

**Includes an index to all Journals 1978-98**



# RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE

## Local History Society

### Journal 1998

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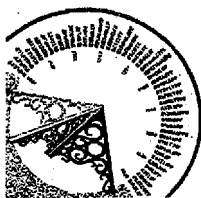
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Cover picture: Manor Farm House, Ruislip, by Denise Shackell

Edited by Simon Morgan, with advice and assistance from Eileen Bowlt and Eileen Wailing.  
Line drawings by Denise Shackell.

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# RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society

Registered Charity no. 288234

## COMMITTEE 1997-98

Offices shown are as at September 1998

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## LECTURE PROGRAMME 1998-99

### 1998

21 September	Sir Joseph Bazalgette: Developer of the Thames Embankment	Denis Smith
19 October	AGM followed by: Talking Shops: the history of department stores	Audrey Brown
16 November	Tomb effigies as early fashion plates	Chris Plumley
21 December	Christmas Social: Fun and Games in the Bath	Mark Hassall

### 1999

18 January	Stanmore: Beset by gentlemen's houses	Eileen M Bowlt
15 February	Ruislip Lido: Who created it and why?	Geoff Saul
15 March	Langley Mansion	Pat Honey
19 April	History, Style & Development of the Underground	Geoff Toms

Meetings are on Mondays at 8.15 pm and are held at St Martins Church Hall, Ruislip.

## EDITORIAL

### 21 Years' Hard Labour

In compiling the index which appears this year, I have read and re-read all 21 RNELHS Journals, comprising more than 200 articles by 50 different authors. These thoroughly-researched and largely original contributions add up to an immense body of information on the history of our small area.

The range of subjects is enormous. Most surviving historic buildings are detailed, with some material on those now lost. There are ten references to timber-framed buildings and over 15 to our oldest surviving structure: St Martin's Church. Several hundred past residents are listed or mentioned, from Emulf de Hesdin to Murphy the donkey, and beyond. In many cases we are given a significant insight into their lives, with wills, inventories, personal letters and court cases being quoted and explained. Schools and churches are also recurring themes, as evidence of the needs and activities of a growing community.

Many articles relate to the period of greatest change: the late 19th and early 20th centuries when unprecedented growth occurred with the suburbanisation first of Northwood and then of Ruislip and Eastcote, largely connected with the arrival of the railways. This period is likely to stand out as increasingly important in the future, and there is still much to record. With most suitable land already developed (we hope), the scope for such a massive change in population, infrastructure and lifestyle to ever be repeated is severely limited.

Our retiring chairman, Eileen Bowlt, wins the prize for the most prolific author with nearly 40 contributions to her name. The late Jim McBean (commemorated by Eileen on page 44) comes second with 27, just one example of the immense amount of work of permanent value

he has left with us.

It is probably the enthusiasm and leadership of past authors which has encouraged this continuing output of new material. Most articles include references or sources to assist those following up the subjects, and many positively encourage further work or list outstanding mysteries and unknowns to tantalise those of us who have got 'the bug'. The Society's research work thrives on this synergy between members and the mutual support which occurs within the Research Group. Another catalyst for action has been the receipt of requests from people outside our area for information on their Ruislip forebears - there is no surer way to get members scurrying to their transcripts of census returns, rate books and terriers than the prospect of having to reply that nothing is known of a family.

My injunction in last year's Journal to all members to respond to the subjects raised, significantly augmented the two Newsletters, and resulted in the articles on Acre Way and Ruislip Common water pumping station in this Journal. I wish to thank those who contributed and to repeat the request for this year. Please keep the responses coming; short hand-written notes, questions and letters are of great interest as well as longer missives.

It might seem unlikely that, after so many aspects have been studied in such detail, with many historic sources having been explored in full, there can be anything more to say on the history of our area. But here we are, with another 14 contributions, forming the largest ever RNELHS Journal and continuing the tradition of diligence and scholarship for which this Society can be justly proud.

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Membership of the Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society is open to all who are 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 are open to visitors. (Advance booking is required for the Christmas social.) The programme for 1998-99 is on page 2.

