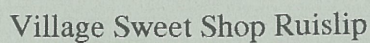




Local History Society

Journal 1995



**JOURNAL OF THE RUISLIP NORTHWOOD AND
EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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APRIL 1995

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SUMMER OUTINGS

Saturday 20th May

Coach outing to Roman Lunt Fort near Coventry and to
Charlescote Park near Stratford on Avon

Depart St. Martin's Approach Ruislip 0900 hrs

Saturday 17th June

Coach outing to Old Sarum near Salisbury, Mompression House
Salisbury.

Depart St. Martin's Approach Ruislip 0900 hrs

Saturday 15th July

Coach Outing to Bignor Roman Villa and to Parham House near
Pulborough

Depart St. Martin's Approach Ruislip 0900hrs

EDITORIAL

May 1945 was the 50th anniversary of the end of war in Europe. The Journal this year reflects this momentous period in our history. The articles that follow include both recent and ancient research and events recalled from memory by those directly affected.

We had hoped that by this year we should have been able to hold our monthly evening meetings in St. Martin's Church Hall. Unfortunately the rebuilding and restoration of this hall has been delayed. We are still using the Winston Churchill Hall coffee lounge which has limited seating. Because of the high cost of the hall each member has to pay 50p for each meeting that they attend.

Attendances have been maintained for a very interesting programme of talks arranged by Alison Akerman now our Programme Secretary. Of particular interest were the talks on 'Northolt- its Aerodrome and Airport' by Keith Haywood and Peter Norris at which a large number of visitors were present and a fascinating talk on the 'Pilgrimage to Canterbury' by Helen Paterson.

The previous year there was a disappointing response to the outings and only two were arranged by Bob Bedford, the Outings Secretary, for the summer of 1994. One was a full day to the Singleton, Weald and Downland Open Air Museum and to Porchester Castle and a half day outing to Amersham Museum and town remembered mainly for the pouring rain which curtailed the guided tour of the historical town.

This year Bob has arranged three full day trips and it is hoped that members will give these their support.

We are delighted that Eileen Bowl's latest book "Ruislip Past" has been published and is proving to be a best seller. It has managed to combine the attraction of a pictorially interesting book with information and well-presented text.

The Research Group continue to meet regularly and it is hoped that a new publication of 'Walks in the Ruislip Area' will be published in the near future. The Research group members have been seen striding around the area checking that the directions for the route of each walk and the historical points of interest noted in the text are clear and concise. This has meant that each separate route has been walked along at least twice by two or more members of the group often in inclement weather.

THE SHIP, PH. EASTCOTE

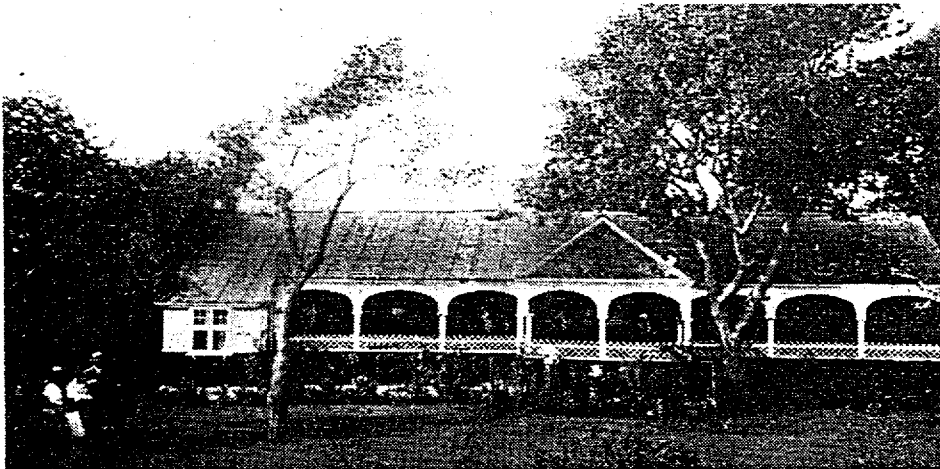
by Jim McBean

Further evidence of the popularity of The Ship, PH, as the venue for the annual outing of London firms in the early part of the century appears in the book " Criminal Justice " by R J A Weis. The firm in this case was Carlton & Prior, London milliners. Extracts from the book are as follows:-

"Saturday, 21st June 1921. For the all day excursion to the Ship Inn at Eastcote the rendez vous was at Carlton and Priors. From here the party proceeded to Aldersgate and boarded the Metropolitan line to Uxbridge. This yearly event for the entire firm was organised by Herbert Carlton The weather could not be faulted as the temperature was hitting the mid nineties by noon. The particular attraction of the Ship Inn was its extensive grounds and its T-shaped Edwardian pavillion. It is to this the party resorted for sandwiches and drinks before the afternoon games....

A year later the following note was written by a woman member of the firm:- " Saturday, 21st June (1922) is a mild day for the Eastcote excursion. After lunch the games consist of popular pastimes and are indulged in to the full. On Saturday I was first in the egg - spoon race and first in the 100 yards flat race and 3rd in the 50 yards flat race Then I was M C for the Lancers we stood up ten sets and some boys in from an adjoining cricket field we had a very good day indeed."

Carlton & Prior were in the City of London in 1911 moving to the west end in the 1900's. They appear to have existed up until the 1980's when they were in Marylebone. The book " Criminal Justice " reproduces various snapshots of the outings referred to in the above accounts in one of which there is a sight of the Edwardian pavillion a small part of which still existed until recently but which now, regreably, has been swept away.



The Pavillion behind The Ship P.H.Eastcote

JOHN KIRTON, 17th CENT. TILEMAKER

by Jim McBean

Near the junction of Breakspear Road South and Tile Kiln Lane leading to Old Clack Farm stands Woodbine Cottage. It is a listed building consisting of a curious jumble of building styles all clearly distinguishable if only by their varying roof lines dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The earliest part is at the back a low roofed cottage showing a timber framed gable. The building lay in Southcote, itself part of the manor of St Catherine and the area generally was one of several in Ruislip where the making of bricks and tiles took place. It is almost certain that Woodbine Cottage was such a place and was known as the Tilehouse.

About the year 1605 the Tilehouse was occupied by John Kirton and his two sons John and William. In addition to his tenement and tilehouse with its half acre of ground he was the occupier of several small and scattered holdings. He held three acres of freehold meadow lying partly in Ruislip and partly in the adjoining area of Ickenham; two acres in Ickenham in Roxbourn field and Home field, a copyhold cottage and a small garden plot.

The name Kirton was well known in Ruislip in the 16th and 17th centuries. The survey of the manor of Ruislip carried out by Kings College Cambridge in 1565 lists William and John Kirton as copyholders; a William Kyrton had been appointed by the Justices to the responsible post of "searcher" in tilemaking with the duty of ensuring that an Act of Edward IV was observed. This required tilemakers who dug earth for the purpose before the 1st of November to move or turn the same before the 1st of February. Persons reported in 1572 by William Kyrton to Middlesex Sessions were John Winchester and members of the Reading family amongst others. A glance at the index of contemporary wills shows a great number of Kirtons. Three of them signed the Protestation Returns of 1641; a John Kirton was a signatory to the "agreement between neighbours" drawn up in 1651 regarding the administration of the common fields. A namesake occupied a five hearth messuage in Joel Street.

John Kirton, tiler, experienced a little difficulty in 1609 when his son breached the law according to the Middlesex Sessions Roll (473/24) viz:-

Middlesex Session 12th June, 7 James 1. Session Register 1/146

William Cowper of Ruislip yeoman to prosecute John Kirton the younger of the same, tiler, and Thomas Brown of Windsor, co, Bucks yeoman for stealing his geese, surities for the defendant John Lyon the elder and John Kirton the elder both of Ruislip, yeoman.

But a greater misfortune befell him when he got into financial difficulties and found it necessary to raise a loan. For this purpose he approached John Reading his neighbour at St Katherines. Unfortunately Kirton was unable to repay the debt and John Reading took possession. He then sold various parts of his estate to William Coggs who sold on to John Winchester; to James Priest who bought the Ickenham field land for £15 and to John Gibbs,

father of William Gibbs who bought the cottage and garden plot also for £15. There the matter rested. John Kirton died in 1613.

Among the 1639-40 list of proceedings in the Court of Chancery in the Public Record Office is the case of Kirton versus Reading. The documents have the date 8th July 1641 written on them. They consist of a Bill of Complaint lodged by the late John Kirton's younger son William against John Reading and in addition against John Winchester, James Priest and William Gibbs. Two further documents consist of the answer of John Reading to the complaint and the answer of the other defendants. In the documents and index Southcote is curiously rendered as the "manor of Circotes or Circott".

William Kirton who is described as of the parish of St Giles in the Fields, yeoman, explained that after his father's death the elder son John "journeyed into places remote" where he remained for about twenty years and thereafter died in Kent without issue and accordingly, he William, was the heir of the Kirton estate. He thought his father had borrowed about £50 on the security of the Tilehouse land only, which he estimated was worth about £300. The additional sites owned by his father were no part of the bargain, John Reading had no right to take them over. He said his father was "very ignorant and unskilled in the law. Reading a cunning man who by subtle practices and enticements" persuaded Kirton to part with all his land which by right of inheritance should have descended to him William. He accused the defendants of confederating themselves together in order to deny him his rights; of making divers secret and fraudulent estates; of possessing themselves of all writings deeds etc and of making waste and spoil upon the premises. He asked the court to summon the defendants before it in order to obtain the truth of the matter.

John Reading's answer to the bill was, as is usual in these cases, a series of denials and contradictions. He stated that Kirton had been in debt to him for a long while and that the debt was for £160. The property was not worth anything like £300. In satisfaction of the money loaned Kirton had conveyed the whole of his property which even so was not worth above £160. He agreed that he had subsequently sold off the estate to Coggs. Priest and Gibbs maintained that he had a perfect right to do so. After his father's death John Kirton, the elder son, had worked for him for one month and upwards at harvest work he had never raised any question but rested well content.

The answer of the other defendants generally supports that of John Reading. John Winchester stated that the surrender of the property was recorded in the manor court rolls of the 14th October 1606/7, his own admittance was on 4th October 1615/16. He agreed he had felled some timber and sold some building (a barn and a shed) which he considered he had a right to do. All the defendants denied the remaining allegations.

It does not seem that the complaint of William Kirton, so long delayed, was well founded. A search in the decree books of the time fails to show whether he had the sympathy of the court.

Meanwhile John Kirton's former home, the Tilehouse, now incorporated in Woodbine Cottage, continues to exist, perhaps for a further century.

REFERENCES

1. National Register of Archives July 1953
2. E M Bowlt: The Goodliest Place in Middlesex
3. Public Records office, Chancery Lane , Long Room. C3 427/10
4. A summary of the above Chancery case by David Kiddle is among the society's records.



Woodbine Cottage, Tile Kiln Lane

THE END OF HOSTILITIES IN EASTCOTE

by Ron Edwards

MAY 1945 AND ITS INITIAL IMPACT

On May 7th 1945 Germany surrendered to the Allied Forces thereby bringing to a conclusion the conflict which had been engaged over the Continent of Europe since September 1939. This had spread to the land mass of Soviet Russia and Asia and had brought enormous loss of life as well as devastation to many urban and rural areas. Virtually every country in the world had been affected in some way or other. International as well as national trade had been dramatically transformed from normal peacetime patterns. The production of armaments and other goods needed for purposes of war had become top priority; large numbers of people had been moved around the world in the various national armed forces and millions had been dispossessed of their homes and belongings.

Many ships had been sunk; land transport had either been destroyed or run down; the shape of air travel had changed for ever; families had been split up - some never to return together; children had been separated from their parents and those under the age of six had no experience of the variety of sweets, fruits and other childhood pleasures which had seemed normal to their parents and neighbours of an older generation. Although the United Kingdom had not suffered the scales of material destruction and loss of life of many other European countries, nevertheless, British society had been on a war footing for the whole period of hostilities and the after effects were there for all to see and experience.

Locally, the population could take a deep breath and stop and look at their own situation. Nearly six years of war had left its effects and it was not possible to wake up on the morning following the end of the war in Europe and expect to find oneself returned to a normal peacetime routine. The war against Japan, mainly centred in the Far East, had not yet ceased and there were households with members still serving in that theatre of war with all of the attendant risks and dangers. It is true that the immediate threat of air raids and missile attacks had been removed; that one could leave the curtains undrawn at night without fear of breaking wartime blackout regulations but all around the tidemarks of war remained.

