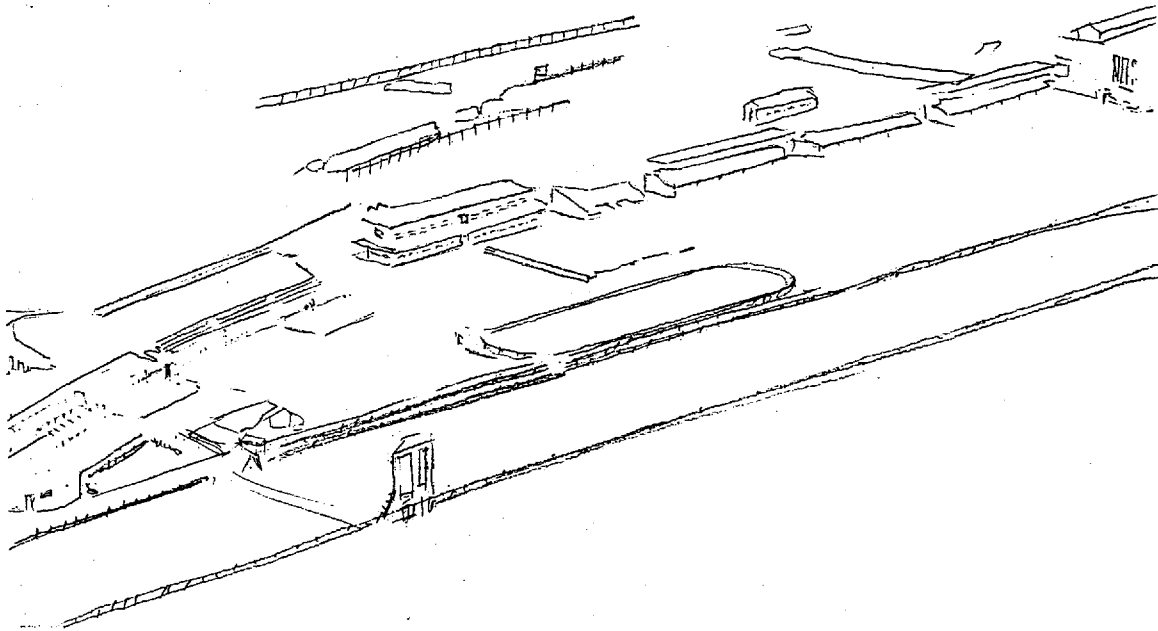
*Illustrations by Margaret Young*

#### *Sources*

Eileen Bowlt *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex*,  
Middlesex Heraldry Society Notes on the Heraldry in St. Martin's Church;  
Ursula Hawtrey Luard - Pedigrees of the Hawtrey and allied families.  
Burke's General Armory etc.

# **NORTHOLT RACE TRACK**

**by Denise Shackell**



It is unlikely that your local bookmaker would give you very long odds against the possibility that the council tenant chatting to his neighbour over his garden fence is standing on the precise spot where jockey T.R. Griffiths in 1938 urged on flying Jeb to win the Northolt Derby which was being televised for the first time.

The Shadwells, who had been Lords of the Manor since 1827, had gradually been selling their estates in Northolt as land was increasing in value and the copyhold system of tenure finished in 1924. In 1928 they were negotiating with the newly formed Northolt Racecourse Company and, after some opposition from the Harrow and Northolt Councils, the deal went through. Work started on the laying out of the track and the erection of the buildings required in the same year. It lay between the LNER and GWR lines.

The Racecourse Company had many famous names associated with it, but the chief backer was Mr John Wadell a wealthy industrialist. The company had been formed early in 1928 in order to concentrate pony racing at one track near London if possible. Previously there had been several small and unsatisfactory courses which catered for pony racing enthusiasts.

Racing commenced on 4th May 1929 under Pony Turf Club Rules. The course was one and a half miles in extent, although longer races could be run. Races varied in distance between five furlongs and two and a quarter miles.

Leonard Jayne writes in his history of Northolt Park:

*There were ultimately three stands, the largest one being built by Hanner Cubitt Ltd to the design of Oscar Faber. The stands were constructed on the cantilever principle and were of white fencing with concrete stages. Inside there were wooden seats, steps and boxes. On the wettest day, racegoers could eat, drink, sit down, bet and watch every yard of the running without a spot of rain touching them. There was plenty of plate glass everywhere bright and clean. In the restaurants, bars and passages racing could be watched if necessary free from wind and draughts. Bars were big, numerous, superbly appointed and scrupulously clean. Tattersall's bar underneath the biggest stand and running its length was really a large well lit hall in which there were lifts, cloakrooms and telephone boxes, the whole magnificently created and maintained. The bars and restaurants, the best, brightest and cleanest I have ever seen on any race course. They were designed and maintained in Savoy-Ritz-Dorchester manner.*

*I record with pleasure that Mr G.C. Noble the secretary of the Racegoers Association has said that upon his first visit to Northolt Park he paid 3s 6d, much on spec just to see what it was all about and in the course of the afternoon he went into the bar at the rear of the enclosure to be inclined to withdraw upon entry, thinking he had entered the Members' Bar in error.*

*Unlike most race courses the Paddock at Northolt Park is in front of the stands, so that those in Tattersall's Ring and the Tote stand enclosure could see the horses, riders, owners and trainers perfectly and so that those in the Members and cheapest enclosures could also see them.*

*I do not know of any stands where Tote betting facilities were so advanced and numerous as on the Northolt Park race course. Apart from the main Selling and Pay Out Booths, there were separate kiosks at the top of the stands to ease congestion and help those who did not want to leave the boxes or restaurants, while whole time uniformed attendants sold Tote tickets of various denominations when on patrol(2)*

Over the years many improvements were made and race course innovations tried out, including radio running commentaries on the races. An all electric totalizator came into use in 1930. In 1933 the large tote stand was erected which, after demolition, was re-erected at Brands Hatch motor racing circuit. In 1934 the inside of the cantilever stand was refurbished. The Members stand became a double decker and a new Trainer and Jockey's stand was built. The latter was the only one left on the site after the others were demolished and was unfortunately burnt down in 1957.(1)

Northolt Park stood on clay soil which got very heavy, fetlock deep in mud in April and October, and was very hard in summer.(2) By 1934 the improvements included an artificial watering system to alleviate this problem.

New stabling was built to accommodate eighty ponies. Further innovations included a large electric timing clock which could be seen by all the spectators.(1) The clock was later installed at Hawthorn Hill.(2)

To quote Leonard Jayne again:



*The starting gates would, I believe, be found unique in this country. They were known as Benjamin Barriers and were designed (and installed) in South Africa by one of that name. I cannot trace their use in any other course in Great Britain. These gates differ in three ways from the conventional shuttle principle used in this country. It is started unobtrusively by the Starter's foot, the tapes are attached on each side to a long arm whose action is out and up - most important of all - the tapes slip out from slots on each side of the gate if charged into by a rider ensuring that he can neither be hurt, pulled out of the saddle or both. These were installed in 1935.(2)*

For a time the track was extremely popular; the course was extended in 1935 by the addition of a bridge over Dabbs Hill Lane. Racing ceased shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. The course was taken over as an ordnance depot(3) and later as a prisoner of war camp.

After the war, it had been hoped to attract fresh capital and to restart racing. Grandiose schemes were prepared. The site was to be converted into a lido with swimming pools and tennis courts, with a country club atmosphere. These plans did not come to fruition and when the Receiver intimated that he would accept £240,000 for the estate the London County Council were given the first refusal.(1)

Mr Neil Christy, President of the Eccentric Club put in his proposal as a purchaser and developer of the course to avoid the large building scheme which would take place if the Council developed the site. He wanted Northolt Park to be zoned as a restricted permanent open space without compensation to him. He wanted residents to have twenty five acres of land in one corner for building homes, a park and a civic centre and to retain the rest as a race course.

He wished the Pony Turf Club to continue at Northolt as this had been the headquarters of the club. He said it was essential for export purposes that the small thoroughbred ponies should be raced to prove their worth. They could then be sold to foreign countries to bring in needed dollars.

However, Ealing Borough Council after many protests and a public enquiry bought the land in 1946 and obtained permission to build 900 dwellings on the site.

All that remains to be seen of the old race course is a portion of the old track which runs parallel to Mandeville Road and is preserved as a public open space. In Eastcote Lane, there still can be seen a short length of the original wooden fence which surrounded the site. Whilst in Petts Hill the main entrance gates with the drive in still survive.

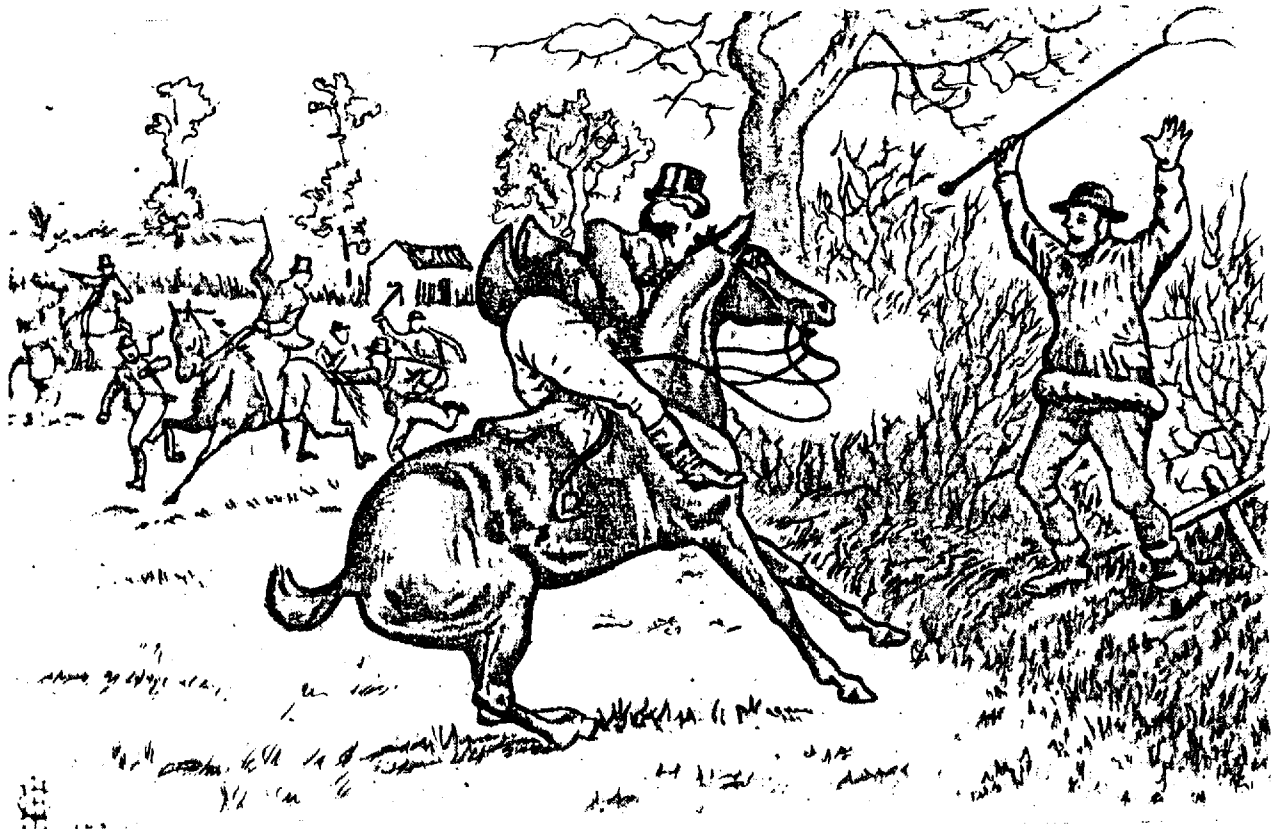
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1. Northolt Race Course 40 years on, *Northolt guide*, at Harrow Central Library.
2. Leonard Jayne, *Pony racing including the story of Northolt Park*
3. *Victoria County History, Middlesex Vol IV*



## A HUNTING WE WILL GO

by Eileen M. Bowlt



When local estates, both large and small were put up for sale in the 19th century, the auctioneers painted the delights of the countryside around Ruislip in glowing colours and as a special inducement to *sporting gentlemen* mentioned that the Old Berkeley Foxhounds hunted the surrounding area. They are referred to in 1869 when Eastcote Cottage in Wiltshire Lane was on the market (Fairacres is now on the site) and come after a description of the high position and views across fields to Pinner and the hills beyond. Haydon Hall was advertised for sale in 1883, though not actually sold and the Old Berkeley, the Hertfordshire Foxhounds, the Royal Buckhounds and the Colindale Staghounds were said to be local hunts. A few years later, in 1891, Daniel Norton offered Northwood Hall (now Denville Hall) and its 196 rolling acres to a discerning public with promises of enticing views of Crystal Palace, Knockholt Beeches and the Grandstand at Epsom from the grounds and the chance to hunt with the Queens' and Old Berkeley Hounds. (1)

Hunting was obviously popular at the time of these advertisements and had been so from, one might almost say, time immemorial, among the leisured and moneyed classes. By the early 19th century wealthy tradesmen from London and towns like Uxbridge joined the aristocracy in the local hunts. Originally the animals that were principally hunted were the deer. The earthworks in Park Wood bear eloquent testimony to Ruislip's medieval park, which was kept stocked with deer, being replenished on at least one occasion - 1270 - by live deer from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Harrow Wood. He, too, had a park at Pinner.

