



# RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society

## Journal 1997

### CONTENTS

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Page</i>
	Committee Members		2
	Summer Outings 1997		3
	Lecture Programme 1997-98		3
	Editorial		4
97/1	WA Telling and the Development of 'The Grange' Estate, Northwood	SimonMorgan	5
97/2	The Changing Shape of 'The Fells'	Simon Morgan	16
97/3	Hilliard Road, Northwood - The Early Years	Colleen A Cox	19
97/4	Charms Hall & the Decharms Family in Ruislip	Eileen M Bowlt	25
97/5	A Cottage at Eastcote 1835	Eileen M Bowlt	29
97/6	Memories of a Hole by the Lido	John Sullivan	32
97/7	Ian Tait 1909-1997	LenKrause	33
97/8	Reminiscences of Coteford	Alison Ferguson	34
97/9	Two Soldier-Saints and Two Wheatsheaves: More St Martin's Stained Glass	Valery Cowley	36
97/10	Update on St Martin's 19th Century Stained Glass	Valery Cowley	39
97/11	'Middlesex Manors - Then & Now' Local History Day 22 February 1997	Susan Toms	40

Cover picture: 'The Grange', Northwood.  
This and other line drawings are by Denise Shackell.

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References to the GLRO (Greater London Record Office) should now be taken to refer to the London Metropolitan Archive, following its recent change of name.

# RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society

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Membership of the Society is open to all interested in local history. For further information please enquire at a meeting of the Society or contact the Secretary. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month from September to April and, except for the Christmas social, are open to visitors. (The programme for 1997-98 is on page 3.)

The Research Group is for those who are enquiring into or wishing to increase our understanding of the history of the ancient parish of Ruislip (the present Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote). Its members are largely responsible for the papers in this Journal, and for other Society publications which are produced from time to time. The Group is currently preparing material for an exhibition on the history of Manor Farm, Ruislip to be held in the Cow Byre between 28 September and 4 October 1997.

## SUMMER OUTINGS 1997

Saturday 26 April

Natural History Museum, South Kensington: private guided tour by Dr Bob Symes.  
Meet 09.30 at Ruislip Station or 10.30 at the museum entrance.

Saturday 3 May

Coach outing to Fishbourne Roman Palace and Chichester  
Depart St. Martins Approach car park 09.00

Saturday 10 May

Guided tour of Breakspear House, Harefield by Eileen Bowlton  
Meet at Bayhurst Woods car park 14.00

Saturday 31 May

Coach outing to Rochester and the historic dockyard at Chatham  
Depart St. Martins Approach car park 08.00

Saturday 21 June

Coach outing to Battle Abbey and Michelham Priory  
Depart St. Martins Approach car park 09.00

Saturday 19 July

Coach outing to Woodchester Park Mansion and Dyrham Park  
Depart St. Martins Approach car park 09.00

All outings except Breakspear House require advance booking (contact Bob Bedford).

## LECTURE PROGRAMME 1997-98

### 1997

15 September	RAF Operations Room, Uxbridge - Battle of Britain	Chris Wren
20 October	AGM followed by: A Snowman looks at Antique Furniture	Dennis Snowman
17 November	Renaissance Jewellery	Catherine Dolman
15 December	Christmas social and Gilbert & Sullivan	John Clark

### 1998

19 January	Decorative Old Maps, their history, their making and their meaning	Rodney Shirley
16 February	The Royal Park at Greenwich	Jim Buttress
16 March	Research Group presentations	
20 April	Stained Glass Windows	Nigel Swift

Meetings start at 8.00pm and are held at the Ruislip Golf Club, Ickenham Road, Ruislip, except for the Christmas social which will be at St Andrews Church, Eastcote.

## EDITORIAL

Over to You ...

This year we want your feedback on the articles in this Journal. We hope that reading them will prompt questions, revive memories, or lead to discussion which results in further insight into the subjects. Society meetings always end with some pertinent questions and answers, so why should the contributors to this Journal get away so lightly? Perhaps you have a general question about the history of our area or an idea for a future paper. All contributions, together with responses where appropriate, will be printed in a short newsletter which it is intended to distribute to members in the autumn. Please send all such thoughts, questions or reminiscences to one of the editors.

### Society Activities during 1996

The Golf Club in West Ruislip has proved a popular venue for the Society's monthly meetings. As we are unable to return to St Martin's Church Hall, this will remain the venue for the foreseeable future, except at Christmas when we are fortunate in being able to make use of the good facilities at St Andrews Church Hall, Eastcote.

Bob Bedford has been the Outings Secretary for 7 years during which time he has organised 30 outings. We wish to thank him for arranging such interesting and pleasurable trips. In 1996 he again arranged four excellent day outings. The first was to Aylesbury Museum and town, combined with a most interesting return visit after many years to the High Wycombe Chair Museum. In June the Society visited Berkeley Castle near Gloucester and Sudeley Castle near Cheltenham. The July trip was to Rockingham Castle in Northamptonshire and to Peterborough town and cathedral. The final outing in August to Leicester was timed to coincide with their annual festival and offered a variety of activities and events.

Alison Akerman, the Programme Secretary, once again arranged a very good and varied series of talks. Dr Bob Symes, one of our members, described the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, with such infectious enthusiasm that a group of members has persuaded him to offer a guided tour. This is Alison's last year as Programme Secretary and we should like to thank her for her great efforts during the past three years.

The Christmas social last year was an 18th century meal consisting of three courses of hot and cold food. This was followed by a lively talk by Peter Street on the Pleasure Gardens of London.

### New Publication

The fruits of many months' work by the Research Group appeared during the year. *Highways and Byways* describes and illustrates ten walks of historical interest around Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote. It is attractive and clearly set out and has been well-received. Members may purchase the volume at a discount at Society meetings.

### Environmental and Conservation Issues

The Society has been very concerned about the proposed alteration by the London Borough of Hillingdon of the status of green areas and open spaces in our locality in order to build upon them. We have communicated our views and will continue to be vigilant.

# W A TELLING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF 'THE GRANGE' ESTATE, NORTHWOOD by Simon Morgan

The 1930's was a boom period for speculative housing development. There was considerable interest among London's middle classes in moving out to the suburbs for the benefits of space, fresh air and a perceived better quality of life. Northwood was marketed as one of the superior suburbs, and was part of 'Metro-Land'-a concept promoted by the Metropolitan Railway to encourage commuting by rail and the development of its own estates. Low interest rates made mortgages on new houses affordable by a wide section of the population and also kept down business finance costs for builders. Together with the ready availability of skilled labour at moderate cost, these conditions were ideal for the creation and growth of small building development companies.

## William Alfred Telling

William Telling was one of five brothers who started a plastering and finishing company, Telling Brothers Ltd. In the late 1920's he bought out his brothers to become the sole owner of the business, which had expanded into house building and development. In 1932 the company had estate offices at Eastcote and Pinner Stations and its registered office was 62/64 Raymouth Road, Bermondsey where it also had a yard. The same year it took two pages in *Metro-Land* to advertise houses and building plots on the Cuckoo Hill Estate, Pinner and The Vache Estate, Chalfont St Giles.

On 24 June 1932 W A Telling Ltd acquired 'The Grange', Northwood, with its grounds of 2.6 hectares (6½ acres), for £7000. The vendor was Frank Pratt, JP, who had bought the property two years previously from the executors of its last residential owner, Colonel Arthur Pennington Blathwayt. Pratt had paid £8000, and therefore made a substantial loss on the transaction. Pratt subsequently moved to a large house nearby called 'Wetherby' at 15 Green Lane (now Aldis Hall of the London Bible College), so it may have been his intention to live at 'The Grange'.

'The Grange' is the oldest documented building in Northwood. Its name derives from its being the probable location of the Abbey of Bee's farmstead in Northwood when the Abbey owned the Manor of Ruislip before 1404. The present building has two timber-framed sections dated by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments as fifteenth century and circa 1600, respectively. The name, however, is modern; it was known as 'Grace's Farm' and then 'Northwood House' during the early 19th century.

## The Architect

Most housing estates of 1930's were built without the benefit of an architect. Developers often used standard published plans, or ones which they had arrived at, many times over. Architects tended to be involved in only the more prestigious or upmarket developments. For both the site layout and the property design for 'The Grange' Estate, Telling employed the services of Percy Charles Boddy, FRIBA, AIA, Architect.

Boddy lived in Ruislip and had offices at 19/21 Palace Street, London SW1, having commenced his practice (which was interrupted by five years' war service) in Beaconsfield in 1908. When he applied for fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1925 his list of architectural works included: houses at Beaconsfield, Fulmer, Gerrards Cross, Ruislip, Brondesbury, Finchley, Hampstead, Purley, Wallington and Hartfield; and the churches of St Giles, Nunhead and St John's, Seven Kings, Ilford. He also listed war memorials at Renton, near Glasgow, Canning Town and Dovercourt, Essex, and the enlargement of two further churches and a school in Gerrards Cross. It is not clear whether he was claiming credit for the overall design of the two churches mentioned or simply for alterations to them. Published articles, and his entry in *Who's who in Architecture* 1926, confirm some of these credits, and add a further war memorial in Punjab, India. For many of these projects Boddy worked in partnership with John A Dempster ARIBA, but Dempster's name does not appear in connection with 'The Grange' Estate. Boddy was aged 51 at the commencement of 'The Grange' development in 1932.

The RIBA records Boddy's home address in 1925 as 'Sorrento', Ruislip. Examination of street directories shows that this house is now no. 30 Wood Lane, and that he lived there until the mid 1960's when he would have been in his 80's. Both 'Sorrento' and no. 28 next door (originally called 'Wayside') show stylistic and constructional features in common with 'The Grange' Estate houses, so were probably Boddy's work.

### **The Development Plans**

In August 1932 Boddy applied to the council on behalf of W A Telling Ltd for permission to build the first house on the estate: 'Toronto' (now 'High Beech'-1 Green Lane). Boddy was keen to publicise his commission and was verbose in his praise of his client in his October 1932 letter to the local paper:

*In these days when so much spoilation of the countryside is taking place, the ruthless cutting down of trees and the building of rows of houses in blocks of four or possibly in pairs, one must congratulate Northwood on the fact that a firm such as Messrs WA Telling have become the owners of this most beautiful estate.*

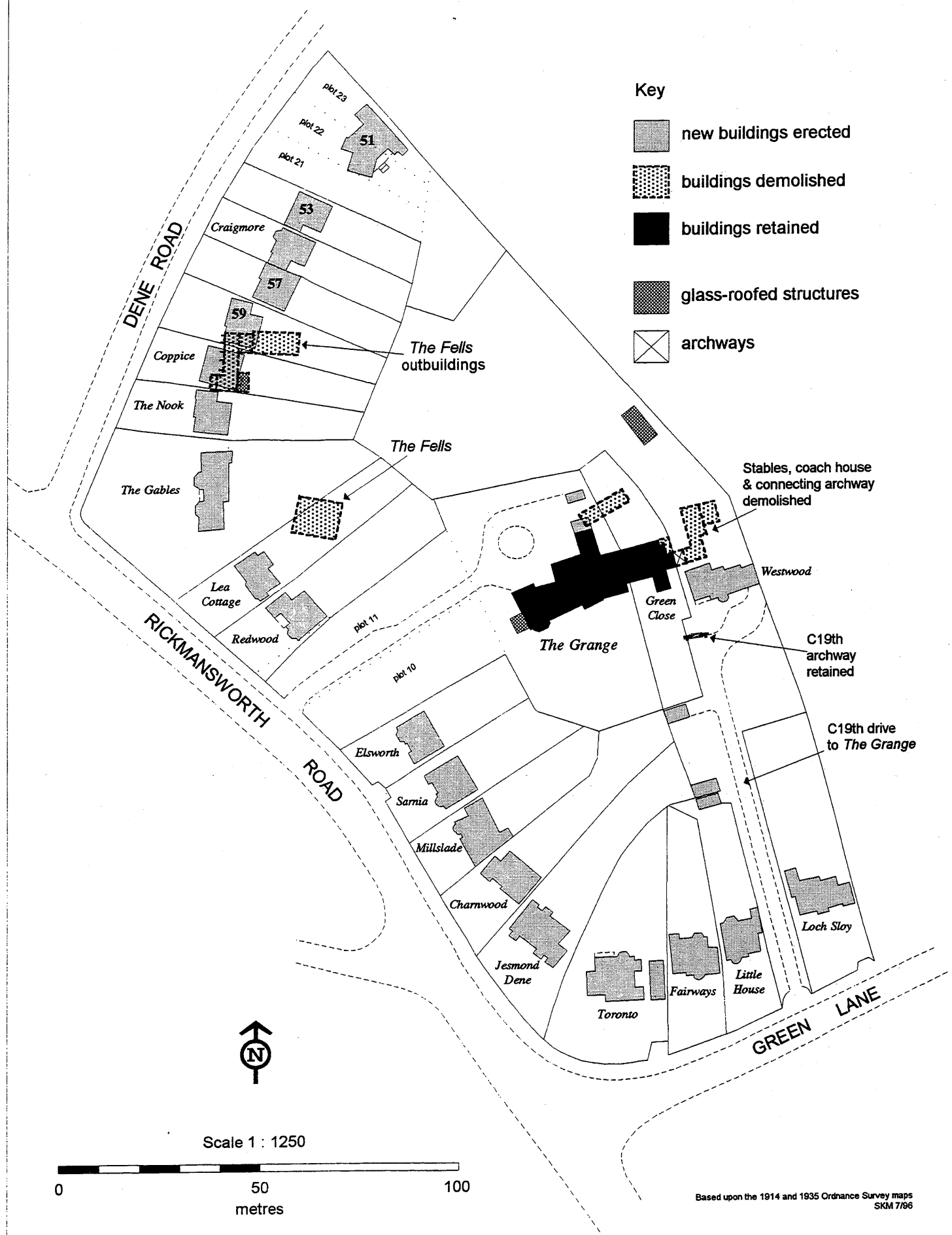
*Development must go on, but as one hears so much blame placed upon the shoulders of developers, it is at times necessary to view the matter from their point of view. No man can afford to build property that will not sell-no man with reason will be unwise enough to destroy natural beauty. but obviously there are men who only view the matter from so much per foot frontage and. of course, if there are trees in the way, well they must go.*