There was obvious air raid damage to rectify on a permanent basis. Over the whole of the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council area one third of buildings had suffered as a result of air raids. Eastcote had experienced bombing during 18 raids at the height of the 'Blitz' between September 1940 and May 1941. During this period over 100 high explosive bombs had been dropped over the district with many falls of incendiary devices. The Eastcote Park Estate, The Chase, Deane Croft Road, The Close, Devonshire Road, Pine Gardens and south of the Yeading Brook towards the 'Eastcote Arms' were among the districts which had suffered damage. Two parachute mines, which, because they did not penetrate the ground to a significant depth, caused widespread lateral damage, had been dropped in October 1940, One affected the area to the north east of Rushdene Road the other falling in south Eastcote. Fortunately, Eastcote did not suffer from the flying bomb and rocket attacks which occurred

later in the war. Temporary repairs had been carried out in most cases but there was a shortage of materials and skilled labour which hindered full scale repairs. These conditions had also held up the normal annual maintenance of house property.

Some Armed Forces remained in the district, Eastcote Place had not yet been released from control of the Airborne and Glider Commands. The British Restaurant which operated in the building now occupied by the Post Office in Orchard Parade, Field End Road offered welcome though simple meals to supplement the food rations available. The price of a meal was 10d (just under 5p). Those who worked in London still had a daily journey which was not made easy by loss of London Transport stock during air raids and tracks which had suffered to some degree from lack of peacetime maintenance levels.

RATIONING

It is very difficult for later generations to fully appreciate the impact on ordinary life of rationing during the war. Very few of the essential needs of families escaped control although restrictions did not start to take effect until 1940. Everybody resident in the country, excluding those in the Forces, were issued with ration books in January 1940. The first items to be rationed were tea, sugar, cream, butter, meat and petrol. 1941 saw controls introduced to cover shell eggs, cheese, clothing and jam. Sweets went on ration in 1942 but bread did not come under control until after the war in 1946. Bread and jam were freed from rationing control in 1948 and clothing in 1949 but other items remained under control until removed during the 1950's

Some examples of personal weekly rations are; meat between 1/- (5p) and 2/2d (11p); bacon between 4oz and 8oz; cheese 1oz to 8oz; tea 2oz to 4oz; and sugar ½lb to 1lb. Food prices were very low in 1942 pork chops cost 1/10d (9p) a pound. To get their rations it was necessary for individuals and families to be registered with a specific grocer, butcher and dairyman. Other foodstuffs, including sweets and chocolate, were obtained by the surrender of 'personal points' from the ration book. Monthly allocation of points varied between 16 and 24. For example, a tin of luncheon meat or sardines could require up to 16 points, a tin of canned fruit or condensed milk 8 points and baked beans 4 points. Packets of dried egg became available in lieu of shell eggs but these could be limited to one packet a week.

Large numbers of gardens and open spaces had been converted to vegetable growing and quite a few households kept their own chickens for food supply. 'Food Facts' were regularly published in the national and local Press by the Ministry of Food giving recipes which were to assist people preparing their food rations. They also gave information about changes to the 'points' value of canned and other foodstuffs. The mother and housewife needed to be a skilled manager in order to obtain the best value from the families allocations.

Additionally, she had to queue for lengthy periods on occasions to obtain some of these goods. Other queues developed at the drop of a hat for items which, although not rationed, were in short supply. Queueing became a national phenomenon and could provide

opportunities for social chat or could bring frustration especially in inclement and wintry weather conditions.

Horticultural pursuits were still considered to be of importance. In May 1945 there was a reception at Eastcote House to set off a 'Dig for Victory' week with accompanying exhibition. C H Middleton, well known for his horticultural advice on radio, opened the event which was attended by 500 people. The Eastcote Horticultural Society, which had been founded in 1940, had a display of fruit, eggs, etc and a scale model of an allotment. In September there was a 'Food in Victory' exhibition on the Pinn fields in Kings College Road which was opened by Cllr Mrs Hinman of Eastcote. The local authority were also concerned with local food production and at their May meeting had reconstituted the Urban Horticultural Committee whose function was to consider and advise on food production on allotments. One of those serving on that Committee was Mrs E W Crane, later to be a founder committee member of the R N E L H S, as Womens Institute representative. In June she was further nominated to a vacancy on the local Food Control Committee.

DEMOBILISATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

Demobilisation of manpower from the Forces had been discussed at Government level and Release Groups were established based on age and length of service. This was to avoid some of the problems which arose after the First World War when men were discharged less systematically creating some social and employment problems. The new method sought to overcome this by staggering the release dates for each group. It was possible for those whose trades were considered to be of importance for the change to peacetime economy to seek an earlier discharge usually on application by the employer. Another factor which had to be considered arose from the ruling that men called up for the Forces were, on the main, guaranteed their jobs back with their previous employer after release which meant the discharging of the female replacement taken on 'for the duration'.

Resettlement after serving in the Forces was not always easy for those who had achieved higher status in the Forces than previously held in peacetime. For example, a man might have reached the rank of Captain in the Army, Squadron Leader in the R A F or Commander in the Navy or even higher rankings. They were up to six years older than when they were called up and if their peacetime occupation was akin to a clerk in an office or a bench worker in a factory the transition was difficult and called for a period of resettlement. Those who had been confined in prison camps sometimes had problems of health as well as resettlement to cope with. There were those who had 'itchy feet' after moving around the world and found it difficult to settle into a sedentary occupation again. Many found a way out of this dilemma by emigrating to one of the Dominions overseas. Australia encouraged this movement by offering assisted passages for £10 only.

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

The final surrender of Germany and the cessation of warfare in Europe had been anticipated for some time before the event and consequently many were prepared for celebrations. The

Government named May 8th to be V E Day. All churches held thanksgiving services and the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, who were the local authority at the time, held a general service of thanksgiving in the grounds of Haydon Hall.

There were street parties for children and others in Abbotsbury Gardens and in Coteford Close. Each attracted over 70 children and that in Coteford Close included a bonfire, fireworks, community singing and dancing. Many houses were decorated with flags and bunting. However, the Chamber of Commerce kept their celebrations on a subdued level in view of the number of Forces still engaged in the fighting in the Far East. As well as providing some decoration for the shopping centre for public display they laid a wreath at the War Memorial at a simple ceremony. Kerswells, who ran a restaurant in the shopping parade and catered in addition for private functions, held a Victory celebration immediately following the surrender. Because of the numbers attracted by the event it had to be relocated to St Lawrence Church Hall.

A large scale Victory fete was held in the grounds of Eastcote House in July by the wardens of D District with the object of raising funds for the building debt at St Vincents' Hospital which had suffered bomb damage in 1940. The fete was attended by Palladium and Victoria Palace stars Flanagan and Allen and also by Charlie Kunz, band leader at the Casani Club and well known for radio broadcasts, he had been a patient at the hospital for some months. With a Dutch Auction and many side shows the afternoon raised £795, a considerable sum for the times. Field End Sports Club also held a V E fete in the same month at Bessingby Road recreation ground with side shows, games and Punch and Judy for the children. The 'Advertiser and Gazette' reported a 'Farewell Revue' by the combined local force of Womens Royal Naval Service and Royal Air Force at the former's H Q in Eastcote. There were a series of dinners at Kerswells by now redundant Warden's Posts to celebrate 'stand down'. In July a children's party was held at Cavendish sports ground sponsored by the Fire Service and friends.

On August 6th came reports of the dropping of the world's first atomic bomb on the mainland of Japan at Hiroshima which destroyed most of that city. On August 8th Russia declared war on Japan and on the 9th a further atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Clearly, the Far Eastern War was drawing to its close and the official surrender by Japan was signed on September 12th. An almost audible sigh of relief swept throughout the country when it was realised that hostilities had come to a close after over six years. Although a few letters in the local and national Press queried the implications of the dropping of the 'bomb' most people were just thankful that the day to day slaughter and maiming was at an end. Such a prolonged period of war had never been experienced before with its involvement of the total civilian population.

The event, of course, brought further celebrations. A 'Thanksgiving Week' was held throughout the R N U D C district from 25th to 22nd September. The 'Advertiser & Gazette' headlined "V J Gaiety at Eastcote". Flags and bunting decorated the shopping parade and there was an entertainment at Eastcote House by Jack Rickards and Company. There were band performances by the 1st East Surrey Regiment at nominated places with a cinema van

touring the area. There was a V J party in Ferncroft Avenue attended by 66 children and adults which was concluded with dancing by flood lights and fairy light decoration. A Victory Tea was staged by the residents of the Eastcote Park Estate at Eastcote House. This celebration was in two parts- the earlier consisting of tea, games, races and gifts for the children and the second after dark off Rodney Gardens with bonfire and firework display. A party was held in Essex Close for the residents of that road and Cardinal Road. The normal games and races were followed by the most unusual film show seen in Eastcote. A projector was set up in the front room of one house and directed to a screen set up in the garden of the house on the opposite side of the road. The audience sat on chairs in neighbour's gardens.

1945 GENERAL ELECTION

In between the German surrender and the cessation of hostilities in the Far East came a General Election. The last General Election had been held in 1935 when Stanley Baldwin had been returned to power at the head of a National Government which was almost entirely Conservative. There had been changes of Prime Minister over the intervening years culminating with Winston Churchill from June 1940. He had led a Coalition Government throughout the war containing representatives of the major political parties. During the war overt opposition on political grounds had been suspended by the major parties but it was increasingly felt that Parliament did not represent the contemporary political views. With the end of the war in Europe it was strongly felt that the country should be represented at the future negotiations between the world powers by a fully representative and strong government. After discussion the date for the election was fixed at 5th July, 1945.

Eastcote was within the Uxbridge Parliamentary Division in 1935 which consisted of Ruislip-Northwood, Uxbridge, Hayes and Harlington, West Drayton and Yiewsley. In 1945 the division was split leaving Uxbridge and Ruislip-Northwood together in the new Uxbridge division. The member of Parliament for the preceeding 16 years had been Colonel J J Llewellyn, a Conservative, who currently was Minister of Food. The 1935 election had given Col Llewellyn 34727 votes, a majority of 10727 over his Labour opponent and even though the division had been divided the seat was looked upon as a safe one for the Conservative interest. J E Aylett was selected as the Liberal candidate, and after some delay, Flight Lieutenant Frank Beswick was chosen to represent the Labour party. Mr Aylett was a local man but the Labour candidate was new to the area. He was 33 years old, had been born in Hucknall, a mining village in Nottinghamshire, and was married with one child. He had been a member of the L C C before the war and had joined the R A F in 1940.

This election was to be unusual from many points of view. Not only was it to be held within the atmosphere of the war but, additionally, the electoral register was very different to that of the previous elections. A new generation had become enfranchised and many of those who would vote had been engaged in wartime activities for six years, either in the forces or in supporting industries. Much new thinking had materialised into new social policies for post war society. The electoral register was rather out of date and the machinery had to be created to cater for the forces vote, either through proxy or direct voting. A Forces Register was established and a staggered counting of votes. When the results were announced on 26th July

a complete upheaval of the political spectrum was shown to have taken place. The overall result gave the Labour party 393 seats in the House of Commons; the Conservatives 189 seats and the Liberals 12 seats giving the Labour M P's an overall majority of 204. Not only was there a major swing in the voting pattern but Winston Churchill, Prime Minister for nearly the whole of the war, and seen as being the architect of victory, lost his office to a comparative unknown, Clement Attlee, who had been Deputy Prime minister in the Coalition Government taking over that office.

Locally there was a similar swing, Col Llewellyn losing the Uxbridge seat to Frank Beswick by 1084 votes. Later, Col Llewellyn was to be granted a peerage and take his seat in the House of Lords. The result was followed by a Victory Social at Eastcote House held by the Eastcote Labour Party at which over 100 attended. The Eastcote Horticultural Society held a major show on the Ministry of Health ground, just south of the railway, on August Bank Holiday Saturday which was to have been opened by the Minister of Food. In view of the election result this opening ceremony was cancelled. It was ironic that another resident of Eastcote, Maurice Webb, who was a Methodist lay preacher, was later appointed to be Minister of Food in the Labour government. Tragically, he was to die in office.

FURTHER EFFECTS OF THE END OF THE WAR

With the feeling of greater social and individual relaxation, demand re-emerged for annual holidays at the seaside resorts. Holidays with pay had only become widespread in 1938 and with the build up of deferred holidays there was a resultant situation of strong demand clashing with extreme shortage of supply. Reports came flooding through the Press of rail travel difficulties and congestion at the main line stations. Resorts were unable to cope as they were still on a wartime footing, supplies were short and hotels were still requisitioned. Nevertheless, it was estimated that 700,000 had left London for the traditional August Bank Holiday weekend.