There are some early references to foxhunting in England; William d'Blatherwyck was *'huntsman to the King's foxhounds'* in the reign of Edward I and licences to hunt foxes were granted by Edward III in 1334, but it is not until the end of the 17th century that hounds were specially bred to hunt foxes only. Previously the same dogs had chased various animals, deer, hare, foxes etc. (2) Stag hunting gave way to foxhunting from the early/mid 18th century as fewer deer parks were being maintained.

A grant by the Provost & Fellows of King's College to John Hawtrey of Eastcote House in 1638/9 granted him the right to hunt 'buck, doe and fox etc' and 'hares, conies, partridges, pheasants and some add quails, woodcocks and water-fowl etc' for a period of ten years. Ralph Hawtrey the younger who died in 1719 had a licence from King's College to 'hawke, hunt, fish and fowle' in the manor of Ruislip (3) and in his will he left to 'John Owen my huntsman my pack of dogges and also my horse with all the accoutrements belonging to him which he usually rides a-hunting on'. Both of the above licences allowed the Hawtreys to stop others exercising hunting rights.

The 19th century hunts mentioned in the auction catalogues never seem to have met in Ruislip, although it is clear from descriptions of their runs that they must have crossed the parish from time to time. The Deanes (descendants of the Hawtreys) were very jealous of their shooting rights in the 19th century, both over the woodlands and across Manor Farm and as hunting with horse and hounds tends to damage coverts and disturb breeding birds, they may well have discouraged it in the area. Other major landowners nearby like the Coxes of Harefield Place and Hillingdon House, the Clarkes of Swakeleys and Lord Hillingdon of Hillingdon Court were equally keen on shooting and probably lukewarm toward hunting.

#### THE OLD BERKELEY

The Old Berkeley Foxhounds were formed towards the end of the 18th century by Frederick Augustus, 5th Earl Berkeley who was born in 1745 and whose seat was at Cranford, Middlesex. The members wore distinctive tawny coats (orange yellow) because an ancestor of his had kept kennels and 30 huntsmen in tawny coats at Charing (now Charing Cross) in the 16th century. The name Old Berkeley was adopted in 1810 after the 5th Earl's death, by Harvey Coombe who succeeded him as Master. (4)

According to writers like Nimrod in his *Hunting Tours* 1835 and Cecil who wrote *Records of the Chase* 1854 the Old Berkeley hunted over an enormous area from Wormwood Scrubs to Berkeley Castle and Bristol, which must have included N.W. Middlesex. The hounds were kept in kennels at Cranford, Middlesex; Gerrard's Cross, Bucks; Nettlebed, Oxon and Berkeley Castle, Glos, moving from one to another and probably hunting over one county at a time. The subscription was about £700 per annum in the middle of the 19th century. (5)

As London spread westwards the hunting country in Middlesex disappeared under a sea of bricks and mortar and about the middle of the century the Old Berkeley divided into two packs, the East and the West, with kennels at Chorleywood and High Wycombe respectively. So the potential owners of Northwood Hall and Haydon Hall would have had runs around the Rickmansworth area. The nearness to London was still something of a disadvantage to the Old Berkeley as it was said to have too few foxes and too many Cockney followers, who attended meets by hackney or wagonette and irritated farmers and landowners by following the hunt on foot in huge numbers. For this reason the hunt led a precarious existence between 1850 and 1914, but is in fact still in existence today.

## THE HERTFORDSHIRE

The Hertfordshire got its name in 1839, but was the continuation of a hunt begun at Hatfield in 1775 by the Marchioness of Salisbury who was probably the first woman to be an MFH. She continued in office until 1819 when she was 69 and sadly died in a fire at Hatfield House in 1835. Mr T. Fenwick-Harrison was Master at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries. (6)

## STAGHOUNDS

Mr Grantley Berkeley, the 2nd legitimate, but 6th actual son of the 5th Earl Berkeley, had staghounds at Cranford from 1824 to 1836 and hunted carted deer brought from Berkeley Castle and from Lord Craven's Hampstead Lodge. Carted deer started about 1728 as wild deer became less common. The deer were run down by the hounds with the hunters on horseback in pursuit, but were kept from being torn to pieces if at all possible, so that they could be carried to different meeting points throughout the season. Those of the Old Berkeley deer which survived were returned to Berkeley Castle to run with the wild deer in the park there, so as to recover their wildness and fleetness of foot for the next year.

The deer fled into some strange places: the Thames near Brentford for instance and into Lady Mary Hussey's drawing room at Hillingdon and on one occasion up the steps of 1, Montague Street, Russell Square! (7) Lady Mary Hussey and her husband lived in the Bishop of Worcester's house, which was in Royal Lane, Hillingdon, on the site of Bishopshalt School.(8)

The country hunted was called the Harrow country or Harrow Vale and is described by Lord Ribblesdale as "the smooth sea of emerald and virgin enclosures which Harrow spire commands." (9)The area so designated seems to have extended to Uxbridge Common, which was often the starting point for a run. The following account is given in a newspaper extract of 1826 :

*On Tuesday last a fine stag was turned out on Uxbridge Common from the Berkeley stag-cart before a very numerous and highly respectable field of sportsmen. A short time after the deer cleared the cart, he took to Page's Lane, one of the entrances into the town of Uxbridge, and with the dogs close at his haunches, backed by all the horsemen, passed in a glorious style through the whole of the principal streets; a most gratifying sight, to the inhabitants who were highly delighted at so novel a sight. At the top of Uxbridge he leaped the fences and passed through the enclosures of R.H. Cox, Esq Hillingdon House and into those of T.T Clarke, Esq Sweeteleys (sic) where he was taken after a very short run.(10)*

Pages Lane was the old name for Harefield Road and Sweeteleys was of course Swakeleys. Hillingdon House still stands within RAF Uxbridge.

Grantley Berkeley in his *Life & Recollections* also extolls Harrow Vale, but says that it was a *beautiful but very deceitful vale as after a frost the smooth-looking fields were heavier than ploughed land and in wet weather after frost there were very many fields in which horses were reduced to a trot* (11). Most of the parishes of N.W. Middlesex had been enclosed by 1825 and the farmers were in the process of converting old arable into hay to increase their profits and frequently complained about the hunt and claimed damages. As early as 1808 a meeting of noblemen, gentlemen and farmers of Harrow, Pinner, Watford & Stanmore, held at Stanmore, had passed a resolution signed by 59 persons, against hunting, because parks, gardens and pleasure grounds had been entered and harmed. (12)

A number of farmers served notice of trespass on Mr Berkeley, to keep the horses off their land and stop the breaking down of fences and hedgerows. Farmer Baker whose fields lay under Harrow-on-the-Hill brought an action for assault and trespass after a particularly violent skirmish when he and three of his labourers had tried to lock the doors of a barn into which the stag had run, followed by the hounds. Mr Grantley Berkeley disabled one man by a severe blow across the forearm with the iron hammer of his whip and upon being joined by George Hawkins of Ickenham (brother-in-law of Thomas Truesdale Clarke of Swakeleys & son-in-law of Mr Gell of Buntings), Mr Norton, a coal merchant of Uxbridge and "many more stout friends", siezed the pitchforks and shovels from the farmer's men and got his stag out of the barn, relatively unscathed. Mr Baker won £100 damages despite Mr Berkeley employing Henry Brougham as his advocate and the angry defendant claimed that *"in reality sixpence would have covered it all"* (13).

Messrs Norton of Uxbridge suggested inviting the farmers to a dinner and promising the opportunity of coursing to any who owned or could borrow greyhounds and also gifts of venison and game, but they would not be appeased.

Mr Berkeley's memoirs show him to have been incredibly arrogant, though no doubt little different from other gentlemen of his day. When the stag on one occasion jumped some garden pales at Uxbridge which were too high for the hounds, he dismounted to break the fence to let them through and then heartily kicked the owner of the property who had come up behind to remonstrate with him. At another time he broke the head of the footman of Mr Brett of Hillingdon Heath, because he was closing a field gate against the hunt on his master's orders. Mr Berkeley eventually and with great reluctance, paid the doctor's bill.(14) Partly because of the general ill-feeling the Old Berkeley Staghounds were given up in 1836 and Grantley Berkeley moved to the Oakley Hunt in Bedfordshire, where the country was more wild and open than in Harrow Vale. Hubert de Burgh kept some staghounds at West Drayton after Mr Berkeley's resignation of the hounds at Cranford. (15)

### ROYAL BUCKHOUNDS

The Royal Buckhounds, otherwise known as the Queen's Hounds hunted deer carted out from Windsor to such places as Hayes, Southall and Uxbridge. The hunt horses used to go on to Uxbridge or Hillingdon the night before hunting. There was a lively run on 2nd March 1868 when the Prince of Wales was in the hunt and the deer ran from Denham Court, past Pinner, over Harrow-on-the-Hill and was eventually taken in Paddington Station Goods Yard. It must have passed through Harefield and Northwood en route. (16) In December 1869 there was a meet at Uxbridge Common and *"the deer on being turned out went straight away to the Windmill Hill near Ruislip, then over some large fields rather deep in places, the fences being strong but negotiable, in the direction of Pinner, crossing the London & N.W. Railway between Pinner and Harrow stations"*. The deer was eventually captured in a pond near Chipping Barnet. (17) Other runs started at Down Barns and at Northolt.

Lord Ribblesdale considered that the one drawback of the Harrow Country was that there were no large estates with resident owners with a mind and disposition to help hunting. He thought that too much of the land was owned by non-residents and occupied by tenants and that the land being so near to London had a high accommodation value and was let to cattle-dealers for summer grazing, causing the farmers to guard their meadows and pastures so zealously. He makes no reference to shooting interests. The Queen's Hounds like the Old Berkeley handed out douceurs to the Middlesex farmers in the form of paddock tickets for Ascot Races. (18)



During the seven month hunting season the deer were fed by keepers as they were carted about the countryside and any that survived the season were returned to Windsor and kept in a paddock until the next year and consequently became rather tame. The Old Berkeley deer running in the park during the closed season emerged in better trim than the Royal deer.