*My instructions received after viewing the estate with Mr Telling were: "First, whatever you do, you will. of course, preserve the trees in your suggested layout. so do, please bear this in mind as a first consideration, "*

*The first house to be constructed is now being roofed in, and I feel sure that when photographed readers will appreciate that the development of the Grange estate is not going to be classed as one that will bring sorrow to those of us (Victorians, perhaps) who view with horror the misuse of the woodsman's axe.*

# THE GRANGE ESTATE, NORTHWOOD

## Changes 1932 to 1938





Also in October the overall scale of the development became apparent when a site layout plan was presented to and approved by the council. This had 23 plots for new houses, including the one on which 'Toronto' was nearing completion. These were situated around the perimeter of the site fronting Green Lane, Rickmansworth Road and Dene Road. 'The Grange' itself, its outbuildings and stable block were not affected and were shown unchanged. The access drive from Green Lane was to be retained as a narrow strip between two plots.

The local authority's copy of these plans shows later pencil annotations indicating the division of 'The Grange' into two separate properties, the eastern portion being labelled 'Grange Cottage'. Another pencil addition is an adjacent rectangular building described as 'Westwood'. These were not part of the planning application, which indicated a final total of 24 properties on the site, counting the whole of 'The Grange' as one, to keep within the local authority's limit of 4 houses per acre.

### 'The Grange'

In 1932 'The Grange' was mentioned in the local paper as being suitable for a school or for other community or institutional purposes. Early in 1934 the Holy Trinity Church magazine indicated that it had been proposed for use as a church hall, but that the expense of its purchase and upkeep had been considered prohibitive. It appears that W A Telling Ltd was having difficulty selling 'The Grange', and the local paper encouraged the belief that it was in danger of being demolished for additional housing.

In May 1934, Mrs Alice May Rowland Garrett, the founder of St Helen's School, stepped in and purchased most of 'The Grange' for £2,040. Initially she intended general community use for it, with the possibility of part becoming a museum of Northwood. In October the ground floor was dedicated by the Bishop of Willesden specifically as a church hall, although it was to be managed by a charitable trust separate from the PCe. It does not appear that such a trust was ever set up, as, after it was declined by the church, Mrs Garrett gave 'The Grange' to the local authority in 1947. In doing so, she expressed the wish that its uses should include: *family gatherings, charitable, educational and religious meetings, events and occasions, and social services.*

The local paper was full of praise for Mrs Garrett for having saved 'The Grange', and it is still the prevalent view that she alone prevented its demolition. However, on 1 June 1934 a letter from Percy Boddy was published totally contradicting this view. He wrote:

*As certain statements in the article are capable of being misinterpreted I am forced to write to you to point out that never at any time since the Estate was purchased by Messrs. W A Telling Ltd., has it been intended to demolish the Grange.*

*The layout of the Estate prepared by me as their architect was plotted to preserve the Grange ... No portion of the house has been pulled down, but only the stabling with its connected arch.*

*It was suggested that the kitchen quarters of the house should be removed, but this was most strongly objected to by Mr W A Telling, with which I heartily agreed, and this portion has been planned to form a separate residence, without in any way destroying its external appearance linked up with the Grange as a whole.*

*As one so often hears disparaging remarks applied to Developers, when in this case the Architect has the pleasure of working for a firm such as Messrs WA Telling Ltd, who are not solely imbued with the idea of money making at any cost, he is bound to draw attention to facts which are entirely different to those implied by your correspondent's article.*

It is unlikely that Boddy would have felt bold enough to make the above statement if others reading the local paper (such as Mrs Garrett) would have known differently. There is no subsequent correspondence refuting Boddy's statement. Together with the fact that the only access to 'The Grange' on the October 1932 planning application was not wide enough for a normal estate road, it must now be accepted that 'The Grange' was not in immediate danger of demolition when purchased by Mrs Garrett.



*The connecting archway to the stables, demolished in 1933*

## **'The Fells'**

Not so fortunate was a house known in the 18th century as 'The Fells' and later as 'Northwood House'. This stood about 60 metres north-west of 'The Grange' on land now occupied by flats nos. 27, 31 & 35 Woodlea Grove and by garaging to the north of them. Although separately owned in 1791, it was part of 'The Grange' Estate throughout the Victorian period. Between 1831 and 1862 it was occupied by Nathaniel Soames, the owner of the estate and was therefore considered the more important house ('The Grange' was let to a tenant farmer). By the 1930's 'The Fells' was regarded as an unimportant outbuilding and it had been divided into two properties probably for the use of servants. This change is most likely to have occurred between 1866 and 1895 when it was partially demolished, reducing its plan view to a rectangle.

Despite being at least 160 years old, and most probably old enough to be one of the cottages recorded in the Terrier of 1565, 'The Fells' received no mention in the local paper's extensive coverage of 'The Grange', nor in Percy Boddy's letters extolling W A Telling's virtues as a developer. It is not shown on the October 1932 planning application. 'The Fells' is missing its north-east corner and the east range of its outbuildings on the 1935 O.S. map, so it was probably undergoing demolition at the time of the map survey. This is confirmed by Peche's and Kemp's statements that *a farmhouse adjoining 'The Grange' (or both the farm cottages according to Kemp)* was demolished in 1934.

## **Who Saved 'The Grange'?**

Another interesting point from Percy Boddy's letter is that somebody had suggested demolishing the kitchen quarters of 'The Grange'. Who was this person—clearly not Telling, nor Boddy himself?

It could have been a previous potential purchaser of 'The Grange', Telling's own house having been planned in May 1933 unnecessarily close to this part of the building. However, the only other person known to have been involved was Mrs Garrett and it was she who excluded this portion from her purchase. Certainly the kitchen and servants' areas did not fit in with her plans for a meeting room for 100 (the drawing room), a room for working parties and youth fellowship (the dining room), and a third room for maids on their free afternoons. She and her husband researched the previous ownership of 'The Grange' and were probably the first to associate it with a lease of 1384 (preserved at Kings College, Cambridge) of a property called 'Northwood' to John and Joan St George. She was happy to date the building as 14th century to fit this evidence, and somewhat romantically imagined life in it at the time of the St Georges. There is no evidence that she made an architectural study, so she could have been unaware of the ancient timber-framed construction at the east end. She may therefore have assumed these service quarters were a recent addition and determined to trim the building back to its historic core. There may also have been structural or other problems with this part of the building which she considered too expensive to remedy.

There is every indication that Telling considered 'The Grange' as a single property to be sold in one lot, so we must conclude that it was Mrs Garrett's lack of interest in purchasing the whole building which led to its being divided. All the evidence therefore points to her as the person who suggested destroying the service quarters, and it is likely that instead of the

popular idea of Mrs Garrett saving 'The Grange' from the developer, it was in fact Telling who saved an important part of it from Mrs Garrett!

### **The Conversion of 'The Grange'**

As a result of the separation of 'Grange Cottage' from 'The Grange' a new access was needed to the latter to protect the privacy of the former and to allow it a front garden. It is also likely that Telling did not want the large number of people who would be attending the parish hall and community centre from sharing the drive to his own property. Part of 'Plot 11' fronting the Rickmansworth Road was therefore included in the sale to Mrs Garrett, to allow a new drive to be constructed from that road. Rights of way over this were reserved for both W A Telling Ltd and for Telling personally as owner of 'Westwood', but these were relinquished in 1935. In order to widen her access to Rickmansworth Road, Mrs Garrett purchased 'Plot 10' in October 1934 for £350 and the remainder of 'Plot 11' in September 1935 for £250. Her total outlay on property from W A Telling Ltd was therefore £2640.

Other local people contributed towards the cost of making the drive to Rickmansworth Road and Mr & Mrs Winch agreed to fund a pair of ornamental iron gates. By November 1934, the total cost including conversion and restoration work had exceeded £4000, of which over £2600 had been contributed by Mrs Garrett.

The ground floor contained the rooms for public use, listed above, and a flat for a resident warden. The first floor was converted into two further flats to be rented out to help meet the running costs of the building. In July 1934 the public was invited to view the restored 'Grange' and to make donations towards 'the entertaining of a party of poor London people at the house'. The local paper reported:

*Features of the restoration scheme are that the first floor has been converted into two self-contained flats, and visitors will note that, in certain rooms, the massive oak beams have been uncovered of their plaster and treated with preservative. Several of the interesting stained glass windows which probably formed part of the chapel known to exist at the house prior to the opening of Holy Trinity Church in 1854, have been removed and set up in new positions. Several locks from the demolished outbuildings of the Queen Anne period, have been removed and fixed to the doors of the downstairs rooms. A plaster head originally fixed to the inside wall of a cupboard near the front door, now reposes on a mantelpiece in the vestibule. In the main entrance hall immediately behind the 15th century oak rood screen, will be seen a statue in plaster, covered with gold leaf, symbolic of "womanhood", the gift of Julian Allan, an old pupil of St Helen's School, Northwood, who has examples of her work in the Tate Gallery.*

The historical accuracy of the above comments should not be taken for granted. For example, it is most unlikely that the 'demolished outbuildings' were as early as Queen Anne (1702-14), unless 'The Fells' was included in this category.

### **Artefacts Found**

In the course the building works a number of interesting discoveries were made. An ornamental Maltese cross of stone was found embedded in an ivy-clad buttress which was being demolished. The local paper reports that the cross was presented to Holy Trinity

Church, but Peche tells us that it was set up on a plinth to the west of 'The Grange', and that it disappeared during the Second World War when the building was requisitioned for military use. Perhaps it was declined by the church. The local paper also reports the discovery of a belfry which it presumes was part of the chapel. One must assume that this was one of the outbuildings and that it had previously been hidden for it to be described in this way.

During excavation work for foundations and drains, several tobacco pipe bowls were unearthed, reputedly of the Cromwellian period (1649-59), and interestingly a silver half-groat of Henry VI minted in Calais about 1453. This and two other coins found-a James I 1604 shilling and a George II 1748 halfpenny-were on display at the offices of Ruislip Northwood Urban District Council in Oaklands Gate for some time, and are now in the Museum Collection of the London Borough of Hillingdon, which is currently in storage.

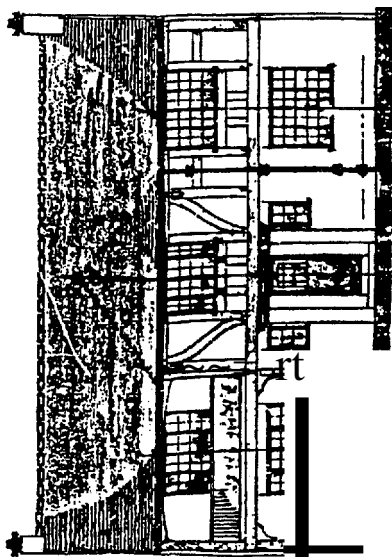
The half groat has a silver mount soldered to it so that it may be worn as jewellery, possibly on a charm bracelet. This indicates that it was dropped very much later than 1453, perhaps by one of the daughters of Dr Nash who owned 'The Grange' in late Victorian times, and should not be taken as evidence of the 15th century occupation of the site. The coins are in very good condition apart from this, although the shilling is slightly bent.