An active Research Group supports 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.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT MANOR FARM

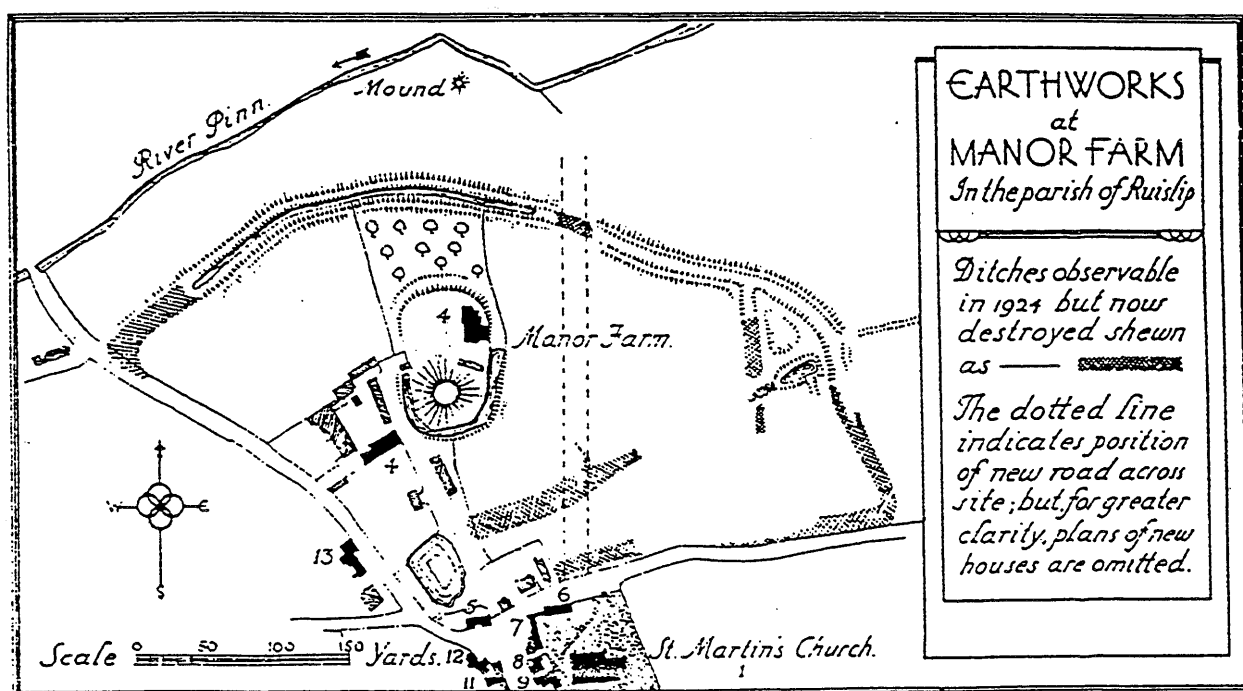
by Alison Steele

## Introduction

The excavation of four engineer's test pits was carried out at Ruislip Manor Farm House between 5.8.97 and 19.8.97. The unsound structural state of the farm house had prompted the London Borough of Hillingdon to commission an examination of the foundations before remedial works could be decided upon. The farmhouse is situated in the north-east corner of a motte and bailey castle, which has

## Site Location

Ruislip Manor Farm House is located within a complex system of earthworks to the north of Ruislip village and its parish church of St. Martin. The farmhouse, one of a number of 16th-17th century and earlier farm buildings, is situated in the north-east corner of the bailey of a small motte and bailey castle which is a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (Greater London Monument no. 64). The



*Earthworks surrounding Manor Farm (after H. Braun)*

been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The house itself is a Grade 2 listed building. Owing to the protected status of the site, the test pits were the subject of an archaeological watching brief

Two test pits revealed the presence of mortared flint foundations that appeared to belong to an earlier, perhaps mediaeval, building. The cellar on the east side of the house was located and a small part of it emptied of backfill. It is thought this may be additional to the original building.

motte and bailey were enclosed by a moat, the northern part of which was filled in during 1888.

The motte remains a feature in the modern landscape and is most visible when approached from the south and west, along the former driveway to the farm. The moat around it is fairly deeply cut at this point (it was cleared out in 1991 by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision). Mature trees and fairly dense undergrowth now partially obscure both mound and ditch.

The farm building itself occupies the flattish area identified as the bailey. It lies close to an abrupt change in ground level, where a short bank slopes down to the east. This bank continues round on the north side of the building (see Fig.5) and is currently thought to represent the infilled moat. A line of mature lime trees marks the boundary at the base of the bank between the Manor Farm and the houses on the "vest side of St. Martin's Approach. The building is currently used as a nursery school and hired out to local groups and societies. The land protected as a Scheduled Monument is owned and managed by Hillingdon Borough Council.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

### Prehistoric

The earliest archaeological finds in the Ruislip area belong to that part of the paleolithic period known as the 'Acheulian'. This covers the period 250,000-200,000 RC. and is so named after the site at St. Acheul near Amiens in France, where the tools and artefacts found were recognised as being technically more advanced than those made by *Homo erectus*. The most common tool made and used by the people of this period was the flint handaxe. Large numbers of these have been recovered from the terrace gravels between Dawley and West Drayton/Yiewsley, with more scattered findspots further to the north at Harefield, Hillingdon, Ruislip and Uxbridge. These individual stray finds suggest a settlement pattern of sporadic, possibly seasonal activity in the forested river valleys of the region.