### **COLINDALE HUNT**

The only reference to the Colindale Hunt so far found is to a Draghunt which was held before 1899, when a protest was made about it.(19)

### **CANES HERGENSES (Harrovian Dogs) 1834-7**

Some boys at Harrow School kept beagles in a cottage pigsty at Roxeth and later at Greenhill during these years and hunted hares on foot, three days a week, without the knowledge of, or more probably with the connivance of masters. They slipped down ropes let out of their windows before dawn on Tuesdays, which was a whole holiday and often had to wait for daylight to find their first hare. The Thursday and Saturday half holidays were also taken up hunting. Several of these young men later made names for themselves on the hunting field. (20)

### **DRAGHUNTS**

Before the First World War there were four draghunts in operation in this corner of Middlesex : the Colindale, the Middlesex, the Greenford under A.W.Perkins of dye fame and the Household Brigade Draghunt. The Harrow Observer 2nd April 1932 reported what was expected to be the last of the Household Brigade hunts because of the building developments rapidly engulfing the area. However a new Pinner Farmers' draghunt started in October 1932 with a trial run at Hundred Acres Farm, Northwood (now Express Dairy Depot). Two members of the Robart family who owned Hundred Acres took part in the hunt. Their first real meet on 29th October ran from Pinner Park to Rayners Lane and the second meet on the 5th November started at the Industry in Hayes and ran to the White Hart at Yeading, with checks at Yeading Lane and at Glebe Farm, Ruislip.

How much interest was there in hunting in the Ruislip area? References to it are sparse. None of the elderly residents who have been interviewed have ever mentioned going to watch a meet or to follow a hunt, although many of the men used to miss school in order to go beating for shooting parties, which shows how important shooting game birds was in this parish. However, the hunts mentioned above obviously met within reasonable distances of Ruislip, Eastcote and Northwood and it is difficult to believe that no one ever took a day's holiday and went off to see the sport. If any reader has heard of such a thing, perhaps from an elderly neighbour, I should be very pleased to hear from you.

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## FRANK WELCH

by Alexander Gander

*(Alexander Gander was one of the old boys who was influenced in many ways by Frank Welch).*



*Frank Welch Court February 1968*

Frank Welch Court old peoples home is in Catlins Lane, quite near to the *Case is Altered* Public House, but few people know who Frank Welch was. This generous and kindly man was a partner in a City of London stationers quite close to St. Pauls Cathedral. As a young man, he lived in North London, but came to Pinner and lived in Love Lane. He was a devout Christian and a member of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), belonging to the Uxbridge Society for many years. All his life he was interested in social work, natural history, music and the environment with a special interest in gardening.

As a young man during the First World War, Frank was introduced to the Wesleyan Mission in Cable Street, close to the old London Dock in St. George's in the East, where they had started a boys' club, and Frank went there to help. It was very close to the old Ratcliff Highway with its many pubs of ill repute with pimps and prostitutes preying on the seamen who had just been paid off after long trips at sea.

This was the environment, quite strange to Frank, to which he was introduced. He was shocked and decided to do something practical. As a few bombs had been dropped on the district, Frank invited a few of the lads to his home in Pinner for week-ends, to avoid the danger.



*Frank Welch & lads haymaking at High Meadow*

The *Paddy's Goose*, the most notorious vice den on the Highway, had been closed and the Wesleyans also ran a mission and boys' club there. With a committee of other Christians, they bought other derelict public houses on this thoroughfare, known to sailors all over the world, and the seven clubs of the Highway were formed to cater for all boys and girls from any religious denominations.

The committee persuaded some Society people to become interested in the clubs, including the Balfour and Carson families and the De la Warrs. Mr. F.C. Mills, a barrister from the banking family, had started Broad Street Boys' Club in 1885 and, being on the Highway, it joined the clubs which produced many fine sportsmen, including British Olympic members.

Seeing how the lads from the East end of London enjoyed the green fields of Pinner, Frank hired The Dingle from Sir Wilfred Yarrow, the ship builder, and for many years enjoyed the week-end camps there. In The Dingle were two cottages built of ships' plating by Sir Wilfred as an experiment. But I remember them as being very damp through the condensation and no more were built. The Yarrows' London residence was *Blythwood*, which later became an old people's home.

Later, Frank negotiated a camping site at Pinner Woods, which was well used by the clubs until the site was sold for the building of the Pinner Hill Golf club. At this time, Frank bought a couple of fields in between Cuckoo Hill and Catlins Lane and built a house called *High Meadow*. For some years the *over 18s* were invited to camp in the grounds and Frank built a pavilion, a large open shed for meals, three tennis courts and a toilet and shower.



*Mothers' day at High Meadow*

These amenities were much appreciated by the hundreds of people who used them over many years, and two of the lads who learnt their tennis at High Meadow became London Parks' Champions. The club girls were not forgotten because they were allowed to camp at the Nichols farm at Northwood, which they used until 1945.

The 1939-45 war was a disaster for the clubs; several were bombed and others were used to feed and house many families. Frank opened his house and grounds to these homeless people and also had friends from other London Societies, as well as refugees from Austria and Germany.

Frank loved gardening and, over the years, the two large fields were transformed into beautiful gardens, with a variety of fruit trees, a large greenhouse, shrubs and flowers everywhere. He encouraged the lads by giving them allotments and, every summer week-end, the lads would walk to Pinner Station on their way home with large bunches of flowers which they had grown. Each year, the mothers were invited to *High Meadow* and Mrs. Welch would entertain them and help with the teas. These East End ladies, who had rarely seen such lovely gardens, looked forward each year to the trip.

Frank would play tennis with the lads and was quite a good player until he turned sixty. Anyone who was interested in music, could always go up to the house for a piano recital, for Frank was a fine musician. Through him I became interested in music and learned to play the cello, and he was very surprised indeed when, some years after the war, I visited him with my son and daughter, and our trio played a selection of carols to him and his wife on their wedding anniversary.

Frank Welch was a religious man and practised as a Christian, but he did not try to convert people by persuasion, but by example; he was quite a philosopher and had many sayings. When one chap said that his allotment was full of weeds, Frank replied *There's no such thing as a weed, they are all God's flowers!* Another time, when speaking about charity and sympathy, he quoted *Sympathy without relief, is like mustard without beef!*

Later in life, Frank Welch became bedridden and each Friday, several friends went to his bedside for a chat. His brain was very active and he used to enjoy these evenings very much. He was looked after with loving care by his nurses, Mrs. Welch having died some time previously. Frank Welch was nearly 90 when he died and, in his will, he left a large part of his ground to the old Ruislip and Northwood Council. One condition was that his long-serving Nurse Katharine was to have the first flat to be built for old people, and in 1991 she is still in residence there.

Thousands of people who used his grounds for over 60 years, will always remember him for his wonderful generosity and I am sure that the old people now living in the lovely flats appreciate them too.



***Is there a connection between South Hylton & Ruislip?***

South Hylton lies on the south side of the River Wear near Sunderland - a long way from Ruislip. Yet in 1931-2 the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council gave money to the South Hylton Community Centre. This intriguing fact has come to light because Carolyn Cotton (Local History Librarian at Uxbridge Library) has received an inquiry about it from Sunderland. So far RNUDC Minutes have provided no clues.

***Have readers got any ideas?***



## FOOTNOTES TO PARK HOUSE

by Valery Cowley

In the 1981 Journal, Eileen Bowlit traced the early history of Park House and its estate, which I followed up from 1870, in the 1985 issue and in *Ruislip Around 1900* (RNELHS Research Group 1982). The house, behind modern shop fronts, is now the local home of The Royal British Legion, in the High Street.

In July, 1890, George Barton Kent, grandson of the founder of the firm of brush manufacturers, died at his country house, Ruislip Park. His memorial, a large Carrara marble foliated cross, stands to the left of the churchyard path from the Eastcote Road lych-gate. Barton was his mother's maiden name. His wife Julia, a distant cousin, is buried with him. She died in February 1897.

The easternmost window of the St. Michael's aisle commemorates him in the inscription beneath: *To the Glory of God and in memory of George Barton Kent 1829-1890*. At the top, in two small lights, are a sun and a star. Below are three large lights depicting from left to right facing, Saints James the Great, Peter and John the Apostle. James and John are framed in mid-blue borders with vine leaf and grape segments, while Peter's border is identical, only in red.

Bearded James has the cockleshell which is his emblem in his blue hat and he carries in his left hand a hooked staff with a pilgrim's water bottle, symbolising the pilgrimage to his shrine at Compostela in Spain. In his right hand, he clasps a yellow and white volume, his supposed Epistles. His blue and red robes are trimmed with gold and he wears a red halo. He stands on green tiles, against an orange-brown background.

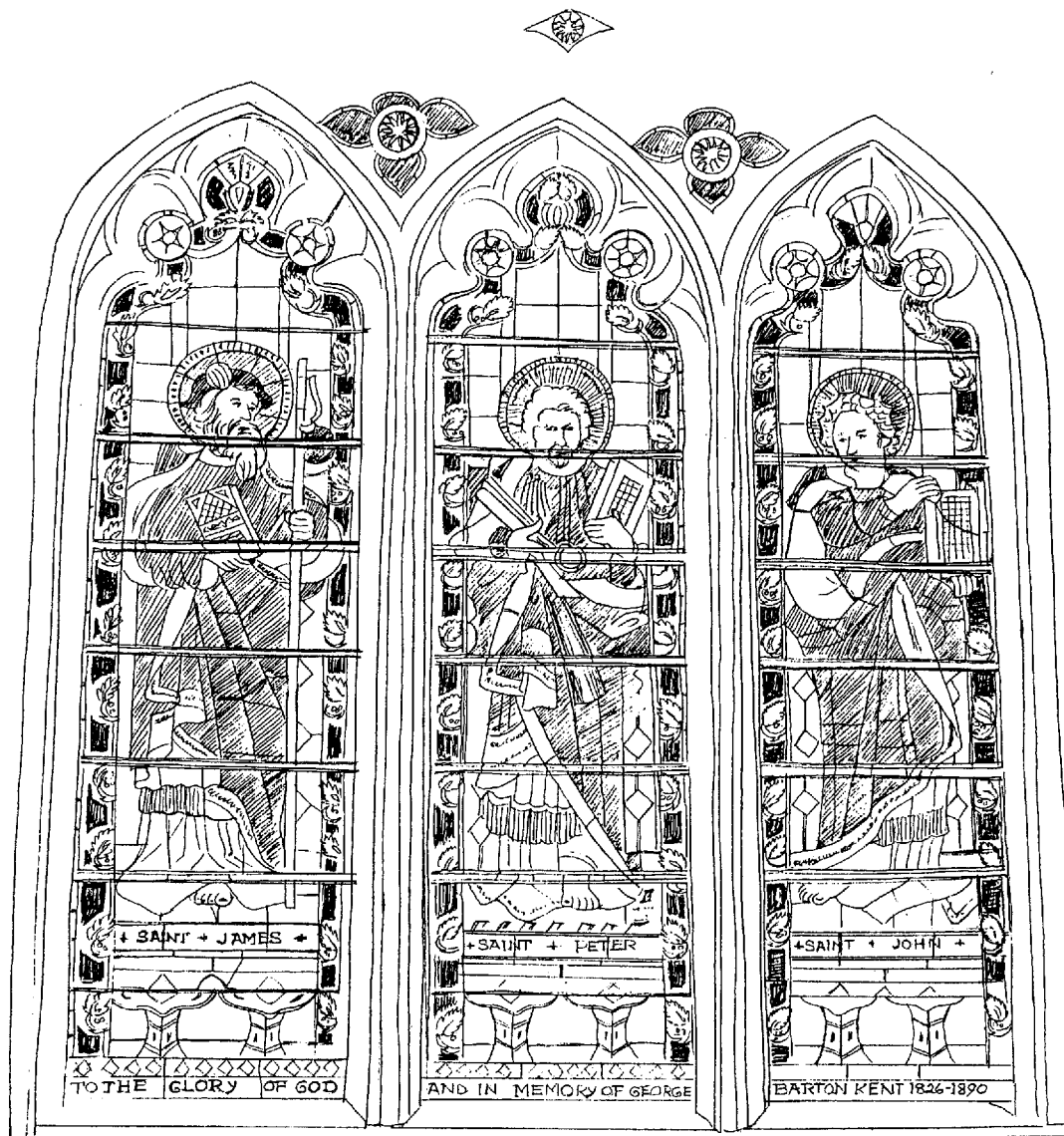
Clean-shaven, golden haired John, as the beloved Disciple, also clasps a yellow and white volume, the Gospel of St John the Evangelist, with whom he used to be identified. His halo is green and his robes are a mixture of wine-red, clover and white with a similar gold fringe to the others'. Background and floor are as for James.