### **The New Houses**

Twenty new detached houses were built, creating a total of 22 properties on the site (with 'The Grange' and 'Grange Cottage')-two fewer than originally planned. Two additional properties had been created by dividing 'The Grange' and by building 'Westwood' adjacent to it, but four houses proposed for the perimeter of the site were not built. Two of these would have been on the extra land purchased by Mrs Garrett (Plots 10 and 11), and three plots (nos. 21 to 23) were combined to make one large one for no. 51 Dene Road.

The first house to be built-'Toronto', 1 Green Lane-is of a quite different style to the rest of the development, although designed by the same architect. It is of all brick appearance with an elaborate roof design and an arched alcove for the porch, reminiscent of Lutyens' style. It is similar to the house illustrated in Telling's advertisement in *Metro-Land* for the Vache Estate in Chalfont St Giles, which was presumably also by Boddy. Whilst only having four bedrooms, 'Toronto' includes a third reception room (the 'Morning Room') and adds a pantry to the list of service rooms described below.

The remaining houses were mostly unique, but with a common distinctive style. Three designs were repeated, generally as a mirror image and with different detailing. Percy Boddy was clearly influenced by the nostalgic style of the time, which is often dubbed 'Jacobethan'. His drawings show houses positively oozing with an old world charm which was not fully captured in the finished buildings. The drawings have more extravagant curves in the timbering, more decoration of porches and loggias, more glazing bars and some artistic licence in the shapes of the rooflines. Some of the differences may be attributed to subsequent maintenance and modifications which have undoubtedly further diluted the effect. Many of the houses have mock timber-framed upper floors, in one case infilled with herringbone brickwork. Tile-hung bays extend upwards into over-sized gables or hipped roofs, the eaves being supported on substantial wooden brackets. Open porches have tiled floors with brick edging and large



ELEVATION TO S.W. LANE

*Percy Boddy's 1933 design drawing for the front elevation of 'Westwood'*



*'Westwood' today with the archway over the 19th century entrance to 'The Grange' on the left.*

*Part of 'Green Close' is visible at the extreme left.*



*W A Telling indulging his favourite pastime: playing rummy at a card school*

timbers resting upon them to support the roofs. Brick ground floors and dark wood front doors give the impression of security without losing the aura of the country and of a past age of peace and tranquillity.

Cavity walls had just started to be adopted for the high quality building and Boddy used them on the largest of the houses. However, the majority were built more cheaply with solid walls. Several houses, including Telling's own, have an interesting compromise of cavity wall brickwork for the ground floor and rendered solid walls at first floor level. Purlin and rafter roof construction is covered with a continuous boarding of wedge-shaped planks to support the clay tiles, in place of battens. Internally the main ground floor rooms have high ceilings with restrained, but elegant plaster cornices, identical in each of the houses which the author has inspected. Kitchen quarters were generous, with all but the smallest (3 bedroom) houses having a separate scullery, larder and coal storage.

### **'Westwood'**

William Telling was sufficiently pleased with his purchase and development of 'The Grange' to wish to live on the estate himself. He therefore added to the plans submitted an extra property for his own occupation. 'Westwood' (now no. 9 Green Lane) was the only new house not to face onto a perimeter road. It was located close to the south-east corner of 'The Grange' and was to share its drive to Green Lane, although a December 1933 plan shows two parallel drives. The decision to build 'Westwood' clearly precipitated the loss of the stables and connecting arch to 'The Grange'. Although not shown on the application, these buildings had not necessarily been demolished by then. The design drawing submitted to the council in May 1933 describes the house as *beingfor WA Telling, Esq.*, rather *thanfor WA Telling Ltd-the* text used on other drawings. The accompanying letter indicates that the development now comprises 25 properties (still counting 'The Grange' as one), which was still within the council's permitted development density. 'Westwood' was built a few metres to the east of the position originally planned. It is marked on the December 1933 application for 'Loch Sloy' (plot 1) as *Residence of WA Telling*, so was probably complete or nearly so by then.

'Westwood' had a very irregular shaped plot of 0.5 hectare (1½ acres), being the land remaining after selling more conventionally shaped plots with each of the other properties built. Much of it was orchard and woodland and it included a large greenhouse, shown on the 1935 Ordnance Survey map, which survived until the 1980's.

### **'Green Close'**

Telling's son Stanley was employed as a carpenter on the development. He is known to have worked on the conversion of 'Grange Cottage' into a separate residence, so he is probably responsible for the high quality panelling in the lounge of what is now 'Green Close'. As part of this conversion, a much overgrown Victorian archway was removed, and part of the east end of 'The Grange' was reduced in height to single story with an exposed roof truss of old timber being added to make an interesting gable end. A doorway opening into the archway was carefully converted into a window by infilling the lower portion with matching snapped flint masonry. The 'Grange Cottage' was sold in June 1935 to Maurice and Mabel Rolls, and named 'Green Close'.

Although he demolished what remained of 'The Fells' and Victorian outbuildings, Telling had sufficient interest in the history of the site to retain an old ivy-clad archway over the original drive of 'The Grange' and a ring of large stones. He and his workmen showed considerable sympathy with the history of the building in the way they converted 'Green Close', emphasising its historic features. Family reminiscences include Telling deciding to build a swimming pool near the woodland, but after considerable digging abandoning it and creating a sunken garden instead.

## Subsequent Events

William Telling lived at 'Westwood' with his wife Caroline, two of their children and a maid until 1947. After his wife's death he moved to another house newly built by his company: 18 Lime Grove, Eastcote, and he subsequently retired to Babbacombe in Devon. 'Westwood' was occupied for a year by Ivor and Katherine Rosekilly (possibly as caretakers) and then sold to Dr and Mrs Henry Campion, who immediately changed the name to 'Camross', a contraction of their surname and Catherine Campion's maiden name: Ross. The name 'Westwood' has recently been restored to the house by its present owners.

Of Telling's 20 houses on 'The Grange' Estate 17 still stand. 'Lea Cottage', 'Redwood' and 'The Gables' (the three houses nearest the site of 'The Fells') were demolished during 1973-74 to build the flats and garages of Woodlea Grove. W A Telling Ltd was absorbed into what is now the MITIE Group plc of Wrington, Bristol, whose chairman is David M Telling, great nephew of William Alfred Telling.

## SOURCES

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 Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, Planning Applications nos. 3743, 3845, 3846, 4053, 4306, 4346, 4469 & 4691 (1932-34) (microfiche held by the Local Services Department, Civic Centre, Uxbridge)  
 Register of Electors for Ruislip-Northwood Urban District, 1935 to 1948 (microfilm in Uxbridge Library)  
*Kelly's Directory of Pinner, Hatch End, Northwood, etc.* 1933 to 1939  
 Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 and 1:1250 maps, 1866, 1895, 1914, 1935 & 1960  
*Abstract of Title of Mrs A M R Garrett* [to 'The Grange'] 1935 (photocopy in Ruislip Library)  
 Saywell, Edward (ed.) *Ruislip-Northwood: The Development of an Urban District 1904-1965* (March 1965)  
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 Kemp, WAG, *Northwood Grange & 1565 Survey*, RNELHS Bulletin, Feb 1966  
 Photographs of 'The Grange' taken in 1932 by George Peche (Ruislip Library)  
 National Monuments Record, *Site notes of 'Northwood Grange'* by RCHM Inspectors 16 Oct. 1936  
 London Borough of Hillingdon Museum Collection, accessions nos. 3357/207, 3358/208 & 3359/211 (1970)  
 Reminiscences of Mr Bill Telling of Poole, grandson of W A Telling



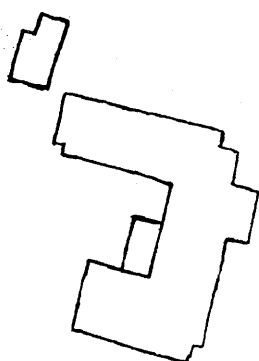
## THE CHANGING SHAPE OF 'THE FELLS'

by Simon Morgan

'The Fells' stood close to 'The Grange' in Northwood. Its site is now occupied by the flats and garages of Woodlea Grove. It was probably one of the cottages listed as being held by Roger Arnolde in the King's College Terrier of 1565 and it survived until 1934 when it was demolished by W A Telling Ltd. during the development of 'The Grange' Estate. During the early 19th century it was known as 'Northwood House', but since this name was later transferred to 'The Grange', 'The Fells' (the probable 18th century name) is a clearer identifier. What is interesting is that on almost every map on which its outline is clearly discernible the house and its outbuildings are a different shape.

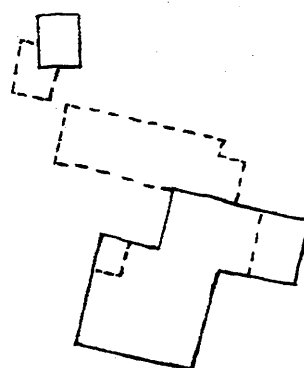
Using computer techniques it is possible to stretch and rotate maps of different scales and orientations, as if they were printed on rubber, until they are accurately aligned and superimposed. This not only ensures that exactly the same location is being studied on each map, but allows us to tell with some certainty which part of a building corresponds to the previous structure and where additions or removals were made. Some interpretation is still needed to allow for the different amount of detail on maps of different scales made for different purposes, and for general surveying inaccuracy. Bays and porches, for example, are only shown on the most detailed mapping so may be missing from a map without implying that the feature was demolished and later re-erected. In the diagrams in this paper, no wall has been 'moved' by more than 3 metres on the ground to correspond to a previous plan; in most cases the fit was better than 1 metre.

1791



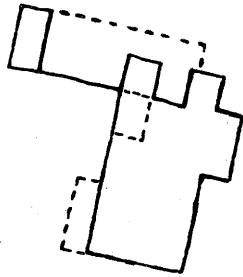
*Source: A survey of an Estate situate at Northwood in the Parish of Ruslip [sic] belonging to Mr Edw<sup>d</sup> Eastham. (GLRO Acc/538/2nd dep/3658)*

1809



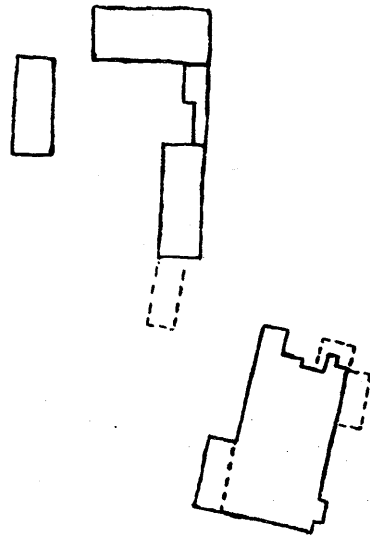
*Source: Ruislip Enclosure Map (indicative of building outlines, but too small a scale to show them in detail)*

**1820-50 ?**



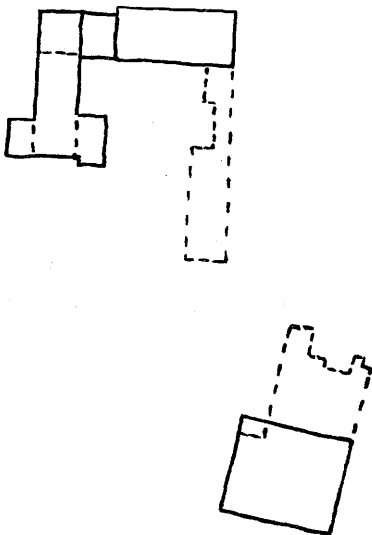
*Broken lines: 1791 outline.*  
*Source: Abstract of Title of Frank Murray*  
*Maxwell Hallowell Carew to ...*  
*the Eastbury Estate (Ruislip Library).*

**1865**



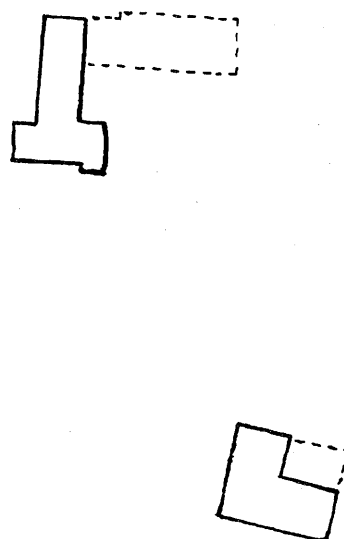
*Outbuildings erected.*  
*Source: OS 1:2500 1866*

**1895-1913**



*Sources:*  
*OS 1:2500 1896 & 1914*

**1934**



*Undergoing demolition.*  
*Source: OS 1:2500 1935*

From this type of study alone, we cannot be sure that 'The Fells' was not demolished at some point during the period spanned by the maps, but if so it was rebuilt within a few years on the identical site, with the principal walls orientated in the same manner, and without any great change in the plan area. Reasons for such a rebuilding meeting all these conditions are difficult to imagine, leading to the conclusion that we are probably observing the same structure throughout. Without a detailed study of the circumstances of the various owners and tenants, the reasons for such a constant stream of structural changes can only be speculated upon. However, by examining the pattern of changes, we may be fairly sure that the core structure and oldest part was the north-south range which survived almost intact throughout. The north range, most of which disappeared between 1791 and 1809, was probably a bam or stabling for farm use and was replaced by 1865 with extensive new outbuildings erected in the corner of a field called 'First Fells'.

