

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD
AND EASTCOTE

Local History
Society

Journal 1994



Home Farm Ickenham

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SUMMER OUTINGS 1994

Saturday 14th May

2.30pm Meet at Amersham Museum in the High Street

Tour of museum followed by guided walk around Amersham Village with Jean Archer.

Admission to museum 75p; guided walk free but donations to the museum welcome.

Saturday 25th June

Coach outing to Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton and Porchester Castle

Coach leaves St Martin's Approach at 9.00am

Cost £10

EDITORIAL

The R N E L H S organised a very successful 11th Local History Conference in February. The title 'A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD' together with good advance publicity attracted a capacity audience. The excellent speakers subjects ranged from the use of bricks and timber-framing in construction, from the medieval period to modern times, to life in small Estate, Railway and Harefield cottages. Two great houses, Dawley House and Estate c 1700 and life in Swakeleys during the Victorian period were described. The day finished with a lively talk on Metroland suburban development.

Next years conference is uncertain because very few of our local history societies are willing to organise this big event.

Bob Bedford as Programme and Outings Secretary again provided the society with an excellent programme of monthly meetings and summer outings during the past year. We were taken on five outings, one local walk and four outings by coach to the Bank of England Museum and the British Museum, Saffron Walden and Audley End House, Warwick Castle and town, Worcester city and Witley Court. Bob had to work very hard to get enough people to go on the coach outings to ensure that he covered his costs. This year it has been decided to organise two outings only this summer.

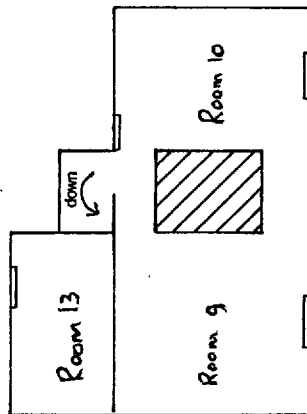
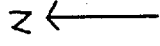
After six continuous years as Programme Secretary Bob Bedford is standing down from that office, he will continue as Outings Secretary. Many thanks to him for all the interesting events he has organised for the society during this time.

Since 1984 we have held our meetings in the St Martin's church hall, a venue which suited the society. The fire that severely damaged several small rooms at the hall has meant that all meetings are now held in the coffee lounge of the Winston Churchill Hall, which is both expensive and restricted in size. No repairs of the St Martin's Church Hall have yet been started. We will continue to have our meetings in the Winston Churchill Hall for the next few months.

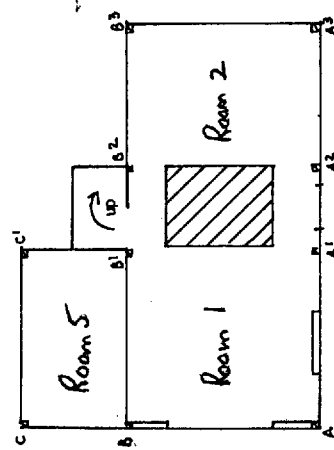
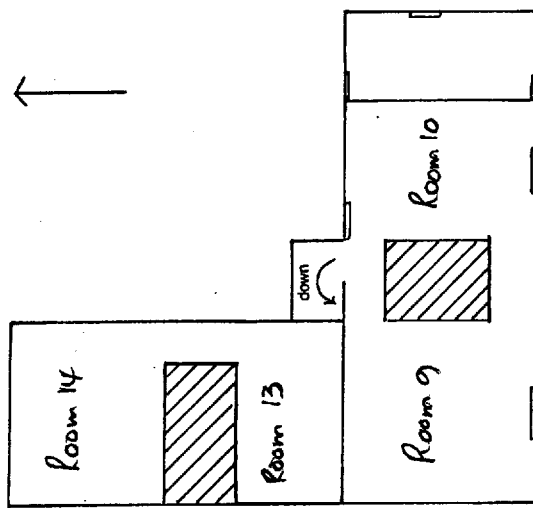
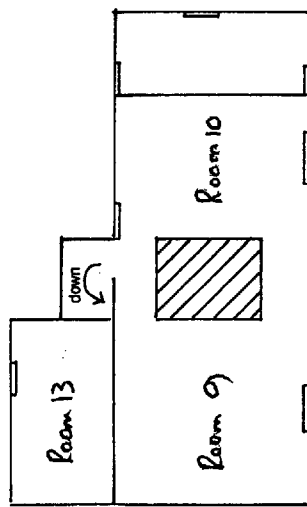
We need a Treasurer for the society. Would you fill the office?

I would like to thank all the contributors for their articles to this issue.

Fig 1 key plan - building phases 1, 2, 3

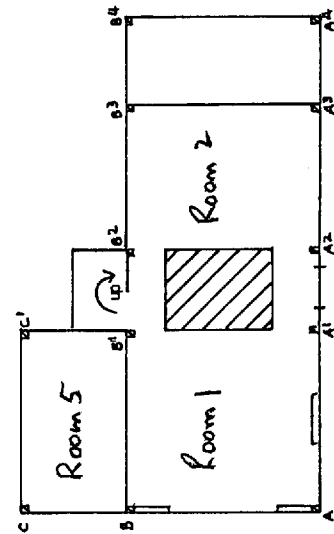


upper floor

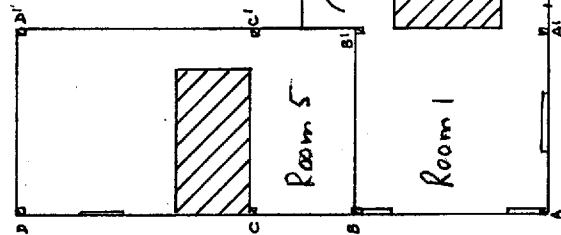


1 (a) about 1550-1600

lower floor



1 (b) about 1550-1600



1 (c) about 1600-1680

he 1992-

EASTCOTE GRANGE, EASTCOTE HIGH ROAD, EASTCOTE, MIDDLESEX

Report on the fabric by Patricia A. Clarke, Dec. 1992

This is a timber-framed house of two storeys, garrets and a half cellar, with a tiled and gabled roof. It has an eastern range parallel with the road and a north/south cross wing at the west, each of which has been extended to the east and north respectively. The cross wing was extended again to fill the gap between itself and a barn to the west. There is a porch to the entrance south of the main stack.

EXTERIOR

None of the framing is visible. The facade is covered with weather boarding, painted white, and the remainder is of white painted rendering. The chimneys of the axial stack are built of narrow bricks (modern ones toward the base) and has three shafts grouped in staggered fashion, with oversailing courses. The rear stack has four shafts. All of the windows have modern frames. The gabled porch is said by the owner to have been reconstructed recently. The roof of the northern wing extends as a catslide at the east.

INTERIOR

The house was built in five phases, shown in figures 1 and 2 the last being the link with the barn (Fig 2b).

PHASE 1-The eastern range and the western cross-wing (Fig 1a)
c1550-1600

Plan

The house began as a two-storeyed building with three rooms on each floor, one either side of the stack and another, unheated, behind the western room. It had what is called a 'lobby entrance', that is, a main entrance opening into the small lobby formed by the space between the axial stack and the front wall, and from which doors gave access to the room at either side. The eastern range has two bays, of which the western one contains the axial stack. The cross wing has three bays, the northern forming the unheated room.

Framing

Posts, sills, plates, beams and braces are of stout size and well trimmed. There are no jowls, and scarcely any ornamentation other than the fireplace lintels. The studs are variable in quality, a good many of them waney or bent. Post B1 (Fig 3) has a carpenter's assembly mark II in two places on its northern face, near the base and at first floor level; post B2 has a III marked similarly.

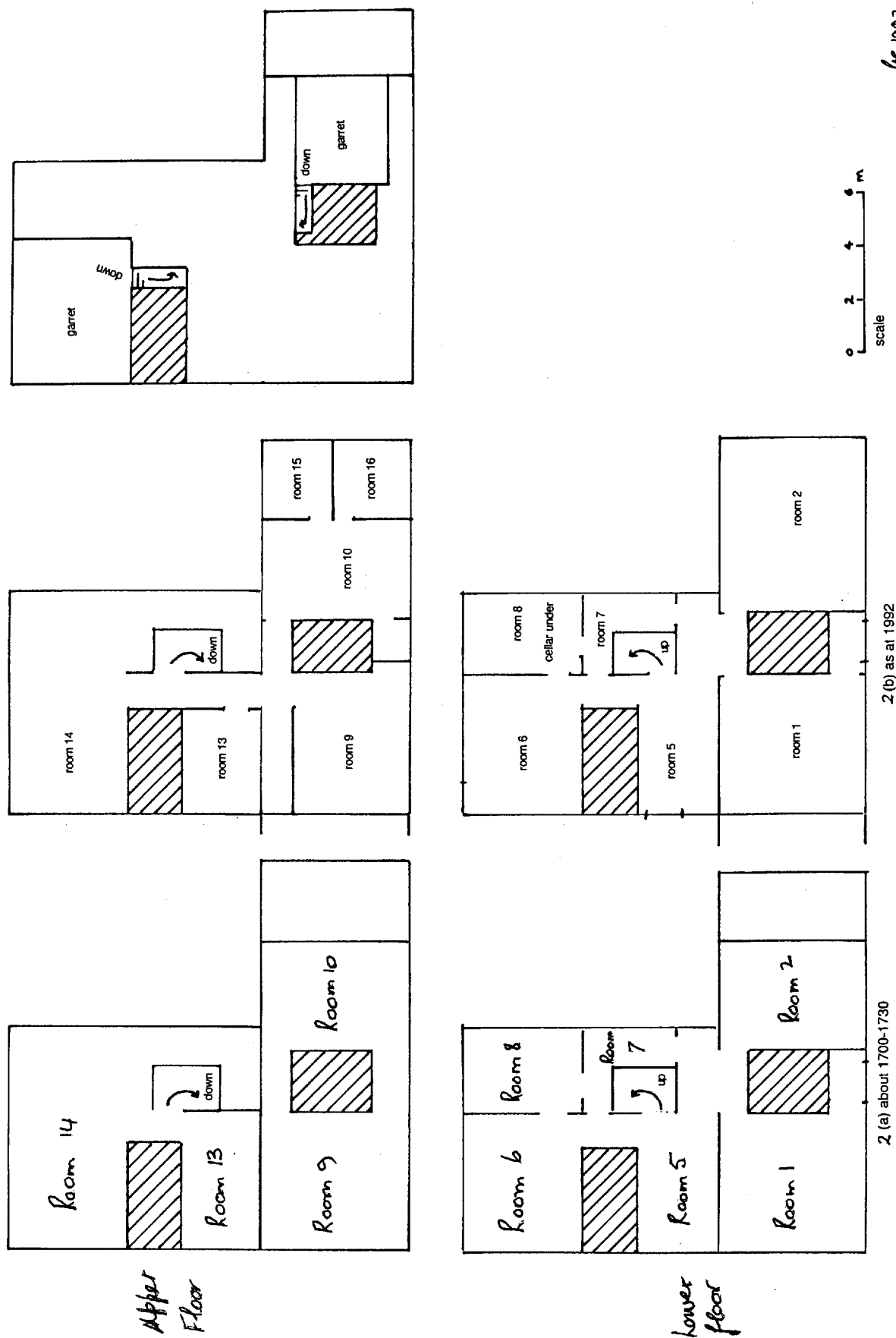
Chimney stack

The axial stack contains three hearths and is the original one built of thin bricks (common in the late 16th and early 17th centuries) laid in English bond. The ground floor openings have chamfered jambs and wooden lintels chamfered likewise. The interiors have been altered.

Room 1

The flint plinth is visible below wall A-B and most of the ground sills

Fig 2 key plan - building phases 4 and 5



remain, cut or damaged in places. Many of the studs survive, some waney, and therefore probably replacements, since the framework of this room was intended to be seen externally. There is clear evidence of two small windows which once had diamond mullions, in the corners of wall A-B, and a large window in the south wall. The external parts of the frames are not exposed so that it cannot be seen whether or not they were glazed. The cutting of the southern sill A-A1 implies the subsequent insertion of a bay window.

The spine beam and joists are said by the owner to be of the 20th century and so they look. The position of the original doors either side of the stack is clear. The southern, which leads to the lobby entrance, still has its chamfered edges. The northern wall, B-B1, has been altered, but I interpret the timbers as indicating a door into room 5 at the eastern end (Fig 6 Y-Y). The flooring was up when this room was seen, showing sand and brickbats but no indication of earlier surfaces.

Room 2

No earlier features are visible apart from the hearth. The spine beam was lodged in the stack but has been removed. This room and the adjoining one have been knocked into one, and the latter given a spine beam of reused timber. I would expect there to have been a window in the southern wall.

Lobby

The door into room 2 has been blocked. The owner says the porch has been rebuilt recently.

Room 5

The early visible features are three corner posts, the southern wallplate and the ceiling timbers. The joists are irregular, some being flatter than others and one at each side having a hewn jowl shape. Some or all may be replacements, or perhaps less than first class materials were acceptable in an unheated room. The firegrate is very late Victorian or Edwardian.

Room 9

This is at collar level. The central truss is open and has soulaces to the collar instead of a tie beam. The stack is mostly concealed. The off centre post in the true northern wall, B-B1, is likely to be the west jamb of a doorway into room 13. I have noticed the use of this position for the intercommunicating door in the upper floor of a cross-wing in other houses. The passage made across the northern end of the room was associated with the link to the barn.

Room 10

The walls had been stripped. The size and quality of the framework suggested that all was intended to be plastered over for the braces in the east wall (A4-B4). This room was originally ceiled to collar level, the spine beam and the joists being inserted later to carry the garret above. The joists are tenoned into the spine and lodged upon planks nailed to the lower end of the rafters. The joists are irregular, and the asymmetrical chamfering of the spine indicates a reused timber. There are vestiges of an original window with diamond mullions at the west end of the north wall (site of any glazing grooves not visible), but the main window is a later insertion. The entry to the room over the lobby is probably not an original

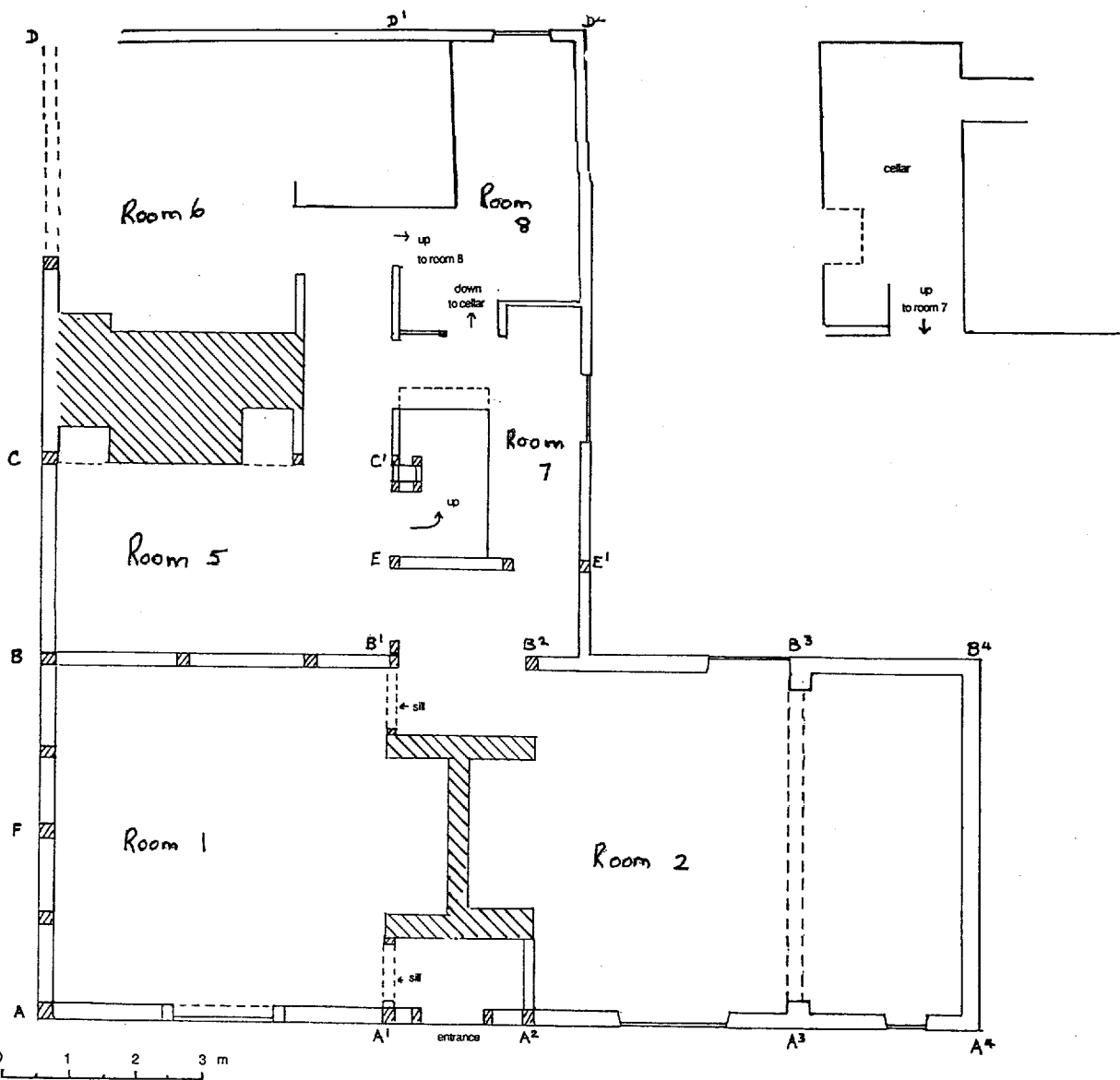


Fig 3 ground floor plan - present

pre 1992

feature since access would have been easier from room 9 where there was no hindering brace.

Room 13

This is ceiled to collar level and there is a blocked window with diamond mullions in the north wall (site of any glazing grooves not visible).