A matter of local concern arose for decision at the October meeting of R-N-U-D-C- street lighting. The Minister of Fuel and Power had asked for economy in the use of street lighting and asked local authorities to ensure:-

- i) that lights were not turned on until absolutely necessary for public convenience and safety
- ii) lights were to be extinguished at midnight
- iii) it was further suggested that only alternate lights be lit in side streets

Street lighting was by gas in those days and the Gas Light and Coke Company, who were the suppliers, were having difficulty in controlling the times when lights switched on as the timing clocks had not been in use or maintained during the war years and the Company had a shortage of skilled staff. Consequently, some lights lit during the day and were out at night. Additionally, the Metropolitan police X Division was asking for all-night lighting in main shopping centres to deter crime.

December saw the abolition of the 20 mph limit in built up areas in darkness which was seen as another move to peacetime conditions but regrettably heard of a tragedy affecting a local family. It was reported that E A Wright who was Chief technician to Handley Page aircraft company, had been killed in a test flight of a Handley Page Hermes in which he was serving as flight observer. He was the only son of Mr and Mrs Wright who had just retired from their drapery business in Field End Road due to ill health. Unfortunately, death had not ceased to knock at people's doors.

(The above represents an extract from 'Eastcote-the Later Years')



Street Party celebrating V E Day, May 8th 1945

FIELD END FARM, FIELD END ROAD , EASTCOTE,

by Pat Clarke

REPORT ON THE FABRIC

This is a house of two storeys and attics, timber framed with rendering and brick, a tiled and gabled roof. The front range lies roughly north-south and has an internal stack, there is an off-centre rear range of two storeys with an external stack in the west gable wall. There is an accumulation of further single storey brick extensions and lean-tos at north and west.

The house was built in three main stages, datable from plan, method of construction or detail as follows. In the absence of documentary evidence a date can only be given within a band of years.

stage 1 - 1580-1650

stage 2 - 1620-1670

stage 3 - 1650-1700

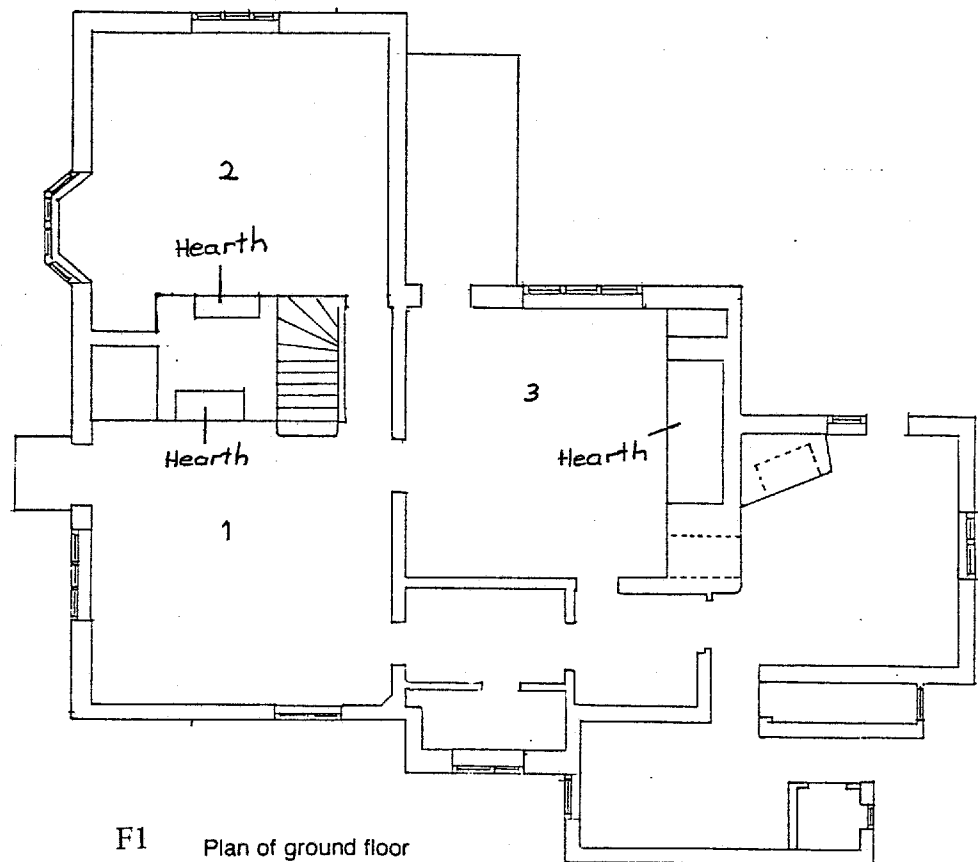
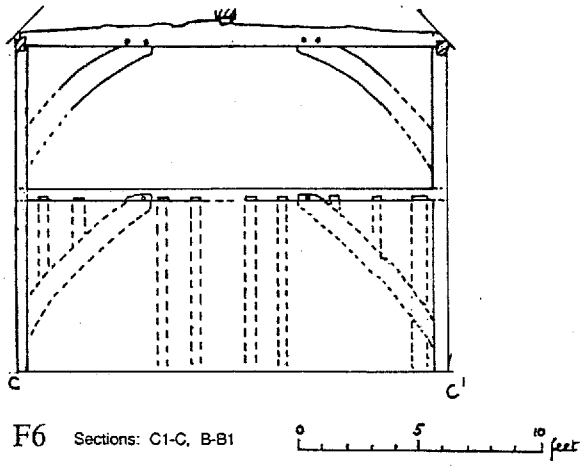
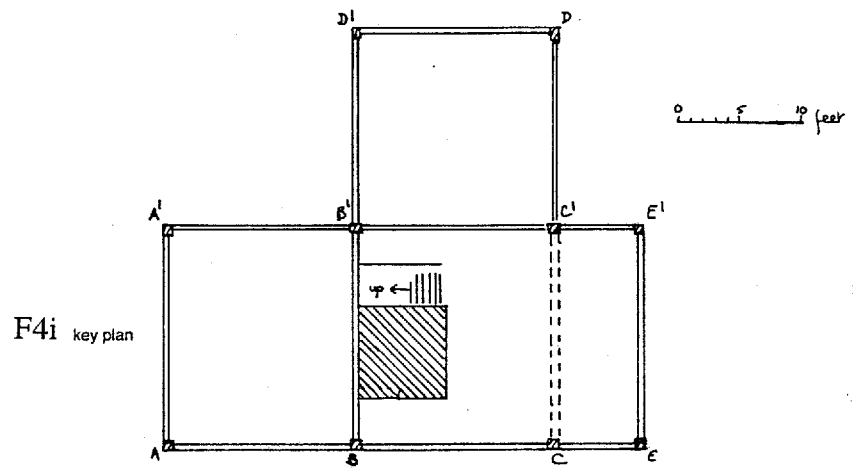
EXTERIOR

The framing is visible on the north wall but only one or two posts appear elsewhere. The bricks of the south and west walls, painted white, are 18th century or later, the bricks of the two major stacks are mostly thinner of 17th century date. The axial stack has four joined shafts, with stepped oversailing courses and a repaired top. The rear stack has two offsets at the south and three shafts set diagonally in a row; these have an ovolo (convex) moulded base above a string course, angled bands, and a capping with ovolo moulding; there is a later round 'pot' in brick on top of the southern shaft. A small stack in the west extension is braced to the rear stack by a flying buttress. Except for the small ones in the north and south gables, the windows are later insertions, the earliest being the upper front ones of the late 18th or 19th century, as also is the lower south window of the rear range. Over the centrally placed front door is a blind window.

INTERIOR

The timber framed part of this house, shown in the key plan (Fig 4i), was built in three stages. It began as a two storey building with two cells on each floor, defined in (Fig 4i) by A-A1-C1-C, to which a rear wing, B1-D1-D-C1, was added, followed by a northward extension, C1-E1-E-C, thus bringing into use the attics. The east and south walls were replaced with brick during the later 18th or 19th century. Single storey additions were made at various times, these have not been studied.

STAGE 1- THE MAIN RANGE



PLAN

The house was built with a lobby entrance, that is with an axial stack (as now) and a main entrance opening into the small lobby formed by the space between the stack and the front wall. Doors just inside gave access to the rooms at either side.

FRAMING

The earliest part, or main range, was of large framing with arch braces and fairly close set studding, as the cross frame C-C1 shows (Fig 6). The south gable shows a roof of queen post construction, though the posts (raked) are very thin and a row of studs is set outside them to the south. The visible tie beams, C-C1 are cambered and very deep. The latter having a maximum depth of 14 inches, though its upper edge is very waney. The axial spine beams carrying the ceiling joists of the upper rooms are in turn supported by a short king stud standing on the tie beam. The ceiling joists and any continuation of the king studs are concealed, so are the upper collars to which the attics are ceiled. No true collars are visible except in the south gable wall.

CHIMNEY STACK AND STAIRCASE

The present axial stack, (Fig 1) with four hearths, is the original one, and is largely made of thin bricks, common in the late 16th and early 17th century. I think the bresssummers of the ground floor hearths are the original ones, the chamfers and step stops on the front edge and the shaping of the rear edge of each indicates truncation at the western end to accommodate the re-siting of the staircase to its present position. The more usual place for the staircase would have been between the (larger) stack and the west wall, there being no need for a western passage between rooms 1 and 2. The likelihood of this being the original site is supported by the indication of a door in cross frame B-B1 (Fig 6) at first floor level just where the head of the stair would have been.

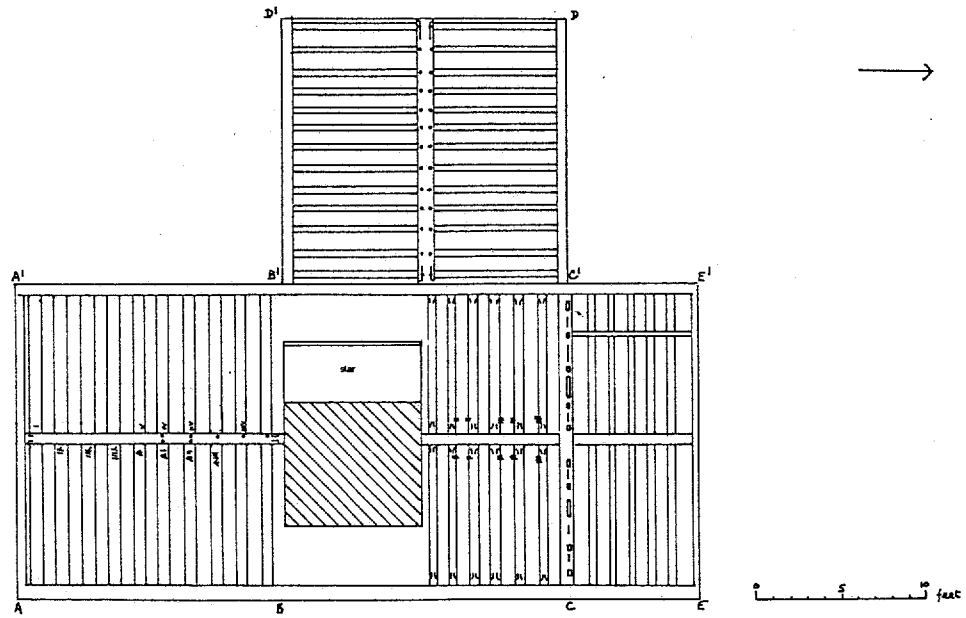
ROOM 2

The joists are laid flat; many have carpenters' marks and some of the pairs match. The unmarked joists are larger and coarser and are replacements, as are the two northern joists on the eastern side. I do not know why only a few of the joist pegs are visible from below. (Fig 8)

ROOM 1

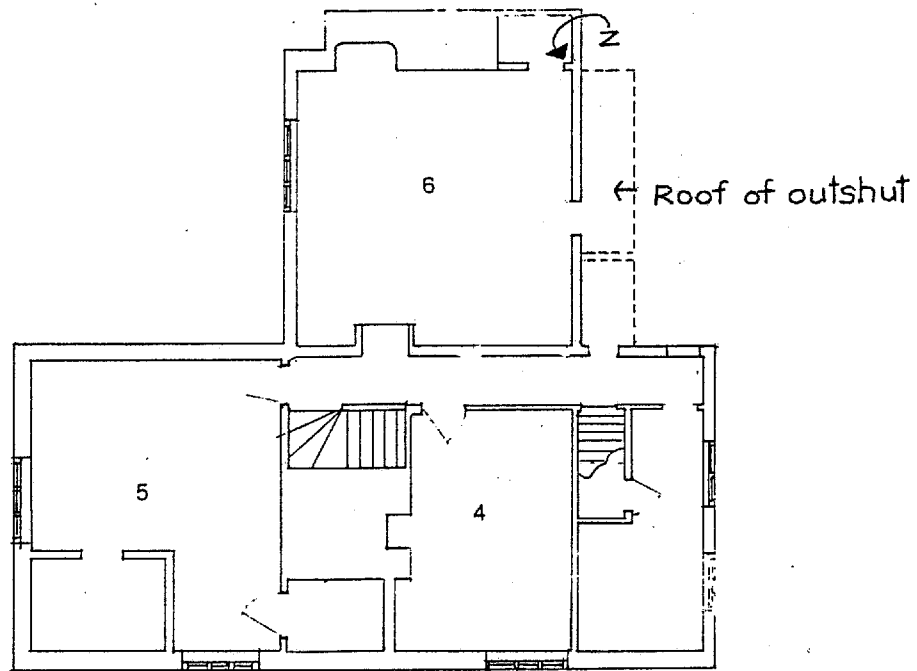
The joists south of cross frame C-C1 are slimmer than in room 2 (Fig 6). They are set on edge and have chamfers with run out stops at each end. Most of the carpenters' marks remain and match each other, though the system differs from the one used in room 2. They are later in date than those of room 2. The grooves in the underside of C-C1 are to take the infilling of the wall. (Fig 8)

The wooden panelling on the west wall is 17th century in date, earlier rather than later, and



F8 Plan of ceiling beams, from beneath. The single lines in C-C1 represent grooves.