In 1791 the path from Rickmansworth Road (then called Pinner Road) passed through the partially enclosed courtyard suggesting an entrance on the west side of the main (north-south) range. By 1865, the drive led to the south side of the building, so the front door may have moved to this unchanging south wall. The formal garden was north of the house (immediately east of the outbuildings), with pleasure grounds to the south, an orchard at the east and a rick yard to the west.

All diagrams are to a scale of 1:750 with north at the top. Unless otherwise noted, a broken line indicates the significant changes from the immediately preceding outline. In the case of the diagram labelled 1820-50, the preceding Enclosure map does not give sufficient definition, so an interesting comparison with the 1791 outline is shown instead. The information on this *Abstract of Title* map has yet to be accurately dated. Whilst it accompanies an 1887 copy of a document relating to 1864, it is clearly from a survey considerably earlier than 1864, as it contains too many differences from the Ordnance Survey map made during 1864-66. Its field boundaries (and field numbering) are identical to those on the Enclosure map, suggesting a date close to 1809, but its building outlines show significant differences and are in much more detail. Possibly it was made soon after 1839 when Nathaniel Soames acquired the land labelled on it as *Late E. Hilliard Serf*, as this indication of the previous ownership would have been of diminishing interest as the years went by. Even at that time it may well have been based upon an earlier map, with changes made only where considered important.

The same problem of dating occurs with two maps marked 1890 and 1891 respectively. These both show 'The Fells' with its 1865 outline, apparently narrowing the period during which the reduction to the 1895 shape could have occurred. The former map accompanies a conveyance of land (the site now occupied by the London Bible College) between Nash and Thacker, and the latter is the sale plan of the Northwood Park Estate, neither of which directly involved 'The Fells'. (Copies of both are in Ruislip Library.) These maps were probably based upon the most recent OS map available at the time with no consideration being given as to whether any peripheral and unconnected building had been altered. They cannot therefore be taken as definitive evidence of the shape of 'The Fells' at the dates marked upon them.

## HILLIARD ROAD, NORTHWOOD - THE EARLY YEARS

by Colleen A. Cox

My interest in Hilliard Road was prompted by an enquiry from a woman in Australia seeking information about her ancestor William Teasdale who ran a laundry business in the road at the beginning of the 20th century. My sources of information are street directories of 1915-16 and 1926, Barry Head's two books on Northwood, the 1891 census and the rate book for 1902.

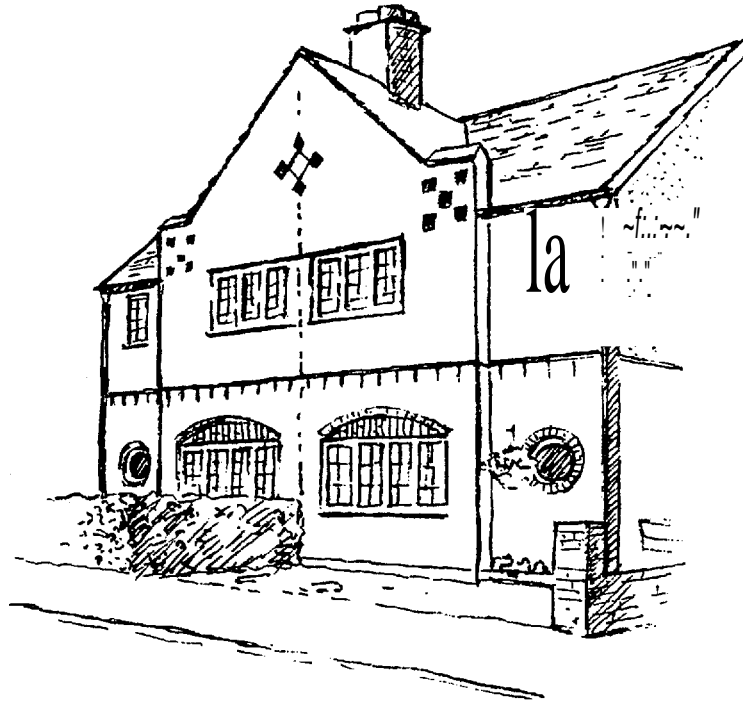
Hilliard Road runs parallel to and to the east of Northwood High Street. It took its name from the Hilliard family, substantial landowners in the area in the 19th century. The road was constructed on land allocated to Edward Hilliard Junior at the time of the Enclosure Act in 1805, and which passed after his death to his brother George and subsequently to another Edward, the owner in the early 1900s.

In 1905 the land was put up for sale as 162 building plots suitable for shops, villas or cottages and with sewers, storm-water drains, water and gas laid in the road. The name on the original plan was Hilliard Terrace but it had been changed to Hilliard Road by the time building started. The first houses, numbers 80 and 82 on the east side of the road, were erected in 1906 and others soon followed. By 1915-16 the names of 107 residents appeared in the local street directory and two more in the commercial section, indicating a total of 109 occupied dwellings. The houses were identified by name and in only nine cases was a number given. There were four terraces: The Cottages, Kempis Villas, Woodview Terrace and Reginald Terrace, and further research was required to identify more of the numbers. Fortunately the 1926 street directory frequently gave the number as well as the name and occupier of the house and by comparing the two directories it was possible to locate more but not all of the houses (Table 1).

The present Hilliard Road extends only up to numbers 154 (east side) and 149 (west side), but in the 1926 directory the numbers went up to 180 and 155 on the respective sides. It seems likely that the road formerly included the now separate Church Close. Interestingly the first house in the Close is still called 'Glenview', formerly 162 Hilliard Road.

The houses were small terraced and semi-detached dwellings built in various styles. Unlike Northwood High Street, there were no shops in the road although a number of small businesses were run from there. One of these was the hand laundry owned and run by William Teasdale. According to the 1891 census Teasdale was born in Surrey in 1857. He moved to Hayes, Middlesex where he met and married Eliza Chevalier from Gloucester in 1879. Their first three children were born in Hayes, the next two in Southall, one in Iver and the remaining five in Northwood after the family moved there around 1890.

In the 1891 census Teasdale is recorded as a bricklayer living at Rose Cottage, 45 Northwood High Street. He moved several times in the area living at 140 Hallowell Road where he started his laundry business and 66 Hilliard Road before his move to 50 Hilliard Road, where he seems to have settled. A large work shed can still be seen to the rear of the house, possibly where William ran his business. According to the Australian correspondent, he was also a member of the Northwood Fire Brigade manned in its early years by part-timers.



*Numbers 128 & 130 Hilliard Road*

Ernest Spark the undertaker also lived in Hilliard Road. An early advertisement describes him as an *undertaker and monumental mason of 99 Hilliard Road*, although this seems to have been his works address as he is recorded in the street directories as living at 'The Oaks', NO.101. A man of many parts he also advertised as a building contractor, sanitary and hot water engineer and decorator. It is not known when he moved into the area but he does not appear to have been a local man and his family had connections with Hawarden in North Wales. His cousin, Harry Wright was a travelling carpenter who left Wales about 1900 and moved to Northwood to stay with Ernest (RNELHS Journal 1988). Like many others in Northwood, Wright worked on the new buildings that were being constructed, married a local girl and settled in the area.

A number of other men connected with the building trade lived in Hilliard Road including several members of the Becket family who were also active in the Fire Brigade. In 1891 Jesse Becket, a builder's foreman and carpenter, lived at no. 7 Norfolk Terrace, Northwood High Street. He came from Hemel Hempstead where the five children then living at home were also born. His son Albert aged 18 was a carpenter, 14 year-old Thomas a plumber's labourer and 12 year-old Peter William was still at school. By 1915 Jesse had moved to Hilliard Road where three other Becket families also lived.

Other builders were William G. Ambrose, Caleb and Charles Ford, the Hill brothers and William Mott. The latter advertised his skills in great detail. As a carpenter, builder and decorator he also offered electric lighting, gas fitting, hot water and sanitary engineering, plumbing, bells, roofing, alterations, additions, repairs and cabinet, horticultural and rustic work!

John Satchell was a plumber recorded in the commercial section of the 1915-16 directory. His name appeared regularly in the Trustees Minutes Book of the Northwood Wesleyan Church. He was an active Methodist involved in the early efforts to found a Wesleyan Church in Northwood.

Another well-known figure in Hilliard Road in 1915-16 was William Bowley who lived with his parents at a house called 'Airwell' (possibly No. 122). It was in a small workshop to the rear of the house that he started his boot and shoemaking business moving to Green Lane in 1918, and by 1926 to Station Approach where he started to sell as well as to repair shoes. The shop moved to its present site on Green Lane near the top of Maxwell Road in 1966.

Charles Jones (No.90) and Percival Wallis Jones who stayed with Mr Mullens at No. 118 Hilliard Road reportedly had connections with Percival Jesse Jones who for many years kept the fishmongers at 24 Northwood High Street.

Other tradesmen living in Hilliard Road in 1915 included Alfred May, an insurance agent, and Richard Swift, who in addition to making, repairing and selling clocks and watches offered *Feathers cleaned and curled by an expert*. There was also Frederick Nichols at No. 148 who undertook carting by contract and supplied hard-core, clinker and manure.

By 1926 Henry Vincent had set up in business with his son at 58 Hilliard Road as a nurseryman and market gardener providing rockeries, walls and crazy paving as a speciality. The market garden was on the site of Vincent's Court, a modern development. Mr Vincent lived in Hilliard Road until his death in the early 1990s.

Although some have been replaced there are still enough of the original houses to enable the present-day observer to envisage what Hilliard Road must have been like in those early years and members of several of the old Northwood families such as the Teasedales, Fumesses and Fords still live in the road.

## SOURCES

1915-16 Street Directory, Local History Room, Ruislip Library

1926 Street Directory, Uxbridge Library

Barry Head *The Northwood Book* 1983, *The Northwood Book Volume 11* 1984

1891 Census: Copy at Ruislip Library

1902 Rate Book - Copy of Transcript at Ruislip Library.

1925 Electoral Roll.

HILLIARD ROAD East side				HILLIARD ROAD West side			
No.	House name	Occupier 1915	Occupier 1926	No.	House name	Occupier 1915	Occupier 1926
2	Claydon		J.J.A. Justice	5	Pocantico	Timothy Shord	A.C.T. Shord
4	Frognal	Chas West	C.E. West	7		John R Green	John R Green
6	Rydal	Wm Victor	F.C. Potter	9	Newstead	Alan J Barry	A.J. Barry
8	Hillview	T.C. Tatum	T.C. Tatum	11	Purbright	Wm G Ambrose	W.G. Ambrose
10	Brinscombe	Wm Hinton	J. Pownall	13			
12	Littlecote	Wm Mott	W.J. Mott	15			
14*				17*			
16	The Willows	Arthur Hayer	A.W. Hayer	19		T. White	
18	Glenmay	John Rixon	H.J. Rixon	21			
20§				23			
22*				25			
24	Knolton	H.J. King	H.J. King	27			
26	Rosebank	Wm Webb	F.E. Mott	29			
28	Ivydene	Richard Swift	C. Waterhouse	31			
30	Hazeldene	Henry Erswell	A.H. Erswell	33			
32			G.W. Palmer	35			
34			W.S. Pitt	37§			
36§				39		W.J. Frost	
38				41		A.B. Grosvenor	
40				43	8 Kempis Villa	Mrs Good	Bert Brill
42				45	7 Kempis Villa	A. Rawlinson	Albert Crouch
44§				47	6 Kempis Villa	H. Blackburn	W.R. Hill
46				49	5 Kempis Villa	H.E. Gutteridge	H.E. Gutteridge
48*				51	4 Kempis Villa	H. Fokett	L.W. Squibb
50	Hilliard Cott	Wm Furness	W.H. Teasedale	53	3 Kempis Villa	F. Hinson	F.C. Hinson
52	Ringwood	John White	A.R. Caldicott	55	2 Kempis Villa	Joseph W. Gibbs	J.W. Gibbs
54	High Cliffe	Percy Beckett	P. Beckett	57	1 Kempis Villa	Wm J. Lavender	H.B. Linden
56			Mrs M.E. Evans	59			
58	The Hut		H. Vincent	61		George Thorn	
60		Jas Dewhurst	G.W. Thorn	63*		George Evans	
* number missing				Nos. 21 - 35 now Vincent's Court			
§ house altered or rebuilt							