Staircase

In a lobby house the staircase was often placed on the opposite side of the stack from the entrance but there is no evidence that this was the case here. The openings indicated at each level between B1 and B2 suggest a staircase in its own extension at the angle between the main range and the cross-wing, entered at ground level beside B2 and giving access to the upper floor beside B3. It may have wound or risen as a dog-leg. The notches and mortices on the north face of post B3 perhaps relate to the staircase. The east face of post E is obscured.

Date

In Middlesex queen strut roofs occur from 1500-1700; lobby entrance houses are typical of the period 1550-1650; the fairly close studding is likely to be not later than 1600; diamond shaped window mullions are characteristic of the years 1500-1600; glazing might have been in use towards the end of the 16th century; the narrow bricks are typical of the period 1550-1680. The first phase is therefore datable to the second half of the 16th century.

PHASE 2 (Fig 1b)

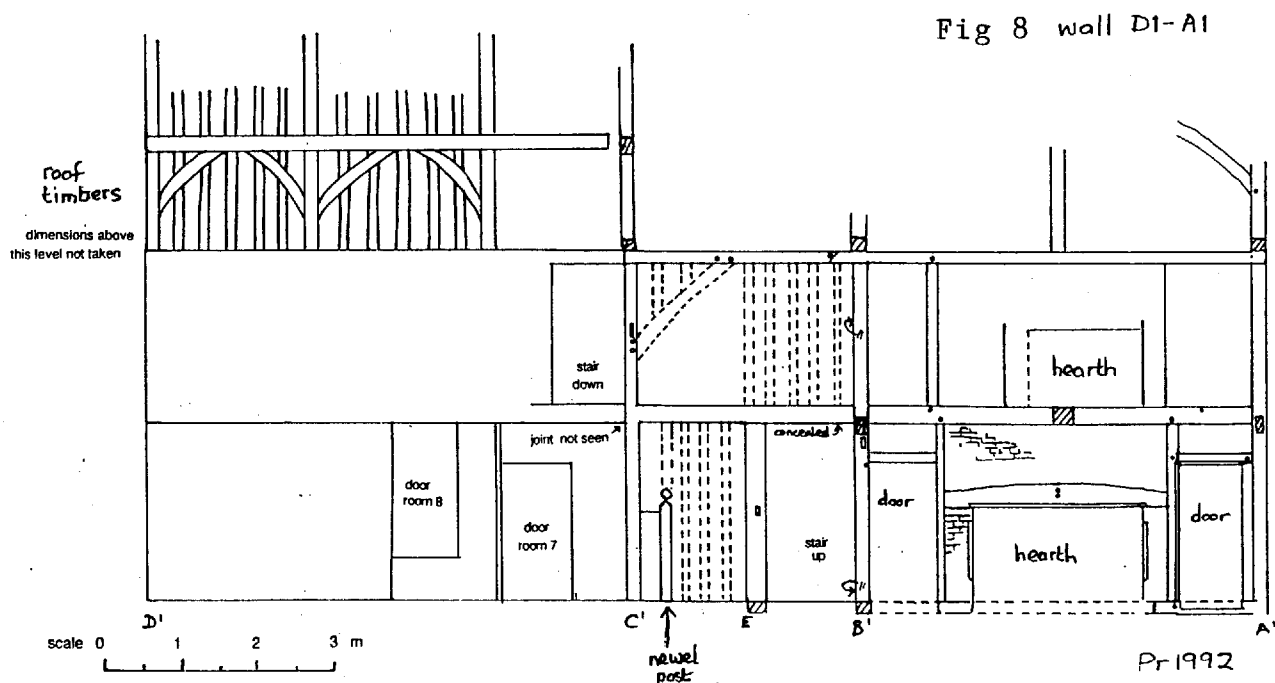
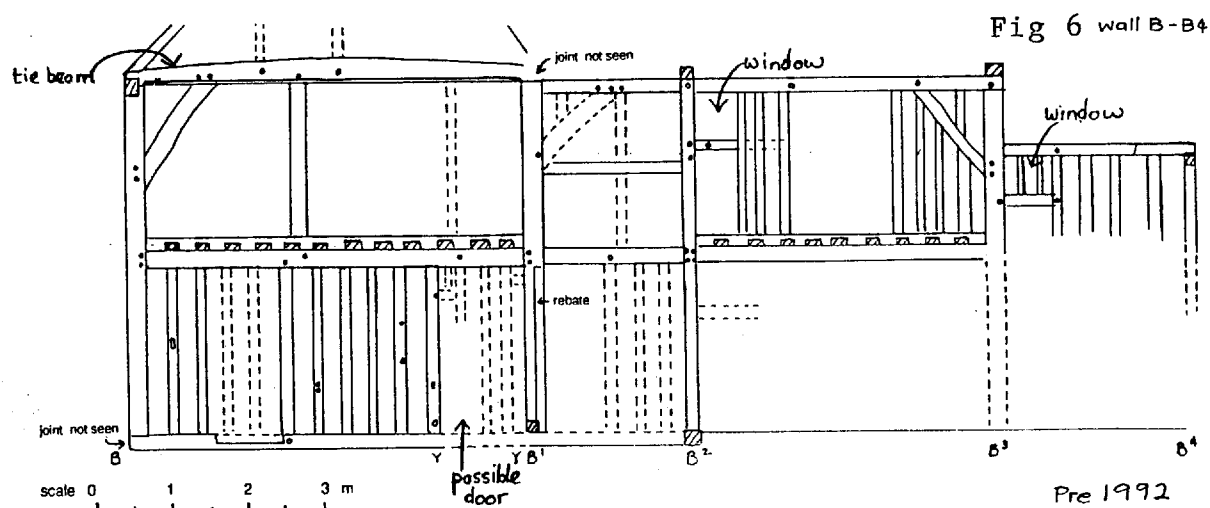
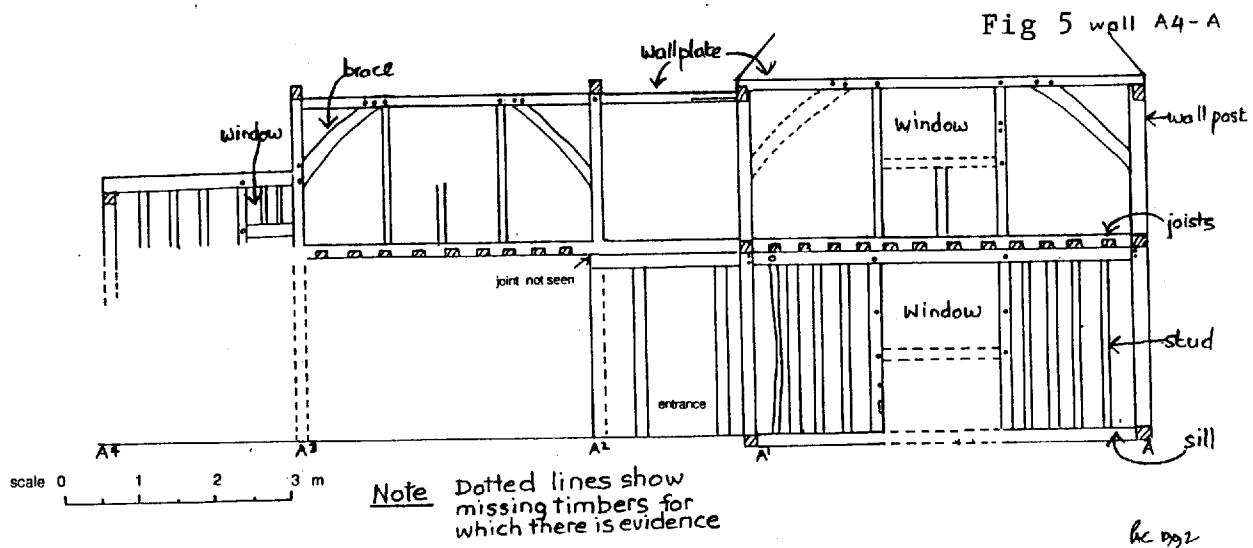
The eastern extension, A3-A4- B4-B3, was of secondary build. Only the framework of the upper floor is visible, showing the plates tenoned into the wall posts of the main building, fairly close studding, and a small diamond mullioned window in each wall; the roof was hipped and set at a lower level than that of the main building. If the extension comprised a single, high ceilinged unit its purpose is hard to see for its windows would have been awkwardly high as a source of light. The different floor level may mean that the upper room was raised over a half cellar, entered from room 2 in much the same way as room 8 is entered from room 6 at present. Either way the additional accommodation was probably for service purposes, such as storage, dairy, or still room.

Date

This phase shares the same features as the first, so would have been built fairly soon afterwards.

PHASE 3 (Fig 1c) c1600-1680

A three bay extension, C-C1- D1-D, was added to the cross-wing. As in the wing, the roof was of queen strut form, though the east purlin does not connect with the wing. The southern bay is filled by the chimney stack, which is built of narrow bricks and has three hearths. Below roof level only the ground floor of wall C-D has any original indicative features, and here there seems to have been a window. The north window of room 13 was blocked by the extension, presumably necessitating another in the west wall. Entry into the addition would have been to the east of the stack.



Date

The only visible dating feature is the roof form, typical of the period 1500-1700. Since it follows phase 1 and precedes phase 4 (see below) it was probably built between 1600 and 1680.

PHASE 4 (Fig 2a) 1700-1730

An extension of one to one and a half storeys under a catslide roof was added to the east side of rooms 5 and 6. It provided a new and more spacious staircase winding around a minute well, and a half-cellar of brick with a room over. The staircase has vase shaped balusters on the inner side. The landing balustrade was no doubt created at the same time, but the balusters have been renewed, as have most of those on the staircase itself. Whether the finials on the newels are original I do not know. The space occupied by the first staircase was left as additional circulating area.

Date

Balusters like these are found from about 1680 to 1730, and in a house of this type they are likely to be later rather than earlier. The cellar bricks are red and datable to any time from about 1680-1820. As the two features should be contemporary, the date would be early 18th century.

At this time, or subsequently, the phase 2 extension was altered. The ceiling of the ground floor was brought to the level of that in the main range by using an old timber as a spine beam, and the roof was lifted by raising short new posts and studs upon the existing wallplate to carry the present broadly hipped one. It is not clear when the ground floor room was made into one room with 2. All that can be said as to date is that the work looks like 18th or early 19th century. I do not think this spine beam would have been used after about 1840.

PHASE 5 (Fig 2b)

The main part of this was the link to the barn at the west which was an integral part of the house so making the passage across room 9 necessary. In the book "Eastcote-a pictorial history" it is reported that this was done in 1924. The reorganization was reported in **Country Life** for 1924. I have not attempted to put a date upon the creation of the garrets, which could have occurred at any time at or after phase 3 and before phase 5.

SUMMARY

The phases of the building are datable from plan, method of construction or detail. In the absence of documentary evidence a date can only be given within a band of years.

Phase 1- 1550-1600

Phase 2- 1550-1600

Phase 3- 1600-1680

Phase 4- 1700-1730

Phase 5- 1900 or after.

The house originated as an L-shaped lobby entrance house of two storeys with three rooms on each floor. Room 1 was the most consequential room downstairs, in view of the quality of the work, although few original features survive in room 2 with which to make comparison (and also in view

of the later extension at the east, which looks as though it was for service purposes). It would have been used as a parlour or chamber (sleeping room). Room 2 was the kitchen or living room. The unheated room 5 would have been a chamber, or store room or service room. Room 9 was clearly the principal upper room because of its size, and any or all of the upper rooms would have been used as chambers or for storage (or both).

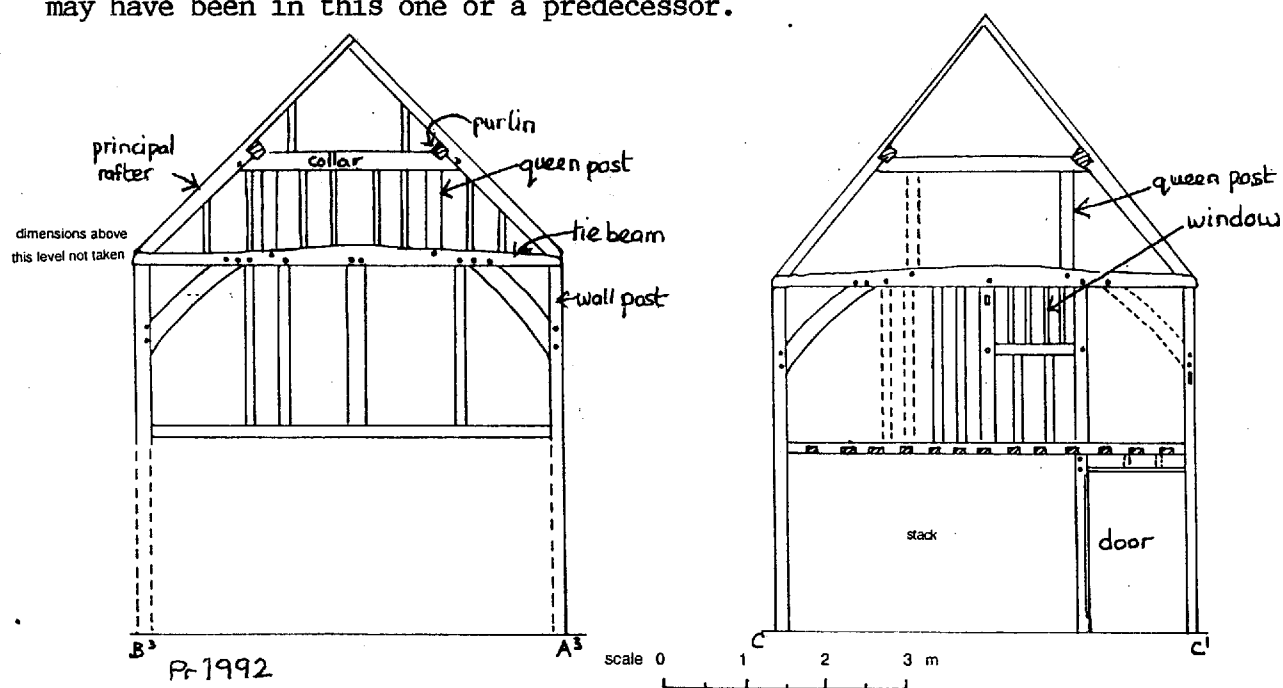
Alongside the kitchen was the obvious place for the first extension, which was almost certainly made to provide additional service rooms. It would free room 5 from any such use.

The northern extension of phase 3 provided a larger hearth, and therefore it is very likely that room 6 became the kitchen while room 2 became an additional parlour or chamber. It is characteristic of this period that houses were being enlarged and facilities and accommodation expanded.

Phase 4

Represents improvements of facilities in making service rooms more convenient to the kitchen, and also a bringing of the staircase up to date by substituting a larger and more fashionable one for the old Tudor winder or dog-leg. Other internal features may well have been made fashionable also, but no trace has survived later alterations. The conversion of the phase 2 extension and formation of the garrets, whenever they occurred, created additional room space. The 20th century alterations should be seen not merely as modernisation but as restoration, part of the fancy for timber-framed buildings following the vernacular revival of the late 19th century.

Little seems to be known of this house before the Victorian era, when census details became available. It would have been built as a yeoman's house, which means the house of a well-to-do farmer, and it probably remained a farmhouse until modern development. Whether there was an earlier house on the site I do not know. In "Eastcote-a pictorial history" it is suggested that John Fearne lived on this site in 1565. If he did, it may have been in this one or a predecessor.



ST MARTIN'S CHURCH: THE REREDOS & THE CHANCEL EAST WINDOW

by Valery Cowley

The reredos of the high altar panel, of fragile composite moulded stone and wood, was designed in 1872 by the architect (who had several commissions in the area), Robert Lewis Roumieu FRIBA, uncle of the curate, John Joseph Roumieu. It was designed so that its five compartments correspond to the five perpendicular lights of the east window. The Royal Institute of British Architects still has the pen and watercolour drawing of it in their collection.

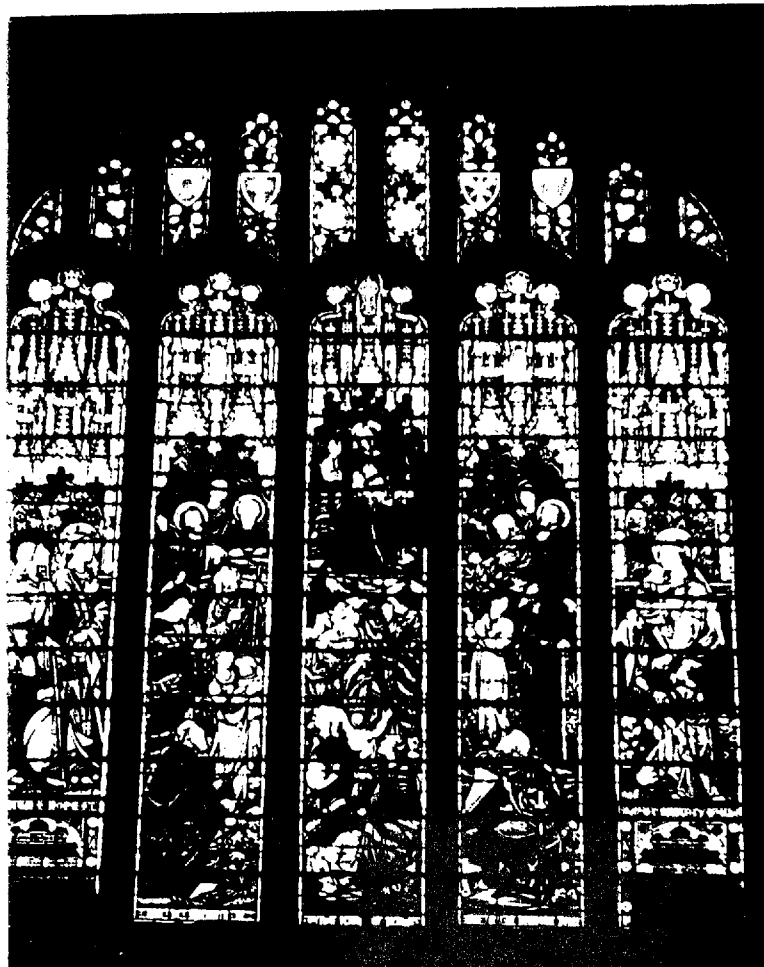
A castellated band of bird and foliage design runs across the top. Below are five gothic trefoil arches with rosettes in the spandrels. Two of the supporting columns have twining foliage, one has lilies and the outer two have an abstract design. The central panel bears a gilt chalice encircled by the inscription: "Do this in remembrance of me." Bunches of grapes fill the bottom corners. The other wooden panels are painted with the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and the Creed, whose incipits are highlighted in gold. Unfortunately these do not make much impact until seen close up.