H. March 1932.



F2 Plan of upper floor

—W

of good quality.

The stopped and chamfered west jamb of the cupboard door east of the hearth (visible from within the cupboard) is the jamb of the original door into room 1 from the front entrance. (W on Fig 1)

UPPER FLOOR

A filled mortice for a brace in the soffit of the west plate over the door into room 6 (Fig 4) means either that the west wing is an addition or that the plate is a reused timber, as there appear to be no other reused pieces in the main range I consider the former to be the case. The brace from C1 to the west plate has a carpenter's mark IIII- this would tally with a west wall having four braces in sequence from the south, i.e. from the west plate A1, B1 southside, and C1 south side, respectively. Empty mortices in the soffit of cross frame B-B1 indicate a doorway into room 5 where the original staircase might have ended. The axial spine beam in each upper room has chamfers and step stops, and the one in room 4 is reinforced at the north end with a bracket similarly chamfered. The fireplace in room 4 is modern.

ATTICS

It is not clear whether these were in use, since so much has been altered or obscured. The window in the south gable has a catch of early to mid 17th century style, original, not a reproduction.

STAGE 2- THE REAR WING

FRAMING

This is like that of the main range, large frames with braces, and fairly close set studs which can be seen on the north side of the north wall within the roof of the outshut. (Fig 2) Carpenters' marks on the three accessible stud bases are higher than the number of studs warrants. The unweathered appearance of the studs and braces suggest that the outshut was there from the beginning or very soon afterwards. The purlin of the outshut has a bridled scarf joint and seems to be supported on raked struts. The roof of the wing is of clasped purlin construction. The north plate extends beyond the original west wall, its exterior portion (visible from within the fireplace cupboard) (Fig 2,z) has the concave lower edge which is often found on these parts of plates and purlins.

This wing is not framed separately from the main range. Much of the framework where it joins the main range is concealed, but the plates of the wing are framed into the main range, not separately from it. Studs are raised on the wall plate of the main range to continue the east wall of room 6 to its ceiling at least.

There is a good deal of reused timber in this wing, for example;

- the north wall plate, which has two halved lap joints at an angle in its soffit

-the north west post, which has an empty mortice for a southward brace which would have been much larger than needed in this position and would not have fitted to the peg holes in the west tie beam (whose soffit is not visible); furthermore, this position is the only (visible) jowled post in the building

the collar of the west gable, which has five mortices in its soffit too closely set for this position, and more appropriate to a wall

-the south purlin west of the dormer, which has a chamfer and step stop along its upper edge, is quite inappropriate

-the west tie beam, which has peg holes which seem to be irrelevant

-the north wall plate of room 3 east of the north door, which has a brace mortice in a horizontal plane

-the bressummer (beam across a broad opening) in room 3, which has mortices in its rear (west) side

-possibly the studs in the north wall of room 6, since their carpenters' marks are higher than the number of studs in the wall warrant

CHIMNEY STACK

The external western stack (originally external) is of narrow brick and has three flues, one of which is for the oven. I think the oven opened eastward into room 3 originally, not as now into the room west of the stack. Its interior bricks are of later type than most of those in the main part of the stack. The jambs of the ground floor hearth have been renewed; the bressummer, nearly ten feet long, has a finely moulded edge closely resembling that on the stiles of the panelling in room 1. The hearth in room 6 has brick jambs with chamfers and angle stops.

ROOM 3

The joists are narrow and laid on edge; all are pegged into the axial spine beam, which is 11 inches wide and 10 deep, and has champered edges with step or ogee (moulding) stops (it is not quite clear which they are).

The doorway in the north wall is probably an original one and of sufficient stoutness for one leading into an outshut. The sill is cut through for it. The flap covering the space above it may have been intended to provide ventilation, since this room contained both the major hearth and the oven; the wall plate and north stud are rebated for the flap and the hinges are set in flush with the plate and flap (one butterfly, one irregular hinge). A small cupboard with butterfly hinges has been sunk into the thickness of the east wall beside the east door.

ROOM 6

The east door has a small porch within the room. It covers the space needed to step in under the plate of the main wing before having to step up onto the higher floor of this room, in this way avoiding the need to sever the plate of the main wing and incur consequent structural problems. The porch has ornamental cresting consisting of dentils beneath a moulded edge, like that of the bressummer in room 3, which is in turn surmounted by brattishing of a rudimentary arabesque character. The cresting along the south side of the door has been sawn off. On the eastern side the lintel and north jamb of the porch have chamfers and step stops.

STAGE 3 - THE NORTH EXTENSION

The framing of this is also large framing with arch braces, and the roof is of clasped purlin construction. The east purlin, with carpenter's mark XLIII, is reused material. The trimming of visible timbers is minimal.

The window in the west wall is probably original but has no datable features

The window in the north gable has ovolo mouldings within and without and is datable to 1600-1700. This window and the staircase makes it clear that the attics were to be made use of, though the provision of so good a window for such a relatively insignificant room is surprising. The same can be said of the ornamental catch to the window in the south gable (this window is otherwise plain, and the catch may not be in its original position).

The additional joists in room 1 are narrow and set on edge. There has been no attempt to make them resemble those south of C-C1, which implies that the extension provided an additional downstairs room, and not just an enlargement of room 1.

Since the extension must have been carried out before c1700, it is unlikely that the owner did not care about the differences. The north-south beam at the north west corner of the ceiling looks like the trimmer for a staircase, but this is an odd place for one and only seems to make sense if the house was sub-divided at sometime so that another staircase was required. I cannot think of another explanation nor tell the purpose of the small north-south beam set beneath the 'trimmer'.

NOTE. Apart from the three extant windows, there is no indication in any part of the house of where the first windows were nor what they were like.

LATER STAGES

The east and south walls were rebuilt in brick, and the period 1750-1820 is indicated by the bricks, the dentils, and the segmental-headed windows. The front door was probably given its present position at this time, and the blind window above may be an attempt to balance the facade visually. The present south door was also very likely part of this change. The bay

window is a later insertion, 19th or early 20th century, the other window frames have probably been renewed, and perhaps altered in detail. The other single storey extensions are not timber framed and have not been examined, though they come after stage 3.

SUMMARY

The house was originally of two cells on two storeys, giving one room on each side of the central stack. There is nothing to show whether the roof space was used at this time. Room 2 would have been the hall or kitchen, i.e the main living room, because it was the larger room. Room 1 was for other uses, such as parlour or chamber. Access to the upper floor was by the staircase on the other side of the stack against the western wall. I would expect there to have been an outshut to the west or north for ancillary service purposes.

Very soon afterwards the rear wing was constructed, providing a new main kitchen-living room with an enormous hearth and an oven. A north outshut was probably part of this construction. As a consequence the hearths in the main wing could be reduced in size and the staircase shifted, making room for a passage at each level to give easy access between all rooms on each floor. Room 1 was upgraded, with the insertion of panelling, which I think is contemporary with the bresummer of Room 3, which may have been applied to all four walls, and perhaps new chamfered joists. Room 6 was obviously intended to be an important upper room in view of the fireplace detail and the door, whose decoration I interpret as rustic Jacobean, contemporary with the panelling in room 1 and original to the house.

The north extension was made not long after, and provided an extra room on each floor. The attics were created, although the roof space could have been in use earlier.

The reused timbers have come from another dwelling or dwellings, perhaps on this site, but not necessarily so. Some of them formed part of a building with close studding such as can be seen at Tudor Lodge Hotel and Cannon Bridge Farm.

HISTORY

I know no more of this house than is contained in the book "Eastcote, a pictorial history" published by Ruislip Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society in 1984. The book refers to a house here in 1565 (see p 17). This house could possibly have been that one, but I think it would strain the dates. If it is a later one, as I think it is, the reused timber may have come from an earlier one. It would also be the case that any earlier house must have been there well before 1565 to have become out of date by about 1600.

THE DISTRESSED AREAS

by Denise Shackell

The year 1935 was a period at the height of the depression, with widespread poverty and unemployment. Local concern had obviously been aroused by what was happening in the worst hit areas of Northern England and Wales. Unemployment and distress were so great that some people in Ruislip felt that something should be done to help those in need.

In mid-March 1935, the following entry appeared in the Ruislip Outlook as the St. Martin's Parish magazine was known at the time.

" The Editor of the Outlook commends to the earnest attention of all readers the movement which has been initiated to associate the district of Ruislip actively with the Social Service Movement in the distressed areas.

The public meeting held at the Parish Hall at the call of Dr. MacFarlane, J.P. the Chairman of the Ruislip Northwood Urban District Council earlier in this year, unanimously decided to appoint a General Committee consisting of Dr. MacFarlane as Chairman, the Vicar of Ruislip the Rev. E. Ley Peake, the Rev. Father Sutton, representatives of the District Council, the Ruislip Association and other organisations to consider in what way Ruislip shall assist the Social Service Movement to help those who are suffering from the economic depression in the sorely distressed areas of the North and North-West of England and South Wales. Promises of financial support were quickly forthcoming from the majority of those present.

With that enthusiasm for good causes which is characteristic of Ruislip considerable progress has already been made. A Working Committee has been appointed with Mr. G.E. Berry as Chairman, Mr. G. Goodall, 25 Church Avenue, Ruislip as Hon. Treasurer and Mr. N.R. Cotton 20 Midcroft as Hon. Secretary".

During the week ending March 23rd there was a house to house delivery in Ruislip of an appeal signed by members of the General and Working Committees, Councillors Smedley, L.F. Fogarty, E.F. Knott, F.J. Musson and J.H. Wallis and representatives of local organisations of all kinds".....

The appeal points out how Ruislip may help those in the distressed areas and continues:-

"Ruislip has always shown a civic spirit and we appeal to you to help make that civic spirit manifest in this humanitarian campaign. The help will be given where it is most needed and in this matter the Committee will have the assistance of the National Council of Social Service. Moreover although at present we have few unemployed, the existence of a local Social Service organisation would facilitate similar work in our own district should the need arise.

There are more than 3000 households in Ruislip. If each contributed even as little as one penny per week, this would mean £600 a year, which would enable us to adopt a centre. Few households would be unable to spare one penny a week, and many would wish to contribute more".

The slips were to be collected in a few days. To minimise bookkeeping and to safeguard against fraud, stamps were issued as receipts for monthly contributions in denominations of 1d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6d. They hoped to begin collecting the following month in April.

The Hon. Secretary of the committee asked for clothing, knitted garments, toys or other useful articles for dispatch to the adopted centre, South Hylton.

This was a village of 3900 inhabitants of whom 450 out of an employable 700 were or had been for a long time out of work. Once a hive of shipbuilding industry situated on the tidal reaches of the River Wear in Durham, it had been adopted by Ruislip after personal investigation of its needs.

Mr and Mrs J.T.Draper respectively the Hon. Secretary of the Men's and Women's Committees at South Hylton visited the Boys Club, Eastcote Road.

"They brought heartfelt messages of thanks from their village to Ruislip for enabling those out of work to see a silver lining to the dark clouds of the past few years. The description given by Mr and Mrs Draper of the lot of the unemployed was a moving one. It was evident that money sent from Ruislip would be wisely spent".

Committee Meeting June 4th 1935

The splendid response by the Ruislip inhabitants to the appeal as reported by the Hon. Treasurer that there were now 541 subscribers promising a yearly total of £365-19s-6d. This was creditable seeing that nine months only had scarcely passed since the idea was launched.