# HILLIARD ROAD East side

No.	House name	Occupier 1915	Occupier 1926
62		F.E. Warner	J. Franklin
64	Inverness	G.C. Woodman	G.C. Woodman
66		Wm Teasedale	H. Kidger
68	Laburnum	Chas Holmes	C. Holmes
70	The Den	T.F.H. Phelps	T.F.H. Phelps
72	Delhi	Harry A Lawer	H.A. Lawer
74	Lahore	John Herring	J. Herring
76			S.T. Nicholls
78			J. White
80			G. Furness
82			Miss E. Furness
84*			
86	The Glen	Stephen Would	Mrs A. Walters
88	Mosley View		J.E. Sells
90	Meadowside		C. Jones
92	Platt		C. Dietz
94*			
96	Lynton		D. Hill
98			A. Boddy
100	Dianthus	Daniel Walden	A. Andrews
102	Walton Villa	Philip Plummer	P. Plummer
104	Fernlea	Wm Norfield	W. White
106	Fowey	H. Cudmore	Mrs Cudmore
108			
110			
112			
114			
116*			
118	8 The Cotts	Mrs Mullens	S.M. Mullens
120	7 The Cotts	Wm Lavender	W. Lavender
* number missing		§ house altered or rebuilt	

# HILLIARD ROAD West side

No.	House name	Occupier 1915	Occupier 1926
65		Wm Watts	
67§			
69	Springfield	Wm Bridges	W. Bridges
71	Rosslyn	Arthur E. Wilson	A.E. Wilson
73		G.M. Clarke	
75		W.E. Roberts	
77			
79			
81	Verbena	Wm R. Reason	W.R. Reason
83	Montagu	F.B. Reason	
85	Torre	Chas Ford	C. Ford
87	Shelbourne	Herbert Lewin	H. Lewin
89	Houghton	C.H. Eborn	
91	The Homestead	Alfred J. May	J. Gurney
93	Asturias	H. Hopwood	M. Hopwood
95§			
97*			
99§			
101	The Oaks	Ernest Spark	E. Spark
103	Homeleigh	Mrs Kemp	Mrs S.A. Kemp
105	Glenthorne	Arthur Lay	Arthur Lay
107	Kenilworth	W.R. Waller	J. Short
109		R.R. Turner	
111		J. Moss	
113	Petitor	A. Hill	A. Hill
115	Salesmere	Arthur Heathorn	A. Heathorn
117	Nirvana	G.W. Buckthought	G.W. Buckthought
119	Charnay	J.E. Taylor	
121	Simla	Walter A. Good	F.C. Cheeseman
123	Alma	Sidney Holloway	J.E. Wheeler
No. 97	now Shelley House		



# HILLIARD ROAD East side

No. House name Occupier 1915 Occupier 1926

122	6 The Cotts	John C. Fisher	J.C. Fisher
124	5 The Cotts	R.L. James	R.L. James
126	4 The Cotts	Wm Walden	W. Walden
128	3 The Cotts	Percy E. Bennett	L. Bray
130	2 The Cotts	Wm Steel	W. Steel
132	1 The Cotts	Geo Parker	G. Parker
134	The Lee		A. King
136	3 Reg Terr	Frank Grainger	F. Grainger
138	2 Reg Terr	Wm Beckett	P. W. Beckett
140	1 Reg Terr	C.H. Teasedale	W. Young
142	Glenmore	Jas Gregory	H.H. Proud
144	Ellesmere	Wm Keightley	W. Keightley
146	Fairlight	Wm Atkins	J. Madgwick
148	Lyncroft	Fredk Nicholls	F. Nicholls
150	Hillcroft	Walter Weedon	W. Weedon
152			W. J. Kidger
154			
162	Glenview	Fred Baker	W. E. Oram
164	Wisteria	Thos Harvey	G. H. Wallington
166	Piddington		Miss M. A. E. Ford
168	Oakroyd	Ernest A. Bell	E. A. Bell
170	Kerri	E. C. Harby	E. C. Harby
172	Anguldomo	Joseph O. Young	J. O. Young
174	Lyndene	Joseph Larkin	J. Larkin
176	Langford	Thos Beckett	T. Beckett
178	Daventry	Sidney Cooper	S. Cooper
180			A. Phillips

Nos. 162 - 180 later became Church Close

# HILLIARD ROAD West side

No. House name Occupier 1915 Occupier 1926

125		G.H. Peachey	
127	Ashfield	W. J. Kidger	H. Walden
129	Sefton	Arthur G. Hinton	A. G. Hinton
131	Stratton	Harry Hooker	H. Hooker
133	Stanmore Cott	Fredk Elworthy	F. Elworthy
135	The Glade	A. H. Sayers	
137	7 Woodview T.	J. G. Hamilton	Hatchley
139	6 Woodview T.	Albert Broadribb	A. E. Broadribb
141	5 Woodview T.	James	E. K. Burrows
		W. Burrows	
143	4 Woodview T.	Wm R. Hunt	W. J. Hodnett
145	3 Woodview T.	Alfred E. Moore	A. E. Moore
147	2 Woodview T.	R. E. Tallboys	R. E. Tallboys
149	1 Woodview T.	E. G. Haines	E. G. Haines
151*		Rawlinson	
153*		Hill Bros.	
155*	Church View	George Cook	G. Cook

\* number missing

# CHARMS HALL & THE DECHARMS FAMILY IN RUISLIP

by Eileen M. Bowlt

## Charms Hall

The earliest extant Ruislip rate books date from the 1770s, but are not complete, several only covering the Eastcote side of the parish. The book that is dated 19th Jan 1780<sup>1</sup>, shows a David Decharme Esq as occupier and proprietor of a house with a rateable value of £16 per annum, in Westcote (the western half of the parish), suggestive of a substantial, but not grand building; for comparison, Haydon Hall was valued at £29 at about the same time. This house was Charms Hall and stood at the north-west corner of the High Street and Ickenham Road. The house can be seen on Rocque's map of Middlesex, 1754 and again on the Enclosure Map of Ruislip, 1806<sup>2</sup>. The Enclosure Award" gives a Mrs Decharme as the owner at that time. It continued in Decharme ownership until at least 1819<sup>4</sup> and was bought some time later by Harry Edgell Esq, who demolished the house and threw the site into the park which he was creating around Park Houses. Charms Hall stood in a 6 acre plot and a house on that spot can be traced back to the 1565 Terrier. Unfortunately, so far as is known, no picture of this building is in existence, so nothing can be said about its construction and probable age. The rather charming name (please forgive a weak pun), comes from the period of Decharme ownership, circa 1772 - 1820.

## The Decharme Family

The Decharmes (also spelt de Charms, De Charms, Decharms), appear in Ruislip rate books and the Enclosure Award, but not in St Martin's parish registers, suggesting that they owned property in the parish, but were not resident. Apart from the hall, they owned a cottage near the George (probably reached from the back of the Swan) and the house on the corner of Bury Street, facing up the High Street (until recently the Duck House Restaurant)." The family in fact mainly lived in Hammersmith and were of Huguenot descent. Simone De Charms came to England after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 and was a member of the Clockworkers' Company from 1688-1730. He worked as a clock and watch maker at the sign of the clock on the corner of Warwick Street, Charing Cross until retiring to the pretty rural retreat of Hammersmith in 1730, where he built Grove Hall.<sup>7</sup> His son, David, who later owned the property in Ruislip, lived there. He made a career in the army and rose to the rank of Captain, retiring on half-pay and living as a gentleman thereafter. Rocque's map of London and the country ten miles around it, published in 1746, shows the house in Hammersmith, on the north side of King Street, set back within a walled garden, with 'Capt David de Charms' printed above.

Captain David De Charms' will", dated 10th June 1779, throws a little more light on the family and shows that some of them must have lived in Ruislip at least part of the year in the 1770s, for he exhorts his residuary legatee, John De Charms, to *'keep house for the family at Charms Hall, Ruislip in the manner we live at present until he shall have paid the Annuitants mentioned in my Will and Testament their first Quarterly Payment'*. Perhaps the move to Ruislip was of fairly recent date, since his nephew, another David De Charms and his wife, Ann, were to have a life interest in a messuage in Hammersmith, *'in which we lately dwelt'*. He had been accustomed to attend the Hammersmith vestry meetings and signed the minutes as a substantial householder, for the last time in 1771<sup>9</sup>. Ruislip vestry minutes are not available

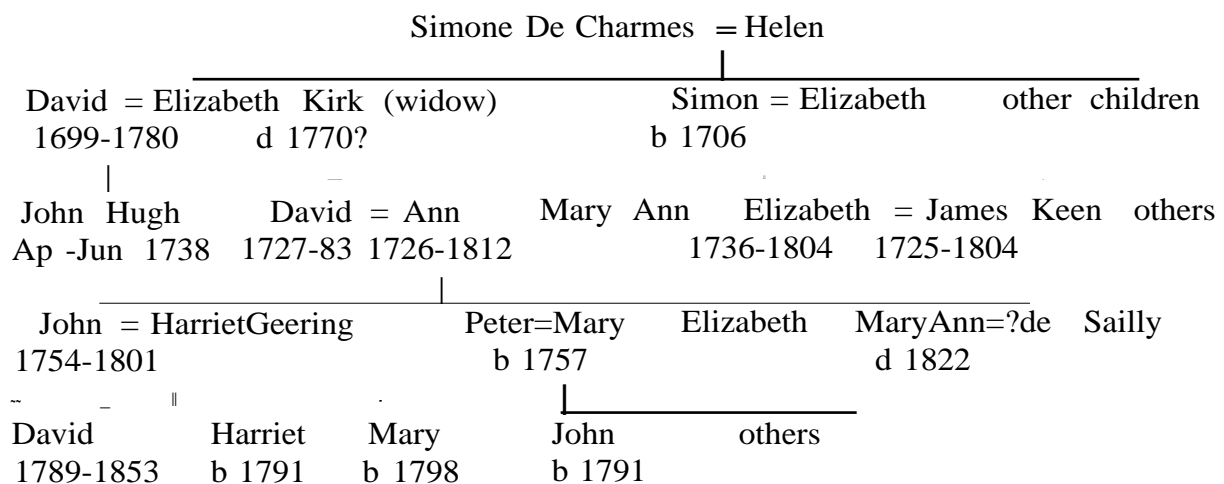
for the 1770s, so there is no way of knowing whether he performed similar duties at Ruislip. The three men who witnessed the will, Joshiah Drury, George King and James Winch, bear local names, lending colour to the idea that the captain was living in Ruislip when he made it, but he was buried at St Paul's, Hammersmith on the 13th June 1780, having died aged 80<sup>10</sup>.

#### Captain David De Charms's Goods, Chattels & Real Estate

The will mentions the three houses in Ruislip and two in Hammersmith. Life interest in the second house there was left to his niece, Elizabeth, and her husband, James Keen, who were already living in it. He also held a lease on the poor of Odiham in Hampshire. (He had been appointed a trustee of Hammersmith Workhouse in 1737<sup>11</sup>.) His personal goods included a gold snuff box, a gold toothpicks' case, a piece of gold of Oliver Cromwell's coin '*called the Brooches*' and a gold repeating watch in a brass case. The coin brooch and toothpick case were left to a nephew, Simon le Sage, '*which as he knows I am poor I hope he will accept of and kindly undertake the Executorship of this my Last Will and Testament and see that it is duly executed in every particular as I am confident I may depend on his Integrity*'.

Captain De Charms was a widower when he made his will and mentions nieces, nephews and a '*little niece*' (great niece) but no children. Since he directed that he should be buried near the remains of his '*Dear Departed Wife*', she, too, must be buried at Hammersmith, but does not appear in the registers, unless she is the otherwise unnamed Decharmes buried in April 1770. A bereavement about that date might have sent her widower looking for new scenes in Ruislip to distract himself. She was a widow, Elizabeth Kirk, before she married David De Charms sometime before 1736 and the baptism of one child, John Hugh, is recorded in April 1738. Unhappily the baby was buried a few weeks later in June<sup>12</sup>.