While flint continued to be used well into the Bronze Age, the emergence of local production centres for metal goods in this period (c.2,300-650 BC) heralds a new degree of wealth and social organisation. However, the deposition of large quantities of metalwork, particularly weaponry, in the waters of the Thames and in carefully buried hoards on land, is suggestive of an underlying instability which is also reflected in the construction of the first hill forts. Weapons are rarely found in 'dry' locations far from a river. The recovery of a fine barbed spearhead from Park Wood in Ruislip is an important exception. Dating to the 9th or 8th century BC, the spearhead was apparently deposited in a small oval pit along with several fragments of coarse domestic pottery and may indicate some kind of settlement.

### Roman

A few discoveries from the Roman period have been made in and around Ruislip. Local historian Hugh Braun writing in 1937<sup>1</sup> describes how building operations adjacent to the mediaeval earthwork at Ruislip Manor Farm exposed 'the remains of a building of apparently Romano-British origin having walls of flintwork interspersed with Roman brick and associated with pottery of the period.' Roman pottery has been found nearby in subsequent years. In addition, tiles included in the building fabric of the east wall of St. Martin's church are almost certainly of Roman date. A more complete picture of Romano-British settlement in the Ruislip area has yet to emerge, but chance finds made over the years suggest that it could have been widespread. Roman burials discovered in the early 19th century on the Breakspear Estate, Harefield suggest the existence of a site somewhere in the vicinity. More exotic finds include a fragment of a blue glass 'pillar moulded' bowl, found in Ruislip, and probably originating in Alexandria', and an enamelled brooch thought to have been found on Ruislip Common.

### Mediaeval

It is the mediaeval period that has the most obvious significance for the site at Ruislip Manor Farm. The early part of the period, from c.410 to the Norman Conquest of 1066 is generally referred to as the Saxon period. Although the motte and bailey castle at Ruislip is widely considered to have been built by Ernulf de Hesdin, the Norman who assumed the rights to the estate, it is nevertheless possible that the site had been the fortified base or 'burgh' of a Saxon lord. The road name *Bury Street* adds weight to this possibility. The large earthwork at Ruislip in Park Wood is most probably the ancient boundary of a park for wild animals, mentioned in the Domesday Book. The earthwork could therefore be Late Saxon in date. Very little archaeological excavation has taken place in the village of Ruislip or on the site of Manor Farm that enables us to know more about the mediaeval period than the documentary evidence can tell us.

Ruislip was chosen by the new Norman rulers as an administrative and military centre, for it was here that the motte and bailey castle was erected. Domesday records the presence of four *franci* or followers of Williarn, who may have made it their base (the *franci* were less

numerous in other villages nearby: Hillingdon had only two). In 1087, Ernulf de Hesdin granted the estate to the Abbey of Bee in Nonnandy and Ruislip eventually became the administrative centre for all the abbey's English holdings. The Great Bam is a survival which gives some indication of the site's pivotal function as a manorial centre. The aisled bam was built around 1300, and partially rebuilt in the late 17th or 18th century. It rests on a flint rubble plinth. It is a Grade II\* listed building (amended in 1996) and is described as 'an outstanding example of an early timber-frame aisled barn, comparable to the great barns at Cressing Temple and Coggeshall in Essex'.<sup>3</sup> The bam is thought to be one of a complex of buildings belonging to the abbey, some of which are thought to have been located on the bailey to the north of the mound. At no time was the abbey possessed of conventional buildings; it remained a cell and was referred to as a manor throughout its existence. However, Ruislip remained an important administrative centre, its size, wealth and proximity to London no doubt contributing to its significance.

After it ceased to be a monastic cell, Ruislip retained many of the features of a prosperous home farm in a good marketing region. An inventory made in 1294 mentions a chapel in the manor house; another inventory of 1435 indicates that the house was a spacious one, including a hall, chamber, counting house, prior's chamber, lord's chamber, forester's chamber and chapel, as well as a bakehouse and scullery." All the indications are that a sizeable household was supported there. Food supplies recorded as having been sent to the larder in 1289-90 included 20 cattle, 22 sheep, 36 roebuck and 418 quarters of wheat for bread. Among the servants named in 1294 were a mace-bearer, a door-keeper, a cook, a baker, a gardener and a carpenter. Table silver to the value of £17, 9s. and two beds worth £2 were mentioned in an inventory of 1324.