An account of the Roumieu family by Karen Spink appears in RNELHS Journal 1993, with sections on Robert's son, who also worked locally as an architect.

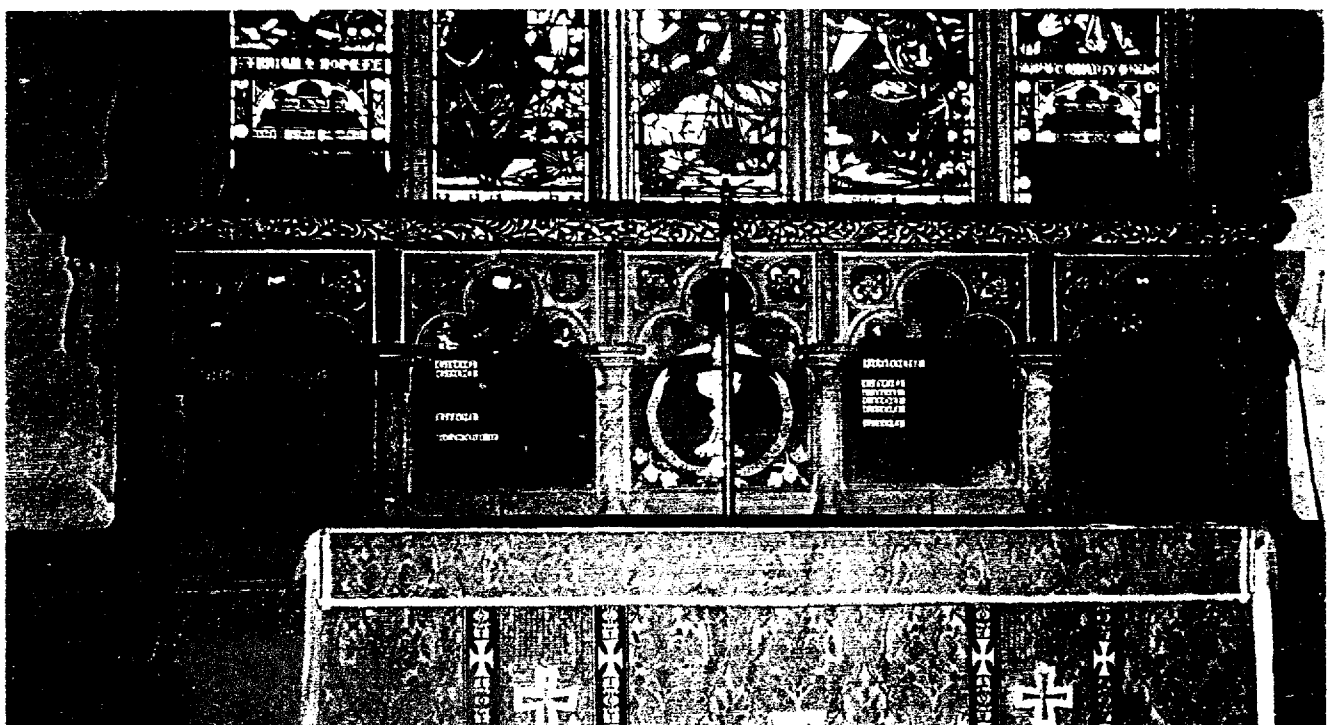
Above the reredos is the east window with five lights of perpendicular tracery. As the inscription across the bottom informs us, the Victorian glass is in memory of Ellen Baker of Haydon Hall, who died in 1869. She married Laurence James Baker, who bought the hall and land in 1865, and who was probably the churchwarden responsible for installing the reredos. The Bakers provided an annual charity supper at Haydon Hall and their daughters helped to decorate the church at harvest. Maud Frances married the Vicar, Thomas Everett, to whose memory are dedicated the two north chancel windows depicting the life of St Martin.

The subject of the chancel east window is the Sermon on the Mount, during which Christ made eight pronouncements, each beginning in the Latin translation, "Beati sunt " (Blessed are) hence the Beatitudes. In the centre Christ, in a red mantle and white tunic, sits holding his right hand in benediction over figures, including six disciples, dressed in many colours with that mixture of biblical and medieval costumes popular in 19th-century Christian art. Two old men, one blind, each with a staff, apparently symbolise Christ's healing miracles: a young man carries a lamb, probably to exemplify Christ's sacrifice as the Lamb of God: two women and a child prompt the recollection of Christ's words, "Suffer the little children to come unto me". On the right below kneels a man with an orange and white shield and a sword. It is a panorama of "all sorts and conditions of men."

On the left (facing) in lilac, white and green, with a red halo, stands the theological virtue, Faith (1 Cor 13:13) with her attribute, the cross; next to her, with a green halo, is Hope, dressed in gold, clover and blue. Below in gold is inscribed "Blessed are the pure in heart", one of the



The Chancel East Window



St Martin's church, Reredos

Beatitudes. On the right, the third virtue, Charity (Latin caritas/Greek agape=love of others or of God) in blue, gold and white with a red mantle and a green halo, carries a child dressed in apricot; her pose reminiscent of the Virgin and Child. A larger child, in purple, blue and yellow is at her feet. Below, in gold, are the words of another Beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful." The background is of red and blue flowers and leaves.

The figures, against aquamarine backgrounds, are surmounted by elaborate gold and white canopies in 15th-century style suited to the tracery. Each pinnacle is crowned with suns and roses alternating in pairs, possibly symbolising Christ and Mary respectively. The two pinnacles left and right of Christ have small winged yellow and white angels who appear to carry scrolls. The pale shape with rays in the centre light may symbolise Christ as the morning star (Rev 22:16 and 2 Pet 1:19) or maybe Christ as the Sun of Righteousness (Mat 4:2).

The centre top lights bear: the lamb and the flag with cross, symbolising Christ; a crown, His Kingship; a swan and a thistle, symbols of the end of life (the swan is supposed to sing in death), and of sin and sorrow because of the curse on Adam (Gen 3:17-18). The side top lights carry, on shields, as if He were a medieval knight, the instruments of Christ's Passion: cross and crown of thorns (left facing) and (right) nails and the chalice which caught the blood and water from Christ's pierced side. These symbols reappear in the east window of St Martin's chapel and as paterae on the nave roof. In the background are red, green and blue leaves with the grapes that symbolise the Eucharist (as they do on the reredos).

The medley of colours is somewhat unusual but I have not discovered who designed the window or the firm that installed it.

THE HEAD AND THE QUADRUPE

by Valery Cowley

Funds donated for wall-painting conservation being available and Ann Ballantyne having space in her work-schedule in the last two weeks of January, she worked on the south nave arcade east of the Musgrave monument, in St Martin's church Ruislip, where the red ochre outline of what appeared to be a horse was already visible. This has proved to be either a horse or a donkey: its ears are quite thick; there are traces of two more legs following it at the bottom left of the now cleaned and conserved section of plaster. This is clear on the tracing of the mural.

Above these creatures is a man's head with red neck-length hair and downcast or closed eyes, his chin resting on his hand and his left hand being visible midway between his head and the horse. Such a posture suggests a dream or a vision. One of his feet, in yellow, is also visible and there is an area of yellow above his head and to his left.

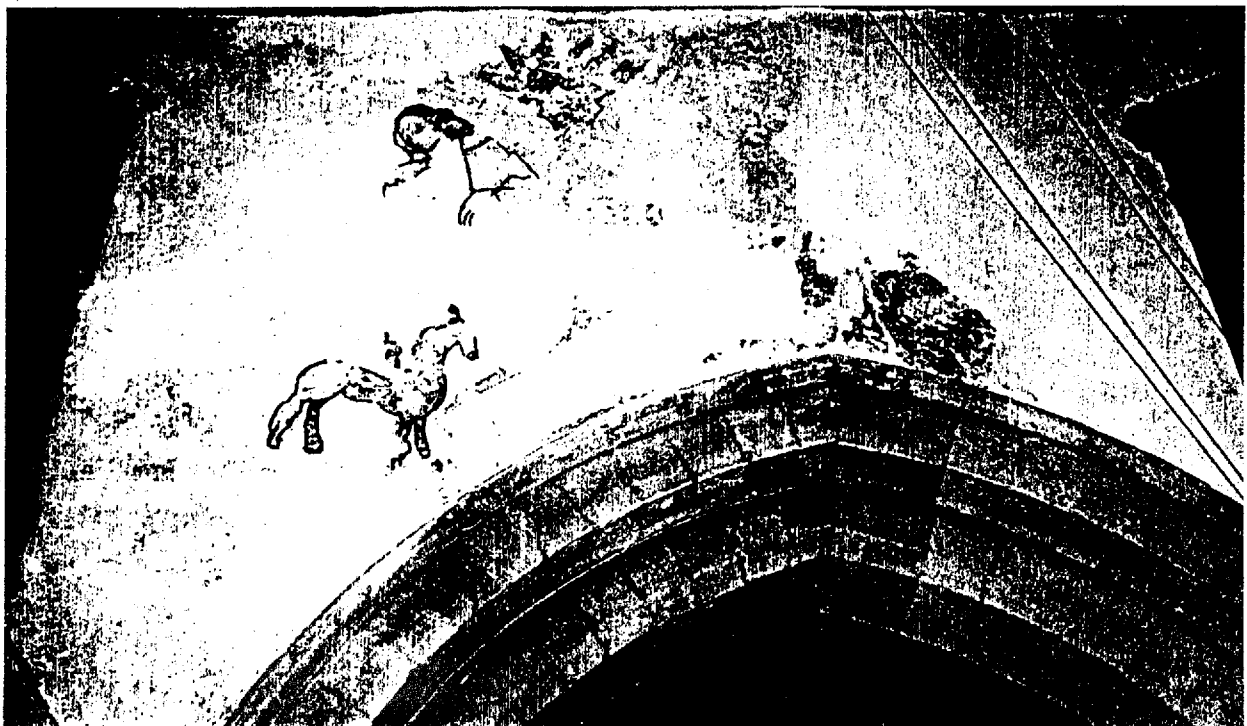
Above and to the right facing is a branching red ? tree/ ? demon or monster and further red areas both right and below. A strapped shoe, similar to the one worn by the figure painted over the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

further west, together with a yellow round-toed shoe from another figure on the right suggests a 15th rather than a 14th century date. Next to this shoe there may be one belonging to a third figure.

If this is part of a cycle of the life of our patron, St Martin of Tours, it would appear that Martin is being told in a dream to go to Illyria to convert his pagan parents, as the 12th century Golden Legend, the usual source for such hagiographical representations, relates. The horses would signify the journey and the two differently shod feet to the right would be those of Martin's parents.

In view of the youthfulness of the man's face, it seems less likely that it is St Joseph being told in a dream to take the young child and Mary his mother into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod, as Joseph is often shown as an old man in medieval tradition.

Because this is the only extensive set of nave paintings remaining in Middlesex, every effort should be made to have the whole revealed and conserved, as E.C. Rouse wrote in 1983. We also have a responsibility to prevent further discoloration from the excessive use of incense. As frankincense is a resin, it leaves a sticky dark brown deposit on the upper reaches of walls and on roof-timbers, as was observed during the 1986 conservation work. Having tantalisingly uncovered so much, it is a matter of historical, cultural and local importance that we reveal and conserve what is already partially visible in the remaining areas of the nave. It is possible that some assistance might be available, as the Parochial Church Council has undertaken the work over the last ten years. It would surely attract more visitors, interest and income if this could be done as soon as possible.



St Martin's church, wallpainting
of the head and quadruped

SOME RUISLIP CASES IN THE COURT OF REQUESTS

by Jim McBean

In earlier times it was the custom for the King to progress round the country and on these occasions he was accompanied by his judges, subsequently superseded by circuit judges, who on their travels gradually shaped local customary law into one law common to all. By the 14th century however, the common law had hardened into a strict system much concerned with legal niceties, procedural matters and the observation of proper forms and the like. There arose a need for cases to be considered on equitable and on moral grounds not usually found in common law courts. By the Tudor period, courts of equity had become established and a suitor had a number from which to choose. One of these was the court of Requests. Probably originating from the bills, requests and supplications of poor persons, the court was established by Wolsey in 1519 who settled it at Westminster. Its location is described by John Stow in his Survey of London:-

"Then at the upper end of the great hall, by the Kings Bench is a going up to a great chamber called the White Hall... and adjoining thereto is the Court of Requests."

The court originally exercised jurisdiction at the suit of poor persons and the King's servants but later it was also used by the more affluent. It proved to be a popular means of redress to a wrong and was much used. However it had always been looked at askance by the common law clerks who held that courts of law ought to be established either by prescription or legislation and the Court of Requests was established by neither. When therefore, in 1641 the court of King's Council was abolished it was considered that the Court of Requests had been abolished although in fact it functioned for a few years longer.

A suit began with the complainant (plaintiff) filing a bill of complaint against the defendant setting out his grievances and seeking the help of the court. The defendant replied with his answer which in turn could be followed by the complainant's replication followed by the defendant's rejoinder with more of the same if the parties felt it necessary. In practice, after the bill and the answer, the succeeding documents usually add very little to the case and are mostly a repeat of what has been said before. The bill, answer, replication and rejoinder plus any other documents constituted the proceedings and this next stage was for each party to draw up a list of questions, the interrogatory, to be put to witnesses. Their answers were the depositions and the case could then be argued in court. The decision of the court was in the form of an order or decree.

Each of the above steps, except the court proceedings, were written down usually at great length, on paper or parchment and after the case was decided and the decree made, the documents were gathered together into a bundle for record purposes. It is not surprising that few bundles have survived complete or wholly legible in view of the lapse of time (all the cases below are of the 16th century) and the vast number of documents involved in law cases over the centuries. In one case a single sheet of

parchment is all that will have survived, in another a complete bundle will remain. A summary of some of the Ruislip cases is as follow:-

Ref PRO REQ 2: Bundle 263/11

John Robyns and John Fern complainants. John Smythe defendant. The year is 1565.

The documents in this case are the bill, answer, replication and rejoinder. John Robyns and John Fern's plea was for the Court of Requests to stop an action for trespass against them at common law taken by John Smythe. They stated they were copyhold tenants of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow each of a 3 acre close called White Butts mead in Ruislip. White Butts was an area of land situate on the east side of the present West End Road adjoining Yeading brook and between the road and Marlpit field or perhaps part of Marlpit field. In his answer and rejoinder John Smythe said he was the farmer of the demesne lands of the manor having succeeded John Strete; that the land in question was and always had been part of the demesne land; was not copyhold land and that the complainants were trespassers.

The rental attached to the terrier of all the Ruislip manor lands drawn up by King's College Cambridge in 1565 states:-

John Fern, miller, holds $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow lying in White Butts in Westcote to himself and to his heirs by a lease dated 19 June 1 Eliz 1559 and he pays each year at the aforesaid feasts in equal parts.....15p

John Robyns senior holds $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the meadow lying in White Butts in Westcote etc, etc, (all as above)

On page 105 of "The Goodliest Place in Middlesex" it is stated:-

"Gt & Lt Windmill Fields were entirely demesne land, but a few copyholders had sellions intermixed with demesne land in other fields, which perhaps illustrates how land had gradually been gathered into the demesne....."
" The above case might be one where the farmer had territorial ambitions but had met with resistance by the copyholders.

Ref PRO REQ 2: Bundle 41/34

Richard Stubbs, Agnes his wife, John James Nelham, Robert Nelham v Alexander Crosier. The year is 1578.

Richard Stubbs, who had married Agnes Nelham after the death of her husband William, played a minor part in this case which was a dispute between the Crosiers and the Nelhams over two properties at King's End. They were firstly, a cottage, garden and a close of one acre (probably the present Orchard Cottage) and secondly a messuage with four acres "lying behind" (perhaps the former King's End Farm). King's End is an area of Ruislip which has been thoroughly explored by Colleen Cox in the 1986 Journal.

Briefly, the case related to a claim by Alexander Crosier to possession of the two properties on the grounds that in the early 1500's they were both

legally in the possession of John Crosier, his father and William Crosier, his uncle; that he was heir to both and therefore had a right of inheritance to the estates. The case of Agnes Nelham (now Stubbs) was that the Nelham family had occupied the property for a very long time and had been lawfully admitted tenants by the manor courts and that on the death of her then husband William Nelham, the properties had been willed to her. It was over 50 years since the Crosiers had been in possession.

The rival claims had come before the manor court presided over by George Ashby now lessee of the manor lands, when he denied Agnes and granted admittance to Alexander Crosier. There were dark hints that the Crosiers and the Ashbys were acquainted and that Alexander had delayed his claim until the court was presided over by George Ashby. Following the decision Crosier took possession of part of the premises and there were allegations of the harassment of Agnes Stubbs. Richard Stubbs now filed his bill of complaint with the Court of Requests as set out above and in due course the court issued its decree to the effect that George Ashby had acted unlawfully and contrary to the custom of the manor and he was ordered to reinstate Agnes Stubbs with the remainder to her sons John and James Nelham. Crosier was given the right to try to establish any claim he might have in a court of common law. However the decree was evidently ineffective since in 1587 Elizabeth Crosier, heir to her father, Alexander now deceased, answered a further bill of complaint (missing), this time in the court of Chancery by Agnes Stubbs now widow, in which she apparently repeated her claims. The outcome is not known but it is of interest to note that on page 18 of the 1987 Journal it states that by 1750 "Besides King's End Green the land which had been William Nelham's has become Charles Crosier's....."