Peter, with beard and moustache, has a gold halo and holds his yellow and white Epistles in his left hand and his emblem, a large golden key, in his right. In gold, blue and white robes, he stands on clover tiles against a mid-green background. Each saint is clearly labelled above a row of supporting pedestals.

The 1889 and 1899 Directories show Cornelius Thompson as occupier of Park House, his wife having bought it for £5,000. It is she who is commemorated by the adjacent second window from the east in the north aisle. Beneath runs the inscription:

*To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Fanny Rosina Thompson of Ruislip Park who died on the 28th day of April 1900 aged 64 years. This window is dedicated by her affectionate and sorrowing husband Cornelius Thompson.*

The three lights each have an elaborate canopy in gold and white with a little red. Left facing depicts the Annunciation. At the top, a cherub with a green halo and pink wings peeps over a wall, below which are two blue cherubs with dark pink haloes. The white and yellow Dove of the Holy Spirit plummets emitting golden rays onto the head of the Virgin Mary. In blue and white robes, with a gold and silver halo, she kneels at a prie-dieu, book open, hands folded, set against a gold fringed curtain. An angel with a white and silver halo bends over her, his left hand raised in benediction, and a lily, emblem of Mary's purity, held aloft in his right hand. His green wings are silhouetted against a dark blue sky with stars above a wooden paling. Bottom left facing, another white lily stands in a blue vase on a grey tiled floor. Also in shades of grey, an



ass and an ox with a nose ring stand behind the Virgin, prefiguring the stable of the Nativity, shown in the centre light.

Arching over the Holy Family, an angel with pink wings and white and yellow robes occupies the top right facing area of the centre light. Under a thatched penthouse on the right, Joseph, in a green overmantle and violet tunic, leans on a staff, to indicate his traditional advanced age. He and Mary have yellow and white haloes. Mary, in blue overmantle lined in peach over a white tunic, sits with her hands raised in adoration of the Christ Child. He has a greenish-grey and pink halo and lies on eared straw in a wooden crib, whose square legs protrude beneath a pale pink cloth against a pinkish-grey ground.

The right facing light depicts the Flight into Egypt. Cherubs' heads in various shades of pink send gold rays down on the Holy Family. Blue sky surmounts grey-green trees. Mary rides side-saddle on a high pommelled saddle with a pink, quilted under-cloth. She wears a blue and turquoise cloak, and a yellow and white tunic which matches the Family's haloes. She carries Jesus in her left arm, only his face being visible. Joseph, on her left, is in deep pink and white robes with yellow boots. The axe over his left shoulder indicates his trade of carpentry and with his right hand he leads the donkey by a rope. Only three legs of the animal are visible on the brown-yellow ground. A pinkish bridle and breast-harness contrast with its brown hide.

Narrow white and yellow pilasters divide the three lights and two cherubs' heads with pink wings occupy the larger top lights, while the central small one contains a white and blue cherub's head. The ensemble is somewhat reminiscent of the work of Henry Holliday, but there appears to be no attribution.

# COURT ROLLS AND OTHER SIXTEENTH CENTURY SOURCES

by Derek Jacobs

## GENERAL

Sixteenth century Court Rolls, when considered together with the 1565 Terrier and sixteenth century wills, can sometimes be useful in piecing together family relationships and in giving some insight into life in Ruislip at that period.

The Terrier was a survey made of land occupancy in the year 1565 and the Court Rolls considered in this article are those held in the Greater London Record Office which are only for the latter part of the century. Although not explicitly stated, these rolls would appear to relate to proceedings of the *Court Baron* (see below).

The main bulk of the Rolls are held by King's College Cambridge.

## TYPES OF COURT

In general, there were two types of court, namely, the *Court Leet* and the *Court Baron*. These were responsible for the smooth running of the manorial unit including the appointment of officials such as:-

- reeves* who represented the parish and collected the lord's dues,
- headboroughs* or *constables* to keep the peace and summon men to jury service,
- haywards* to look after fences and the common stock of animals,
- woodwards* or forest keepers,
- swineherds*,
- pindars* who were responsible for the pound in which stray animals were kept

and, probably the most popular appointment,

- ale tasters* who tested the quality of ale and beer sold within the manor. Quite often the ale taster was also responsible for testing the quality of bread as well.

### Court Leet.

This term usually refers to a manorial court, although it could apply to a Hundreds court. It dealt with criminal offences not punishable by common law (usually then dealt with at the Assizes) and offences involving sums of money of over £2. It also dealt with the maintenance of highways and ditches. It was a court of record and a public jurisdiction presided over by the lord or his representative and each male over the age of 12 or 16, depending on the place, was obliged to attend. The court met at least twice a year.

Appointments of manor officers and the punishment of offences were recorded in the rolls of the *Court Leet*. Very early rolls might also contain details of the management of the common fields.

### Court Baron.

This was a manorial court which enforced the customs of the manor. It was the property of the lord and was a private jurisdiction. Originally the Homage or Jury at meetings had to consist of at least two freeholders but with the

decline of this form of tenure, copyhold tenants formed the Homage and the Court Baron became a Customary Court Baron. The main business of the Court included:-

Escheats, that is the reversion to the Lord or Crown of an Estate when the tenant died without heirs, when the heir had not attained majority, or when the tenant had committed an offence for which his estate was forfeit,

The surrenders and transfer of land,

Dower administration relating to that part of an estate that a widow could claim during her life,

The agricultural management of commons and wastes,

The rights of lord and tenants,

Minor and common law offences and for issues involving £2 or less.

Transfers or grants of land were recorded on the rolls of the *Court Baron*. In the case of copyhold tenure, a copy of the relevant minute was given to an incoming tenant and was deemed to be the title deed.

## EXAMPLES OF LAND TRANSFER & FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

### General.

A term frequently used in Court Roll entries relating to land transfers is *Remainder*. This is the entitlement to an estate dependent on the termination of another ownership. When a copyhold property was transferred, it was surrendered to the Court and the purchaser, or inheritor, was admitted to it by the Court. Such a land transfer also often refers to a further person to whom the property would be 'remaindered', and thus can form a link to three successive owners of a property.

### Handing on land within the family.

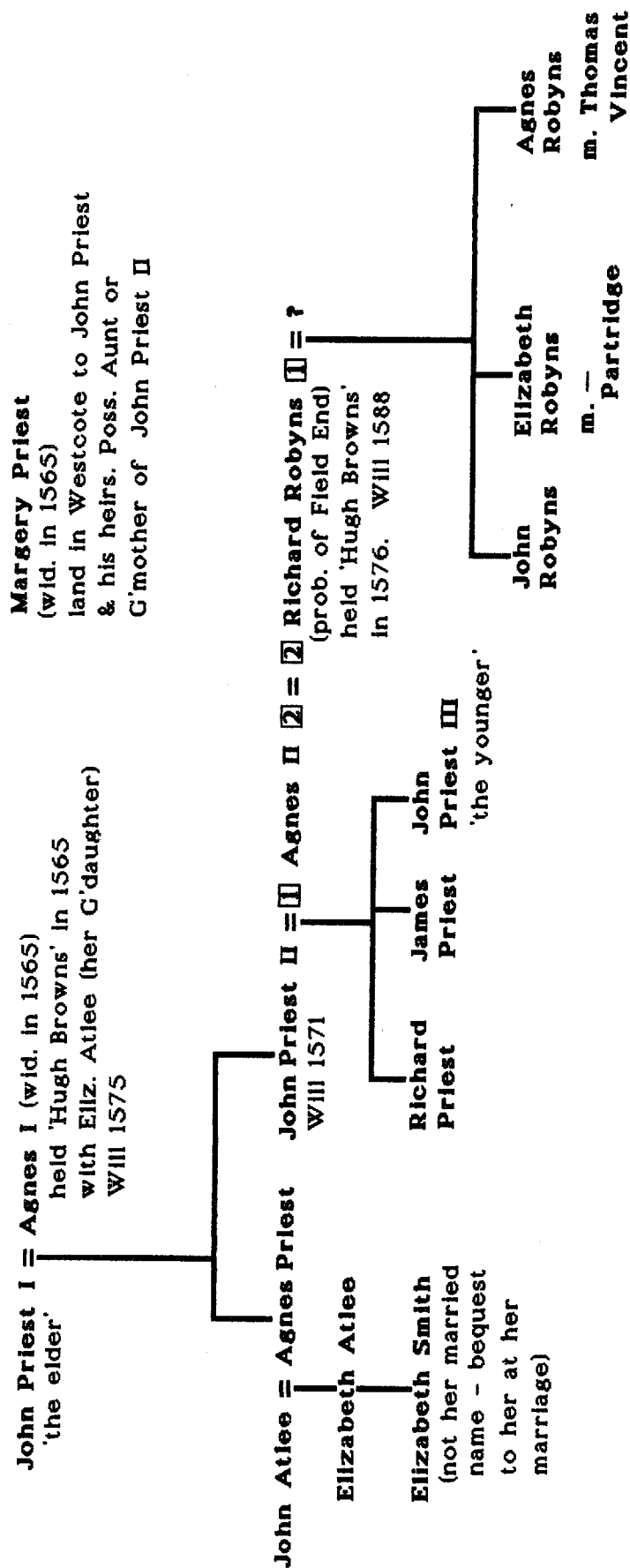
Two Richard Robyns are mentioned in the Terrier, one being referred to as 'smith' and the other as 'of Fieldend'. (This is Fieldend, Ruislip rather than Fieldend, Eastcote). A Roll entry dated 21 April 1579 relates to the 'smith'. It states that Isabell Robyns the widow of the late Richard Robyns, smith, is now dead since the last Court and that she held by copy for the term of her life *a cotage wythe a lyttle backsyde*. After her death, this property was due to pass to their son Henry Robyns, but he had already died during his mother's lifetime and, while *lyinge in extremes* had surrendered the property to his wife, Aise, until their son Henry came of age. Thus this entry gives three generations of the Robyns family and specifies the handing on of this piece of land through these three generations.

This entry also helps to establish that a will dated 1588 made by a Richard Robyns cannot relate to the smith, since he was dead in 1579. This 1588 will also refers to a wife named Agnes.

The 1565 Terrier refers to two cottages held by Richard the smith, one called *Clack*, the other in Westcote and it is not clear which of them is the one referred to in the 1579 Roll entry as being held by Isabell.

### Transfer of land. (See family tree).

The Terrier states that *Agnes Priest & Elizabeth Lee hold in copyhold a messuage in ruins with a meadow containing 4 acres called Hugh Browns*. (The



*Tree showing possible links between the Priest, Atlee & Robyns Families*



reference then continues by specifying the site of this property, which was, in fact, in the vicinity of the Ruislip Sainsburys).

One of the Court Rolls states that on 23 July 1576 George Nycholas surrendered a piece of land abutting upon *the land of Richard Robyns called Hewe Brownes* to the use of Wyllm Robartes & Richard Robyns. Thus the property *Hugh Browns* can be traced from Agnes Priest in 1565 to Richard Robyns in 1576.

The transfer of *Hugh Browns* from Agnes Priest to Richard Robyns and the link between these two families becomes clearer when the Court Rolls are examined in conjunction with the Wills and Terrier.