#### A BRIEF FAMILY TREE compiled from the Hammersmith archives and David De Charms's will.



Being childless, David De Charms seems to have been trying to provide in the main for the family of his nephew, David, whose eldest son, John, was the residuary legatee; although his nieces, Elizabeth Keen and Mary Ann, and a niece of his wife and an orphan who was probably her great nephew also received money. John De Charms had to carry out quite

complicated instructions. He was to allow his sister, Elizabeth, the use of the small back bedchamber and the skylight dressing room of one of the Hammersmith properties for *'so long as she shall chuse to make the place her constant or occasional habitation Married or Single'* and she was to have *'the bed compleat called Betsey's Bed'* -the one she had used as a child perhaps. Mary Ann, another sister was to have the free enjoyment of the tenement in the village of Ruislip *'called the Whins'* and her brother was *'to finish and complete the said tenement in a decent manner'* and provide her with enough hay and grass to feed one horse while she lived there. She was allowed *'her Choice of the Bed she now lyes in or the Bed in the room over the Chamber in Berry Street House either to be compleate with furniture and Bedding'*. John was also enjoined to allow his parents to live *'in my house in the village called Charms Hall'* if they were so inclined. They were allowed *'the yellow Bed Bedding and furniture'* and the use of his horse and chaise.

Seven annuities were charged upon the estate, those to nieces and great nieces were *'to be for each and every of their sole and separate uses ... and not to be intermeddled with by her or their husbands nor subject to his or her Debts'*! The payments were to be made quarterly, starting with the second quarter after his decease.

### **Following Captain De Charms's Death**

Captain David Decharms was buried at Hammersmith, on 13th June 1780, having died, probably a week to ten days earlier. On the 9th, four days before the funeral, William De Charms of Ruislip, an apothecary and James Keen of Hammersmith deposed that a number of alterations to the will were in the writing of the testator. It is not clear where William fits into the family tree, but he may have been another nephew or great nephew and could, in view of his profession, have been living at Charms Hall and attending his uncle.

Did David and his wife, Ann, come and live at Charms Hall with their son, John and his family, and did their daughter, Mary Ann, use the Whins? John Decharme appears to be at the hall in 1781<sup>13</sup> but for the rest of the decade it looks as if it were let to a Richard Darvill. David, in any case died in 1783 and his widow was living in Hammersmith in the 1790s<sup>14</sup>. By the time that the Ruislip rate books were better kept and we have information from the Enclosure Award, John was dead and under the terms of the will, his son, David, should have inherited the estate upon coming of age in 1810. The rate books tell a different story. Peter Decharme owns the Ruislip property in 1805 and a John Decharme from 1811 to 1819, presumably David's uncle and cousin. Why was David Decharms apparently cheated of his inheritance? Was Peter Decharme a wicked uncle, seizing the property for himself and his own son, John?

The answer is quite mundane. John, the residuary legatee of Captain De Charms's will, was short of money in the 1790s and apparently in debt to John Hatchet of Long Acre, a coachmaker. His brother, Peter, who was living in Orchard Street, Portman Square, raised £2874 7s 6d, by selling out £4500 three per cents reduced Bank Annuities in 1795<sup>15</sup>. He paid £1760 16s 5d to John Hatchet and the balance to his brother, with property as security. He had moved to Kensington by 1797 when he sold out a further £400 three per cents reduced Bank Annuities, to give more money to John<sup>16</sup>. There was a further loan in 1800<sup>17</sup>. The property was unredeemed at the time of John's death, so his son, David, must have inherited an encumbered estate. The original indenture was executed in 1813, by Peter De Charms, his son, John and David De Charms, then living in Hatton Garden".

This is the story as I have pieced it together from various sources and I cannot be certain that it is complete. Why did the Ruislip property pass to the other branch of the family as early as 1805 since the 1795 mortgage was not executed until 1813? Why were the 1795 and 1800 loans secured on property in Hammersmith and make no mention of the Ruislip estate? T'is a puzzlement! David De Charms became a lieutenant and moved to Norfolk in or before 1818<sup>19</sup>, to Walpole House at Thorp-St-Andrew.

## OCCUPIERS OF CHARMS HALL, THE WHINS & THE BERRY STREET HOUSE

**Charms HaD.** Richard Darvill was at Charms Hall during the 1790s, but Francis Clarke Esq was living there by 1805<sup>20</sup>, either renting or leasing it from Peter Decharme. He remained until May 1817<sup>21</sup>, when a man called Amiel, whose Christian name is not given, appears in the rate books. After 1819 the property cannot be traced and it must have passed into Harry Edgell's hands soon afterwards.

**The Whins.** The cottage next to the George stood in a small 11 perch plot (10 perches equals 1/6th of an acre), numbered 391 on the Ruislip Enclosure Map. The size of the plot is given in the Enclosure Award. John Weatherly lived there from at least 1805 and owned it himself in 1819 according to the rate book<sup>22</sup>. Daniel Wilshin who owned the Old House in Bury Street and was the lessee of Manor Farm, had taken the cottage over by 1823<sup>23</sup>. John Weatherly was probably an agricultural labourer working for him. By the time of the 1851 census, Catherine Weatherly seems to have been living there.<sup>24</sup>

**The Berry Street House.** This building was already divided into two by 1805<sup>25</sup>, with Edward Sceney in the larger half, valued at £3 10s per annum, and Mrs Elkins in the other piece, valued at £2 10s per annum. She passed on and her place was taken by William Barrenger. He and Edward Sceney were still there in 1823<sup>26</sup>, by which time Harry Edgell was the owner.

From these dates it certainly appears that the Decharmes severed all connection with Ruislip about 1819/20, about the same time that David Decharm (1790-53) was establishing himself at Walpole House, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norfolk. Maybe the two happenings are connected.

## Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Mrs H.M.F. Langley of Walpole Hall who wrote to Hillingdon Borough Libraries, seeking information about Charms Hall, which she had found mentioned in Captain David Decharm's will. She very kindly sent me a hand-written transcript of the will and exchanged other information about the family. Unfortunately her main quest to discover whether Lt David De Charms was armigerous or not has so far proved unsuccessful.

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## A COTTAGE AT EASTCOTE 1835

### by Eileen M Bowlt

Among the Hawtrey Papers at the London Metropolitan Archive (until recently the Greater London Record Office) is a *List offurniture left in the cottage at Eastcote October 1835.*

The contents of a six-roomed cottage plus scullery and pantry, are listed, apparently left there by a Mr Dean. There were two stables and a workshop outside the house. Where was this cottage and who was Mr Dean? The Hawtrey estate based on Eastcote House had descended to Ralph Deane by 1810 and he was still in possession in 1835. The Mr Dean who seems to have lived in this cottage was almost certainly from an entirely different family, probably that of the John Dean who sold property at Park Hearne to the Grand Junction Canal Company in 1807.

The fact that this inventory is among the Hawtrey Papers strongly suggests that the cottage belonged to Ralph Deane Esq. He owned a number of cottages in Eastcote, in addition to Eastcote House and several farms. A Terrier and Valuation of Ruislip taken in 1837 lists them. There was one beside Park Farm in Field End Road, one now called Orchard Farm in Field End Road and one cottage divided into three and another cottage on the north side of what is now the Tudor Lodge Hotel. There were two more on Raysons Hill. On the corner of East cote Road and Field End Road he owned what was described as a 'house, garden and cottage adjacent'. Ralph Deane seems to have been living in that house himself at the time and was leasing Eastcote House to Pierce and Stone. The buildings there have since been

combined into one rather grand house, now known as Eastcote Cottage, but the oldest part is timber framed and was called Plocketts in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The cottage part of Eastcote Cottage is perhaps the most likely to have been the one inhabited by Mr Dean before October 1835. Ralph Deane could have moved into the house soon after Mr Dean left and wanted to make use of the cottage part as well. There are outbuildings which could have been stables, and a workshop on the site is possible. John Cox, a master builder probably lived there in the 1870s and 80s, if one follows the census enumerator on his rounds, and is the kind of person who would have needed such a thing. Wherever the cottage was, the list of contents in 1835 follows below.

### *THE LIST OF CONTENTS*

#### *Dining Room*

*Mahogany 2-flapped dining table*

*4 mahogany chairs hair stuffed*

*1 walnut tree arm [chair], ditto hair ditto*

*A Brussels carpet, yard and a half square of oil-cloth*

*Circular fronted pier table*

*Green wirefender with brass top*

*Register stove, 'poker, shovel and tongs*

*Cupboard with lock and key, keys to doors, wire guard*

*Entrance passage*

*4 brass hat pegs, oil cloth, 3 mats*

#### *Drawing Room*

*6 mahogany chairs same as dining room, Kidderminster carpet*

*3jt mahogany Pembroke table with reeded legs and castors*

*2 brass rods, 2 muslin curtains, 1 spider-legged mahogany table*

*green-painted steel fender with steel top, Register stove, bright front and bars*

*pokers, shovel and tongs, China jar, 3 keys to doors*

#### *Back bedroom*

*A four-poster bedstead, stained black with cotton furniture, goose feather bed, wool mattress, bolster, 2 pillows, 3 blankets, white cotton quilt, 3 bamboo painted chairs, ditto table, looking glass on stand, mahogany wash hand stand, blue and white basin and ewer, bottle, tumbler, 2 soap glasses, mahogany night convenience with pan complete.*

*Brussels carpet, large green wirefenders 3ft by 5 and brass top, poker, shovel, tongs, 'walnut tree chest of drawers, 2 chambers, key to door.*

#### *Second room*

*4 green-painted chairs, dressing table with drawers to match, wash hand stand, white basin and ewer, soap dish, brush tray, tumblers, chambers, 3 pieces of carpet, fender and fire irons complete, deal chest of drawers with key, looking glass, keys to doors.*

#### *Adjoining room*

*2 green painted chairs, green stuff curtains and rods, key to door*

#### *Servants' Room*

*An old stump bedstead, goose feather bed, bolster, 1 pillow, 3 blankets and counterpanes, 2 chairs, old chest of drawers, deal table, basin and ewer, chamber, looking glass*

### *Scullery*

*Washing stool, beer stand, pail, copper, tea kettle, dust shovel, new iron boiler, dripping pan and stand, 3 iron saucepans, frying pan, gridiron, copper warming pan, pair of bellows, kitchen poker and tongs, a copper in the kitchen set in brick work, lid and all complete, plate rack, wash hand bowl, deal table, iron safe*

### *Pantry*

*Butler's tray stand, small tray, toast rack, two tea boards, one knife tray, 2 salt cellars, six wine glasses, 1 goblet, 2 tumblers and 2 ale glasses, large water pan, 2 covers, large brown water pitcher, 3 kitchen chairs, Dutch clock, weights and pullies complete, 1 iron candlestick, 1 other candlestick, 2 Japanese hand candlesticks, deal table, fenders.*

*Key to coal shed, key to both stables, key to workshop, 1 water butt, 2 water tubs, 1 tub. In addition 1 wash hand basin & ewer, crockery in kitchen not intended to be accounted for, night shades, tin rack for roasting, cinder shovel, 2 decanters and stoppers.*

*This lists the property of Mr Dean as left at the cottage.*

## THE COTTAGE

A probable layout is the drawing room on one side of a central entrance passage and the dining room and servant's room on the other, with the scullery and pantry in the back outshot; the three bedrooms above fitting over the three main downstairs rooms. Such a plan would fit in with a timber-framed, three-bayed house, with the entrance and staircase centrally placed beside the chimney. The four rooms with fireplaces could have been served by the one chimney, though it was more usual for only one of the upstairs rooms to have been heated, in houses dating from the 16th and 17th century. On the other hand plenty of other scenarios are possible.

Although probably small, the cottage seems to have had ideas above its station. The very titles, drawing and dining room, cast a dignified air over it and the furniture, while perhaps old fashioned, sounds superior to anything to be found in the home of an agricultural labourer. Mahogany came into use about 1718, taking over from the walnut tree furniture favoured in Queen Anne's reign, though its use continued into Victorian times. The four chairs in the dining room must have been new in the 1830s because of their hair stuffing. The Chinese taste was already being exploited in England in the 1750s, but had several revivals, especially toward the end of the century, when it ravished the Prince of Wales while he was renovating his pavilion at Brighton. Bamboo furniture was one manifestation and the painted chairs in the back bedroom probably date from about 1800. Pembroke tables date from the 1790s. Register stoves had sliding metal plates to regulate the emission of heat.