"The Community Service Committee representative of all bodies of South Hylton with the approval of the Parish Council, the British Legion and the unemployed themselves have outlined the following programme which Ruislip has undertaken to support financially:-

- 1) The building and equipment of an Occupational Hut.
- 2) The leasing of suitable buildings for a Boy's Club and the purchase of necessary equipment. There were 50 boys to whom a proper boy's club would be a great boon counteracting the terrible effects of idleness enforced through no fault of their own.
- 3) The levelling of the present Recreation Ground to make it suitable for organised games.
- 4) The purchase or lease of a Hall for Community Needs

The first of these proposals will give voluntary occupation to not less than 200 men and boys for several months and the comprehensive character will secure the support of both employed and unemployed, who themselves will respectively subscribe 2d and 1d a week. Boots for outdoor and overalls for indoor work must be provided if the scanty clothes of the men are not to suffer.

Costs of a capital nature will be met by the National Committee of Social Service, while expert advice and supervision will be provided as well as a county training centre for handicrafts, agriculture, pig and poultry breeding, and play production. Leadership will be provided by the Community Service Council for Durham County; with both of these bodies Ruislip will be working in close co-operation.

As South Hylton is of the opinion that to carry out this programme successfully it will be essential to secure the full-time service of a paid organiser or warden".

Ruislip agreed to supplement as far as necessary local subscriptions in this matter but the bulk of the assistance would go towards equipment and maintenance.

The Hon. Secretary of the Working Committee of Ruislip W.R.Cotton made a further appeal on the 15th June 1935. He said.... " while the support of these proposals will tax our present resources of £360 per annum it is hoped that fresh subscribers will make it possible to include additional items e.g. Xmas party for children. 560 Ruislipians already subscribe and the Committee ask your assistance in augmenting this number".

September 1935

"The Ruislip Social Service effort on behalf of the ' adopted' village continues to make steady progress. Members of the local branch of the Girl's Friendly Society are now engaged in making up garments which will prove very acceptable during the winter months."....

Cast-off clothing and boots which were still serviceable were collected if a post-card was sent to the Hon. Secretary.

"The Ruislip Manor Women's Fellowship are again sewing and knitting garments for the depressed areas through the Personal Service League."

October 1935

" The building of the occupational hut for men is so far advanced as to warrant arrangement being made to open it towards the end of November".....

"The women's section in South Hylton is making strides with the organisation of their side of the work, a sewing machine has been purchased for making and repairing garments....The movement for the Boy's Club is well on the way. A leader has been appointed and an

ambulance class started. Progress has also been made with the levelling of the existing recreation ground to make it suitable for organised games".

May 1937

The A.G.M. was held. There was a good attendance at the meeting which showed that Ruislip's interest in those less fortunate still continued... "Ruislip is affording some measure of constructive relief to those who are without work. Visitors from Ruislip have seen for themselves what is being done in South Hylton and they are pleased with the results".

April 1938

" From reports received recently it is clear that the community centre in South Hylton... is going ahead steadily. Before the end of last year work on the layout of the grounds had been completed. All the sections have been kept busy during the winter months. The men have been concentrating on woodwork, upholstery and boot-repairing. On the recreative side Drama Groups have been formed. The women have been engaged in various kinds of craftwork such as making rugs, dressmaking and weaving sea grass on stools. Both sections are taking Physical Training Classes. The Boy's Club concentrated more on the recreative side including physical training, boxing, and cross country running. They too are taught woodwork and ambulance work. In January a Girl's Club was formed and this too is going ahead rapidly. It may therefore be said that every section of the community in South Hylton is benefitting from the establishment of the South Hylton Social Service....

Towards this commendable work Ruislip is continuing to give financial support".

There was no more reference to South Hylton in the Parish Magazines after this date. These extracts from the Parish Magazines show that the people of Ruislip had done a great deal to help those less well-off than themselves, to provide the means for the people of South Hylton to get themselves out of their totally deprived state and to enable them to develop skills and interests to make their lives more fulfilling.

Footnote 1995

The members of St. Martin's church have decided again to send money to South Hylton to help them in this time of high unemployment in their area.

REMEMBERING A RAID OF SOME 53 YEARS AGO

by George Young

'It was probably in October and a couple of weeks before I left for Portsmouth to join the Royal Navy. I was but sixteen years of age but had entered my date of birth as being two years earlier, and with no questions asked, I was accepted at 'face value'. Memories of those long Autumn evenings in 1940, when my chum Jack Menn and myself would leave our homes in Coteford Close and briskly walk up Fore Street, through Park Woods around the edge of the Reservoir to visit two young ladies who resided in houses adjacent to the Lido. Our homeward journies would usually be to the accompaniment of the noise of gunfire from the regular evening air raids by the German air force. One particular evening comes to the forefront more than most.

Guns were firing heavily as we two lads climbed the gates of the chain- linked fence at the entrance to the Reservoir grounds. After passing the main building and boat shed we continued along the narrow roadway along the dyked section toward the small brick pumphouse that was painted white, glistening brilliantly in the moonlight.

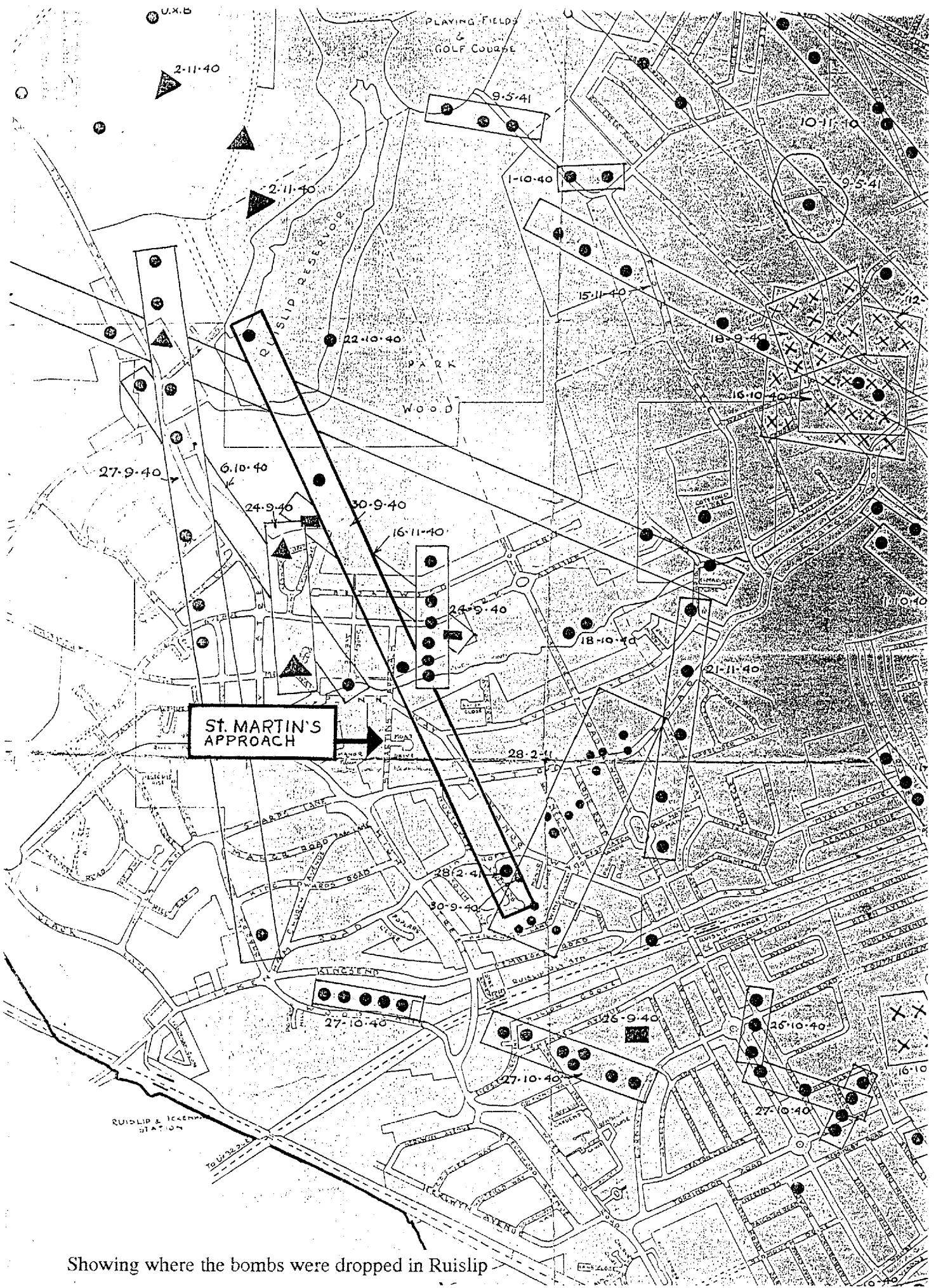
Suddenly, the sound of a plane making a dive became very loud. One of us yelled "they've seen us!" We both dove for cover under the side wall of the little building, with mental visions of being sprayed with machine-gun fire. This was immediately followed by the screech of falling bombs, flashes and four loud explosions, which was followed by a loud whine, a gentle thud and the roar of a plane trying to climb very fast.

The flashes from the exploding bombs seemed to come from the other side of the woods, but not knowing exactly where, we two lads took off at a lively trot around the end of the lake and into the woods. A lot of shrapnel was falling among the trees, several times loud whines indicated unexploded shells were also landing around us. We kept up a steady pace and within twenty five minutes were back in Coteford Close and home.

The following morning we found out that the bombs had exploded in a line in St Martin's Approach, causing considerable damage to houses in that road.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

These reminiscences were written by George Young of Eastcote, now living in Nova Scotia, Canada.



Showing where the bombs were dropped in Ruislip

THE WAR COMES TO ST MARTIN'S APPROACH, RUISLIP

(From the Diaries of Arthur Wilks)

Monday, September 23rd 1940

Our turn to catch it!

At 10.15 in the evening, soon after the sirens have sent us to cover, the guns fire furiously. The shells burst right overhead and we hear the enemy plane circling around. Suddenly, there is the dread sound of bombs descending; a rushing wobbling sound like an express train rushing through a station. The next moment there are deafening explosions. The front door flies open as tiles and glass cascade on to the garden path. Molly is under the stairs, Bennie, Tony and I lying in the hall. Self-possessed but with every nerve taught I grab Tony, who is bewildered but behaves well, I push him in with Molly. We are all safe and Bennie hurriedly begins to put some clothes on. I throw on my uniform over my pyjamas, knowing that I must report for duty. This is a "Major Incident" without question. Through the open door out of the darkness I hear Mr Clowe's voice calling "Is anyone hurt?" Then crunching over piles of debris to us come Mrs McCue, supported by her husband, from next door. She is sobbing hysterically "Oh! I am so ashamed - I'm frightened." I give her some brandy before I leave.

The pitch darkness adds to the horror of things in the street. Stumbling over the wreckage I make out my windows on the lawn and one hanging dangerously by a corner: I drag it down. Marston, my senior warden, looms up. "Wilks here" I report. "There is a woman badly hurt opposite" Marston says. "Get to the Post on your bike and send an MI." Without wasting a moment I am off, peddling hard. Poor old Lansdown, whose house is hard hit hurries off thankful to be relieved and to learn that his dear ones are, apparently, safe. We know of only one casualty; it is the sweet young Webster girl. When my message is dictated and Elliot has joined me in the Post I return to St Martin's Approach. My fellow-wardens (A Group were on duty and have now been joined by all of us in B Group) have been up and down the road checking up. The greater part of the houses at the top end have suffered. The Websters seem to have caught the brunt of the explosions but the three occupants are quite unhurt; they find asylum for the night with the Marstons. The fourth our charming young Miss Webster is in different case. She was in the kitchen at the back and lies there, ghastly white, in a pool of her own blood. A first-aid party has bandaged her by the time I return and an ambulance has arrived in response to my message. She is tenderly removed a still white form.

The McCue's who are badly shaken, for fragments of the bomb went through the room in which they were sitting, remain with us and we settle down on the floor to await the dawn.

Tuesday, September 24th 1940

With the coming of the blessed light of day I go into the street to see the extent of the damage. Six bombs fell in a stick, two of 250 lbs and four small ones of 50 lbs. The first of the big

ones did most of the damage. The other fell on the allotments within 25 yards of the Gray's garden shelter at No 44. Except for replacing someone's plot by an immense crater it did little harm. It was the other which caused the mischief. It fell on the pathway beside the Pinn, some ten yards beyond the end of the Webster's garden. There is no obstacle between its crater and our house, but by some freak of the blast, we did not suffer so much damage as the Wadsworth's, two doors away. The backs of all the houses opposite are more or less shattered. The Webster's and that next door to it appear to have some displacement of the structure which means they will be condemned. Generally speaking however Lowe's houses (the builder) have resisted wonderfully well. In the field a dead horse its legs straight up as it lies on its back is a pathetic object. The road is full of great lumps of clay and debris but men are already at work clearing it up. Everyone's windows lie in their gardens while the roof tiles are dislodged or missing all around. Nevertheless we can count ourselves very fortunate. All except two of the bombs, and those small ones, dropped on soft open ground. The exceptions miraculously struck two houses in Park Avenue and Broadwood Avenue which are used as offices and are empty at night.