There are several points of interest arising in this case:-

Richard Stubbs was a confectioner at the court of Queen Elizabeth and his value to the comfort of the royal household may be judged by the following:-

Calendar of the State Papers Domestic, Addenda Eliz Vol XXV 1578 p 546.

April 4th The Court, Greenwich. 87. Sir F Knollys, Sir James Croft, Sir Fras Walsingham to Mr Sackford and Mr Dale, Masters of Requests. The bearer Richard Stubbs, Her Majesty's old servant in her confectionary has had a matter in suit in your court against Alex Crosier more than a year and it being now at issue to be tried. Crosier is felling the trees and making spoil of the house. We desire you, considering the premis and that he is in daily attendance here in Her Majesty's service to take speedy order for the ending of his suit this term and that no spoil be made or trees felled until the matter is ended and that for spoils already done Crosier may put in surities to answer.

P S (in Knollys's hand) If this letter is true I desire you to expedite the ending of the matter, that Stubbs may speedily enjoy his own.

Richard Stubbs made a will in 1585 (transcribed by Derek Jacob) asking to be buried in the parish church of Ruislip. He bequeathed a bed "which bed and furniture lyeth at the Courte" and 10 shillings to "our Comon servante in the confectionary".

On the 1st June 1578 Edmund Smythe granted a lease of the manor house, lands, tenements and hereditaments to Matthew Vincent for a term of 21 years with covenants to keep the property in order and a penalty of £100 if he did not do this. Vincent was alleged to have broken the covenants and common law action was taken against him. As a result of his direct appeal to Edmund Smythe a fresh lease was granted for the remaining 18½ years with covenants to repair, sustain and maintain the manor house and buildings with all manner of needful repairs of the hedges, fences and ditches and only to fell trees needed for repairs. The obligation to observe the covenants was reduced to £40. In his answer to Matthew Vincent's bill of complaint Smythe accused the complainant of suffering the buildings and housing to go to ruin and decay. Smythe had apparently visited the premises and found a piece of the manor house to want groundfelling or underpinning and other faults. Trees had been felled.

He therefore instituted proceedings in common pleas at Westminster. Vincent's contention was that the piece of the manor house referred to was in as good condition and sort as when he took over the lease; the premises was little or nothing decayed.

In the absence of other documents it can only be assumed that Matthew Vincent's plea was the usual one of asking the Court of Requests to order Edmund Smythe to cease his action in the Westminster court.

The complex history of St Catherine's manor and Southcote is set out in chapter five of "The Goodliest Place in Middlesex". In 1549 the free tenant of Southcote was John Smythe and the above court proceedings show that the person in control of Southcote in 1578 was Edmund Smythe so that it seems likely the property was in the family for at least 32 years. If this is correct it fills a gap in the history of the estate. In 1597 Southcote was sold to Henry Clarke by Richard Vincent, John Coggs and Richard Nelham and if these persons were trustees or executors of the Smythe estate a little more of the gap would be filled but there is no evidence to this effect.

Ref REQ 2: Bundle 245/32

Thomas Nicholas of Ruislip v Richard Shepherd and Richard Millet. The year is 1584.

Members of the Nicholas family were prolific in Ruislip in the 16th century and it is difficult to identify Thomas. He was a fairly substantial land holder and so, some 19 years earlier in 1565, was John Nicholas of Field End Farm in Eastcote. Derek Jacobs in the 1989 Journal has shown that a John Nicholas who made a will in 1577 had three daughters and a son Thomas. The will of Henry Nicholas in 1611 refers to a brother Thomas. This may well be the person concerned in this case.

The sole Court of Requests document surviving is a bill of complaint filed by Thomas Nicholas against the defendants Richard Shepherd and Richard Millet, both probably Londoners, in which he stated he was the copyhold tenant of a messuage and 30 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 40 acres of pasture all in Ruislip.

In 1584 Thomas Nicholas was in prison in the gatehouse at Westminster probably for debt. Not surprisingly he was short of money and either approached or was approached by a Richard Shepherd of St John Street and negotiations took place. An immediate loan for a small sum was arranged subject to a bond and Thomas was released. But the main cause of the dispute related to a bargain for the sale of the Ruislip messuage and 14 acres allegedly entered into and at a price much below its proper value. A meeting on the subject had taken place at the house in St John Steet of Henry Clarke steward of the Ruislip manor court. Thomas denied entering into the bargain and said he was tricked into signing a bond. However Shepherd and Richard Millet secured a judgement against him from the justices of the Westminster bench and he was returned to prison. His plea to the Court of Requests was for the court to command the defendants to cease their action against him. The outcome of the suit cannot have been satisfactory to Thomas since in 1589 he filed another bill of complaint against the same defendants this time in the Court of Chancery.

The gatehouse at Westminster stood on the present open area immediately in front of the west end of the Abbey. Tothill Street led directly to it. The gatehouse gave access to the Abbey precincts and consisted of a double building; the part nearest the road was used as a civil prison and the part to the east was a prison for erring clergy. It was built c 1370 and largely demolished by 1776. In these early days prisons were not for the purpose of punishment as such but to hold debtors until their obligation had been met or to hold prisoners awaiting their trial or awaiting transportation.

Ref REQ 2: Bundle 16/109

Roger Arnold v Richard Thomas. The year is 1549/50.

Thomas Arnold was the holder of large areas of land in the parish of Ruislip and elsewhere. In 1537 a Joan Austin surrendered to him a messuage and four acres of land at King's End (perhaps King's End Farm) which was held in the family for 16 years until 1553 when it was surrendered to William Nelham (see Stubbs-Crosier above). In addition he held a lease of a large holding in Northwood which included two cottages one called North House, in all probability the present Grange, and a messuage and land called Brompton in the parish of Kensington. When Thomas Arnold died his interests in all these properties together with his personal estate were bequeathed to his son Roger. Roger Arnold was a minor of 14 at the time and trustees were appointed one of which was his uncle Ruff Arnold. In course of time Ruff Arnold died and his wife Agnes faithfully carried on the trusteeship until she married a Richard Thomas when difficulties occurred. On reaching the age of 21, Roger Arnold called on Richard Thomas to account for the rents, profits and personal estate (including 20 great oxen) left to him by his father and in 1549/50 filed a bill of complaint in the Court of Requests against Thomas alleging that the whole of his entitlement had not been delivered to him but that Thomas had the intent to convert the same to his own use. Witnesses in the case included Ralph Hawtrey.

In a later Chancery case when Roger Arnold filed a bill of complaint against George Ashby of Breakspears over a loan of £400, Roger Arnold was said to be of Childwick in Hertfordshire. The main branch of the Arnold family seems to have been based in the Kensington / Earls Court area. Parish registers there between 1539 & 1675 show no less than 94 entries for Arnold.

REFERENCES

William Holdsworth	A History of English Law: Vol I
John Stow	The Survey of London
Eileen Bowlt	The Goodliest Place in Middlesex
Marjorie Honeybourne	The Sanctuary Boundaries etc, of Westminster Abbey
Public Record Office	Chancery Lane, Round Room.

HOME FARM, ICKENHAM

by Eileen M. Bowlt

HOME FARM

Home Farm, with its fine timber-framed house, stabling and dairy-shop alongside and barn in the field behind, spread an atmosphere of rural calm over the centre of Ickenham, especially when Mr Saich's cows were in evidence as one walked down Austins Lane. Until recently it was possible to stop by the field gate and look back and see only the barn, field, farm house and the top of St Giles' steeple, with no signs of the modern buildings and traffic lying so close; and truly imagine oneself back in "our lost Elysium" of rural Middlesex, half expecting to see cottagers' children running down to the Marsh to collect blackberries.

During 1993 the whole environment of the farm changed and the field is now being covered with large warden-controlled units; the barn will provide small workshops for the residents of the new housing and the farm-house is to become a private residence. The farm retains the familiar Home Farm name, but the new development is called Church Place.

CHURCH PLACE

Perhaps our readers are asking where the name "Church Place" has come from and wondering whether the developer has made it up! In fact the name is historically significant and may indeed be the original name of Home Farm. Although Home Farm sounds old and conjures up ideas of the main farm of the manor, it was never owned by the Lords of the Manor of Ickenham and only got its present name late in the 19th century, the first reference found, being in the local street directory for 1887. The 1881 census simply refers to it as "the old farmhouse" and William Norman, an agricultural labourer lived there with his family. However, it seems to be a house that came down in the world, because Pat Clarke who has examined the building in detail (see following article), found workmanship of a high quality, unusual in Middlesex and possibly dating from the 15th century.

CERTAIN INFORMATION about the ownership of Home Farm starts with the 1781 Enclosure Map and Award (1). John Crosier of Sherwyns (now Ickenham Hall by the Compass Theatre) was the owner and the tenant was called Stone.

John Crosier was a batchelor who lived with his sister, Sarah. After his death on 17 Nov 1801 he was buried in St Giles' churchyard under a large square monument topped with a ball, whose dilapidation is causing concern at the moment. Having no children he left all his freehold & copyhold messuages for the use of EDWARD HILLIARD the YOUNGER, 2nd son of his niece Elizabeth Stafford Hilliard, for life, with remainder to issue male, lawfully begotten.

Remainder was to his younger brother George Hilliard for life, with remainder to such of his sons as he should appoint and in default of appointment to his first and every other son successively in tail male with remainders for ever. (2)

Edward Hilliard the Younger died in 1809 without issue and his brother George succeeded him and lived until 6 Nov 1855. As George's only son, Edward David Crosier Hilliard had already died in June 1853, his grandson George Edward Anstruther Hilliard succeeded to the property.

After his death on 27 Aug 1870 probate was granted to James Arthur Hilliard and Clement Uredale Price as trustees. (3) The property remained in the hands of the Hilliard family until 1927, when CYRIL SAICH purchased it from the Hilliard Estate through Pemberton and Lee, Solicitors of Lincoln's Inn. (4) Cyril Saich died in December 1989 and the recent change in ownership and use followed.

PROBABLE EARLIER OWNERSHIP

In 1624 William Crosier, yeoman of Ickenham, owned CHURCHPLACE, with enclosures called:

Long Croft	4 acres
Short Croft	1 acre
Ley Grove	2½ acres

and about 40 acres of land in the open fields. (5)

Initials WC, among others and the date 1705 incised in the brickwork of the wing of the building could stand for William Crosier and may indicate the date when that part of the house was rebuilt. There are indications in the timber frame of the main part of the house that it extended further in the same direction in earlier times.

The 1781 Enclosure Award shows Long Croft and Ley Grove still in the hands of the Crosier family, but there is no mention of Short Croft anywhere in the Award. The two fields are closer to Home Farm (then called Stone's Homestead) than to any other Crosier properties shown on the accompanying map.

In view of the probable continuity of Crosier ownership and the continued attachment of Long Croft and Ley Grove, it is tempting to assume that Home Farm was the Church Place. The proximity to the church adds colour to this view, but the evidence is only circumstantial. However, it is pleasant to see the old name revived.

THE CROSIERS IN ICKENHAM

Crosiers are mentioned in Ickenham parish registers from 1561 onwards, William and John being the most common male christian names in the family. In the 16th century they enjoyed yeoman status, for that is how Henry Crosier described himself in his will written in 1583, (6) but they climbed the social ladder and 18th century Crosiers are referred to as "gentlemen".

The William Crosier of Church Place in 1624 also owned Sears, which has not been precisely identified, but may have been on the site of Apple Tree Cottage in Swakeleys Road. At the same time Robert Crosier owned Sherwyns, which is now Ickenham Hall. (7) Michael Crosier bought land adjoining Sherwyns, with barns and stables from John & Agnes Nicholas in 1628. (8) A later William bought Rayners from James Carwitham in 1685, a house on Long Lane, later known as Milton Farm. (9) When his son, another William married Elizabeth Winchester of Ruislip in 1695, Reyners formed part of the marriage settlement. (10) All this property (and much else in nearby parishes) passed to the Hilliards as described above.

THE SAICH FAMILY'S CONNECTION WITH HOME FARM

Cyril Saich, in an interview in 1983, said that his grandfather Matthew Saich lived at the Coach & Horses and was the tenant of Home Farm. Census Returns confirm that Matthew Saich was at the Coach & Horses in 1861, 1871 and that his widow, Emma, was there in 1881. Mr Saich said that his grandmother moved into Home Farm during her widowhood and that his father Algernon Saich moved into Home Farm about 1904 and Emma then moved into the cottage next door, which was owned by the Saich family.

After the rest of his family left home, Cyril Saich lived at Home Farm with his wife. She was formerly Miss Wiskin from the shop at the far end of the row of cottages by the pond. During the Second World War Miss Pat Byrne came to work on the farm as a land girl and because of Mrs Saich's poor health, stayed on after the war to look after her and later to housekeep for Mr Saich during his widowerhood. She is well known in the neighbourhood as she gives interesting talks about her land girl experiences. The developer asked her to look after the house while the new buildings were being erected and until a buyer was found for the farmhouse. In January 1994 it is still on the market and the warden controlled units are not yet completed.

There were never more than about 50 acres of land attached to Home Farm, but Mr Saich rented a great deal more from time to time, much of it around the Marsh from Francis Jackson Development Company. Francis Jackson had bought the land intending to build a large estate complete with cinema, in the 1930s, but Green Belt legislation in 1938 saved the fields for posterity. Mr Saich had a beef herd in 1983 and a cow had strayed onto the line near Ickenham Station on the 25th October and had stopped the trains running for a time. The news had been broadcast on the radio on the day of the interview, much to Mr Saich's amusement. Before the building of Western Avenue in 1935 he had rented land as far as Gutteridge Wood.

REFERENCES:

1. GLRO: MR/DE ICK/1 Award & Map
2. " : Acc 640/76
3. " : Ibid
4. Information from Cyril Saich
5. GLRO: Acc 640/20/2

6. PRO : PROB 11 65
7. GLRO: Acc 640/20/1-2
8. " : Acc 640/13
9. " : Ibid
10. " : Acc 276/418

THE BARN AT HOME FARM, ICKENHAM

by Colin Bowlt

The barn was inspected on 30th June 1993, a few weeks after scaffolding had been erected. The roof tiles had been removed and a general tidying up was in progress, under a cover of blue plastic sheeting.

It was found to contain a large amount of reused timber: curved tie-beams, bridging beams with mortices for floor joists and beams with mortices for studs. We were hoping to find evidence that the barn had been built with timbers from the part of the house which might have been dismantled at the beginning of the 18th century, but were not successful. There were no smoke-blackened timbers, which could have come from a hall and cross-wing house, for example.

The large timber-framed barn lies adjacent and at right angles to Austins Lane to the south of the farm house. It is a five bay building of oak timbering with the cills resting on what appears to be a largely original brick base. The roof trusses are of queen strut type. The purlins are tenoned into the principle rafters and staggered. This is unusual in this area where surviving timber-framed buildings often have clasped purlins. The main posts have short chiselled carpenters' marks, apparently in original sequence.

A particularly interesting feature of this barn is the amount of reused timber. Three of the six tie beams are nicely curved pieces of a quality usually seen in dwellings rather than barns. They also have now redundant mortices which formerly held joists to support floor boards. Two other tie beams are straight, but the presence of mortices on opposite faces for joists, indicate that they were formerly bridging beams to support a first floor. The final tie beam was straight and rough with a single mortice.

The re-used timbers appear to derive from a two-storey house with a minimum of three bays. The upper rooms of this house must have been open to the roof originally, but since one curved tie beam had joist mortices on opposite faces and stud mortices on the upper face, it is concluded that at a later date two bays of the roof space were made into two rooms. Where this house stood is not known, but it was probably in Ickenham and dismantled in the 18th century when the present barn seems to have been built. Our forefathers were less wasteful than we are today and reused old materials as much as possible.

The barn is tiled and weather boarded except for the eastern end of the north facing wall, which has brick nogging between studs. One of the bricks has the initials IWH scratched onto it. Rather interestingly these studs bear carpenters' marks VII to XII on the outside of the building. A scarf-joint here is also marked. It is presumed that the studs on the west side of the doorway has marks I to VII hidden by the weather boarding.

The type of purlins, chiselled carpenters' marks, base bricks and the reused timber, suggest a possible late 17th/early 18th century date for the building.

RUISLIP WAR MEMORIAL

by Colleen Cox

As early as September 1917, before the end of the First World War was in sight, an article in the Parish Magazine proposed that Ruislip should have a War Memorial "for our dear boys", as those who had lost their lives in the war were described. The proposal clearly met with approval and the following month the vicar of Ruislip the Reverend W.A.G. Grey asked Mr G. Fellowes-Prynne of Westminster to furnish a suitable design.