The will of John Priest dated 1571 refers to his wife Agnes and his sons James & John. The Agnes Priest of the 1565 Terrier is referred to as a widow and is therefore not the Agnes referred to in John's will of 1571. The will of Richard Robyns (of Fieldend) dated 1588 refers to Richard and John Priest, the sons of his wife Agnes. It would therefore seem that Agnes the widow of John Priest remarried to Richard Robyns. Thus she is not the Agnes Priest, widow, who made a will in 1575. This last mentioned will refers to a daughter Agnes Atlye and to an Elizabeth Atlye. In a Court Roll dated 1576, Agnes Priest surrendered property to the use of John Alley and to Elizabeth Alley, his daughter and also refers to Elizabeth's daughter Elizabeth Smith. It therefore seems that the widow Agnes Priest had a daughter Agnes who married John Atlye, or Alley, and that they had a daughter Elizabeth Atlee. Moreover, it would also seem that this daughter had a daughter Elizabeth Smith (presumably illegitimately as she is referred to by her maiden name).

Referring back to the Terrier, *Hugh Browns* was held jointly by Agnes Priest and Elizabeth Lee, that is Grandmother & Granddaughter if we assume that 'Lee' and 'Atlye' are the same. (The name Atlye is sometimes written as at Lee). This same Roll also refers to the surrender by Agnes Priest of land to James Priest, son of John deceased, and to his brothers Richard and John, which re-inforces the theory concerning the children of John and Agnes.

In 1558, a John Priest and his son are both named as overseers of a will. The son cannot be that referred to in the will of John Priest in 1571, as he would have been too young. A likely explanation therefore is that this son John is the John who made the will and that he too had a father John married to an Agnes (the holder of *Hugh Browns*).

It is not possible to determine the maiden name of either of the two Agneses. However, the will of Hugh at Ferne in 1544 makes a bequest to his goddaughter Agnes Reading, which could possibly put her in the right age bracket to be the Agnes who later married Richard Robyns (Agnes II).

The 1565 Terrier also refers to a Margery Priest who held land during her lifetime which was to pass to John Priest after her death. She could therefore be the mother of the eldest John (who was dead by 1565) and the grandmother of the second John Priest who was to inherit the land on her death. Alternatively, she could have been an aunt of the second John Priest.

A possible family tree linking these individuals is shown in the figure.

In the 1576 Roll entry referred to above, Agnes Priest also left land to Elizabeth Alleye [Atleel] on the condition that she paid a sum of money to her (Elizabeth's) daughter Elizabeth Smith.

#### **A problem concerning inheritance.**

In a 1592 Court roll entry, Elizabeth Smith is involved in a land dispute. Before his death, Rafe Redinge surrendered his copyhold to his wife Wenefred for the term of her life, and thereafter to his son John and his heirs on the condition that he (John) paid £30 to Elizabeth Smyth on her marriage. In default, part of the copy was to go to Elizabeth.

Wenefred paid her fine and was admitted, but John did not and was therefore not admitted. It is stated that, later, John surrendered the property to his mother for the term of her life, with the remainder to Elizabeth. Subsequently, John died and it was established that Richard Redinge of Sigers was his heir.

Elizabeth claimed to be admitted to the property according to the surrender of John and Richard claimed to be admitted as John's heir according to the surrender of Rafe.

The outcome of this dispute is not stated nor is it clear what the relationship was between Rafe Reading and Elizabeth Smith.

#### **EXAMPLES OF MISDEMEANOURS**

Not everyone was willing to perform the functions required by the Court. In 1576, copyholders Richard Cogges, John Este of Ascott, John Este of Harrow, William Nicholas of Westcott, John Lyon and Thomas Bailye were presented at a Court for refusing to serve the Lord at that Court. They all said that they were ready to serve the Queen for the Leet Court, but not the Lord of the Manor in the Court Baron. Others are similarly accused of refusing to serve. Even when they did serve, the function was not always diligently performed and in 1579 for example, a Headborough, Robert Nicholas was accused of taking a surrender and not having brought it to Court.

Anyone serving would probably have been conscious of the fact that he had to live with his neighbours after his period of service and this seems to have influenced the decisions of some jurors and on some occasions at least they did not appear to be over anxious to convict people brought before the Court.

In 1577, a Jury was charged with the task of enquiring whether *cappes* were being worn or not and reported that as far as they could tell all had *cappes*. They added that they could not tell whether the men concerned *were orderly or not*.

They also asked for a longer period of time to decide whether George Atley should have *a passage or waye into his grownd at Norwoode syde*.

They were however quite definite that no watch had been kept since Ascension Day.



# MANOR OF RUISLIP

## BOOK OF ENTRIES 1589-1681

by Jim McBean

One of the record books of the Ruislip manorial court is in the manuscript section of the British Library under the reference *Add Ms 9367*. The book is confined to a record of the receipts of the manor court arising from the various dealings in land in the manor. It spans the period from Elizabeth I to Charles II. The purpose of the book is set out in the heading:

*Book of Entries of all such licences granted in court and surrenders as have passed from one to another between the Tenants of the Manor of Ryslippe in the Cty. of Middlesex holden of the Kings College in Cambridge together with their several fines quit rents and composition rents due upon every such above mentioned particular lycence and surrender beginning on 28th year of ye reign of the Sovereign Queen Elizabeth and in the year of our Lord 1589 herafter followeth viz:-*

*First A copy of the survey of the Copyhold lands tenements messuages and cottages of the manor of Ryslippe with the new increase of rent paid upon an agreement of the same composition by the tenants unto Kings College agreed upon and compounded for their fines as it was first taken and paid half yearly viz:-*

(There follows a long list of the tenants of Ruislip with acreages and rents. Only the first few names are set out here in order to show the form the list takes:-)

John Willeston gent holdeth	135 acres	and payeth half yearly	24s 7d
George Ashby esquire	65 acres	"	10s 3d
Mr Smythe	1 acre	"	4d
Mr Saunders	106 acres	"	18s 8d
Mr Anstey	53 acres	"	9s 4d
Roger Stackhurst	38 acres	"	6s 8d
John Coggs	27 acres	"	4s 11d

*Second. Licences and Surrenders granted in court and passing from tenant to tenant within the said manor of Ryslippe together with their several fines quit rents and composition rent particularly due upon the same as hereafter followeth viz:-*

**1589 Ryslippe**

**At a Court Holden 19 day of April 1589**

*John Rowse surrenders to William Rowse five pieces of arable land  
Fine 12d    Quit rent 12d    Composition rent 12d*

This is the opening entry of the main part of the book and entries in this form, not all quite so vague as to details, continue through to the last page, folio 212. Copies for the forty nine years 1632-1681 have been made and these have been deposited with the Society's records at Manor Farm Library. the entries for the opening period 1589-1631 remain to be copied.

The Book of Entries is a vellum covered volume and was presumably compiled by a court clerk. The handwriting is reasonably clear, only one or two words here and there being difficult to decipher.

The entries are for the most part brief and seem to be a sort of precis of the court rolls. They are strictly confined to a record of transactions in land and to the grant of licences. There is no reference at all to the many other matters dealt with in a manorial court, but it has to be remembered that manor courts at this late stage had become less important in the lives of the inhabitants.

### **The Courts**

During the forty nine years covered by this survey there is a record of sixty five courts being held. At first the records are headed *At a Court holden on .....* with the date, but this is later expanded sometimes to *Court Baron* and sometimes to *Court Leet and Court Baron*, two are headed *Private Court*. The varying headings make no difference to the form or procedure. The most popular month for meetings of the court was May with April as a second choice; meetings in other months occurred but were unusual. It is noted that the rhythm of the spring meetings of the court was disrupted during the Commonwealth and early Restoration years.

### **The Entries**

The entries themselves are of great interest since as well as giving the names of the tenants of the manor and occasionally a reference to their families and relations, they also give brief details of field names or localities. Occasionally properties are named although by far the greater number of entries are distinctly vague as to the whereabouts of the property referred to .

The following is an example of the transactions recorded in the form set out in the book:-

***folio 158 23rd day of November 1660***

*Mathew Waller (snr) surrenders 2 lands arable and meadow lying in the common fields to Mathew Waller (jnr) and his heirs*

*Fine 3d    Quit rent 3d    Composition rent 3d*

This is a straightforward entry in its simplest form and gives little information other than the name of a Ruislip tenant and his son. There are 104 similar entries in the period covered and 79 instances where the site is described as copyhold land. A little more helpful are entries where the description is Ascot fields (230 instances), Norwood (137) and Westcote (173) which at least put the property in a particular quarter of the manor.

A little more detailed are references to the common fields as the location of the lands surrendered eg., Alderson field, Bourne field, Church field, East field, Marlpit field, Stenefield, Windmill field and Well field. The following is an example:-

***folio 107    21st of May 1641***

***Winchester to Andrews***

*Edmund Winchester surrenders 6 lands arable and meadow in wellfield to John Andrews gent and Frances his wife for life ye remainder to the heirs of John.*

*Fine 8d    Quit rent 8d    Composition rent 8d*

Even more specific are instances where the land surrendered is stated to be in a particular locality eg Berry Street, Field End, Hale End, Joel Street, Popes End, Well Green etc. Examples are:-

**Folio 96 24 May 1673**

*Thomas Marsh surrenders his remainder after his mother in the close barn and smiths shop at field end ascoat to John Paty of Harefield senior and his heirs.*

*Fine and quit rents 10d Composition rent 5d*

The same court records the displeasure of the lord of the manor:-

*The lord granted to Thomas Fulmer (sen) for life ye house and ground at Kings End and the five lands to Agnes his wife for life the estate being forfeited by letting the said lands contraye to the custome of the manor. Fine 3s 7d.*

Finally the entries occasionally pinpoint specific properties:-

**Folio 173 12 April 1665**

*John Wichester (jn) popes end surrenders a cottage with appertenances called Cookoes and 5 acres of meadow thereto adjoining a cottage with appertenances lying in Norwood .....etc*

**Folio 117 17 May 1644**

*William Nickolas son and heir of William Nickolas of Heidons deceased surrenders and releaseth all his rights title or interest which he had or might claim in the house and ground bought of his said father by Alice Countess Dowager of Derby to William Bridges Esq. and his heirs.*

This entry incidentally confirms that there was no intervening owner of Haydon Hall between William Nickolas and the Countess Dowager of Derby.

### **Ruislip Family Names**

The Book of Entries is another of the seventeenth century records held by our Society which with contemporary wills, the Protestation return, Hearth Tax details etc give the names of many of the inhabitants of Ruislip. The names have a familiar ring headed by the Nickolas family who are referred to on 137 occasions during the period covered (1632-1681). They are followed by the Winchesters and Fearn's all with over 100 references and by the Hawtreys, Hales and Baldwins and very many more. The information on families is mostly confined to husband and wife, son and daughter and occasionally grandchildren and in-laws but rarely more than this so that it is not easy to compile any sort of seventeenth century family tree. The prospect of doing so will be enhanced when the first half of the book is analysed.

### **The Fines**

At the end of the record of the transactions of each of the courts the fines are added up and the totals noted viz. *The sum total of all the fines received at this court is ...* followed by the figures. The totals are surprisingly small considering the court met not much more than once a year; the highest total is £7.16s.9d (£7.84) at a court held in June 1651 and the lowest is 2s 6d (12p). A private court held in June 1660 yielded 1s (5p)!

### **Conclusion**

The Book of Entries can enlarge our knowledge of Ruislip in the late sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries and is worthy of further study.



## QUFERRY GATE

by Ron Harris

The building housing *The Gate* public house in Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, opposite the cricket field and Ducks Hill Road, is notable for its age, believed to be almost 400 years old; for its location, at the site of the old Quferry Turnpike, near the border of Middlesex and Hertfordshire; and for the fact that, until about ten years ago, it was licensed only as a wine & beer house.