It sounds to have been quite a pleasant place to live.

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## MEMORIES OF A HOLE BY THE LIDO

by John Sullivan

As we grow old our memory shrinks, or am I different? I mention that as it is pertinent to the subject of this letter. It concerns a happening at the Lido in recent years, expounded to me by Bob Bedford, which triggered my memory into revealing something way into the past, or more accurately some aspects of it. Certainly my memory may be at fault in some of the details and there are blanks which persistently remain.

Bob was telling me of the appearance of a hole in the ground beside the Lido, something I was unaware of as I have been an outcast in Whitley Bay (on the *N.B.* coast) for 40 years. O.K., everyone else would know of that but his graphic description of an enormous hole appearing overnight that half drained the Lido and took half of Middlesex to fill it captivated me and memories flooded in, which I will recount.

The year escapes me but it would have been the early 40's. I was a scout in the 1st Ruislip and Dr. Max Wilson (Doe) managed to arrange a visit to a water mine for 3 or 4 of us. Nothing special about that, he was always twisting his patients' arms to help him. We set off excitedly in his car to a mysterious destination which turned out to be beside the Lido, bumping along a rough road on the West side, stopping some way past the swimming pool. It may have been a hundred yards or several, I cannot now recall. There some construction work was in progress entailing a hole in the ground although there was very little activity, which suggests to me now it must have been in the evening. Standing beside a wooden platform with a large bucket hanging above, the small group was regaled with details of what it was all about, of which I can only remember it was in connection with supplying water to Wembley.

The highlight was to have been a descent into the bowels of the earth. Disappointment reigned when we were told only one scout could descend; except for me as somehow I was selected. Clad in an oversize waterproof coat reaching to my ankles, a pair of wellies coming up past my knees and a tin hat which wobbled uncontrollably, I was assisted into the bucket together with a workman. I recall the bucket seemed to have plenty of room in it, and reached up to my chest. We were lowered down a shaft with chalk walls, descending I imagine some 100 feet, and clambered out into a cave with a tunnel disappearing in opposite directions. In one of the tunnels a string of lights was hanging and peering into the yawning opening a light was distantly just visible. Water rushed along a trench that disappeared into both tunnels beside which was a flat path wide enough to walk on. Where the water went I suppose I did not think about and now it is a mystery to me. The tunnels were about 6 feet wide and high; I recall I could walk upright easily but my guide walked stooping.

We set off along the lighted tunnel, the guide first blocking most of the light making the journey eerie. Water rushing along the trench created such a noise we could communicate only by hand signals. Every 30 yards or so water poured from a cavern extending out from the tunnel wall for about 10 feet. Walking in those wellies was not easy and at the pace we were proceeding most of my concentration was on keeping up with my guide in the gloom. We continued for what I imagine was for half a mile until we reached the end of the tunnel, where we reversed and set off back to the bottom of the shaft. There my guide explained that

the other tunnel had been completed and the lighting removed, so that we had to carry miners lamps.

The journey into that tunnel was of short duration. We had proceeded, with greater difficulty than in the other due to the poor lighting, only for about 200 yards when our lamps flickered and quickly extinguished. Then the only light was a very small circle in the distance, back at the shaft. My guide obviously was concerned and shouted that the air was bad so we must return quickly. With him at my heels and brushing the wet rough wall of the tunnel with my hand for guidance, I got back without tripping in quick time and not a little thankfully. Of how we ascended the shaft and all else I cannot remember, only that I had blisters on both heels.

Was Bob's hole at that shaft or is his mind worse than mine?

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### IAN TAIT 1909-1997

Ian Tait-affectionately known in the village as *Mr Ruislip-died* on March 5 1997. Although never a member of our Society, he always showed a great interest in our affairs. In a long life which spanned the century he was involved in all aspects of the developing community: as a teenager in opera and drama in the 1920's, to the Ruislip-Northwood Arts at the time of his death. Aware of the changes taking place so rapidly, he formed with several like-minded friends the Ruislip Village Trust, and purchased several ancient properties which faced destruction and which provided an income for charitable purposes in Ruislip.

It was from this source that interest free loans became available to our Society, which enabled us to republish Morris's book on Ruislip and Kemp's history of North wood in the 1980's and funded our researches for books on Ruislip and Eastcote. More recently this funding has supported Dr Cox's book *A Quiet and Secluded Spot* (1981) and our *Highways and Byways* last year, which happily I was able to present to him before his final illness.

We were only one of many groups in the Ruislip community who were encouraged and helped. His knowledge of Ruislip people, their history and activities will be greatly missed. We mourn his passing and salute his memory.

**Leo Krause**

## REMINISCENCES OF COTEFORD

by Alison Ferguson

It was with a feeling of nostalgia that my daughter and I visited Coteford School in Fore Street, Eastcote, last November when it celebrated its 70th birthday-1926 to 1996. An exhibition was held in the junior school where many photographs and memorabilia were on display, and of course friends, parents and teachers were reunited. I was delighted to find a picture of my younger son in the 1995 May Day celebrations.

I had been involved with both infant and junior schools from 1962 to 1984 as parent and teacher, and it was fascinating and surprising to realise how many changes had taken place. My first introduction came when my older son joined the infant school, which at that time was in the former village hall. Miss K M Cook was head teacher and had been for 30-odd years. Most of the classrooms were separate from the main building, as were the toilets. A coal fire with huge fireguards was the only heating in each room, and the caretaker had to stoke the fires at least once a day.

So many happy events took place in the old hall. As well as being used as a class-room there were concerts, bazaars and many school assemblies. At Christmas time there was a big party where cakes etc made by supportive parents were enjoyed. The highlight of the afternoon



*The old village hall*

came when sleigh-bells were heard in the distance, then reindeers' antlers were seen tapping on the window and finally Santa Claus himself appeared. The children were full of wonder and excitement. He distributed small gifts which were received with great delight. Such simple unsophisticated pleasures made for a happy, contented school.

My memories of the infant school, when my daughter was a pupil, are particularly associated with Miss Mary Padmore who was head teacher from 1968 to 1974. She ran the school with calmness and efficiency and great charm. She inspired loyalty from teachers, parents and helpers alike. Everyone was sad when she left to take over the infant school at Field End Road.

The old hall with its oak beams and tall windows had charm and atmosphere which made it special in spite of the lack of facilities. In 1986 it was demolished to make way for a housing estate, and a little bit of local history went with it.

The junior school which was built in 1952 had many more amenities, which made life easier for staff, pupils and helpers. Mr David Lloyd, the headmaster, and Mr Danny Griffiths, his deputy, made a great team - they ran the school with dedication and commitment. Everyone respected Mr Uoyd who was firm but fair. He hardly ever missed seeing the children off at the end of the day, and could be seen in the playground making sure that all was well with every child.

Mr Griffiths had the ability to control all the children, particularly during assemblies, with one snap of his fingers. Children taught at Coteford were well grounded in the subjects necessary to help them in their secondary schools.

Although I was only a part-time teacher I did become involved with many of the activities which took place - mainly the annual school fairs and concerts. At the end of the summer term the children were invited to perform for their parents at an informal coffee evening. Many talents were displayed, some quite hilarious.

One of the highlights for the older children was to be allowed to use the swimming pool, which parents and teachers had built themselves. The pupils took their first tentative jumps and dives with Mr Griffiths supervising. Many, including my older son, learnt to swim in this little pool, but it was filled in when the junior school moved. The path leading to the present nursery school has a hump where it passes over the remains of the concrete pool sides, which were too solid to be demolished completely.

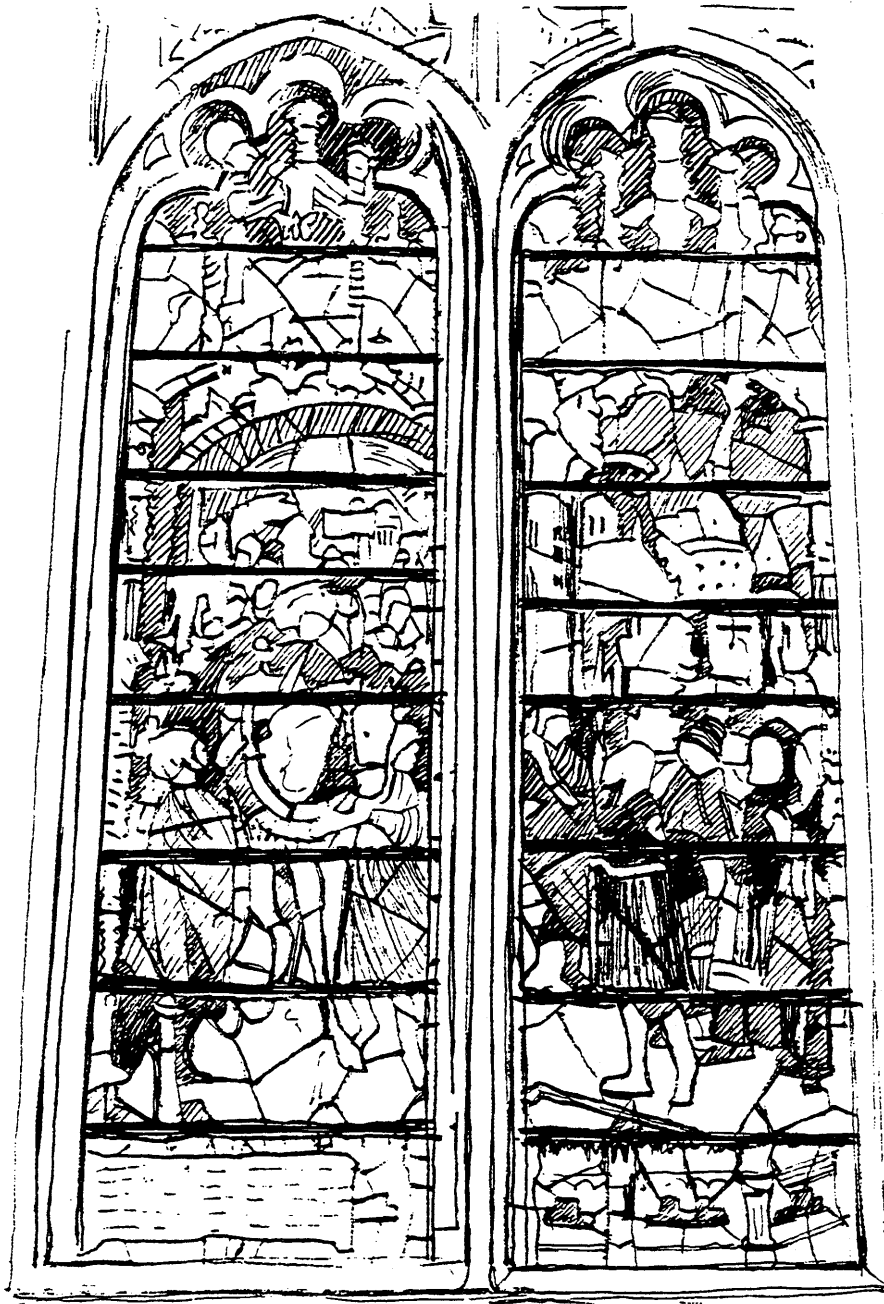
In 1982 the infant school moved into the original junior school and a new junior school was built further up Fore Street in the grounds of Grangewood Special School. At this time St Michaels Special School in Joel Street was closed and was integrated with the Coteford Schools. These were adapted in 1984 to meet the needs of physically handicapped children. Later, a new nursery school was built next to the infant school, so the community is well served.

By this time I had left, but my memories are of two very happy schools which built a good foundation for the future. Respect from the children and enthusiasm from the staff were and are their chief assets.

## TWO SOLDIER-SAINTS AND TWO WHEATSHEAVES: MORE St MARTIN'S STAINED GLASS

by Valery Cowley

On June 14th, 1521 'Sir Richard Gamyll, curat' witnessed the will of Thomas Ferne the elder, which directed that his body was to be buried in Ruislip church, 'afore the wyndow of Saint Martin and Saint George'. As the oldest fragment of glass, of 16th century date, now in a top light in the North Aisle, bears a letter M, it might have been from this window featuring Ruislip's patron saint.



When a musically talented vicar, Thomas Marsh Everett, died in 1900 the Parish Council Committee unanimously decided to erect a stained glass memorial, all contributions to which, from the parish and beyond, were acknowledged in the church magazine. Mr Murch, the churchwarden, sent some of the displaced medieval glass to C E Kempe for his opinion, which was that two small pieces were very good: a cinquefoil of 1480 and a trefoiled spray of about 1520; these were to be carefully preserved but where are they now?