Yes, wonderfully fortunate have we been - except for one mourning family. Miss Webster is dead. She did not last until the hospital was reached and her remains were taken to the mortuary. Her mother has not yet been told. She poor lady is suffering from cancer and has not long to live. Part of the tragedy is that she should be spared and the bright healthy young woman killed. Mrs Webster and the two other survivors, the son and his Danish- American wife, escaped with only shock. They were in the front rooms. Miss Webster was at the back in the kitchen and was thrown violently against the stove. She can have known nothing of what happened, thank God.

Bennie and I take the survivors under our wing, feeding them and helping them as much as we can in their many difficulties.

UNUSUAL CHRISTIAN NAMES IN RUISLIP

Parish Register, March 1903

Two sons of Thurza Lavender were baptised.

The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names by E G Withycombe gives Thirza, Hebrew Tirzah possibly 'acceptance' but more probably the name of a city used for a person. Probable origin of Thirza name of Abel's wife in Lessner's idyll of the 'Death of Abel' a great favourite among the lower classes of England.

Thyrza has become rather a favourite for naming English cottages.

REFERENCE: C M Yonge: A History of Christian Names. 1884

April 18th 1897

Arthur George, son of Alphabet and Lavinia Ayres.

Popular name at the time of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, June 20th 1897.

FROM BLACKSMITH'S COTTAGE TO VILLAGE TEA ROOMS

by Colleen Cox

One summer morning in 1994 the residents of Ruislip were startled to discover that the chimney of the Village Tea Rooms had been demolished. It had been hit by a lorry whose driver had missed the sharp right turn at the north end of Ruislip High Street. Fortunately neither the driver nor anyone else was injured but there was much speculation as to what had happened. One theory, that the driver had fallen asleep, reminded me that this had been a common occurrence in former times. During the 19th century there were frequent accounts of drivers summonsed for falling asleep while in charge of a hay cart. These drivers reportedly left Ruislip very early in the morning with a load of hay to be sold in the London market. They returned home after midnight often carrying a load of manure to fertilise the Ruislip fields. No 'spy-in-the-cab' for them to monitor the duration of their journey so it is not surprising that so many of them fell asleep or were caught "without having hold of the reins". I could find no reference to damage to person or property from any of these incidents, perhaps because the horses knew the road as well as their drivers. Fifteen shillings seems to have been the standard fine for the offence unless it was thought that the man was drunk in which case the fine was increased to 20 shillings.

Many incidents must have occurred near these two old cottages which have stood in the centre of the village for centuries, and belonged to the Lord of the Manor, King's College Cambridge. In 1931 the cottages together with Manor Farm, were included in the transaction when Park Wood was sold by King's College, Cambridge to the Ruislip Northwood Urban District Council. Ownership has since passed to the London Borough of Hillingdon. A rental as early as 1420 mentions a smithy near the Manor House gate and according to the survey undertaken by Kings College, Cambridge in 1565, Richard Robbins, a smith, had a cottage by the Manor House gate. On Doharty's map of the demesne lands in 1750, a building marked "smithy shop" can be seen in this position

We do not know who occupied these cottages in the 18th and early 19th century but they most likely would have been the village smith and agricultural labourers working at Manor Farm. As such they would have been tenants of the Hawtreys and their descendants the Deanes who leased the demesne land.

Even with the more detailed information available from the 1841 and subsequent censuses, it is still not possible to be absolutely sure about the occupiers of each cottage. From the beginning of the 19th century however, the Rate Books indicate that William Page, the village blacksmith lived in one of them and in the 1837 Terrier (survey) he is recorded as the tenant of "a house and smith shop". In the 1841 census his household comprised himself and his wife Elizabeth, both in their seventies, his daughter Ann and his son Daniel. After William's death in 1846, his widow and his son appear to have moved to a house near St. Martin's Church (now an Italian restaurant).

In 1851, one of the cottages was occupied by 53-year-old William Smith from Old Stratford, Warwickshire. He gave his occupation as a barber but described himself as a ginger-beer maker in 1861 and ten years later, at the age of 74 years, he is recorded as an agricultural labourer.

One can only make an educated guess as to the occupiers of the other cottage between 1851 and 1887. In 1851 it was probably occupied either by Thomas Sherman, the Manor Farm bailiff or Henry Goodman a grocer. Elizabeth Gough, widow of the former Police-Sergeant Francis Gough, lived there in 1861 and Henry Martin a local man and agricultural labourer, was there in 1871.

By 1881 the occupiers were almost certainly William Johns, a 62-year-old master tailor from Surrey and James Bryant the census enumerator. He had vacated his baker's shop at the corner of Park Lane (now The Oaks) in favour of his son Andrew and ran a bakers and grocers shop by the entrance to Manor Farm. The blacksmith at this time was William Croxsen who lodged with Stephen Batchelor a retired baker who lived in the house formerly occupied by Elizabeth Page and her son Daniel. Croxsen is described as a farrier and smith in the local directory of 1887.

The occupier of the cottage nearest to Bury Street in 1891 was James Bodger, a cordwainer (shoe-maker) whose two lodgers William Baker and Edward Doe were both farriers. The two men were mentioned in local directories from 1891 to 1896. From 1897 only Edward Doe was mentioned. He later lived in one of the Home Cottages, the late 19th century villas at the corner of Sharps Lane, and became a well-known local farmer. The little girl in the middle of the road in one of the best-known early photographs of Ruislip High Street is said to be his daughter Edie. He was still described as the village blacksmith in a local directory of 1915/16.

In 1891 the occupier of the cottage next to the Manor Farm entrance and whose chimney suffered the recent damage, was almost certainly Henry Puddick. In the census he is described as a saddler and farrier but later ran the village Post-office.

The Puddicks were succeeded in 1908 by Harry Robert Hailey a grocer and provision merchant who was a stationer, kept the post-office and Ruislip's first telephone exchange. The Haileys also ran a library. Mrs Hailey continued to run the shop as a toy shop after her husband's death, the last recorded entry in the local street directory being in 1972. The shop was empty for several years but was bought by Wendy Hobday in 1975/76 and converted to "Wendy's World" selling lamp-shades and light fittings. This business closed around 1985/6 and the shop was again vacant for a time.

Although remembered by many Ruislip residents as "The Village Sweet Shop" the cottage nearest to Bury Street did not become a sweet-shop until the beginning of the 20th century. In the 1913 sweet directory Albert Edward Bray is described as living "near the Post Office". An advertisement in the same directory indicated that Mrs A.E.Bray sold teas and

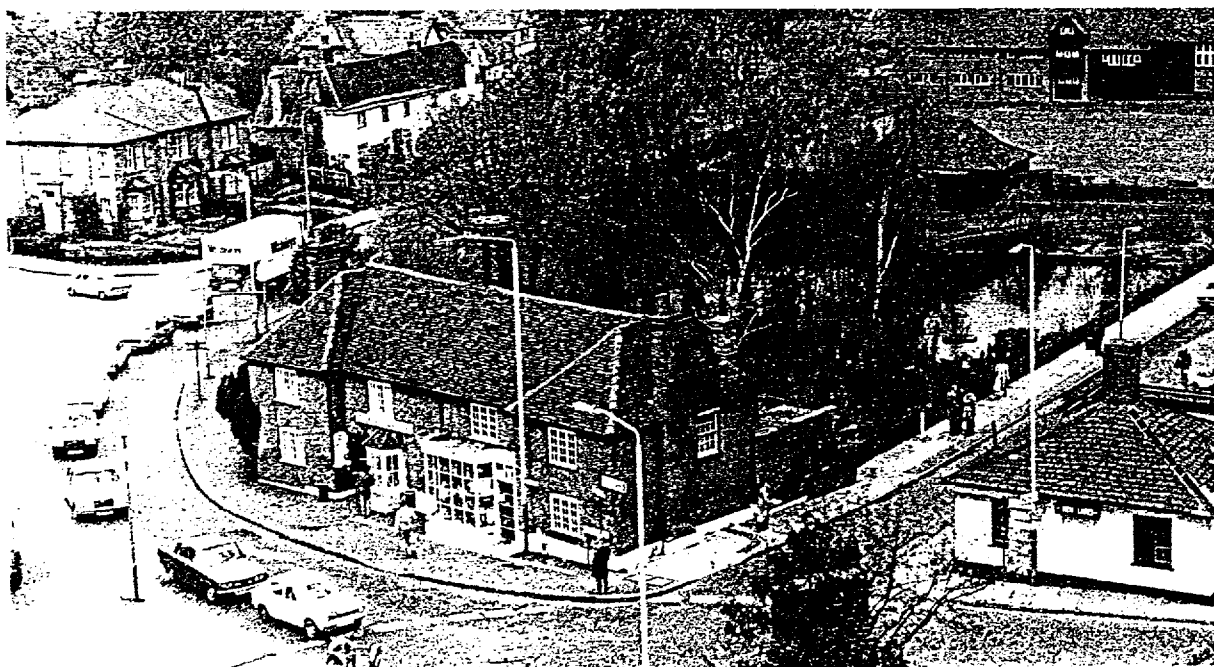
refreshments; sweets, confectionary, ices etc; stationery; haberdashery and medicines; and had a picture postcard department.

The Brays kept this shop until the beginning of World War 11 after which there is a gap in the directories. The next recorded occupiers were Mr and Mrs W. Thomson who ran the village sweet shop from about 1946. An article in the local paper (August 1951) reported that after running the business for four years they were evicted in June 1950 but continued working from a temporary building in Bury Steet. In August 1951 however they were able to return to the permanent building. Between 1954 and 1964/5 the proprietor was Q. Thomson, followed in 1966/67 by Mrs F.M.Gordon who was still there in 1977. In 1984 the village Sweet Shop closed and was put up for sale. According to the local press the asking price for the business was £11,500 leasehold and rental £1,100. The premises of this Grade listed building consisted of the shop, two stockrooms and a covered yard. The living premises were a parlour, with a beamed ceiling, kitchen and three bedrooms. By November 1985 the value of the business had dropped to £10,000 leasehold.

The shop remained closed and derelict until June 1987 when it was bought by Toni and Mark Rehm who applied for planning permission to convert the premises to a tea room. The Village Tea Rooms opened on Saturday, July 11th 1987. "Waitresses dressed in frilly aprons served teas, light lunches and sold continental confectionary in a setting reminiscent of the 1930s".

The business has since flourished and extended into the adjacent cottage. It has recently been re-named The Duck House Restaurant possibly because of the proximity of Ruislip duck pond.

The bricks from the demolished chimney were preserved and have been used in the rebuilding of the chimney which was completed by January 1995. Hopefully it will stand for another few centuries.



Village Sweet Shop Ruislip

A WINDMILL ON HASTE HILL

Eileen M. Bowlt

A search through the Ruislip Manor Court Book 1589-1681 (1), revealed that the Lords of the Manor, at a court held on the 3rd July 1626, granted to John Blunt and his wife half an acre on "**Hearst Hill..... to build a windmill uppon**". The windmill was certainly erected because at the next court held on 6th October 1627 John Blunt surrendered the windmill and "little house by it" to Henry Wheeler, a Lathrender.

Where exactly was this mysterious windmill and what happened to it? These two intriguing references are the only ones so far found and Doharty's map of Ruislip demesne lands 1750 and Rocque's map of Middlesex 1754, give no inkling of such a mill, although Rocque has a neat little drawing of a post mill (2) at Pinner Green about a mile away.

PINNER GREEN MILL

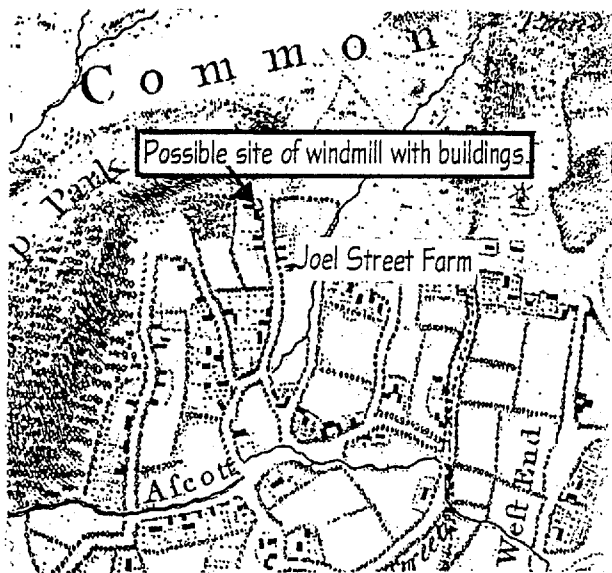
The Pinner Green mill stood on Pinner Green Common, on rising ground (but nowhere near the crest of the hill) and belonged to the Lord of the Manor. It was built in 1619 and rebuilt on more than one occasion (3). A painting of 1870 shows a smock mill (4) which was burnt down two years later. Although the Ruislip and Pinner mills date from about the same time, no connection between them has yet been found.