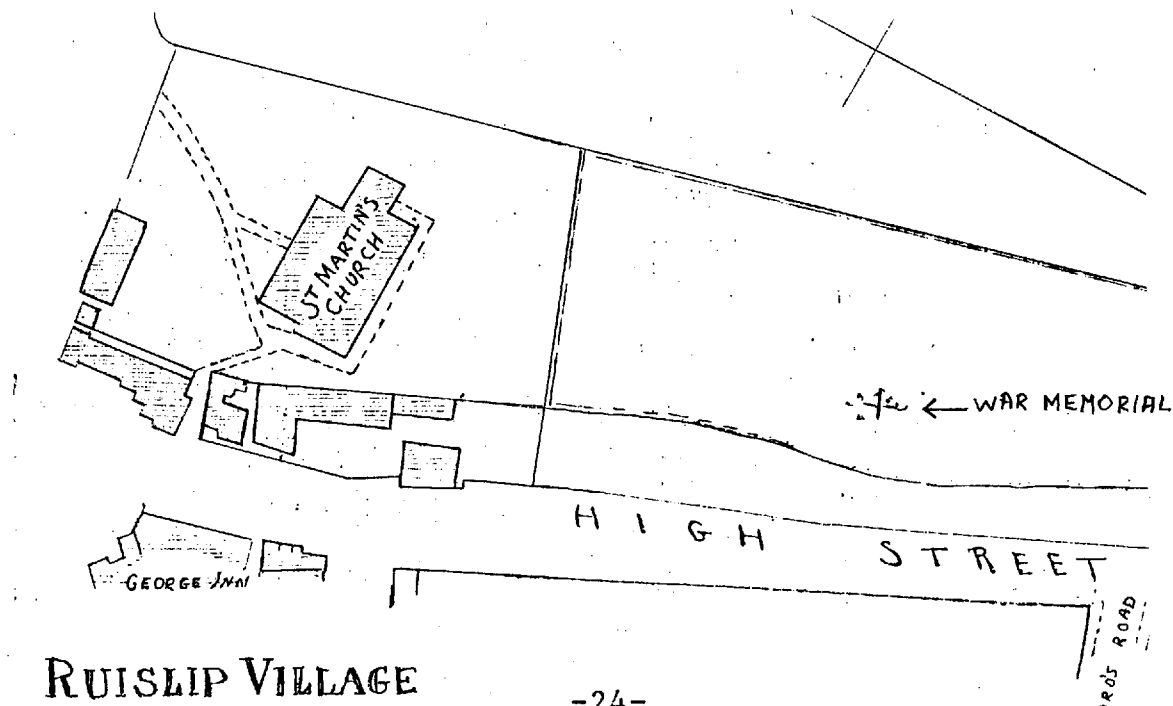
A year later, on December 27th 1918 an announcement appeared in the local paper that Mr Fellowes-Prynne's design was on view at St Martin's Church. A letter was sent out calling for donations and £600 was contributed towards the costs of the memorial.

The approved design was of a Calvary Cross on a pedestal bearing the inscription:-

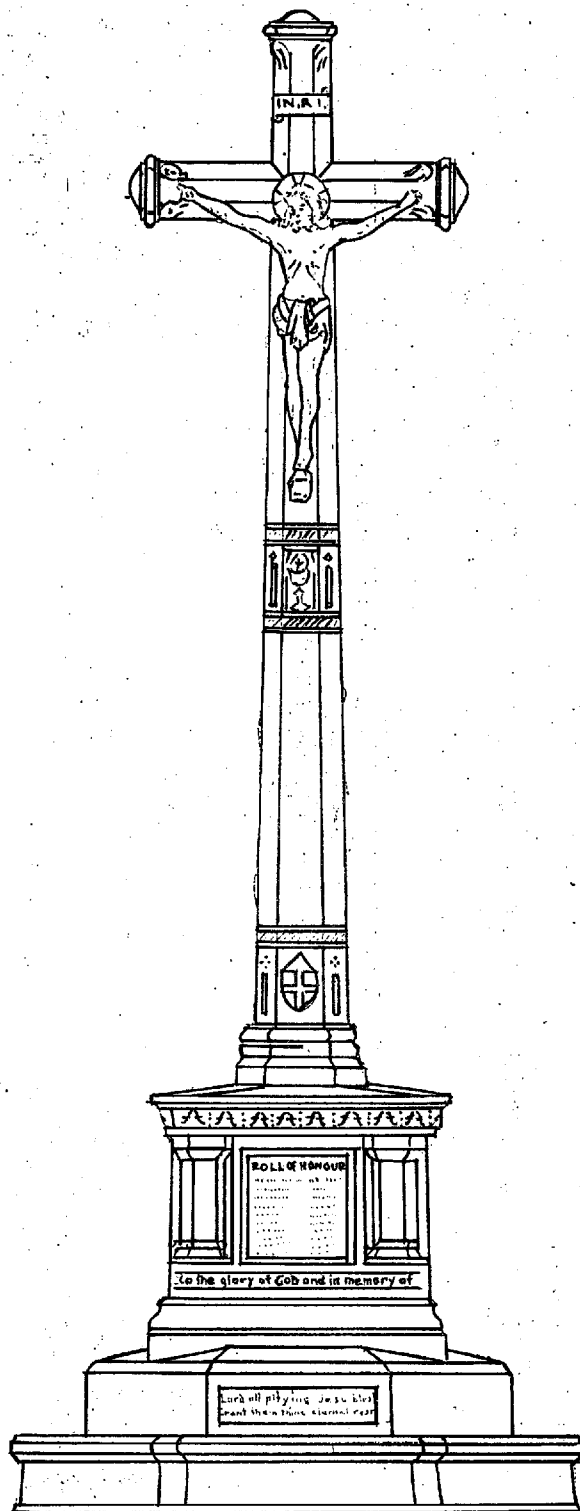
"To the Glory of God and in Memory of those who have given their lives for their King and their Country"

The roll of honour was inscribed on four bronze panels at the base of the cross. The roll was to include the names of the men of the parish who had fallen during the First World War whether by accident or enemy action. It was also to include the names of the officers and men of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force who had died while flying from Northolt Aerodrome.

The memorial was erected on sanctified ground in the extension of the graveyard to the south of St Martin's Church, facing east overlooking the war graves. The Dedication Ceremony which took place on April 2nd 1920 was conducted by the Bishop of London. It was attended by 600 people including 250 soldiers of the Royal Air Force and an RAF band.



RUISLIP VILLAGE



Ruislip War Memorial

The position of the War Memorial did not meet with universal approval, facing as it did away from the High Street and separated from it by a wooden fence. In the early 1930s the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council acquired the strip of land on the High Street adjacent to the churchyard and various plans were put forward to open up the War Memorial site. On May 19th 1933 a stormy vestry meeting was held in the church room to discuss two issues, firstly, the re-siting of the memorial further south in the churchyard and secondly to turn it so that it faced the High Street.

An account of the meeting reports that "Free discussion of each aspect of the subject was frankly faced in excellent temper." The result of the voting for the first motion was 43 in favour of moving the memorial south and 39 against. The second motion was defeated with 11 in favour and 53 against.

The vicar, the Reverend Edward Cornwall-Jones said that the vote for the first motion was insufficiently conclusive for him to petition the Chancellor of the Diocese of London to obtain a Faculty enabling the move to take place. He said however that there was nothing to prevent the Urban District Council from procuring a Faculty on its own account.

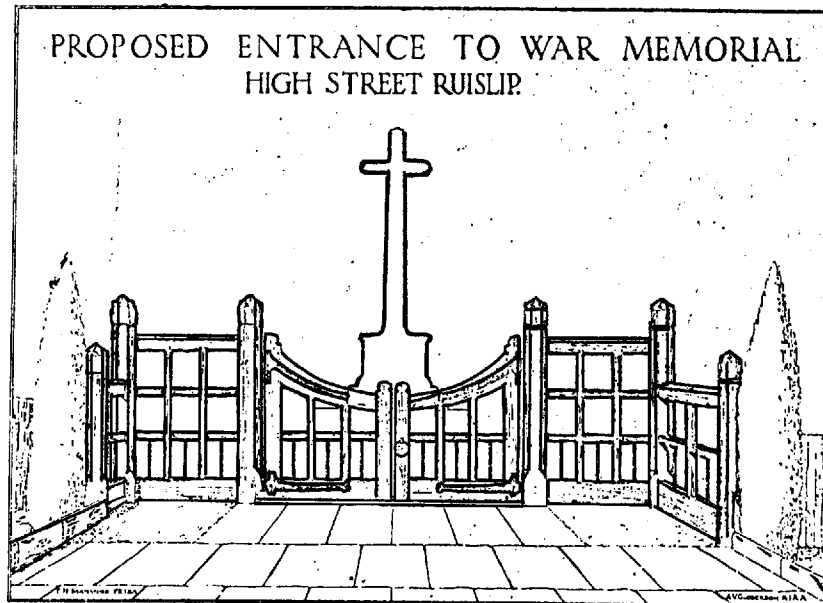
Fears were expressed that the expenditure for any move would fall either on the church or on the rates but it was stressed that the costs would be met by voluntary contributions.

A leading local resident, Hugh Mansford, suggested that part of the existing wooden churchyard fence be replaced by an ornamental fence and gate to allow access from the High Street. This suggestion was met with approval but not that from the British Legion for a second memorial, as it was held that two memorials within 50 yards of each other would perpetuate a disunity which was little in accord with the spirit of the 1914-18 war.

Despite the general agreement in principle, there were still concerns about the costs of implementing the proposals. However after Coucillor Parker gave his personal guarantee that he and his friends would be responsible for contributing £200 of the estimated costs of the work, the Parochial Council announced its interest in applying for a Faculty to enable them to move the memorial on the grounds that it would "enhance the dignity of the memorial and make it at once both a sacred memorial to the gallant men of Ruislip and an improvement to our main street."

In November 1935 further agreement was reached between the three parties involved, namely the British Legion, the Parochial Church Council and Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, that a Faculty should be applied for to allow public access to the memorial from the High Street. The proposal was that a portion of the wooden fence be removed and be replaced by two substantial wooden gates with suitable piers and with lock and bolts. A paved path flanked with flower beds and hedges were to be laid from the gates across the churchyard to the memorial. A path would also be made across the strip of land in the High Street. The British Legion Committee undertook to defray the costs of the work and the Parochial Council undertook to keep the gates unlocked during the daylight hours.

The Faculty was duly obtained on March 2nd 1936 and the work undertaken at a cost of £88 with £45 for the gates and fencing and £12-15s for wrought iron work.



After the 2nd World War, the memorial took the form of building the War Memorial Homes for the disabled ex-servicemen in Park Avenue, Ruislip. There are five pairs of semi-detached red brick houses overlooking the Pinn Playing Fields. These were opened by Princess Margaret in June 1952.

The memorial in the High Street appears to have been neglected and the public complained to the British Legion which was considered to be responsible for its care. This prompted an irate letter from the Vice-President of the Ruislip British Legion to the Residents' Association disclaiming responsibility and recommending that the church authorities and the council should come to an agreement enabling the management and upkeep of the memorial to be taken over by the Urban District Council.

He also commented that although the homes for disabled ex-servicemen had been built, and that the local council had compiled a Book of Remembrance which could be seen by those calling at the council offices during business hours, the names of the fallen in the 1939-45 war had not been inscribed on the memorial. He wrote "Go where you will throughout the length and breadth of Britain, I have not seen a memorial to the 1914-18 War without an additional reference to the 1939-45 fallen."

Despite the efforts of the British Legion it was not until 1958 that a Faculty was obtained leasing care and management of the approaches to the Calvary site to Ruislip-Northwood Urban Council at a rent of 1s per annum for 99 years.

The next episode in the history of the Ruislip War Memorial occurred in 1974 when a letter was sent by the Ruislip Royal British Legion Branch to the Chief Executive of Hillingdon Council requesting that the memorial be re-sited. The letter pointed out that the memorial was some 30ft from the High Street behind a gated fence and almost totally obscured by trees and shrubs. Each Armistice Sunday a parade of up to 600 people collected in the High Street to face the rear of the memorial which was only viewable by a few people near the front of the assembled crowd. One option they proposed was to open up the site, to move the memorial nearer to the High Street and to turn it to face the road. The alternative was to move the memorial to the area between the road to Manor Farm and St Martin's Approach.



After some initial reluctance the church authorities indicated that they would accept the re-siting of the memorial on the Manor Farm site with the figure of Christ facing towards St Martin's Church. The cost of the work was to be shared between the British Legion and the Council. The proposals were sent for planning permission but this was not granted until April 1976 by which time the initially agreed costs had risen by some 12%.

The Faculty was obtained from the church authorities in August 1976.

In October of the same year the work which involved removal and cleaning of the memorial and preparation of the new site was undertaken by Wilson's the stone masons of Uxbridge at a cost of £5400.

The new position of the War Memorial was greeted with almost universal approval and was in place for ceremonies to be held there in November 1976.

The British Legion had still not succeeded in their other quest to have the names of the war dead in 1939-45 inscribed on the memorial. In 1979 they wrote again to the Council asking that this be undertaken. As the Council felt unable to assist in 1980 the Ruislip Branch of the Royal British Legion decided to proceed themselves. They announced their intention in the local newspapers and asked for donations. They also asked the public to inform them of the names of other local residents who had died on active service during the war but whose names had not been included in the Book of Remembrance. The names were duly inscribed on six bronze plates.

The Ruislip War Memorial now stands in an attractive and historic part of the old village of Ruislip. It bears the names of 71 men of the parish, of the Royal Air Corps and Royal Air Force who died on active service during the 1914-1918 war. It now also contains the names of 132 who died between 1939-1945.

Members of the Ruislip Branch of the Royal British Legion are to be commended for all their efforts to honour those associated with Ruislip who gave their lives during two world wars.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I should like to thank members of the Ruislip Branch of the Royal British Legion for lending their archival material and enabling me to prepare this article.

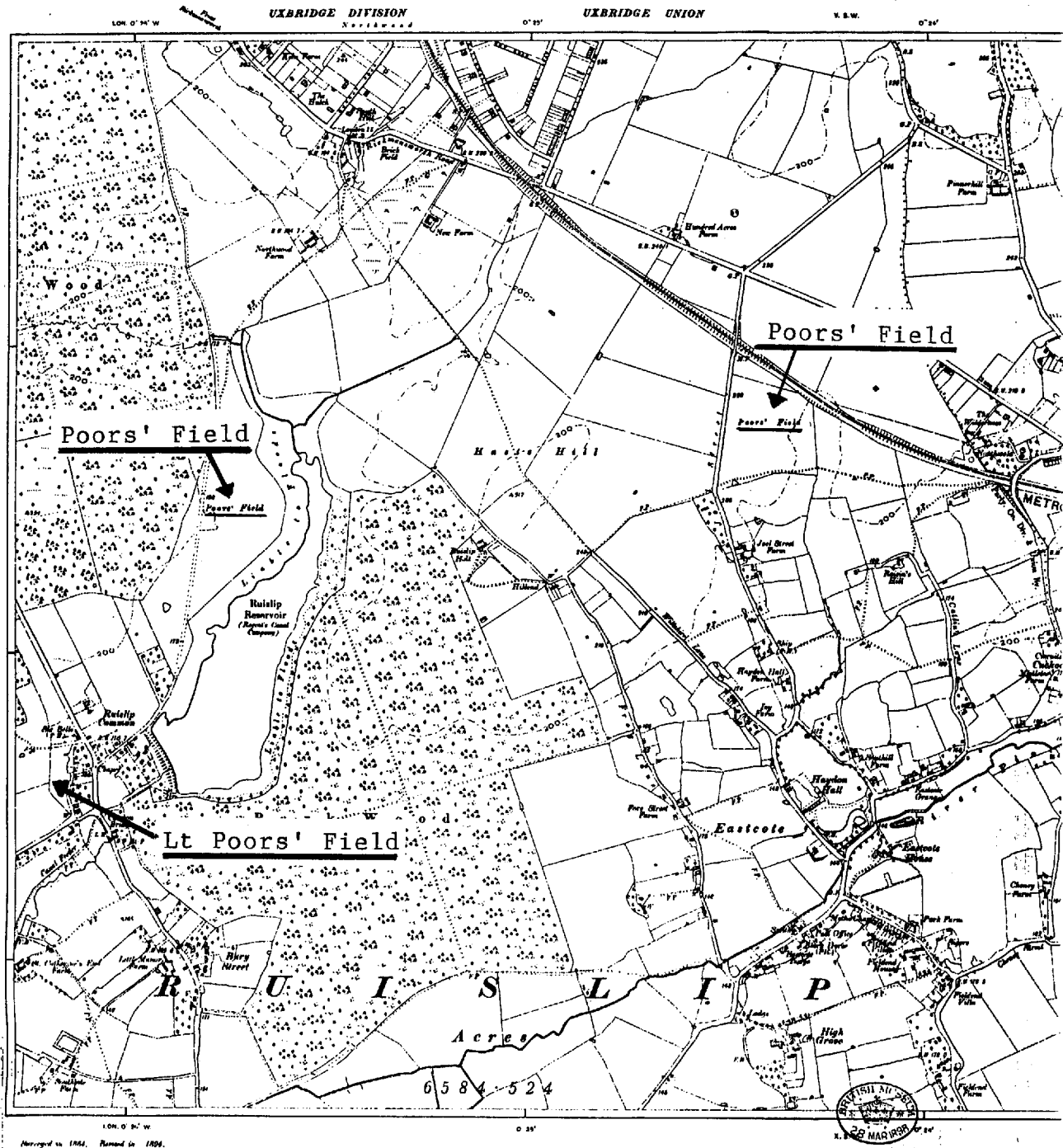
RUISLIP COTTAGERS' ALLOTMENTS CHARITY

Eileen M. Bowlt

The Ruislip Cottagers' Allotments Charity administers just over 12 acres of land on the east side of Joel Street, which is leased to the Ruislip-Northwood Co-operative Small Holdings & Allotments Society; and at Christmas time each year it distributes small amounts of money from its income, to Old People's Homes in the Ruislip-Northwood area, (about £50 each). It is governed by 13 Trustees: two Ex-Officio, the Vicars of Ruislip (St Martin's) & Northwood (Holy Trinity); one Nominated Trustee, chosen by the Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society acting on behalf of King's College, Cambridge; eight Representative Trustees appointed by Hillingdon Borough Council; and two Co-optative Trustees.

In November 1992 the Trustees decided to ask the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales to draw up a new Scheme to facilitate the administration of the Charity in modern conditions, while reflecting its original objects. The Charity, whilst not the oldest of Ruislip's charities, has a venerable history, having been set up by the Enclosure Commissioners who enclosed Ruislip's common fields and wastelands between 1804 & 1814. Their object was to provide grazing land for poor people who were about to lose their common rights on the waste.

SECOND EDITION, 1897.



Revised to 1894. Revised to 1896.

CHARACTERISTICS AND SYMBOLS.

County Boundary	Antiquities, Site of	Trigonometrical Station
Parish Boundary	Arrows, showing direction of flow of water	
Customs	200	
Instrumental	225	
Sketches		

For other information see Characteristic Sheet.

Price 1s.