The Beerhouse Act of 1830 permitted any householder assessed to the Poor Rate, to make and sell beer on payment of a fee of two guineas (£2.10). However, there is no evidence that the first beer-seller, James Mason, held a licence before 1838. James Mason died in 1845 and in the same year Mary Ann Bourne, the widow of George Bourne a carpenter of Pinner, took over the beerhouse where she was aided by her children. Mary Ann was the daughter of William and Betty Andrews of Northwood. Mary Ann's son William succeeded his mother as beerhouse keeper and *The Gate* continued in the family's hands until 1907. The beerhouse was then taken over by Gifford Grigg, the butler at Moor Park, who held the licence until his death in 1926. He was followed by his widow, Emma, until about 1937 when their daughter Lilian Bertha took over and held the licence for some twenty years. During the nineteen sixties, *The Gate* was run by Paul Olney.

A *sarsen stone*, once used as a mounting block, is now set in the grounds in front of the public house. A nearby milestone, one of three once located in the Pinner-Rickmansworth Road, records *16 miles from Marble Arch* and at the top of the hill is a Coal Post, erected about 1861, marking the edge of the Coal Tax Zone.

At the time in 1845 when Mary Ann Bourne was taking over the public house, another Mary Ann, surnamed Saunders, was collecting tolls at the Quferry Turnpike. She was the wife of John Saunders, bricklayer, and the family lived at the Ruislip Common Turnpike opposite Hundred Acres Farm (near the present-day Northwood Hills Circus) where they also collected tolls. After the death of her husband in 1851, Mary Ann continued to collect the Ruislip Common tolls until her death in 1864 when the collection of these was taken over by her daughters Sarah and Hannah Saunders. By 1861, Hannah was already collecting the Quferry tolls, which she continued to do until the Turnpike closed in 1872. Hannah died a year later aged sixty four.

After 1840, pedestrians did not have to pay to use the Quferry Turnpike, and it is related that the Batchworth Heath blacksmith, Alfred Hodgekinson, would carry his horse on his shoulders when passing through to avoid payment. For good reason he was known as *the strong man of Hertfordshire*

The ruins of the turnpike cottage were still to be seen in the grounds of *The Gate* up to the nineteen sixties. The Ruislip Common turnpike cottage was similar in design and disappeared in 1910 when the Pinner Road School was built on the site. The school closed in 1975. Quferry turnpike was once known as *Two Fare Gate*, possibly because there were two toll gates on the one stretch of road or, as has alternatively been suggested, possibly as a corruption of *Quferry*.



## COUNTER MOVE AT NORTHWOOD

by Eileen Watling

Northwood Police Station, an architecturally pleasing building which was erected in 1910, stands at the corner of two tree-lined roads, fronted by green lawns. Its semi-rural aspect is enhanced by a wooden bird box which attracts law-abiding feathered friends. After dark, the observant passer-by will notice that the columnar blue pillar beside the front path supports not the regulation blue, but a white lamp. This, retained at the request of the Northwood residents, is now the only one in London with the exception of that at Bow Street Police Station which installed its white lamp at the insistence of Queen Victoria who was, apparently, not amused at the prospect of seeing a blue light confronting her as she left near-by Covent Garden Opera House. Sadly, Bow Street with its associations, will be closed this year, so that the white lamp at Northwood will be unique in London.

Inside the police station is a much admired oak counter with an inlaid green top, its base protected by gleaming brass plating rising from a fine wood-block floor. Unfortunately, this counter was recently threatened with removal due to a significant increase of violence in police stations which has led to a demand for the greater protection of counter staff among whom are a number of civilian clerks, frequently young females. Safety grilles will be installed in high risk areas to prevent the actual jumping of counters by angry and disturbed complainants, but research has shown that the raising and widening of counters is often a sufficient deterrent

in less vulnerable areas. Future plans for the modernisation of police stations also include the provision of computers built into counters to allow complainants and others to see what is actually being put on record.

Northwood residents who are greatly attached to their friendly neighbourhood police station, became distressed at the possibility of the loss of some of its cherished features and consulted senior police officers about the proposed changes. In February this year, I was present at a discussion of these matters between the Assistant Commissioner of Police and two representatives from the Northwood Residents' Association. After a thorough airing of the issues involved, a compromise was agreed by which it was envisaged that the counter should be widened, raised by about nine inches and fitted with a computer terminal to meet present day needs but that all the work should be carried out as harmoniously as possible in matching oak. Outside, the white lamp will remain, with a blue one being erected, unobtrusively, elsewhere in the grounds. The birds are to keep their box and it is hoped that Northwood Police Station will continue to preserve its rather special atmosphere.



## ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, HALLOWELL ROAD NORTHWOOD

by Eileen Bowlt

### NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

*"The number of places of worship in Northwood is to be added to by a new Catholic Church in the near future".* This statement appeared in the local paper in 1922, along with the information that one of the very few plots left for development in Hallowell Road, had been acquired. It lay on the north side of the then home of the Wesleyan Methodists and had lain dormant and *"unsightly to residents"* for the past twenty years and *"was somewhat of a disfigurement to an important thoroughfare"*. A well-built church would be a pleasant addition to the neighbourhood.

The Rev Reginald B. Fellows, MA who had been closely associated with St Vincent's Cripples' Home (now St Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital) had purchased the land and was about to finance the building of the church. He was a convert to Catholicism and having been a stockbroker before entering the priesthood, had money of his own. At about the same time he bought land in Harefield on which St Paul's Church now stands and when the Wesleyans moved to Oaklands Gate in 1924, he acquired their garden as well.

The site, 32 Hallowell Road was a yard with a barn, formerly used as a stable, but more recently as a garage. Father Fellows transformed the old building into a house for himself and a public chapel, pending the building of a permanent church.

### CHAPEL OPENED

The chapel was informally opened on 11th February 1923 with a blessing by Father Fellows before the 8.00 am mass. He recited a prayer and sprinkled the inside of the building with holy water. Both the 8.00 am and 10.30 am masses were well attended, nearly all the 50 available places being filled. The Rev William Joyce, Chaplain at St Vincent's preached an impressive sermon, dwelling on the dangers of forgetting the supernatural end for which God created mankind and a letter was read from Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster urging the Catholics of Northwood to support the new mission and promising an early visit.

### Catholic Church, Northwood.

COMMENCING

SUNDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1923,

### SERVICES

will be held in the

### PUBLIC CHAPEL,

Adjacent to the PRESBYTERY at

32, Hallowell Road, Northwood,

AS UNDER:

Sundays.—Mass, 8 and 10.30 a.m.

Benediction, 3.30 p.m.

Weekdays.—Mass, 8 a.m.

The transformation of the interior of the barn caused surprise and congratulations were heaped upon the architect, Mr W. Louis Carr who was Surveyor to Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, *"who from most unpromising material has with considerable skill and ingenuity converted*

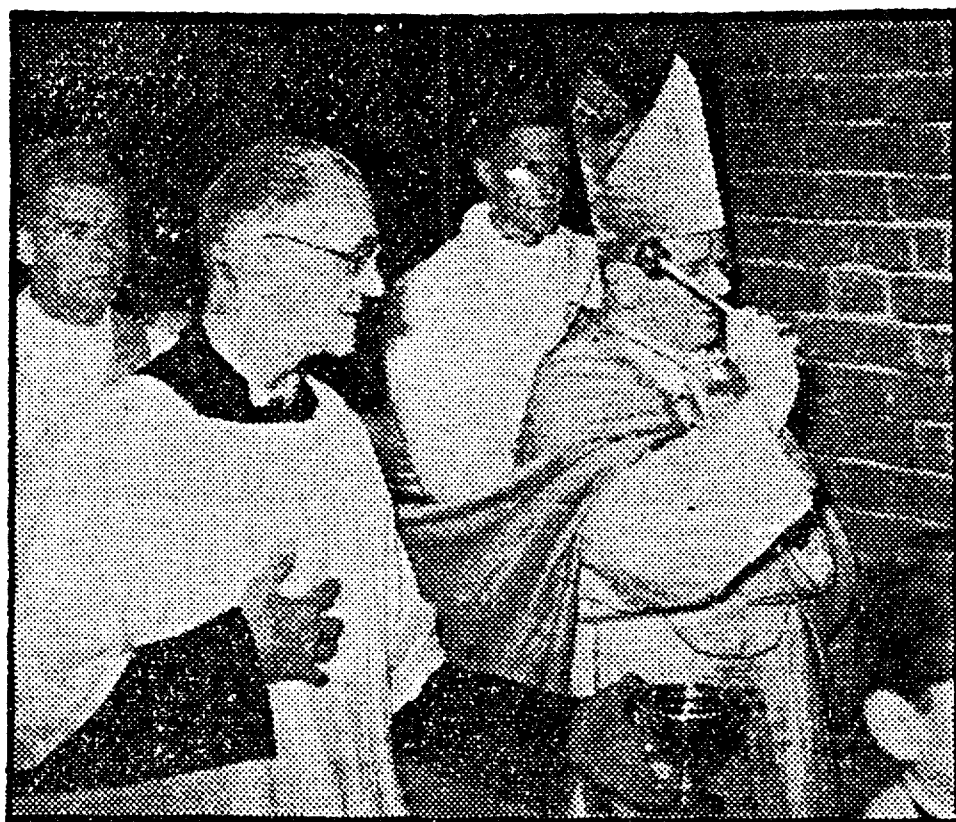
*the garage into a very serviceable chapel.* A porch was still under construction. Northwood contractors had undertaken the work. Messrs H.E. Beer & Son had carried out the alterations and Mr Edward Spark of Hilliard Road (described in Kelly's 1923 Directory as builder, decorator & undertaker, sanitary & hot water engineer) had supplied the furnishings.

### THE PERMANENT CHURCH

W.Louis Carr drew up plans for the permanent church and the foundation stone was blessed by Rev Wilfred Quaife, Rural Dean of Harrow, on 21st October 1923. A nave, porch and baptistery only

were to be erected at first. The church was built by Mr Edward Sparks of a pleasing red brick and had corbels of red Mansfield stone to carry the roof trusses. Most of the woodwork was Austrian oak but the hammer beam roof was of English oak. Tinted Flemish glass was placed in steel window frames. The floor was of dowelled oak blocks laid herringbone fashion and a dark and light blue tapestry and carpet adorned the altar. A temporary wall at the end of the nave marked where a sanctuary, sacristy and transept would eventually go, to make a cruciform design. There were seats for 90 people.

The new church, dedicated to St Matthew was completed by an oak statue of the saint placed over the front porch. It had been given by a resident. The church was blessed on 13th June 1924. Catholic churches are not consecrated until they are free from debt and have a permanent altar. Because of Canon Fellow's generosity there was not too heavy a debt, but the permanent altar was not installed until 1953 and the church was consecrated on 13th October 1954 by Cardinal Griffin.



**Cardinal Griffin sprinkles Holy water on the walls of St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church, Northwood, during the consecration of the building.**

**PARISH PRIESTS** Canon Fellows as he became was the first parish priest from 1923-5. He was followed by Fr Smith-Steinmitz who died in May 1953 and in whose memory the new altar was installed. Father Joseph Francis, a convert who had at one time been a member of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield, was priest from 1953-69. Besides seeing the church consecrated he installed an organ, some stained glass windows and built a garage. The next priest, Father John Montfort Bebb was already well known to the public for



Father John Bebb

his appearances on religious television programmes at the time of his induction in April 1969. The war had prevented him taking up his vocation to the priesthood as a young man and he had served as an officer in the army and been a Japanese prisoner-of-war, finally being ordained in 1949. He was responsible for building the parish community centre next door to the church, on the site of the former Wesleyan Methodists' 'tin chapel'. It was opened by Cardinal Heenan in 1971.

Father Bebb died suddenly in 1975 and Father Michael Archer who replaced him enlarged and beautified the church in 1983. The lower parts of the outside walls were removed to make room for new side aisles and six new high level windows were created at the same time. The sanctuary was remodelled to give more space and an Italian bronze tabernacle replaced the original one which had stood on a stone plinth. Cardinal Hume blessed the alterations at the end of November. Father Archer remained at St Matthews until the end of 1991, when he went to

work in the Carribean for a six month sabbatical. The new Parish Priest at Northwood is Father Terence Phipps who took up his post at the beginning of February 1992.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

The information above comes from the archives of St Matthews and was made available by the kindness of Father Archer.