THE MILL ON HASTE HILL.

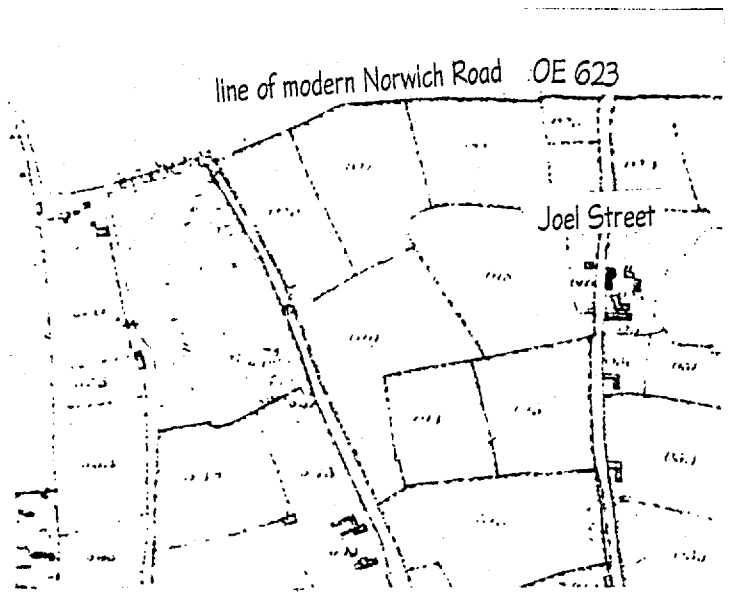
Ruislip's mill clearly lasted nowhere near so long. Comparison between Rocque's map and the Ruislip Enclosure map of 1806 gives a clue to its **possible** position. Rocque (Map 1) shows a small enclosed field with buildings in it at the top of Joel Street, on the western side. The position is now on the southern corner of Joel Street and Norwich Road and is occupied by 1930s houses. The Ruislip Enclosure map (Map 2) shows the same little field without any buildings and labelled Old Enclosure 623. The Award shows that it was almost exactly half an acre in size and owned by John Humphrey Babb who had Joel Street Farm a little way down the hill on the opposite side of the road.

Before the enclosure, the common waste of Haste Hill spread down to the line of modern Norwich Road and in some places south of it, so Old Enclosure 623 may well have been wasteland in the 17th century. It is quite possible that the mill itself had already gone before Rocque did his survey, but that the little house and outbuildings remained. If so they too, had been cleared before 1806. However, this speculation is merely conjectural, based upon a piece of land of roughly the right size and more or less in the right position. Although downhill from the top of Haste Hill the playing fields of Haydon School, just behind, are said to catch the wind.

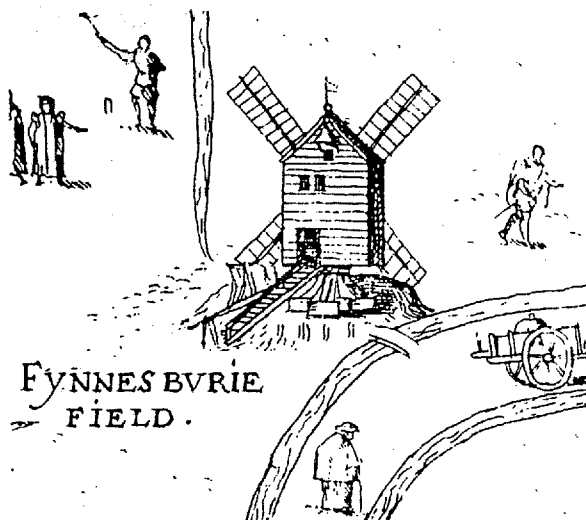
An additional fact to toss into the scale as evidence is that Nathaniel Wheeler, who unfortunately cannot be traced back to Henry Wheeler, lathrender, owned a cottage with appurtenances at "Joale Street Lane End", in the 1650s & 60s (5).



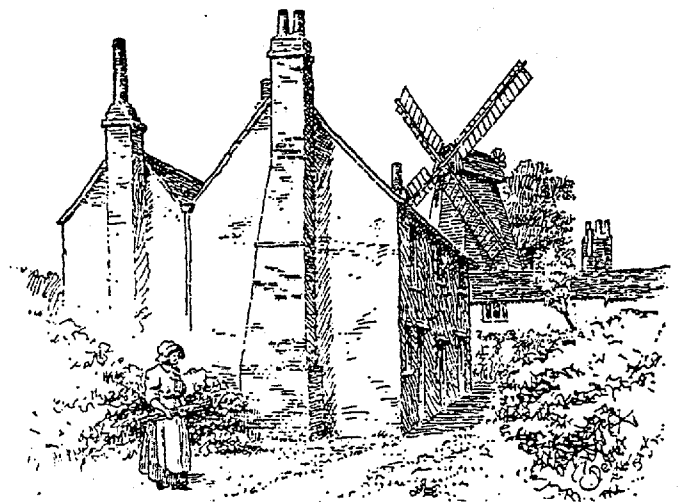
MAP 1 Rocque's Map of Middlesex 1754.



MAP 2 Ruislip Enclosure Map 1750.



A Post mill depicted on the Copperplate Map of London c1559.



Pinner Green mill in 1870. It is a smock mill.

EARLIER RUISLIP MILLS

Ruislip had a windmill and a watermill in medieval times, mentioned in an extent of the Manor taken in 1294 (6), when they were valued at 40s per annum and again in an extent of 1324 (7) and finally in a rental of 1442 (8). The windmill almost certainly stood on Windmill Hill with Great & Little Windmill Fields lying on either side. An empty plot of land on Doharty's map probably denotes the site. The watermill was along the River Pinn, probably near Clack Lane. There is Mill House in Bury Street and the land adjoining on which EMI stands was called Mill Pond Close, but the names did not become current until the 19th century.

MILLERS

Although the 1626 reference to a windmill on Haste Hill is the next we hear after medieval times of any sort of mill in Ruislip, some millers crop up in the records. Thomas Ferne, miller is one of 12 freemen appearing at a manor court in July 1526 (9) and John Ferne, miller lived at a house on the site of Southill Farm, Eastcote in 1565 (10). At Popes End, a little further along Eastcote High Road, William Harris had a house, barn and "mill house" in 1652 (11), but he is not described as a miller.

For the moment the fate of the Haste Hill mill and the way the other references to mills and millers fit into the story must remain something of a mystery.

REFERENCES

1. British Library: Add MS 9367.
2. Post mills developed in medieval times. A wooden body, containing the machinery and carrying the sails was mounted on a substantial wooden post, around which it could be rotated to face into the wind. Strong timbers braced the post beneath the body. A tail beam enabled it to be pushed around. A fantail which turned the wooden framework by windpower was in use by the 18th century.
3. W. Frankum: The Pinner Windmill Pinn 2 1986, Pinner Local History Society.
4. Smock mills had a movable cap to which the sails were fixed, on top of a wooden tower which contained the machinery. They appeared in the 17th century and were thought to look like a miller's smock.
5. British Library: Add MS 9367.
6. Public Record Office: E 106/2/1.
7. Ibid SC6/1126/5.
8. King's College: R 45.
9. Ibid: Q 59.
10. Ibid R 36.
11. British Library Add MS 9367.

THE DONKEY TALE

by Eileen Watling

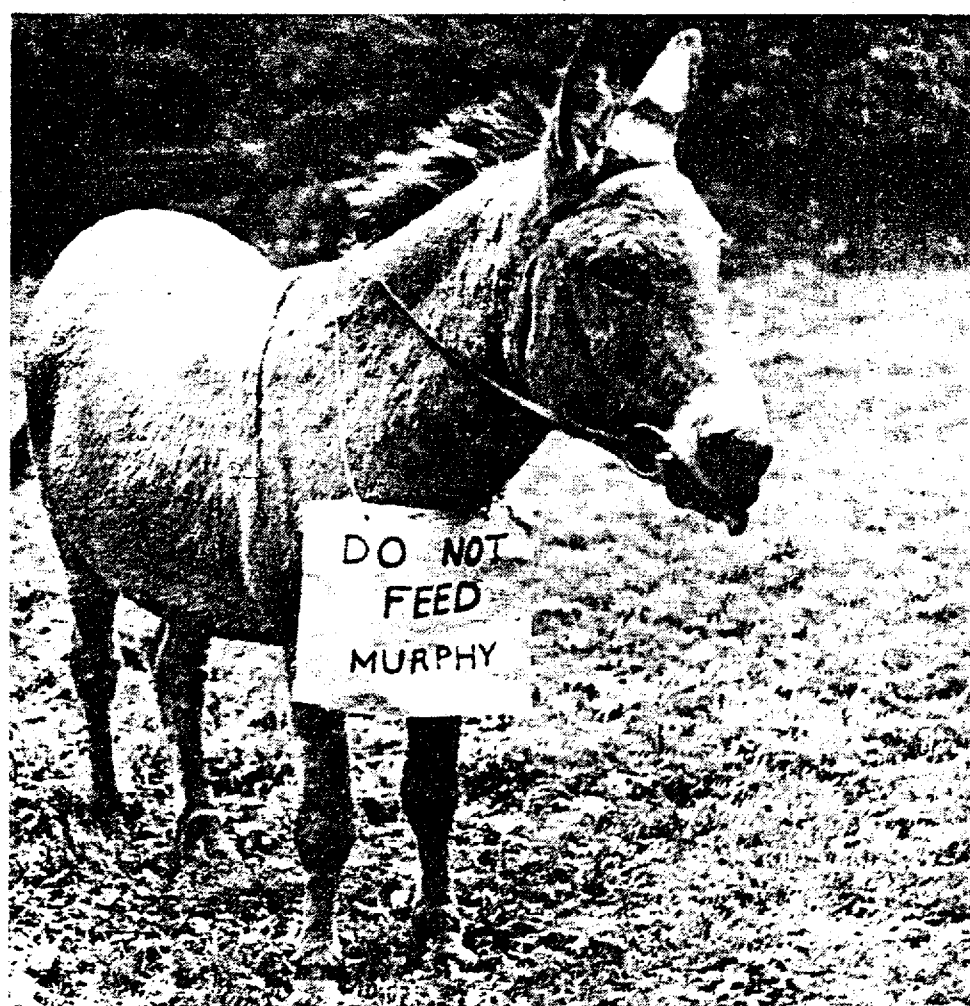
Murphy the donkey who lived for so long at Cannon's Bridge Farm in Bury Street, Ruislip, will be remembered with affection by numerous local residents, many of whom were taken to see him as children. Sadly having lived to the ripe old age of thirty seven, he succumbed last winter to a severe attack of arthritis which left him unable to stand. Recently his owner, Mrs Kim Brown was kind enough to allow a tape-recording to be made of her talking about her much loved pet and the account which follows is based on her reminiscences.

When Mr and Mrs Brown moved to the picturesque but run-down Cannon's Bridge Farm in 1958 they began the task of restoring it until it reached the beautiful condition in which it is seen today. In order to meet the urgent need to control the grass in the adjacent paddock, Mrs Brown originally considered buying five geese, an idea not greatly favoured by her husband. She was converted to the solution of having a donkey instead, after a chance meeting with the elderly owner of a donkey called Jack. At one time this man had looked after pit ponies and now found homes for imported Irish donkeys. He was asked to obtain one for the overgrown paddock. Eventually a consignment of donkeys arrived but they were in very poor health and only two survived. When they had become stronger one of them took up residence in the paddock and was christened "Murphy".

From the start Murphy did not entirely fill the bill as a substitute lawnmower. in Dedham Jack had taught him to nose the lids off the dustbins to search for sandwiches and other discarded delicacies within and he also particularly liked to nibble at the mint which grew freely in the garden and at the willow tree in the paddock under which he was so often seen sheltering. As a great favourite with the passers-by and those waiting at "the donkey bus-stop", he developed a taste for a wide variety of offerings ranging from carrots to Polo mints and sugar lumps.