10 Chains
of Poles to
1000 Feet
1 Furlong

Heliogravure from 1880 Plans and Published at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton

The Altitudes are given in Feet above the assumed Mean Level of the Sea at Liverpool, which is one of a Foot below the general M. A. Altitudes indicated thus (a.s.m.) refer to Bench Marks on Buildings, Walls, &c., those marked thus (-) proceed or follow

ORIGIN OF THE CHARITY

39 acres of common between Park & Copse Woods (later known as Gt Poor's Field and now often referred to simply as Ruislip Common), 2 acres west of Withy Lane (known then as "the allotment in the withies" and later as Lt Poor's Field) and 18 acres east of Joel Street (the Eastcote Allotment) were vested in the Vicar, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor to provide grazing for **"such poor as are real, true occupiers of cottages only, as their share and interest of the common and waste lands in respect to their occupation and residence therein only, whose rents shall not exceed £5 per annum and having no other residence or place of residence".**
(1)

The cottagers were apportioned a stint; in 1834 it was the grazing of one horse, cow or ass between Old May Day (11th May) and Christmas Day; and had to produce a receipt of their rental to the Vestry Clerk. (2) However, relatively few cottagers had animals to graze and by 1875, the Rev J.J. Roumieu noted in his book, "Ruislip, a History of the Parish and the Church", that they were selling their grazing rights for between six shillings and ten shillings a year.

THE 1882 SCHEME (3)

The Trustees applied to the Charity Commissioners in July 1880 for a scheme of administration, which would be more in keeping with actual conditions and useful for the cottagers. The new scheme was sealed on 4th April 1882 and vested the allotments and estates in The Official Trustee of Charity Lands in trust for the Charity. The Trustees were to be 13 in number, but the composition was slightly different from now. A Representative Trustee was to be appointed by the Provost & Fellows of King's College; the Churchwardens & Overseers of the Poor were to be Ex-Officio as well as the Vicars of Ruislip and Northwood; four Elective Trustees, two of whom should be owners or occupiers of land of the rateable value of not less than £100 per annum, were to be elected at the Easter Vestry; and there were to be two Co-optative Trustees. The first Co-optative Trustees were Francis Henry Deane, of East View, Uxbridge, Esq (owner of Eastcote House and several farms) and Lawrence James Baker of Haydon Hall. Provision was made to pay a Clerk, who was not a trustee, a reasonable salary.

Property values had risen in Ruislip over the 70 years or so of the Charity's existence and proper recipients were now deemed to be occupiers of cottages valued at not more than £8 per annum, or £10, where the owner paid rates and taxes.

Lt Poor's Field and part of the Eastcote Allotment could be laid out as Field Gardens (Allotment Gardens in the modern sense) of not more than one rood in size and let to cottagers at a fair agricultural rent, but Gt Poor's Field was mainly reserved for grazing, though a portion could be appropriated for recreational use. If no cottagers wished to avail themselves of their rights, the whole 39 acres could be let for pasturage. Looking to the future and the probable development of railways, the Charity Commissioners permitted the letting of some land on building leases.

Up to this point it seems to the present writer that cottagers might well have preferred to continue in the old way, getting their few shillings a year by selling their grazing rights, rather than having to pay rent for Field Gardens, where they could grow vegetables, but the Scheme set out various methods of expending the income arising out of the rents etc, for the general good:

The maintenance of a reading room provided with suitable books and periodicals for the use of cottagers, and where coffee and other refreshments authorised by the Trustees could be drunk.

Subscriptions to Hospitals, Infirmarys or Dispensaries to secure their benefits to cottagers.

Contributions towards the purchase of annuities.

Subscriptions in aid of Provident Clubs or Friendly Societies.

Contributions towards the cost of emigration.

Contributions towards the cost of an outfit, on entering a trade or occupation, or into service, of any person under 21 years of age.

The Scheme seems to have been aimed at helping all age groups and both sexes to educate themselves and to assist them in times of sickness and difficulties; to give a hand to young people setting out in life; and to help cottagers provide for their old age in the way of annuities.

THE SCHEME OF 1909 (4)

Railways did come into the area, to Northwood in 1887 and to Ruislip in 1904 and began to change its character to such an extent that the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council was set up in 1904 and property values again rose. The Trustees led by Ralph Hawtrey Deane of 98 Sinclair Road, Kensington, Esquire (and owner of Eastcote House and its estate) applied for a variation to the 1882 Scheme to meet changing circumstances. The two Vicars remained as Ex-Officio Trustees, King's College were to choose a Nominated Trustee and the Urban District Council was to appoint eight Representative Trustees and there were to be two Co-optative Trustees, Ralph Hawtrey Deane, being one of the first of these.

The charity was extended to the occupiers of "tenements" at a rental of £20 per annum or £25 if the owner paid rates and taxes, which brought people who rented rooms into its orbit. The Trustees could now let any portions of its land as allotments direct, or to the RNUDC to let as allotment gardens.

VARIATION 1922 (5)

In October 1921 the Trustees were concerned to find that rising rents and rates had disqualified some cottagers from receiving help. 10s 0d a week, being a common rent, they asked the Charity Commissioners to raise the value of the tenements to £27 per annum or £36, where the owner paid rates and taxes and this was agreed in 1922.

THE 1936 SCHEME (6)

In 1935 the Trustees exchanged 5½ acres of the Joel Street land with Southern Park Estates Ltd for 9½ acres of Hundred Acres Farm called the Hogs Back, and were paid £2600 as well. In view of the increased income, they sought a new scheme from the Charity Commissioners, enabling them to assist distressed persons directly. The new clauses allowed the Trustees:

To give donations "to any Hospital, Dispensary, Infirmary, or Convalescent Home, or any Establishment in which persons suffering from any bodily infirmity are taught any trade or employment...to enable the Trustees to secure the benefits of the institution for the objects of the Charity."

To contribute to travelling expenses of patients to or from such establishments.

To assist members of cottagers' families, aged under 21 years, preparing for any "trade, occupation or service, by outfits, payment of fees for instruction, payment of travelling expenses, or such other means for their advancement in life or to enable them to earn their own living".

To supply clothes, boots, linen, bedding, fuel, tools, medical or other aid in sickness, food or other articles in kind.

The word "Cottagers" was deemed to mean occupiers of tenements within the ancient parish at a rental not exceeding £27 per annum or £35 where rates and taxes were paid by the owner, not the occupier.

This flexible scheme, giving wide powers, is the one under which the present Trustees work, but because some of the wording has become obsolete - such institutions as Dispensaries no longer exist in their 1930s form, for example and "cottagers", especially any paying £27 per year or less in



Henry James Ewer

rent, have become a thing of the past - it has been thought proper to seek a new Scheme.

THE TRUSTEES

The names of 19th century Trustees are those of the people, farmers and landowners who figure prominently in all official lists, whether acting as parish officials, attending Vestry Meetings, or organising parish outings, treats or Penny Readings. The owners of Eastcote House and Haydon Hall are always there, joined from time to time by Daniel Norton of Northwood Hall (now Denville Hall) and Arthur Helsham-Jones of Pinner Hill House. Rarely does the list fail to include members of that prolific farming family, the Ewers. Henry James Ewer, then at Southcote Farm, Ladygate Lane (demolished) and Richard Ewer of Hill Farm (now in Orchard Close) were both Trustees in 1880.

After the introduction of the 1909 Scheme, the composition of the Trustees begins to reflect the suburban area which was emerging from the rural past.

In 1921 the Trustees were: (7)

The Bursar of King's College	
Canon E. Cornwall-Jones,	Vicar of Ruislip
Rev C.G.C. Walker,	Vicar, Holy Trinity
Stanley William West,	24 Murray Road, Northwood, Company Director
Montague E. Smith,	54 Church Road, Northwood, Furniture Dealer
Henry William Wallis,	Reservoir Road, Ruislip, Water Bailiff
George Thomas Weedon,	King's End Farm, Ruislip, Golf Links Proprietor
Walter Louis Carr,	10 Roy Road, Northwood, Surveyor
Cedric William Selway,	"Arlyn", Brickwall Lane, Ruislip, Secretary
Henry Mitchell,	9 Dene Road, Northwood, Boot Retailer
Charles Spurrier Mason,	"Dolphins", Wood Lane, Ruislip, Canvasser
Major Dore,	Eastcote Point, Eastcote
Ralph Hawtrey Deane,	The Berries, Gerrards Cross, Barrister
William Gregory,	"Litcombe", Catlins Lane, Eastcote, Railway Superintendent

Not until 1932 did a woman's name appear among the Trustees, that of Mrs G. Smedley of "Avon Grange", Church Avenue. She was one of the organisers of the celebrations when King's College handed over Park Wood to the people of Ruislip in July of that year. She remained a Trustee until 1952 "concerning herself increasingly with the concerns of the deserving poor and resigned only when she felt no longer active enough to fulfil her duties in a manner truly satisfactory to her high sense of responsibility", to quote from a letter of sympathy sent by the Clerk, A. Hosken, to her

daughter, after her death in 1953.(8) A handful of other women have served as Trustees since the 1940s.

INVOLVEMENT OF RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY WITH THE CHARITY

For many years King's College nominated the Bursar as Trustee, but he was always absent from meetings, which slightly annoyed the other Trustees. In July 1949 a letter was sent to the College pointing out that their representative had never attended although notification of such meetings had always been sent to him. The College asked the Trustees to reccommend a suitable local person for them to nominate and the Rev R.F. Godwin, Vicar of St Lawrence, Eastcote, was chosen. His successor, Canon Hitchinson took his place as Trustee when he left the district in 1957.

Robert Steel, a member of the Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society began doing some research into the Charity in 1981, the results of which were published in "Ruislip Around 1900" and he was invited to become a Trustee the following year. When new trustees were needed in 1987, he suggested that it would be appropriate to ask a member of RNELHS to be a Representative Trustee. At the same time, Canon Hitchinson, the Nominated Trustee for 30 years, resigned and the Clerk wrote to King's College suggesting that the Local History Society should in future be invited to nominate the "Nominated Trustee". The College Bursar, Michael A. Cowdy, was delighted to accept the suggestion and wrote formally on 30th August 1988, "That seems a very sensible arrangement. I should be most grateful if you would go ahead on that basis".(9)

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

The three Poor's Fields appear to have been little used by the occupiers of cottagers for whom they were intended, but overgrazed by others. On the 16 May 1834 some of the Trustees: Ralph Deane Esq; Thomas White, Churchwarden; William Durbridge, Overseer; Daniel Kirby and Samuel Weedon, accompanied by Thomas Collet, the Vestry Clerk and two constables, Edward Sceney and Charles Tillet; attended the Poor's Field near the Workhouse in Ducks Hill to examine the state of the fences and the cattle. They intended to order the marking of each beast either by clipping or branding with a number, but were prevented from proceeding with the business of the day "in consequence of a riotous assemblage of Persons". Matthew Saich, Christopher Brill and William Hill were taken into custody and subsequently prosecuted. (10)

Three days later the Trustees went to the Eastcote Poor's Field in Joel Street and found cattle trespassing. Their owners, John Cammack of Harefield, Daniel Matheson and James Pritchard of Eastcote and Hill, Morton, Collins, William Collins, John Page, Henry Webb and Churchill were all fined by the magistrates at Uxbridge Petty Sessions. Efforts were made to maintain the fields in better order. Bailiffs were appointed to look after the Poor's Grounds and in most years the cattle put out to graze were ticketed or marked in some way. Ponds made in 1809 (one of which, the Post Pond remains at the eastern end of Poor's Field) were cleaned out from time to time and a mole-catcher was employed. William Lavender was paid 12 shillings for catching 96 moles in 1851. (11)



RUISLIP, THE COMMON

76326

GREAT POOR'S FIELD (12)

After 1882 only a few cottagers exercised their free grazing rights on Gt Poor's Field, but more income was gained by renting pasturage to others, sometimes non-parishioners, and sporting rights were also let. In 1921 only six people had applied for grazing, two cottagers and four others paying for the rights, bringing in £3 5s in contrast with £35 15s in 1918-9. Sporting rights also had been halved, from £10 to £5 over the same period. Ant-hills were causing problems and blamed for the small number of applicants. The Clerk was authorised to spend £50 on their "dispersal" in October and a further £6 for harrowing the ground the following May. But the Clerk did not believe that ant-hills were solely to blame. In a report he drew attention "to the increase of population in the proximity of the Gt Poor's Field and the increase in the number of visitors & even organised parties. The pasturage becomes increasingly impoverished & the danger to cattle increased. Consequently the revenue from grazing & sporting rights, which were formerly the main source of revenue is tending to become almost negligible".

Rural activities also damaged Poor's Field. In the 1920s carts carrying pea sticks from the coppicing in Copse Wood cut up the pasture by not keeping to the roadway; Mr Arthur Woodman of Breakspear Road being the chief offender. A charge was made for stacking and storing pea sticks on the common to offset any damage and Mr Kline of Horsens (later renamed Battle of Britain), was refused permission to cart coke across Poor's Field occasionally, presumably because of the possibility of similar trouble.

The Trustees' efforts met with some success as grazing increased for a few years. Seven men paid for grazing rights in 1925 and three were granted them free. Altogether 21 heifers, one cow, 6 horses and a colt were let loose and the income was £20 10s. This improvement did not last long; fences between the Common and Copse Wood were frequently broken and on occasion the cattle wandered right through and on to Northwood Golf Course, causing a spate of letters between the Secretary of the Golf Club, the Trustees and Messrs James Styles & Whitlock, agents of King's College. Other activities on Poor's Field seemed to be squeezing out the animals.

At about this time the footballers of Ruislip began to raise their voices. Ruislip Labour Party and Ruislip Common Football Club both sought permission to use part of Gt Poor's Field in the autumn of 1921. The Trustees rather reluctantly allowed the Ruislip Common Club to play on Saturday afternoons and one other afternoon a week, as an experiment to terminate in March 1922. There was to be no Sunday play; nothing was to be erected except goal posts and Mr W. Lavender, the Field Keeper was to supervise. The experiment must have been successful as the Clerk was empowered to make such arrangements as seemed fitting the following season.

The press of visitors aroused grave concern in 1923. "Mr Lavender said that large parties from London overran the field every Saturday and Sunday in summertime and played all kinds of games. They often grossly misbehaved and left much broken glass about to the danger of cattle. If spoken to and asked to desist they were usually insulting. Tents were pitched and fires lighted. Probably the numbers on a fine Sunday approximated 1500 people." In the summer of 1926 ex- P.C. Samuel Gill was employed to patrol the field. Perhaps his presence was a deterrent as he "failed to see any riotous or indecent behaviour that would in any way bring discredit to the Poor's Field as a Public Place or that a person would be ashamed to take his family or friends".

There was clearly strong feeling that Poor's Field was for the people of Ruislip, not strangers, and land adjoining the Reservoir was fenced off in June 1927, to provide a cricket pitch for the young men of Ruislip Common. Regulations were to be drawn up for the enclosed land and two notice-boards saying "Ruislip- Northwood Residents only" were ordered. A solicitor's letter querying the Trustees' rights to enclose, made them uneasy about their actions and the fencing was removed in 1929.

Cars were becoming more common and when there was skating on the Reservoir in the winter of 1928-9, Mr William Lavender organised car-parking on Poor's Field. He took £45 3s and the Trustees were so pleased that they resolved to allow parking in future skating seasons at a rate of 1s per car. By 1930 car parking was permitted at 6d per car during the swimming season - 22nd June to 31st August. Mr Poulter who succeeded William Lavender as Field-Keeper sold 834 parking tickets. £20 17s was paid into the bank, but it was not all profit. Mr Poulter was paid £8 for selling the tickets and £4 18s for clearing up the Poor's Field. Car-parking fees continued to provide "a fair income", however, until the Grand Union Canal Co (which had taken over the Grand Junction) took the ground from under the Trustees' feet by laying out a large car-park on their own land adjoining Poor's Field in 1936 (now the Reservoir Road car park).

Gt Poor's Field was metamorphosing into a place of public recreation, but horse riding was not to be allowed and when Miss Robinson of Northwood offered to pay a small charge for the privilege in 1928, her request was refused. Seats were placed on the common in September 1930 at a cost of £22 6s 3d, with two more in 1931 and yet another pair in 1933. Presumably the rather battered, but attractive metal seat by the path quite close to the Reservoir Road entrance is one of them. Men wearing RAF uniforms were seen damaging them in 1934, when one seat was flung into a ditch. Litter was a problem and £1 a month was paid to have it cleared. Fewer grazing rights than ever were being sought and in December 1936 the Trustees resolved to seek the Charity Commissioners' approval for the Common to be used as a recreation ground and to it being taken over by the RNUDC.



Skating on the Reservoir

The Council had just acquired Copse Wood which adjoins Poor's Field, as a public open space. Park Wood lying on the south side of the Reservoir had been sold to the RNUDC in conjunction with Middlesex County Council, by King's College, four years earlier and the public golf course on Haste Hill lay at the eastern end of Poor's Field. So if the Council was willing to accept it, there would be a great swathe of land accessible to the public stretching from Northwood to Ruislip.

Approval was granted under a section of the Open Spaces Act 1906 and the Council was approached in April 1938. The land was conveyed to RNUDC in July 1939, in fee simple and without charge, to be maintained as open space for recreational purposes only. Some grazing continued until 1956, when it was ended because of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. Since then Gt Poor's Field has come to be known either as Poor's Field or Ruislip Common and has been used for purely recreational purposes.

LITTLE POOR'S FIELD (13)

Like Gt Poor's Field, the allotment "in the withies" was let for grazing. William Lavender's tender of £7 per annum was accepted in 1921. Between then and 1945 the annual rent varied between £3 and £5 15s 0d and other tenants were Arthur Ive, William Head and Fred Lavender. During the war a small parcel of the field was let to RNUDC for an Air Raid Wardens' post.

There was some anxiety in July 1945 over a Cultivation Order from the War Agricultural Committee, to plough the field and trim the hedges, which would have cost £40. The Committee was persuaded to rescind the order and the Trustees offered the field to RNUDC for three years at £4 per annum rent, making it a condition that the Council should cut and trim the hedge. Mr M.W. Ive leased the grazing from the Council at £5 per annum.