## **THE REV RICHARD DAVID FENWICK**

**by Dorrit Dunn**

The Rev. Richard David Fenwick, B.A., B.Mus. M.A., was Vicar of St. Martin's Church, Ruislip, from May 1983 to November 1990, succeeding Fr. Kenneth Toovey as Vicar after a protracted interregnum of 18 months and bringing an outgoing, exuberant personality and manifold talents to his incumbency.

A Welshman, born in Cardiff in 1943, he got involved with the parish activities of Llandaff Cathedral at an early age as server, Sunday School teacher and chorister. Inspired by Dean Glyn Simon, later Bishop of the Diocese and Archbishop of Wales, Archdeacon John Gwynno James and Bishop Eryl Thomas, three Tractarians and rigid sacramentalists, the young Richard became an ordinand while still in his teens.

His academic career is impressive and reflects the four great loves of his life: the English language, history, music and theology. He gained a BA in English and history at Lampeter University, a B.Mus. at Trinity College, Dublin and trained for the ministry at Fitzwilliam College and Ridley Hall Theological

College in Cambridge, where he was one of the college organists and conducted a small madrigal group. After his ordination in 1968 at Llandaff Cathedral, he served his title in the industrial parish of Skewen and while there, lectured for a time in the extra-mural music department of nearby Swansea University.

His second curacy was spent in the ancient parish of Penarth, where he was priest-in-charge of the Tractarian church of the Holy Nativity and Chaplain of the Marie Curie Foundation Nursing Home.

Then came England - an unusual step from the Welsh Church to the C.of E. As succentor and sacrist of Rochester Cathedral he was in charge of the main musical and services administration and all the Cathedral ceremonies. In 1975, he married a Welsh girl, Jane Hughes, whom he had met at Penarth when she was a dental student. The Fenwicks now moved to London, where Richard was appointed succentor and later Warden of the College of Minor Canons at St Paul's Cathedral. It was from there that the Bishop of London sent him to St. Martin's, Ruislip, in May 1983. Back to parish work, to which he had become deeply committed in his early days in Wales and to a place with which, as he often told his congregation, he fell in love as soon as he first clapped eyes on it.

Richard Fenwick's ministry in Ruislip was marked by his musical gifts and his fervent interest in local history.

He steeped himself in Ruislip's past and his enthusiasm for what he discovered about it, was infectious and often very touching. The link of Ruislip with the ancient Abbey of Bec in Normandy prompted him to revive St.Martin's designation as 'the Priory Church', which, of course, was very pleasing to his parishioners. It also gave him the idea to initiate the mid-summer folk mass in memory of Ernulf de Hesdin, the Lord of the Manor in the Middle Ages. This mass now takes place every year early in the morning on a Saturday in June on the motte, probably the site of an old motte-and-bailey castle opposite Ruislip Library.

While in Ruislip, Richard Fenwick wrote a thesis on the 19th century English musician and composer Sir John Goss, erstwhile organist at St Paul's Cathedral and composer to the Chapel Royal, which gained him his M.A.

Through his musical talents, he contributed to local activities by giving organ recitals, among others one in St Giles, Ickenham, where he became interested in their new digital electronic organ - an important event, as St Martin's own pipe organ has deteriorated to such an extent that a new organ, most likely also a digital instrument, will have to be purchased in the near future. Fr.Fenwick did a great deal of the spadework for this venture, involving English Heritage and local commercial firms. He will also be remembered for giving a series of exceedingly successful presentations on various themes, such as Celtic music and the life and work of Handel, to the Ruislip Gramophone Society.

The ancient wall paintings in St Martin's Church fascinated him and it was during his incumbency that the art historian Ann Ballantyne restored some of them to new life.

After nearly eight years in Ruislip, a new challenge came which he could not resist: he was appointed Canon Residentiary and Precentor at Guildford Cathedral, a demanding post to which he is admirably suited and which he is now tackling with characteristic zest.

His successor at St Martin's, the Rev. Russell Edward Ingham, was instituted by the Rt.Rev. David Hope, the then newly appointed Bishop of London, in September 1991. The new vicar, a Scotsman, came to Ruislip from the university city of St Andrews in Fyfe where he had ministered to his flock for fourteen

years. He read English and Divinity at Keble College, Oxford and before St Andrews, worked as Chaplain at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, in Liverpool, and then in Port Glasgow on the Lower Clyde. He will no doubt stamp the Parish with his own, very different, personality and his congregation is looking forward to his long and happy ministry in Ruislip.

## **ST EDMUND THE KING, NORTHWOOD HILLS**

**by Marjorie Pimm**

The Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Pinner Road, Northwood Hills was carved out of the parishes of St John the Baptist, Pinner, St Lawrence, Eastcote and Emmanuel, Northwood. It started as a Mission in a marquee on the site where the permanent church now stands.

The first service were held in the open air from 1st September 1935, conducted by the Reverend Frank Hunter Hopkins, until the marquee arrived on 15th September. The foundation stone of the temporary church was laid on 29th September 1935 by the Reverend Prebendary R.W.Beresford-Peirse, Vicar of Christ Church, Lancaster Gate - an anonymous member of his congregation having given the bulk of the money required (£3,300). The Architect was Mr N.F. Cachmaile Day. It was dedicated on 14th December 1935 by the Bishop of London (Winnington-Ingram) and approximately 400 people attended.

In 1952 St Edmund's became a separate parish and the Missioner, the Reverend Ronald Arthur, became the first vicar. It was he who first began the real struggle to raise interest and funds for a permanent church building. The next vicar, the Reverend Basil Davis, continued the efforts, but it was left to the present vicar, the Reverend Reginald Ames, inducted on 19th July 1961, to really get things going.

Young and enthusiastic and extremely determined, he turned the seemingly impossible to certainty and on 10th October 1964, the Bishop of London dedicated the new church.

The church also designed by Mr Chachmaile Day, cost £58,000 to build, of which £10,000 was raised by the parish. The building is modern in style, light and lofty, the central feature being the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, situated behind, but above the high altar so that the tabernacle with its lamp and gold curtains is visible to the whole church. A glazed, sound-proof Lady Chapel leads off from the main church.

St Edmund's has many fine statues including a wood carving of the Patron Saint by the Bristol sculptor, Gerald Scott, but perhaps the most unusual is the memorial to the twenty one Wrens who lost their lives when the troopship Aquila was torpedoed in 1941 - a twelve foot high angel in gold leaf over the screen of the Lady Chapel, holding a small life boat in one hand and giving the impression of hovering over the sea.

The most recent additions are the installation of seven stained glass windows in the church by the Buckingham artist, Mr Farrar Bell. These depict, St Michael and all Angels, John Keeble, St Raphael, St Francis, St John, Abraham and St John the Baptist. The adolescent Christ at the foot of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the coloured glass in the windows of the Lady Chapel are by the same stained glass artist. Mr. Farrar Bell has now designed five large panels for the West Window showing the story of the Nativity, the first of these to be started in early 1992.

St Edmund's has many organisations including the dramatic group, The Arrow Players, famous for its annual pantomime involving the whole parish, as well as



producing several plays throughout the year. The church, with its wide open sanctuary, has been found to be eminently suitable for large choral and orchestral concerts as well as dramatic performances such as Godspel and Jesus Christ Superstar.

Another regular event is the Flower Festival, held in September and spread over four days. It combines an art exhibition by local artists, a major musical event and a display in the Lady Chapel culminating in the Harvest Thanksgiving.

On 19th July 1992, Father Reginald Ames retires as vicar of St Edmund's, exactly thirty one years after his induction.

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### REV JOHN JOSEPH ROUMIEU, CURATE OF RUISLIP (1870-78)

by Karen Spink

*A quiet and secluded spot\** was how the Rev. J.J.Roumieu described the parish of Ruislip in his book *Ruislip: A History of the Parish and Church (1875)*. He was clearly attached to the area, and as curate took an active part in the social life of the parish, especially at Eastcote where he lived.

Though he only lived here for eight years, his links with this part of Middlesex extend beyond Ruislip. His wife Emma was born in Pinner (1871 Census) and was the daughter of Frances George West of West House, Harrow (part of which still stands in Pinner Memorial Gardens). Frances West came from Thaxted, Essex and in 1833 bought Horsham Hall, Thaxted. The Rev. J.J.Roumieu was curate at Thaxted in 1870 before coming to Ruislip.

The Roumieu's daughter Helen (or Ellen) was born in Ruislip, but sadly died on 13 July 1875 *aged 5 years very suddenly* (Bucks Advertiser, 17 July 1875).

When the Vicar of St Martin's, Ruislip, the Rev. Christopher Packe, died in 1878, it was assumed by many that the Rev J.J. Roumieu would succeed him as Vicar. But despite having had sole charge during the Rev C. Packe's illness prior to his death, and having been recommended by the Hume-Campbells of Highgrove House, Eastcote, he failed to be appointed. Instead he was obliged to find his living elsewhere and became assistant priest at Waddingham, Lincolnshire.

The Bucks Advertiser reported the sale at Field End Lodge on 18 September 1878 for the Rev J.J. Roumieu of *the whole of modern household furniture including chairs, a table, carpets, a pianoforte, bookcases, books, beds, etc. wardrobes and chests, garden tools, a phaeton saddle and bridle.*

This was followed on 21 September 1878 by the report:

*Testimonial to Rev. J.J. Roumieu. The death of the Rev C. Packe will cause the removal from Ruislip of Rev J.J. Roumieu. L.T. Baker instigated a subscription and £73.3s.1d (£73.15) was collected from a total of 225 contributors. A silver salver and coffee pot were bought and presented last Saturday afternoon in the National Schoolroom by Mr Baker, one of the Churchwardens. A speech was made of regret at his leaving and appreciation for his work during his eight years as a curate.*

\**A Quiet and Secluded Spot* is the title of a book by Colleen Cox, published by the Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society.

# THE TUDOR BANQUET

The Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society celebrated Christmas 1991 by holding a Tudor Banquet in St Martin's Hall. It was also a reminder of a happy summer's day spent at the Henry VIII Quincentenary Exhibition at Greenwich.

The hall was laid out with a high table for the President, his Lady and retinue, with a long table on either side, decorated with holly, ivy and candles. As a Tudor Hat competition had been previously announced, many members arrived in elaborate and pearl-encrusted headgear and those who were later to appear in the entertainment came dressed as Henry VIII and his six Queens. All eagerly drank the mulled wine.

The Chairman disguised as Katherine Howard set the scene and welcomed the guests in a few well-chosen words:

*My Masters & Mistresses, welcome to our Christmas Feast. E'en though we live in a QUIET & SECLUDED SPOT, we shall show that we can rejoice in this season of Our Saviour's birth, as merrily as any at the noble court of Our Grace, King Henry. Indeed, master, tonight we pray that you will suspend your judgement and see not these collapsible deal tables, but rather the oaken boards of Nonesuch Palace. And when the groaning buffet is removed and your bellies are full and the revels begin, we beg you, excuse the piping notes of the poor players who will strive to please you with their feeble talents, but cast aside your cares and your inhibitions and join them in their foolery.*

The feasting led by the steward, Master Ron Lightning, dressed (anachronistically) as Father Christmas, then began. Henry VIII and his Queens, holding lighted candles processed in, preceded by the Boar's Head, nobly bedecked with bay and rosemary, while everyone sang the Boar's Head Carol.

The three course feast began with Brewets [broths] and soups, continued with baked meats, some in pastry *coffins* and others like casseroles and finished with deserts mostly made of apples, eggs and almonds. All dishes were quite highly spiced with cinnamon, mace etc and the meats were flavoured with many herbs as well.

Following the meal, the players took us behind the scenes at Nonesuch to see with what dexterity King Henry glided from one marriage to another, as he played at Musical Chairs with his wives, in a scene from Sellar & Yeatman's *"1066 & All That"*.