By December 1900, designs for the two memorial windows had been received from Kempe's studio at 28 Nottingham Place, West London. The windows were unveiled and dedicated by the Bishop of Kensington in the presence of Everett's family on Saturday afternoon, September 28th, 1901.

In November, 1901 the Parish Magazine described the two North Chancel windows:

*They portray two scenes from the life of S Martin, our patron Saint - the circumstances of which are fairly familiar to all attendants at the Church. S Martin, who lived from about A.D. 316 to A.D. 397, is represented as a Roman soldier, mounted on horseback, and surrounded by other Roman soldiers with halberds and spears, one of them bearing the Roman eagle, with the letters SP. Q.R. - "Senatus Populus que Ramanus" (The Senate and the People of Rome). The party are emerging from the gate of a town - tradition says it was Amiens, - and the snow is lying thick on the ground and roofs and window-ledges of the houses, when they are accosted by an old beggar, scantily clad in a torn robe, with bare feet and limbs, who solicits an alms, while some of the well-clothed citizens look on. S. Martin, who has already parted with his last coin in an act of charity, is shocked at the beggar's miserable condition, and with his sword cuts his ample military cloak in two and gives one half to the beggar who, having dropped his staff, holds out his hands to receive it. The scene is beautifully represented, the colours and drawings being very good, and the effect of the snow on the ground and hanging down from the roofs and irregularities of the buildings is excellent. In the four small lights at the top of the window are four bright angels, each bearing a musical instrument in recognition of the great musical talents of the late Vicar. At the left-hand corner at the bottom of the window is the inscription: "In honour of our LORD JESUS CHRIST and His servant Martin, and in affectionate remembrance of Thomas Marsh Everett, MA., SCL., for over 21 years the faithful pastor and friend of this parish, many of his parishioners and friends dedicate these windows"*

*In the second window a night scene is represented - The Vision of S Martin. S Martin is lying asleep on a couch, - over his head is a representation of the crucified Saviour- at the foot of the bed are his helmet, shield, sword, and armour, and the half-cloak. The curtain is drawn across the Window, though it is partly seen, with the heavy snow lodged against the leaded panes. A lamp is dimly burning, casting its light on the Psalter at the bedside, open at the sacred words, the guiding star of the saint's life: "Dus (Dominus) illuminatio mea" (The Lord is my light). On the wall hangs a picture of the Cross, shining forth in glory at the last day, and men starting back in fear and dismay. ("Then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn" S Matt. xxiv. 30.) And the sleeping saint in vision beholds the SAVIOUR, crowned, showing in radiant light, in his left hand the Orb, in token of His kingly power - His right hand is raised in blessing, on His shoulder the half of Martin's cloak, by His side attendant angels, and over His head the legend.: "Martin, yet a catechumen, hath clothed me with this Garment. " Underneath is a book of the Gospels with the words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me. " In the right-hand corner of the window at the bottom is the inscription: "Here the saint on the following night beholdeth JESUS CHRIST clothed with the half robe which he had shared with the beggar. "The incident is a very difficult one to represent in stained glass, and it must be admitted that Mr. Kempe has carried it out with great success. In the upper lights*

are King David with crown and harp, and three of the sons of Korah. each with a scroll bearing the following words. 1st, "Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord"> 2nd, "He has great delight in His commandments ", and 3rd, "The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance" - all taken from Psalm cxii., vv. 1-6, Prayer Book Version. The sons of Korah were not consumed with the rebels in Moses' time who perished in the earthquake and fire (Numbers xvi. 32), for, as we are told in Numbers xxvi. 11, "notwithstanding, the children of Korah died not." To them the charge of the Temple gates was committed by David, and, up to the time of Jehoshaphat, they had a great reputation for psalmody, and to them the temple music was in great measure entrusted, and x. and xi. of the Psalms are attributed to their authorship. The reason, therefore, for depicting them in a Window erected to the memory of one so musical as the late Vicar will be at once apparent. Mr. Kempe's private mark, the little wheatsheaf, will be noticed in the left-hand corner of each Window.

In its background details the Charity at Amiens resembles 15th century French miniatures, Kempe was a careful medievalist, mingling this with suitable Roman details and even a stool with Egyptian-looking sphinxes in the Vision scene. The textural details of the bed-hangings and coverlet, the glaze on a water-pot, for example, merit close study. The angels have the peacock feather wings which are a Kempe hallmark and the psalm displayed by Martin's bed is the Oxford University motto, an allusion to Everett's career as a Chorister of New College and Choral Clerk at Magdalen College, followed by Student in Common Law (now obsolete), B.A. and M.A. degrees.

To the left of the Ruislip Chancel windows is a brass wall-plate giving details of Everett's career: he was Assistant Vicar Choral at Hereford Cathedral, 1869-1872, and a Minor Canon of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, 1872-1878, before coming to Ruislip. The inscription concludes, *I will sing and give praise with the best member that I have. All thanks to God.*

Kempe's stained glass studio was featured in *The Church Monthly* in 1900 and the Kempe Society in Liverpool were delighted when I sent them a photocopy last year. They found for me a copy of Kempe's order-book sketches of May, 1901 giving dimensions of St. Martin's Chancel windows.

It is possible that our windows were designed by George Thompson (1866-1905) who worked for Kempe and who lived in Waxwell House (now The Knoll flats), Uxbridge Road, Pinner. Photographs of him as a boy with a penny-farthing cycle and about 1903 as a mature man were in a recent Pinner exhibition and the former is reproduced in Patricia Clarke's book on the area. George's grandson, Paul D. Thompson, a fellow member of the Kempe Society, who lives in California, put me in touch with the Society's Patron, Margaret Stavridi, who has written 'Master of Glass', the first full length study of C E Kempe. Her father was John William Lisle, chief draughtsman for the Kempe studios, whom Kempe sent to northern France to study that style of stained glass, especially at Rouen. Kempe did technical training with the stained glass studios of Clayton and Bell, who produced the Three Apostles window in St. Michael's Chapel, as well as Christ's charge to Peter in the South Chancel at Ruislip.

In Middlesex there are Kempe windows at Cranford, Harlington, Harrow Weald, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Heston, Evelyns School Chapel in Hillingdon, Ickenham, Stanmore (St. John), Teddington (St. Alban - demolished), Wembley and Whitton. In Hertfordshire the nearest are Abbots Langley, Aldenham, Berkhamstead, Chorleywood House, Northchurch, the Mortuary Chapel of 1. Longman in Watford, St. Albans (Abbey and St. Peter's), Tring and Tring Park. Kempe's sent their stained glass worldwide before the firm closed in 1934.

## UPDATE ON St MARTIN'S 19th CENTURY STAINED GLASS

by Valery Cowley

Since I began researching the parish church's windows and writing about them in the Parish Magazine and in RNELHS journals, new information has emerged, the most important of which I summarise here.

In 1995 when I described the North Aisle East window by Mayer and Company, I had not discovered the description of it in the Parish Magazine for 1889, where it is made clear that the account of the Resurrection on which it is based is that of Luke 24:10 and so, instead of three Marys at the tomb, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and, in the background, Joanna are depicted. In the Vicar's Letter, the Reverend T M Everett commented that the drawing was excellent and the artistic arrangement of rich colours of pot metal glass were in perfect taste, harmonious and mellow. He praised the lifelike expression of the faces, which we can now see as the enduring influence on the Munich firm's work of Overbeck and the Nazarene group of painters. The proliferation of Mayer windows in Ireland provoked a reaction to their style in the form of Arts and Crafts Movement studios. I am indebted to Caroline and Tony Benyon of the Carl Edwards Studio for this and other fascinating observations; for example, the plain glazing of the North Aisle westernmost windows is typical of much restoration work of the 1940's to 1980's.

The Chancel East window, which I wrote about in the 1994 Journal and which provoked much speculation, has been found to be by Cox and Sons of 28-29 Southampton Street, Strand (The Ecclesiastical Warehouse). The current NADFAS researchers chanced upon an order book with a partial illustration of it in the archives of the Society of Antiquaries. This firm's work can be seen in Peterborough Cathedral, in the West window of St Bride's, Dyfed and St Tyrnog, Llandyrnog, Clwyd where Cox and Buckley's Annunciation is reminiscent of the early work of C E Kempe, according to Painton Cowen's *Guide to Stained Glass in Britain*.

Martin Harrison's *Victorian Stained Glass* describes Cox and Sons as "a prolific London studio whose work only rarely rose above the banal" but in the early 1870's several interesting designers were connected with the firm. 'Thomas Cox was a clerical tailor in London who branched out into ecclesiastical metalwork and eventually, around 1862, started to manufacture stained glass also'. The catalogues issued in 1870 and 1876 include useful lists of locations of their stained glass. Michael J C Buckley joined the firm around 1881 and its name became Cox, Sons, Buckley and Co before being wound up in the 1890's.

The Ruislip Outlook of March, 1934 reported that the East window had been repaired thanks to Mr Ingham Baker and other members of the family, including Mrs Everett. Messrs Townshend and Howson carried out the work. Born Maud Frances Baker, third daughter of Lawrence James Baker of Haydon Hall, Eastcote and Ottershaw Park near Chertsey, Surrey, Mrs Everett was the widow of the Vicar of Ruislip to whom the Chancel windows by C E Kempe are a memorial. Lawrence Ingham Baker (born 1862) was Lawrence James Baker's eldest son and heir and Maud Frances' brother. He lived at Eastcote Lodge, rebuilt in 1888 (see *Lawrence James Baker and Haydon Hall Estate, Eastcote* by K J McBean, RNELHS Journal, 1979). In October, 1934, the parish magazine recorded L I Baker's burial at Crewkeme parish church; a lay reader, he built and endowed the Young Men's Club in the village near his home, Wayford Manor. When he decided to give up the farms on his estate, he divided up his land and let a portion to each of his workmen, helping them to independence by distributing the farm implements among them.



**'MIDDLESEX MANORS-THEN AND NOW'**  
**LOCAL HISTORY DAY: 22 FEBRUARY 1997**  
**by Susan Toms**

After a welcome by our President, Len Krause, to the Winston Churchill Hall and to the Manor of Ruislip, our Chairman, Eileen Bowlt explained the terms manor and sub-manor and how they differ from a parish.

The conference then opened with an outside speaker: David Sullivan, who talked about three of the estates of Westminster Abbey during the 13th century. These estates: the bustling and growing Westminster, and the rural and agricultural EialEye and KnightsbridgeIWestboume were compared and described. The main source of information is the accounts of the Manor of Westminster Abbey which list in great detail named fields and ditches and the location of buildings.

Eileen Bowlt then gave a very detailed account of the numerous duties expected of his tenants by the Lord of the Manor of Ruislip. By the time they had worked on the demesne-the land held directly by the lord-and farmed their own holding of land, it was a wonder they even had the time to eat and sleep. It was a vivid insight into how prescribed was the feudal manorial system. However, a postscript by Colin Bowlt illustrated that not all the tenants were totally subdued. During the 14th century there were several references in the court rolls to the long standing grievances of the tenants of Harmondsworth, who disputed the right of the Lord of the Manor to demand their labour on the demesne. Their petitions were not successful at the time, but they did show that already the manorial system was being questioned.

Further evidence of the restrictions of this system came from Graham Elcombe and Jim Golland, who presented a snapshot of everyday life in 14th century Harrow, based upon the Harrow Court Rolls. This was 'the Ambridge' of the 14th century with tales of noisy neighbours, fights, disturbances, blocked roads and the cost of a daughter's wedding. The speakers brought to life the lives of the ordinary tenants at the time of Chaucer.

After lunch, Pat Clarke gave a 'Cook's tour' of extant Manorial buildings in our local area, to whet our appetites to visit them ourselves.

This was followed by a well-illustrated talk by Kay Holmes on the heraldry of ecclesiastical lords of manors, which clarified the significance of such armorial bearings.

A talk by Ken Pearce reiterated the theme of a growing resentment among the population of the manorial restrictions. In 1630's the inhabitants of the market town of Uxbridge disputed the right of the Lord of the Manor to charge market tolls. Violence was threatened before the dispute was settled with the inhabitants issuing a grovelling apology.

The conference closed with a talk by Geoff Saul regarding the maintenance of a bridge in Rickmansworth. The residents successfully sued the Lord of the Manor when he tried to evade his responsibility for its repair. By the beginning of the 20th century the influence of the lord of the manor had waned completely in contrast to his complete hold on power in medieval times.