There had been complaints in 1934 when Mr Head allowed camping on Little Poor's Field, but it was obviously an attractive site for that purpose. In 1947 the Ruislip Boy Scouts' Association was anxious to obtain a long lease of the field for use as a camp site, complete with lavatories and a wash house and at first the Trustees favoured the proposal but there were objections from neighbouring residents and the Boy Scouts' Association felt that it was not practicable to proceed with the matter.

At the expiration of RNUDC's tenancy Mr Ive leased the grazing direct from the Trustees until his death in 1949 and grazing continued on Lt Poor's Field with Mrs Florence Bending of St Martin's Approach renting it at £12 a year from September 1950. When her own three horses had to be put down in the spring of 1956, she grazed animals belonging to The League for the Protection of Horses for some months and hoped that the Trustees would allow her friend, Mrs Campbell of the Breakspear Riding Stables to take over her tenancy, when it expired in January 1957, for the same charitable purpose. (15)

Mrs Campbell's tenancy was fraught with difficulties as during that year Ruislip Crematorium was built by Francis Jackson and she complained that all sorts of holes and ditches were made in the hedge and field by the workmen, allowing her horses to stray and eventually making the area unsafe for them. By the end of 1957 the Trustees were considering the advisability of selling Lt Poor's Field and continued to let it to Mrs Campbell on a monthly basis, while negotiations were carried out and approval for such a step was being obtained from the Charity Commissioners. (16)

No-one after Mrs Campbell sought grazing rights and as the land was thought unsuitable for allotments, the original objects of the Charity were considered to have lapsed and approval for the sale was eventually forthcoming. The field was sold to the Ruislip- Northwood & Uxbridge Crematorium Joint Committee for £450 in October 1961 and now forms the south-eastern portion of the Crematorium grounds. (17)

THE EASTCOTE ALLOTMENT

The Eastcote Allotment is the only one of the original three poor allotments still owned and administered by the Charity. Ruislip-Northwood Small Holding & Allotment Society, formed as a result of the Small Holdings & Allotments Act of 1908, wrote to the Trustees in April 1911 with a view to renting 8 acres of the Eastcote Poor's Field. (18)

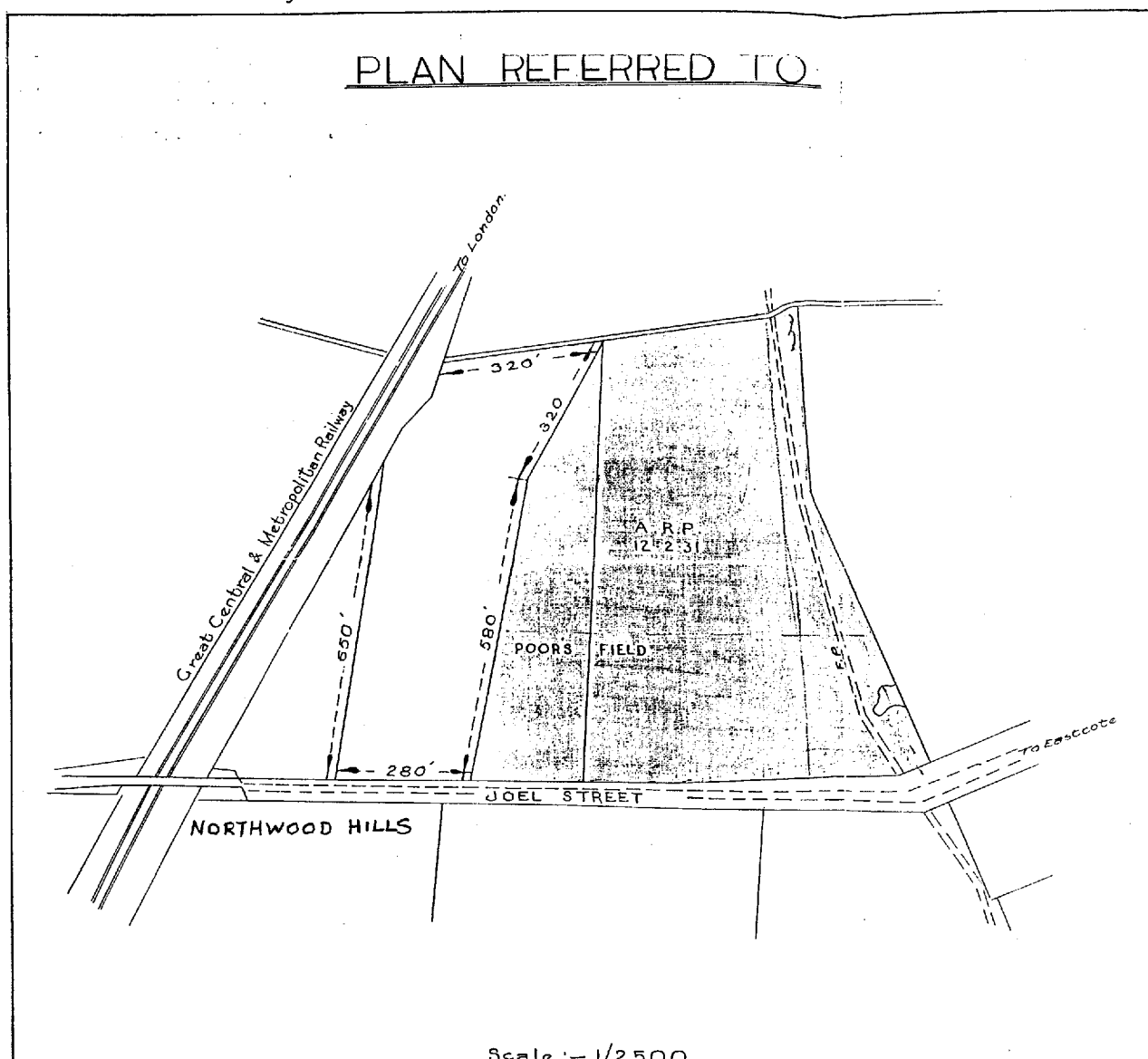
In accordance with the 1909 Scheme the letting was done indirectly through the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, which took out a 14-year lease from the Trustees, dating from Lady Day (25th March) 1912, with a clause preventing the Council from underletting the premises, except as allotments or to the Ruislip-Northwood Small Holding & Allotment Society. A provision that any sheds to be erected must be first approved by the Council, was to prove contentious over the years, as approval was usually very slow in being granted. In 1919 a further 3 acres adjoining were leased on the same terms and in 1921 another 4 acres. The remaining 3 acres continued to be let separately for grazing. (19)

When the Council's lease expired in 1926, the Trustees agreed to deal directly with the Small Holding & Allotment Society and to do away with grazing and lease out the whole 18 acres. The Society was pleased to sign a 14-year lease, but only after the Trustees agreed to consider plans for sheds and huts themselves instead of having plans laid before the dilatory Council.

Before that lease expired some changes took place. In 1933, Southern Estates Ltd, began developing Northwood Hills and wanted to obtain the 5½

acres of the poor's land nearest to the new Northwood Hills station, due to open in 1934. It was suggested that an exchange of land might be made. Messrs Parker, West & Mcfarlane formed a Negotiating Committee in May 1933. They decided on negotiating for $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres of adjoining land plus 18 acres on the Hogs Back, which sounds like hard bargaining!

Mr Cutler of Southern Estates Ltd put in several offers for the $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres, but at length in 1935 the Trustees agreed, subject to the consent of the Charity Commissioners, to convey to the Company their freehold interest in 5.4 acres of the Joel Street Poor's Field. The Trustees were first to apply to RNUDC for an amendment of the Council's Town Planning Schemes in order to permit the erection of either private residences or business premises on a portion of the land having a frontage to Joel Street. The Company was to convey to the Trustees 9.45 acres of the Hogs Back (part of Hundred Acres Farm), to pay the Trustees £2600 and to compensate the Ruislip-Northwood Small Holding & Allotment Society. The Hogs Back was to be leased to RNUDC for 50 years at £50 per annum for use as a public park, with options to the Council to purchase within the 7th to 10th years of the lease. The conveyance was sealed in 1936. (20)



£600 of the purchase price was made available to the Trustees, some of it to be expended in laying out the Hogs Back for use by the public, while the rest was invested by the Charity Commissioners to increase the Charity's capital. Some of the Trustees would have liked to use some of the £600 to help restore the Ruislip Almshouses or Church Houses as they were often known, but this was not permitted by the Charity Commissioners, even though the old ladies who lived in them were often helped by the Charity. £200 was allocated to the Hogs Back and the rest invested in Trustee Stock.

All these leisurely discussions prevented any work being started on the Hogs Back before the outbreak of war. In 1942 the Colne Valley Water Company approached the Trustees, wishing to use part of the Hogs Back for a covered or partly covered reservoir to augment the water supply to the enlarged population. Being the highest point in the neighbourhood, water could be supplied by gravitation and the Hogs Back was also within reasonable distance of Ruislip Common Pumping Station. A Bill was to be presented to parliament in 1943. The Chairman of the Trustees, Mr L.F. Fogarty believed such a scheme would deprive the district of a commanding eminence, much prized by the inhabitants of the area. The only solution acceptable to the Trustees was for the Water Company to buy the whole site outright and to pay compensation to the RNUDC, the lessees. (21)

The Colne Valley Water Company went elsewhere for their reservoir and the Council purchased the Hogs Back from the Charity for £1750 in 1945. (22)

Ruislip Northwood Urban District Council bought a strip of land along Joel Street, 726 sq ft and 500ft long for road widening in 1935, paying £60 for it. (23)

These alterations left the Small Holding & Allotment Society with 12a 2r 3lp and a new lease was drawn up in 1936, which has been renewed regularly up to the present day, although the rent has been increased regularly and various clauses have been inserted whereby priority in the letting of allotments should be given to persons resident in the ancient parish of Ruislip for example and others relating to the tidiness of the site.

There was a period when the Trustees hoped to make more money for the Charity, by selling the land for residential development. An inspection of the site in 1964 had convinced them that it was not being fully used as allotments and was being kept in a very untidy state. (24)

In January 1965 the new Borough of Hillingdon approached the Trustees with a view to buying the freehold and the Charity Commissioners were favourably disposed towards amending the scheme to enable them to sell, provided that they secured planning permission first. There were complications as part of the land was Green Belt and a Green Belt Review was pending. In the end the designation of the land was not altered. (25)

The Ruislip & District Natural History Society having discovered that the Borough did not intend to register the land as common land under the terms of the 1965 Commons Registration Act, registered it in its own name in 1973 (though not claiming ownership). The Trustees were aggrieved to discover that this had been done without their knowledge, as they would have objected that the public not having had access to the land for more than

40 years, any common rights must have lapsed. As purchasers would be unlikely to wish to buy land apparently encumbered with common rights, any idea of selling for building purposes was set aside once and for all. (26)

So the Ruislip-Northwood Small Holding & Allotment Society continues to lease the field. The land is divided into 80 allotment plots of about 10 poles each and two small-holdings, 373 poles and 233 poles each, generally used for keeping pigs and poultry and more lately horses. Occasionally, smelly pigs have caused a nuisance to neighbours. The Trustees' slowness in approving plans for huts continually annoyed the allotment holders and the Society expressed some resentment when the Trustees allowed the Council to tarmac the public footpath, which runs across the south side of the site in 1957, especially since the workman began work before the Clerk's letter arrived to say what was going to happen. But generally speaking relations between the Society and the Charity have been amicable over the years.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHARITY'S MONEY (27)

Reading Rooms The Charity's income derived from the rents of the grazing, sporting rights and allotment gardens, £10 from the Poor Rates and from investments made on its behalf by the Charity Commissioners. The earliest extant accounts date from the beginning of this century and show the Trustees following the principles laid down in the 1882 scheme for disbursing the money, by making grants to various clubs and institutes which provided Reading Room facilities. There were a surprising number scattered about the area, mostly situated in tin huts. Northwood Reading Room, Northwood Girls' Club, Northwood Young Men's Reading Room, the Eastcote Institute and the Warrender Institute all received money, one guinea for the girls and two guineas for the men's institutes. The difference in amounts is not explained!

The Eastcote Institute, which was typical, had opened in January 1893 on the meadow opposite Eastcote Lodge in Eastcote High Road. It was open to men over 16, every evening except Saturday, from 7 o'clock until 10, and



provided daily newspapers and a small library. Families and friends were welcome to the many social and educational events, including concerts, amateur dramatics and fruit and flower shows. The Institute members paid a small annual subscription of 1s 6d, but the club was mainly run and maintained by fund-raising and contributions from those living in the large houses and villas of Eastcote. The Warrender Institute opposite St Martin's church was founded by Miss Eleanor Warrender of High Grove.

Emmigration Three men were helped to emigrate: Mr Burrows went to New South Wales in 1910 and "Silver & King" to an unspecified destination in 1913.

Coal Coal (2cwt per person) was given out around Christmas time. This came under the heading of Provident Societies in the 1882 Scheme as most of the recipients were members of Coal Clubs. Most were based on churches; Holy Trinity, Emmanuel, Primitive Methodist, the Ruislip Church Thift Club, the Ruislip Sisterhood (Ruislip Common Chapel), for example, but there was also the Eastcote Coal Club.

The coal gifts continued until 1971 and were very popular, but the fairness and the administration of their distribution caused the Trustees some anguish over the years. In 1923 there were fears that some recipients were getting more than their fair share by being members of more than one club and that others were not really needy persons. Secretaries of Coal Clubs were invited to meet the Trustees in November 1924 "to agree upon a plan securing that only the names of necessitous persons be included in the list of applicants for grants". Only Mrs Trencham of the Ruislip Sisterhood turned up, so the Sub-committee for Grants called another meeting on 13th December which was better attended and discovered some anomalies, both in the methods of choosing applicants and in the distribution of grants. Mrs Trencham said that some of her members admitted that they were not necessitous, but considered that they had a right to the grants and asked that the money be divided equally among all members of the club. She also said that her distribution was in money, but she quite agreed with the Trustees that it ought to be in coal. Mr Fooks of Emmanuel simply added the money from the Trustees to money received from other sources, then gave out cards which enabled the members of the club to buy whatever they pleased. Only Mr Philip of the Eastcote Coal Club gained the Trustees' approval. He gave coal to persons whose circumstances he had carefully checked.

As a result of the meeting the club secretaries amended their lists and three men and 35 women received 5 shillings worth of coal, instead of the original 178 applicants. From Christmas 1925 the club secretaries were asked to order the coal (two cwt per needy person) and have it delivered in the first week of January and have the account sent to the Clerk. The distribution worked smoothly for some years, but occasional reminders had to be sent to the Ruislip Common club (formerly the Ruislip Sisterhood), reminding them that membership of a coal club did not automatically entitle a person to a grant!

The Charity's increased income following the sale of part of the Eastcote Allotment and the extended 1936 Scheme, encouraged the Trustees to widen the number of people who might recommend applicants for the coal gifts.



Eventide Homes, Fore Street

District Nurses, the British Legion, Elementary School Heads, as well as all clergymen were circularised in 1937, but with disappointing results, as only Miss Christian of Lady Bankes submitted any names. However, numbers soon increased to 160 in 1939 and a few of the recipients, aged people and those in particularly bad health, were given 10 shillings worth of comforts in addition. They included the four tenants of Ruislip Church Houses, the 12 tenants of the Council's Eventide Homes in Fore Street and the ten tenants of the Ruislip Manor Cottage Society's flats for aged people. They continued to receive the gifts annually as did the inmates of Woodford House, Woodford Crescent from 1943.

The outbreak of war brought coal shortages and transport difficulties and led to 50 people in Ruislip and South Ruislip being sent grocery vouchers in compensation in spring 1940. The following year special voucher cards were printed, which recipients could present to their own coal merchants and grocers, instead of the order being sent from the clerk's office as had been customary in peaceful years.

Grocery Vouchers

Grocery Vouchers were given out regularly from 1936 to 1971 and during the 1960s made up the largest part of the Charity's expenditure.

The value of the coal and grocery vouchers gradually increased from 7 shillings during the war to 7s..6d in 1949, 9s in 1950, 10s in 1951, 12s..6d in 1966, when more than 400 people were receiving them. In 1967, when a limited amount of money was available and bearing in mind that 12s..6d barely covered the cost of one cwt of coal, the Trustees decided to restrict any gifts to Whitby Dene Home, The Retreat, Eastcote and Brackenbridge House, South Ruislip, based on the number of residents at 10s per head, hoping to build up funds and distribute more worthwhile amounts

the following year. These three homes had been receiving Christmas grants since 1961.

This plan was successful and 20s per person was paid out in 1968. The following year the Trustees decided to make the general distribution biennial and simply made grants to the three homes, enabling 30s vouchers to be sent out in 1970.

Goodwill gifts to elderly people.

In 1972 the Clerk reported that 340 names had been recommended as eligible for the gifts and pointed out that the method of sending out vouchers was administratively cumbersome and expensive and that he had sometimes had difficulty in obtaining Tradesmen's invoices. It was proposed that cheques which could be presented at any branch of Barclays Bank should be sent to recipients instead. The Trustees agreed and the value was set at £2.

By 1986 the cheques had risen to £4 for individual old folk and £5 for married couples. These sums represented an extremely small purchasing power (a 750 gram Christmas pudding cost £1 99p in 1987) and were considered by one Trustee to be nebulous, inadequate tokens of good will, not in the letter or spirit of the Charity.

At a special meeting in March 1990 it was decided to stop making the small goodwill gifts, thus making more monies available for investment, with the aim of being better able to assist causes more in keeping with the Charity's objects.

Donations to Hospitals

The Northwood War Memorial Committee began raising funds for a Cottage Hospital in 1919 and the Northwood War Memorial Hospital opened in temporary accommodation (the VAD Hospital at the corner of Green Lane and Hallowell Road) in 1920. Patients were asked to make contributions of £1 18s 5d per week towards the cost of their maintenance. A site in Pinner Road for the permanent hospital was acquired in 1923 and the Trustees wished to make a gift of £100 towards the building fund "in view of the fact that Northwood Hospital is rendering assistance to poor people in the whole district who are in many cases unable to make the customary contribution." They received permission from the Charity Commissioners to sell War Stock and Consols (which only amounted to £90 0s 2d), only after the Hospital agreed to receive a lump sum, not for the building fund, but from which grants could be made to bear the maintenance costs of patients who came within the scope of the charity.