Later Master Bob Bedford introduced the Eastcote Mummers' Play, as performed around the turn of the century at the Case is Altered. In a way this was another anachronism, but mummers' plays were certainly being performed in Tudor times and quite possibly in this locality.

For many the highlight of the evening was the Farandol, a line dance (some considered it a Tudor version of the Conga), led by Mistress Valery Cowley (metamorphosed into Catherine Parr). Every person in the room joined in and first meandered, then coiled into a snake and out again as round and round we all danced in a long line.

Finally carols were sung and mince pies eaten and we returned to the present to enjoy Christmas in modern Ruislip, but as we left the hall we mused on the

fact that our Tudor forebears would have walked past that very church and through the gap between those same timber-framed buildings into the High Street in their own day. There was no St Martin's Hall then, though and revels were more likely to have been held in the church itself.

#### **WHAT WE ATE**

Many people have asked for the recipes. They were taken from Pinner Local History Society's publication *Medieval Cookery*, 1974 and reproduced below by kind permission of Iris Long, Chairman of PLHS.

**Mistress Eileen Bowlt**

## **MEDIEVAL RECIPES**

### **INTRODUCTION.**

The food eaten at feasts and by the upper classes depended on commerce and foreign trade, the weekly markets and seasonal fairs were essential for sale and purchase of necessities. Salt was brought from France, from Cheshire and from salt pans round the coast and had to be bought in large quantities for preserving meat in winter. Seafish was brought inland. Fish was a necessity for fast days and many monastic establishments and manors had their own fishponds. Eels, pike, carp, bream and lampreys were all used in the recipes. Oysters were eaten alive.

Along the medieval trade routes came sugar, rice, almonds, dried fruit and the many spices which were used in all recipes. These were expensive but considered essential, perhaps to disguise the *off* taste of the meat. The commonest spices were pepper and ginger. Cinnamon, cloves, galingale and nutmeg were used frequently.

Foods available locally were few. Cabbages, peas, beans, onions and leeks were the main vegetables. Mutton, beef and pork were all eaten, but the animals were not of the superb quality of today. The sheep would be stringy and old having been fleeced for its wool many times before reaching the stewpot. Dairy produce was available. Bread varied according to the area in which it was made and the class of person for whom it was made. Finest was manchet, a white bread: brown bread was full of husks and very oily and brittle.

Herbs were very important. Saffron was expensive but used a great deal as a colourant. 75,000 crocuses were needed to make one pound of saffron. Fennel, anise, mustard, parsley, cummin and coriander were freely used.

The ordinary person must have had continual stews made in the cooking pots that are found by modern archaeologists. There were periods of near famine.

At the other end of the scale the feasts of the upper classes would be prepared in great kitchens such as that still remaining at Glastonbury Abbey. In museums you can see the pots, pans, jugs, spoons, flesh hooks, skimmers, platters, pestles and mortars of the time. The cook's knife looked just like that of today.

The feast would start with several courses of brewets [broths], fish and meat dishes, and on great occasions glazed and sugared dishes of swans and peacocks. Desserts of compotes and fruit were followed by the issue of spiced drink and wafers and the sally forth of wine and spices.

**Mistress Denise Shackell.**

## Cabbage Soup

Take fair cabbages, and cut them, and pick them clean, and clean wash them, and parboil them in fair water, and press them on a fair board; and then chop them, and cast them in a fair pot with good fresh broth, and with marrowbones, and let it boil; then take fair grated bread, and cast thereto saffron and salt; or else take good gruel made of fresh flesh, draw through a strainer, and cast thereto. And when thou servest it in, knock out the marrow of the bones, and lay the marrow two pieces or three in a dish, as seemeth best, and serve forth.

## Garbage

### *The original recipe.*

Take 4 garbages of chicken. Wash them clean. Cast them in a fair pot and cast thereto broth of beef and let it boil, and savour it with bread, pepper or saffron, mace, cloves, lentils and salt.

### *Modern version. For 4-6 people.*

1 lb giblets,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb chicken liver, 4 oz lentils (soaked), 1 oxo cube, 1 tsp pepper (or saffron), 1 large onion, 8 cloves, water to cover. Put all together in a saucepan and simmer for 2 hr. Take and chop up meat. Take meat off neck portions.

## English Brewet

### *The original recipe.*

Take peeled and cooked chestnuts, as much or more of hard yolks of eggs or pork liver: bray all together, moisten with warm water, turn through strainer; then bray ginger, cinnamon, cloves, grain, long pepper and saffron, and let them boil together.

### *Modern version*

*Ingredients.* 1 large tin chestnut puree (15 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz), 1 lb pigs liver, 1 level tsp ground cloves, 1 level tsp black

pepper, 1 level tsp cinnamon, salt to taste, saffron, pearl barley - about 2 tbs.

*Method.* Chop liver, mix with puree and put through liquidizer. Add ginger, cloves, pepper, cinnamon, salt, and saffron. Add barley, bring to the boil, stirring to prevent barley sticking. Cook gently until barley is cooked.

## Custard

### *The original recipe*

Take veal and cut it up and wash it. Put it in a pot with water and boil it. Take parsley, sage, hissop; wash them and add in pepper, cannell, cloves, mace, saffron, salt and a good deal of wine and boil. When the flesh is boiled take it out of the broth and let the broth cool. When it is cold pour whites and yolks of eggs into a strainer, put them in the broth - make it stiff. Make a coffin *lie. cook a pastry case*. Put 3 or 4 bits of flesh in them. Take dates and prunes and cut them. Add ginger to the broth and salt. Bake the coffin a bit then add sauce and bake until set.

### *Modern Version.*

*Ingredients.* Short pastry to line tin or oven-proof dish about 2 pt size. 1 lb Pie Veal, 1 tbs chopped parsley, 1 tsp chopped sage, 1 tsp white pepper, 1 tsp ground cloves,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp mace, salt to taste, saffron,  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$  pt dry white wine, 2 or 3 eggs, 4 oz chopped dates, 4 oz chopped prunes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp ginger.

*Method.* Line tin or dish with short pastry - grease lightly first. Bake lightly. Cut up veal into small pieces, cover with water and boil gently. Add parsley, sage, pepper, cloves, mace and salt. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt wine and simmer until veal is tender. Strain veal, measure broth and make up to 2 pt with more white wine, allow to cool. Allowing 2 eggs to each pint of liquid, beat eggs lightly. Add cooked broth gradually and mix well. Chop dates and prunes -

mixed with cooked veal. Add ginger and salt and put in lined dish. Cover with a pastry lid if wished. Pour in broth and eggs and bake slowly until broth sets. (About 1 hr at Gas No. 1).

## Salad

Take parsel, sawge, garlec, chibollas, onyons, leeks, borage, myntes, fenel, and ton tresses, rew, rosemarye, purslayre. Lave and wasishe hem clene; pike hem, pluk hem small with thyn bande and myng hem wel with rawe oile. Lay on vynegar and salt, and sue it forth.

## Royal Baked Meat

*Ingredients.* To serve 12. 1 lb short crust pastry, a 3½ lb chicken, ¼ lb chicken liver, 2 chicken stock cubes, 1 heaped tbs plain flour, ground cloves and mace, salt and pepper, 3 oz Demerara sugar.

*Method.* Cook chicken for 1½ hr in water with 2 chicken stock cubes; remove from liquid. Make ¾ pt stock from this liquid by adding mashed chicken liver which has previously been fried in butter - season well and add ¼ tsp ground cloves and mace. Thicken with the plain flour and boil for 2 min. Remove flesh of chicken and dice and add to the stock and leave to cool. Line one large baking tin with pastry, cover base with sugar and then chicken mixture - cover with pastry and seal edges, decorate with leaves of pastry and bake at Regulo 7 until a golden brown on second shelf for ½ hr and then on a lower shelf for a further 20 min. Serve at once.

## Fruit Pie

Take figs and boil them in wine and grind them small. Put them in a vessel and add pepper, cloves, mace, ginger, raisins, saffron, salt. Then

make a low fair coffin and put them in. Put thereto cut dates and fresh salmon, or else fresh eels, and boil them in wine. Cover with paste and bake.

*(Tinned salmon can be used or both salmon & eels can be omitted)*

## Taffie

### Original Recipe

Take a good milk of almonds and draw with wine and water. Cast into a pot, and cast raisins, minced dates, cloves, mace, pepper, cannel, saffron and salt and let boil. Then take and mix with rice, flour or grated bread and cast thereto sugar and serve forth, and cast powder of ginger above it.

### Modern Version.

Heat ½ pt milk. Add to it 4 oz raisins, brown sugar, ½ lb white bread cut into cubes, softened apples cut into cubes, almond essence. Mix all together. Press into a flat dish.

## Violet Sweet

### Original Recipe

Take flourys of vyolet and boyle them, presse them, bray them small, tempre them uppe wyth almaunds mylke or gode cowes mylke and byl yt wyth amonds flor and flore of rys. Sygre yt enow and putte cream thereto, color yt wyth the same that flouers be on aboue.

### Modern Version.

To 1 tbs of ground rice, allow 1 tsp of ground almonds, and a few whole sweet almonds chopped lengthways; make with milk, rather softer than usual and boil extra well before sweetening and flavouring with either violet flavour, or triple rosewater (the latter is more easily obtained from a chemist). Pour into shallow glass bowls and chill, then cover with flavoured sweetened cream whipped

stiffly and covered with crystallised violets, (or rose leaves, whichever you have used), strew with crushed sugar. A very pretty and delicate dish.

### Fritters

*Ingredients. to serve 12.*  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb fresh fine bread crumbs (white),  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb granulated sugar, 1 lb pureed apple, 4 egg yolks, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt white wine, (ginger, cinnamon, cloves to taste).

*Method* Put all ingredients in a pan and bring to boil stirring all the time until the mixture thickens - serve hot or cold - if too thick add more wine.

### Dryff of Snow

Whip  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt double cream, 2 egg whites, 2 tbs caster sugar, 1 dsp rose water or to taste. When stiff pile into a dish.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**FROM AARON TO THE ZODIAC: 'MEDIEVAL MURALS' by Clive Rouse, Shire Publications, (1991), £4.99**

This is the fourth edition of the introductory booklet originally in the *Discovering* series, stocked by St Martin's Bookstall and Ruislip Bookshop. The text has been updated to include the most recent of conservation and the bigger format has facilitated more and larger illustrations, some now in colour, many taken from the author's faithful water colour copies of wall-paintings he has worked on. The why, when and how of both church and domestic murals are described from their beginnings to the Post-Reformation era; there is a selective bibliography and a useful gazeteer which reveals plenty to see (for a start) in our local counties of Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hertfordshire. The nave-arcade dragon-tree of the seven deadly sins in St Martin's is illustrated alongside interesting comparisons, including murals at Arundel and Trotton in Sussex, on which Rouse's student and Ruislip's conservator, Ann Ballantyne also worked. St Christopher's legend, subject of Ruislip's south aisle fragments, is given prominence. Those who remember Dr. Rouse's slide-talks to the RNELHS will need no further recommendation: if you missed those, start with this book, supplemented by the *bats*, not in the belfry, but on the table at the back of St Martin's Church.

**Valery Cowley**

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## SUMMER OUTINGS 1992

Saturday 28 March.	Coach outing to Tower Hill Pageant and old Shakespeare Museums at Southwark. Depart St Martins Approach 10.00 am.
Saturday 11 April.	Coach outing to Stowe Landscape Gardens Bucks. Depart St Martins Approach 10.00 am.
Sunday 14 June.	Walk around Northolt Village. Meet on the Green Northolt 2.00 pm
Saturday 20 June.	Coach outing to Avebury & Lydiard House. Depart St Martins Approach 9.00 am
Saturday 18 July.	Coach outing to Silchester & Sonning Common. Depart St Martins Approach 9.30 am
August/September.	Coach outing to an English Heritage Battle re-enactment. Details to be announced later.