When he was very young, someone tipped a sackful of green apples into his field and knowing no better Murphy promptly ate them all and the vet had to be called to a very uncomfortable donkey. Because of this incident and Murphy's increasing girth Mrs Brown put up a notice in his paddock asking the public not to feed him, a move sabotaged by Murphy who ate the notice and several others that were put up to replace it.

Mrs Brown never had to worry about grooming Murphy as he enjoyed the services of a devoted band of volunteers. Even when a gardener was employed he immediately fell under Murphy's spell and was more eager to look after his stable than the garden. The postman was good for a daily lump of sugar and at Christmas time cards and even hampers arrived for the fortunate animal. Among his female admirers were two visiting lady donkeys who once trotted all the way over from Denham to the obvious gratification of Murphy, but to the bewilderment of the police who wondered whether Mrs Brown now actually owned three donkeys.



Not all of Murphy's experiences were as happy. On one occasion his nose was marked by burns from stubbed-out cigarettes and his legs penetrated by air-rifle pellets. Once he was missing from his field and a cut wire fence and the marks of a backed lorry and ramp showed that there had been an attempt to steal him. Fortunately Murphy was found not far away trotting along the road and was returned by some passing firemen. Broken bushes in the paddock indicated that he had put up a good fight against the would-be thieves and had refused to enter their lorry. He was strong and could be very stubborn when he chose. Possibly he also had unpleasant memories of being shut up during his original voyage from Ireland.

Murphy was a familiar figure well beyond the bounds of Ruislip and instrumental in raising money for charity at the Pinner Rugby Club and elsewhere by giving rides to numerous children which both he and they enjoyed. The vicar from a South Harrow church once arranged to borrow him for a nativity play. Accompanied by the vicar and some of the choirboys who took it in turns to ride on his back and occasionally fall off into the roadside ditch, Murphy reached his destination but stubbornly refused to enter to take part in the rehearsal. In disgrace he was escorted all the way back by his tired and chagrined retinue. The vicar suggested, not too seriously, to Mrs Brown that as an Irish donkey Murphy perhaps considered himself to be of the Roman Catholic persuasion and was thus reluctant to enter Anglican territory, but whatever the reason he failed to make his stage debut.

Murphy blotted his copybook on other occasions. His first crime was the worsting of a vet who came to attend to him dressed in immaculate plus-fours and accompanied by two respectful students. Having declared the tethering of Murphy to be unnecessary, the vet soon had his spotless suit muddied by a well aimed kick from his patient and Mrs Brown was required to save the situation by sitting on Murphy's head. Inevitably from time to time a gate was left open and Murphy profiting by this aquired, over the years, a police record for offences such as rolling in the road to the obstruction of traffic, the unauthorised eating of Frensham roses from a front garden and loitering with suspect intent outside his near-by local - the Plough.

**HIGHGROVE AND THE HUME- CAMPBELLS:
NORTH AISLE,STMICHAEL'S CHAPEL
COMMEMORATIVE EAST WINDOW IN ST MARTIN'S CHURCH**

by Valery Cowley

In April 1889 in the Ruislip Parish Magazine, the Vicar's letter announced that in the summer this window was to be filled with stained glass in memory of Lady Hume-Campbell, at the wish of her husband. Juliana Rebecca Fuller was the only daughter and heiress of Sir John Fuller, who commanded the Coldstream Guards under Sir John Moore and the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsular War. She married Sir Hugh Hume-Campbell of Marchmont in 1841.

With Laurence James Baker of Hayden Hall she provided plants and flowers for church Harvest Festivals. In August 1877 the Magazine records that: A cricket match was played at Highgrove on Monday, July 30th, between an eleven of the Ruislip church choir and a Highgrove eleven which resulted in an easy victory for the latter. At the same time the non-playing members with their relations, and many of the inhabitants of Eastcote and Ruislip were invited by Lady Hume-Campbell to witness the match and spend the afternoon in croquet, and other outdoor amusements. After a most substantial tea, some part-songs were sung by the Choir, violins were produced and a very enjoyable day was brought to a conclusion by a dance on the lawn.

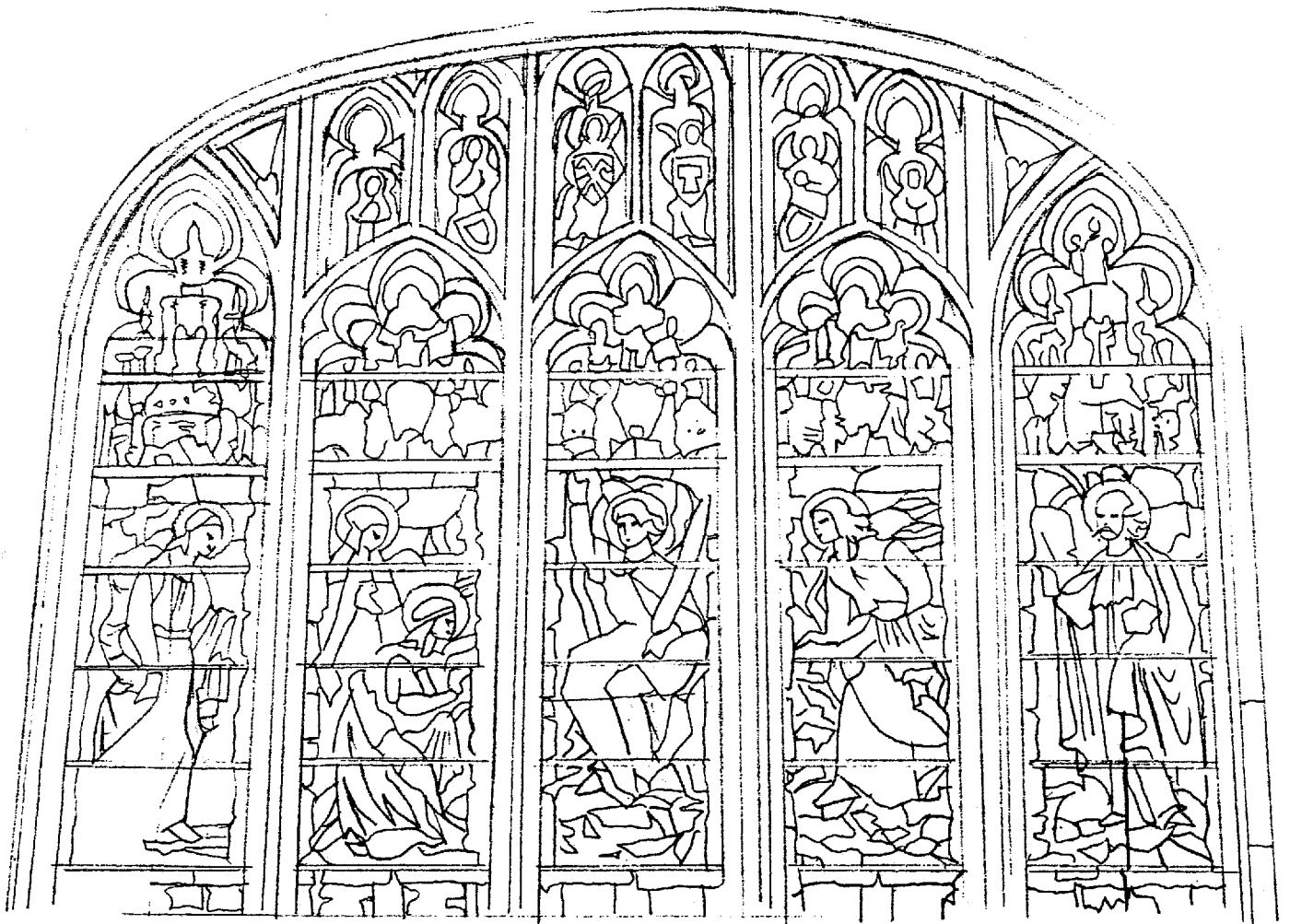
In 1878 Lady Hume-Campbell replaced the broken church bells. The Hume-Campbells also favoured the curate, Roumieu, to succeed the Reverend Christopher Packe as Vicar but the Dean and Canons of Windsor appointed Thomas Everett.

After a fire in 1879, Highgrove was rebuilt in 1881. The East Window's inscription records that Lady Hume-Campbell died on October 11th, 1886. Sir Hugh continued the subscription to charities supported by his late wife, including Coal and Clothing Clubs and Ruislip School.

In July 1891 he subscribed four guineas to the Chancel Carpet Fund (to replace coconut matting). The March 1894 Magazine gives the news of his death, aged 81, when the Baronetcy and Scottish estates were entailed to a distant relative, Home Purves, a nephew of Major Archer who had recently resided at South Hill house, Eastcote.

Born in 1812 and twice married, Sir Hugh did not live at Highgrove after Juliana's death. When he died the house was sold, the proceeds divided among the Warrender grandchildren of his first marriage to Margaret Spottiswoode, who had died in 1839. Their daughter, Helen, had married Sir George Warrender in 1854. Thus we have Hume Way, Campbell Close and Warrender Way, built on parts of the Highgrove estate.

Juliana died childless and is buried with her parents, next to her maternal grandfather, Sir John Floyd, at Kensal Green cemetery. In her will she established a charity to supply coal to the needy.



East window in St. Martin's Church Ruislip

It was decided that her commemorative window should depict the Angel at the Tomb, based on Matthew 28, vv. 6-7: He is not here He is risen and behold He goeth before you into Galilee.

The top lights contain angels with the Instruments of the Passion: centre, whips and the tunic; on either side, angels with shields, a cross and a crown of thorns. (c.f. the Nave roof paterae (carved flat ornaments) and the top lights of the Chancel East Window.)

In the centre of the main lights, the golden-haired Angel of the Resurrection 'his robe white as snow', carries the palm of Christ's victory over death and greets (left facing) Mary of Magdala, kneeling and dressed in lilac, gold and white, with Joanna behind her, in red. On the extreme left stands Mary the mother of James, in purple. (Luke 24, v. 10). They carry spices to anoint Christ's body.

On the angel's right (facing), youthful, fair-haired St John the Evangelist, in red and white, has outrun the elderly, bearded St Peter (extreme right) robed in turquoise and gold. John 20, v. 4).

The figures are placed beneath white and gold, medieval-style canopies with alternate red and green backgrounds, below which a turquoise sky runs across the whole window. The ground is covered with grass and flowers, from which rise trees. Yellow and white 'pillars' frame the tracery of each of the five lights.

The window is signed 'Mayer and Co, Munich and London', a firm which achieved great popularity after George Mayer exhibited his firm's glass at the Great Exhibition, Crystal Palace, in 1851.

The first Royal Bavarian Manufactory windows had been brought to the East end of Christ Church, Kilndown, Kent in 1844; the next ones, from Max Aimmüller of Munich, were for a side chapel window in Peterhouse, Cambridge, in 1855.

By the early 1870's Mayer and Co had opened an office at 70 Grosvenor Street and exported more glass to England than A. Lusson of Paris (see Harrow School Chapel) or Capronnier of Brussels, until the Second World War. Some found Mayer's windows too sentimentally pictorial, ignoring their architectural settings. They were influenced by the painter, J. F. Overbeck and the Nazarene Group of artists. The firm was renowned for skilful enamel painting and careful realism, modelled on Dürer, Raphael and Perugino. In his book on nineteenth century Suffolk stained glass, Birkin Haward says that their naturalistic windows at Great Bealings and Somerleyton are accomplished. At Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, Mayer and Co, unusually, depict Richard Coeur de Lion, and Dorchester Abbey has two of their windows in the South Chapel.

It was interesting to see in detail the German precursors of the British Pre-Raphaelites in the German Romantics exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in 1994, for both shared an enthusiasm

for medieval styles. St Martin's window has a visionary quality typical of much of their work, which, with its strong Italianate roots, was especially popular in Roman Catholic churches.

In the April 1889 Parish Magazine, the Reverend Everett commented that the drawing was excellent and the artistic arrangement of rich colours of pot metal glass in perfect taste, harmonious and mellow, with lifelike facial expressions. However, the installation of this window and the Thompson memorial window in the north wall (described in the 1992 Journal) frustrated the scheme to have the twelve Apostles in the lights of the North Aisle, beginning with the Kent commemorative window depicting Saints James the Great, Peter and John (also described in the 1992 Journal).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- i) J McBean: General Fuller of Highgrove. R N E L H S Journal 1978)
- ii) M Harrison: Nineteenth Century Stained Glass. 1980
- iii) P Cowen: A Guide to Stained Glass in Britain. 1985
- iv) E M Bowl: The Goodliest Place in Middlesex. 1989
- v) B Haward: Nineteenth Century Suffolk Stained Glass. 1989
- vi) C A Cox: A Quiet and Secluded Spot. 1991



Lady Hume-Campbell