Regular grants varying from £10 to £25 were made to the Northwood Cottage Hospital, the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital and St Vincent's Massage Clinic in Brickwall Lane (later in South Drive), Ruislip, until the coming of the National Health Service freed cottagers and others from the anxiety of medical costs.

The Nursing Associations of the three parts of the district were given regular sums for the purchase of medical aids which were lent to poor patients.

Contributions towards cost of an outfit

Only once are the Trustees recorded, in this century at any rate, as assisting a girl to obtain an outfit when she was about to enter domestic service. She was recommended by Mr Smith, head of Potter Street School in 1937, as she was one of a large family in poor circumstances. Both the girl and Mr Smith wrote letters of thanks for the £5 sent by the Trustees.

Direct assistance to individuals was permitted by the 1936 Scheme. Blankets were occasionally given in cases of illness. In 1940 two sets of dentures were provided at the respective costs of £2 10s and £1 10s. A doctor's bill was also paid that year for a mother who had been obliged to call him out when her daughter had congested lungs. Knowing his patient's circumstances the doctor had sent a specially low bill of only eight shillings. The Clerk recorded in the minutes that the girl recovered. Boots were purchased for poor children and one lady was given £2 8s towards the cost of travelling by rail to Cornwall to recuperate from a serious operation.

During the 1950s, weekly vouchers, for milk and other necessities, were granted for as long as three months at a time as temporary relief to families, and a grant of £5 was made to enable a boy, whose father was terminally ill, to continue his education at Acton Technical College. Special cases of poverty were sometimes brought to the Trustees' attention by the British Legion.

Donations

Occasional donations have been made to charitable objects which would assist people living in Ruislip-Northwood. An Old People's Recreational Centre near Windmill Hill, Ruislip Manor received £10 in 1961. It is still a dining centre. Other contributions have been made to the Aged People's Housing Society, the Ruislip-Northwood Aged People's Welfare Association and the Denville Hall Society for assisting with the cost of transport to and from Hospitals.

Donations to Council-run homes in lieu of the coal and grocery gifts were first made in 1971 and to privately run homes for the Mentally Handicapped in 1989. (28)

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS' PROPOSALS August 1993

In reply to the Trustees' application for a new scheme in November 1992, the Charity Commissioners suggested that the Ruislip Cottagers' Allotment Charity might amalgamate with the Ruislip Non-ecclesiastical Charities and that the combined Trustees could then operate a joint scheme. The common object of the Non-ecclesiastical Charities is Relief of Poverty. The Commissioners expressed themselves willing to offer a scheme including clauses for Relief in Sickness, Relief of Poverty, Advancement in Life, which would fit the aims of both groups.

At a meeting held at Michaelmas 1993 the Trustees of both Charities unanimously agreed that they should be amalgamated under the new name of Ruislip Combined Charities.

Now the Trustees are eagerly awaiting the new Charity Commissioners' Scheme which will enable the Charity to move into the next century, helping residents of the ancient parish of Ruislip in a meaningful way.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank the Trustees of the Charity and Mr Malcolm Turner, their Clerk for allowing me access to the Charity's archives.

HOME FARM, ICKENHAM

by Patricia A. Clarke

DESCRIPTION

This house is of two storeys throughout except for an outshut at the north west. The east wing is of pale red brick, aligned east-west, while the cross wing to the west is timber framed with brick infill and a tile-hung upper front. The roofs are tiled.

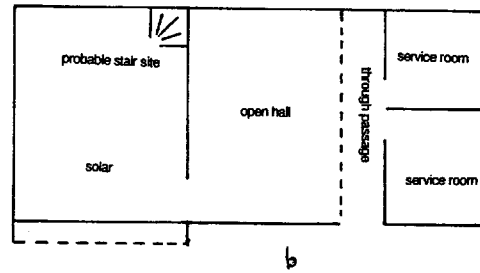
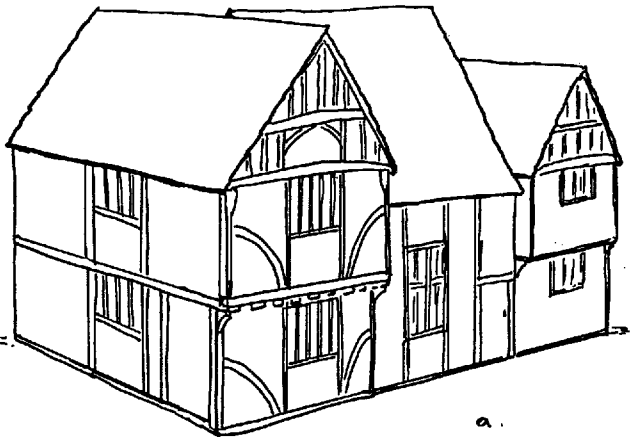
The west wing is the two-storeyed end of what was probably a hall house there is no sign of access to any former eastern parts at first floor level. The position of the now blocked door in the east wall, G-C1, the undivided ground floor room, and the quality of decoration in the wing mark it as the high, or solar, end of the house. There must have been service rooms elsewhere, and they were no doubt to be found at the opposite end of the hall; the customary 'through' or cross passage would have been in that end of the hall.

The framing is in the large panels with upward braces usual in this part of Middlesex. It is not possible to tell whether there was close studding because the soffits of all wall and girding plates are concealed. The south front at both levels had down, or 'Kentish' bracing, and the upper floor at this end is jettied over the ground floor. The timber is of good quality throughout. Two scarf joints are visible, each face-halved.

The roof is of butt purlin construction, with collars and queen struts in the principal trusses. The collars are cranked and cambered and have arch braces (solid in truss B1-B2) to the inner sides of the queen struts. The purlins have plain chamfers with straight step stops and are braced to the principal rafters. There is a good set of matching assembly marks on the common rafters of which there are seven in the south bay, and six in the north. The eastern rafters are lapped over the northern side of the western ones.

The quality of the decoration is unusual among surviving timber-framed houses. The central cross frame is moulded at three levels, ground floor, first floor and roof. At the ground floor the moulding is an outer hollow chamfer which runs continuously along the leading edge of posts and beam (turning the corner in a 'mason's mitre'), with another hollow moulding on the inner side taken along the edge of the solid arch braces and along a fillet applied to posts and beam. At first floor level there is no fillet, the two hollow chamfers being cut out of the posts and beam and ending in convex stops. Here the braces are not quite solid. In the roof there are fillets to posts and collar, ending in convex stops. Post B1 rises through the two storeys and has been carefully and differently moulded at each level. The doorcase from the hall had head boards, probably also curved. Any evidence which might indicate the style of the windows is still concealed. There are shutter grooves for windows against post B2 at ground and first floor level. At the first floor, it looks as though the window may have been replaced by another further south.

The floor joists are laid flat, and there is no reason to think they are not the original ones. The two eastern ones have been removed for the



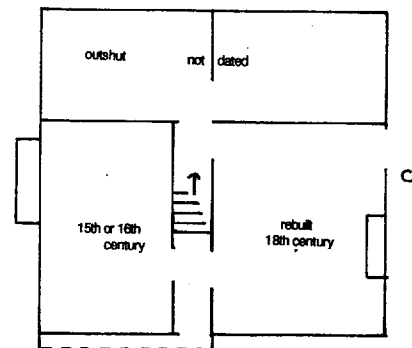
Home Farm, Ickenham. Fig. 1

a) conjectural original appearance (not to scale)

b) conjectural original plan (not to scale)

c) present plan (not to scale)

- broken lines indicate beams overhead and the overhanging floor,
or timbers indicated but now missing



Pre 11.4.93

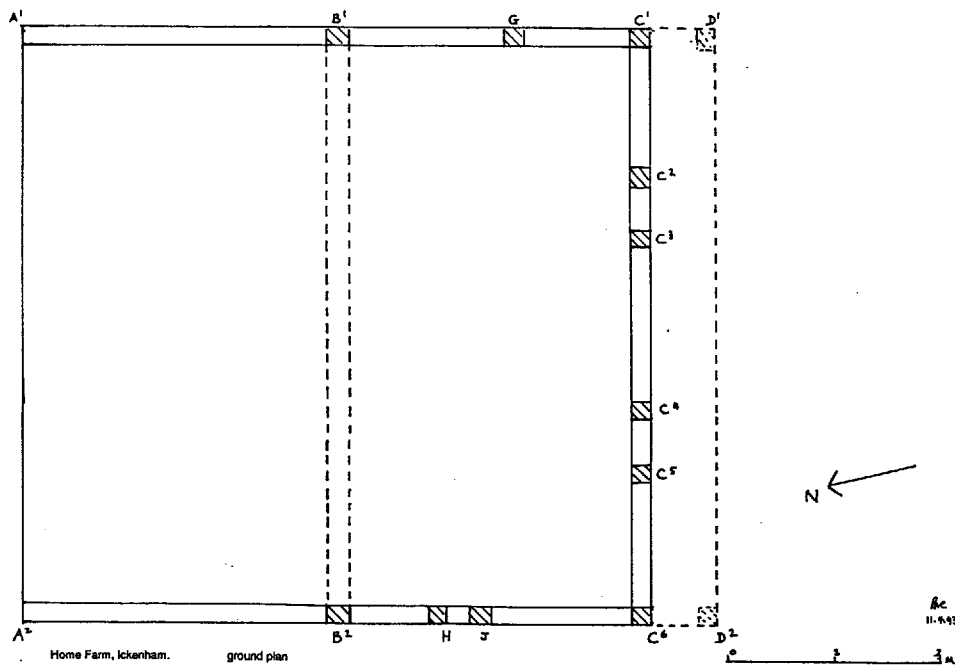
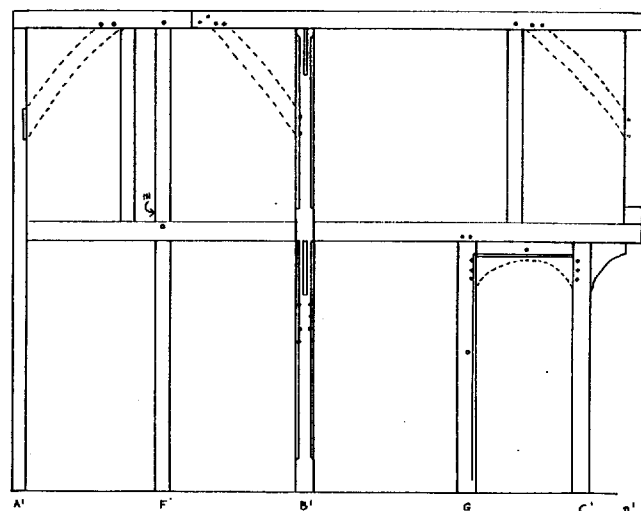
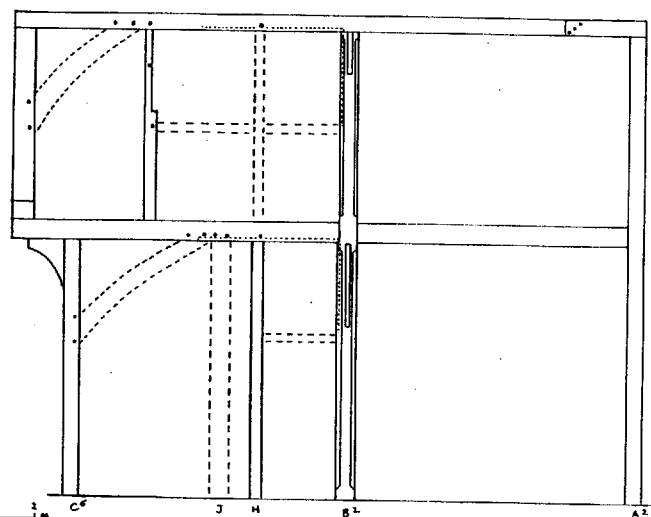


Fig 2



Home Farm, Ickenham. east wall A1 - D1

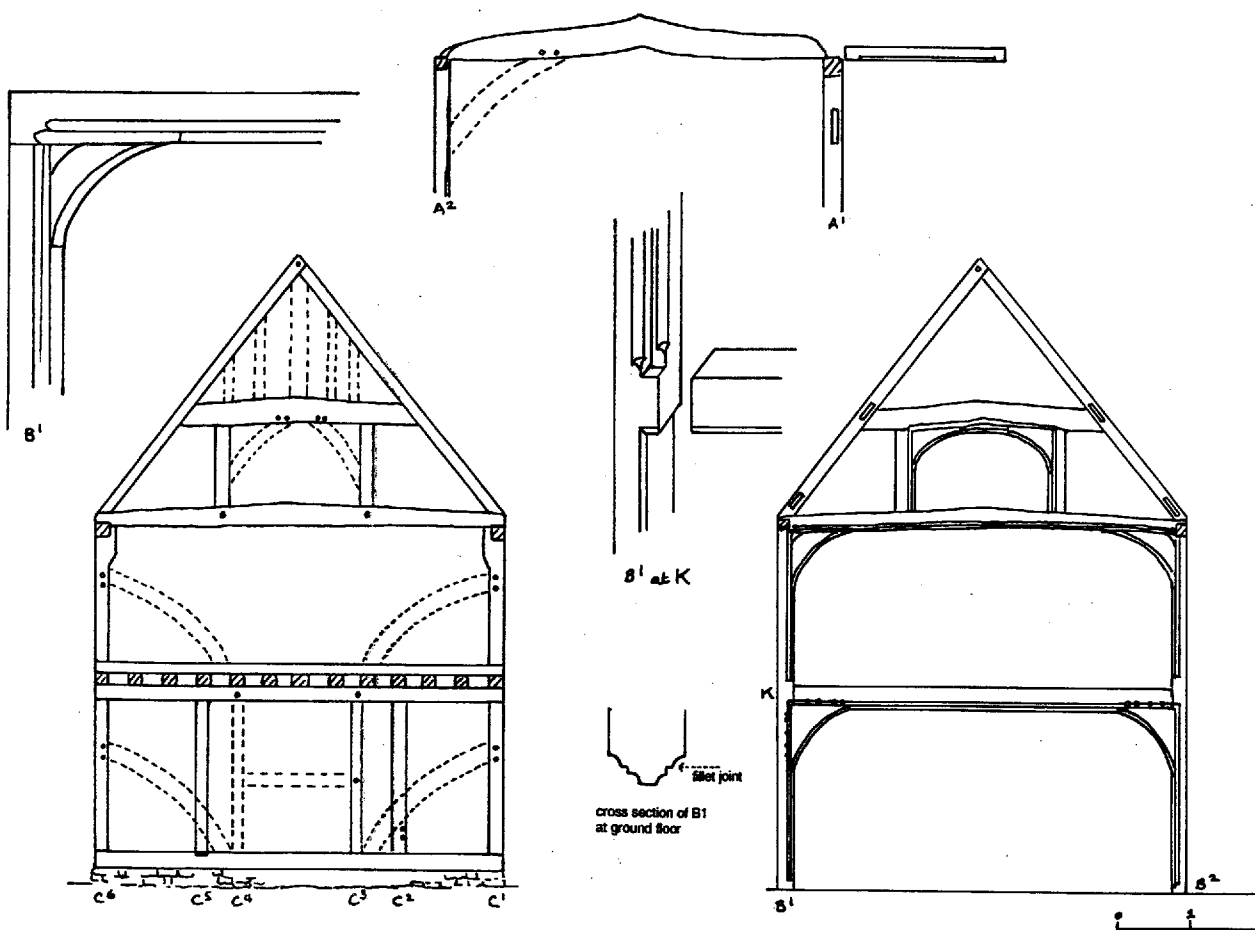
Fig 3



Home Farm, Ickenham. west wall C6 - A2

Fig 4

Dec 11-4-93



Home Farm, Ickenham. south elevation, section B1 - B2, detail of post B1, upper section A2 - A1

Fig 5

Dec 11-4-93

present staircase. The mortices for these in the girding beam B1-B2 means that the original staircase was probably in the north east corner and of a winding type, or against the east wall and rising from north to south.

In the brickwork of the upper floor of the east wing are incised the date 1705 and the initials WC IN MG HD. There is a flat string course, but hardly any other datable features. Inside, the axial beam at the ground floor is chamfered with straight step stops, and so is the north wall of the first floor. The roof has clasped purlins and queen struts; the north west principal rafter is diminished.

The present plan of the house shows a marked reduction in size from that of the medieval house, even though the dimensions of that house are unknown. Since it is to be expected that an open hall would have survived in use until 1700 or thereabouts, there must have been earlier alterations. The ground floor brace of post B1 was moved westward when the present staircase was formed. The site of the vanished parts has been cultivated as garden for many years, and is unlikely to yield finds.

DATE

Few of the features of this house can be closely dated. The framing is typical in Middlesex from 1400 to sometime after 1600; the jowls at the front from 15th to 17th century; face-halved scarf joints are usually later than 1450 (1); flat joists tend to be earlier than 1600; in Sussex the butt purlin roof is not found until after 1500 (2). The mouldings are of a perpendicular character, and as the arching of the braces is not flattened could perhaps be dated to the late 15th or early 16th century. A date in the late 15th or, more probably, early 16th century is likely.

CONCLUSION

This is the solar wing of a late medieval hall house of very good quality. It is a great pity that nothing appears to be known of its earlier history. It was clearly an expensive structure and presumably therefore belonged to someone of consequence. So far I have not come across a yeoman's house in this part of Middlesex which comes up to this standard of decoration, but it is possible that the vagaries of chance survival are responsible for this. The nearest other example is also geographically close, Ickenham Manor Farm, a manor house with an east wing having high quality decoration in a style attributable to the early or middle 16th century. Home Farm could be a little earlier than the east wing of the manor.

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