In the early years of the fifteenth century, the dispersal of the manors of Bee in England began, and Ruislip was one of a group that ultimately made up the endowment of St. Nicholas, later King's College, Cambridge. In 1613, the Provost of King's College and the Earl of Salisbury, the lessee of the demesne, gave leave for 'the old ruined fryer's hall' to be demolished. The dating of this event accords well with the probable date for the construction of Manor Farm House. The location of the farmhouse on the eastern edge

of the site, almost uncomfortably close to the edge of the moat, perhaps suggests that it was constructed around a courtyard of older buildings, which were subsequently dismantled.

A structural survey of the house' concludes that the building dates to the late 16th or early 17th centuries. It was in use as a farmhouse until the 1930's and continued to function as the manorial court until 1925. The kitchen extension on the east side of the building is said to have replaced an earlier outshot (pers. comm. E. Bowlit). A drawn survey of the house completed in the 1930's indicates the presence of a cellar on this side. In the 19th century, the western frontage of the house was girded by a verandah, the tiled floor of which is still visible as part of the modern external ground surface.

## Motte and Bailey Castles

Since 1988, the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) has undertaken the classification and assessment of the monuments of England as part of the Monuments Protection Programme. According to the RCHME definition, a motte and bailey castle comprises:

*a large conical or pyramidal mound of soil or stone (the motte) surrounded by, or adjacent to, one or more embanked enclosures (the bailey). Both may be surrounded by wet or dry ditches and could be further strengthened with palisades, revetments and/or a tower on top of the motte*

The motte need not have been contemporary with the bailey in origin. Sometimes a motte could be added to an existing defensive enclosure, while in other cases a bailey was added to an isolated motte. The location can be significant, as the motte and bailey castle may have been sited to dominate a road, river crossing or settlement. Motte and bailey castles were military strongholds, built as a base for offensive operations and are found in both urban and rural settings.

It is generally accepted that motte and bailey castles were introduced into England by the Normans and were built by them on a wide scale after the Conquest. Two main periods of building have been identified, the first being immediately post-Conquest as the new oligarchy established itself and the second, during the anarchy of the civil wars between Stephen and Matilda in 1138-1153.

In some cases, motte and bailey castles were abandoned not long after completion, in others, they were occupied for perhaps 150 years. In general, there is little evidence of occupation of the mottes, which seem to have functioned largely as watch-towers. Some baileys, however, enclosed domestic and communal buildings. The bailey at Hen Domen, Montgomery, for example, produced evidence for a chapel, a tower, and domestic buildings including one for the keeping of horses. The arrangement of the buildings on a bailey surrounded by a moat could fall into one of two recognised patterns, classed as *island contained* structures or *island constrained* structures. *Island contained* structures are arranged independently of the plan of the island. *Island constrained* structures fit the shape of the island exactly, usually in the form of four ranges around a central courtyard. The outer ranges of the buildings lie along the edge of the island or bailey and give the site something of the appearance of a castle. Motte and bailey castles were superseded by stone-built castles and other types of fortified dwelling after the 12th century.

### Archaeological Research Questions

A number of research questions were framed as part of the original project design. These focused on the two core areas of the Scheduled Ancient Monument and the listed post-mediaeval farmhouse. The questions were:

#### *Motte and Bailey*

- Is there evidence for the construction levels of the motte and bailey?
- Can the date of construction be more closely determined from artefacts or ecofacts recovered?
- Is there evidence for buildings pre-dating the farm house?

#### *Manor Farm House*

- Does the 16th century farmhouse include below ground elements of earlier buildings?
- What building materials and methods of construction were employed on the earlier structures?
- What building materials and methods of construction were employed in the foundation levels of the 16th century building?
- Are the cellars backfilled?

A later section of this document addresses the extent to which these original questions have been answered, defines further questions that

have arisen as a result of the recent investigations.

### Methodology

All digging on the test pits was done by hand. Initial excavation of top soil and any later post-mediaeval deposits (i.e. 18th-19th century) were removed by contractors under archaeological supervision. Deposits that were adjudged to be contemporary with or immediately post-dating the construction of the farmhouse (i.e. 16th-17th century), plus, of course, any earlier deposits, were excavated by the archaeologist in attendance.

The locations of the test pits had been agreed in advance with English Heritage. Archaeological structures and deposits were photographed, levelled, described and drawn to scale in plan and section. Scaled elevation drawings of the farmhouse foundations were completed. No excavation took place that was not absolutely necessary for the Hillingdon engineers requirements. A benchmark was brought onto site from an O.S. station at the junction of Bury Street, the High Street and Eastcote Road and a MoLAS surveyor subsequently conducted a contour survey of the site. The test pits were surveyed and later tied in to the Ordnance Survey map.

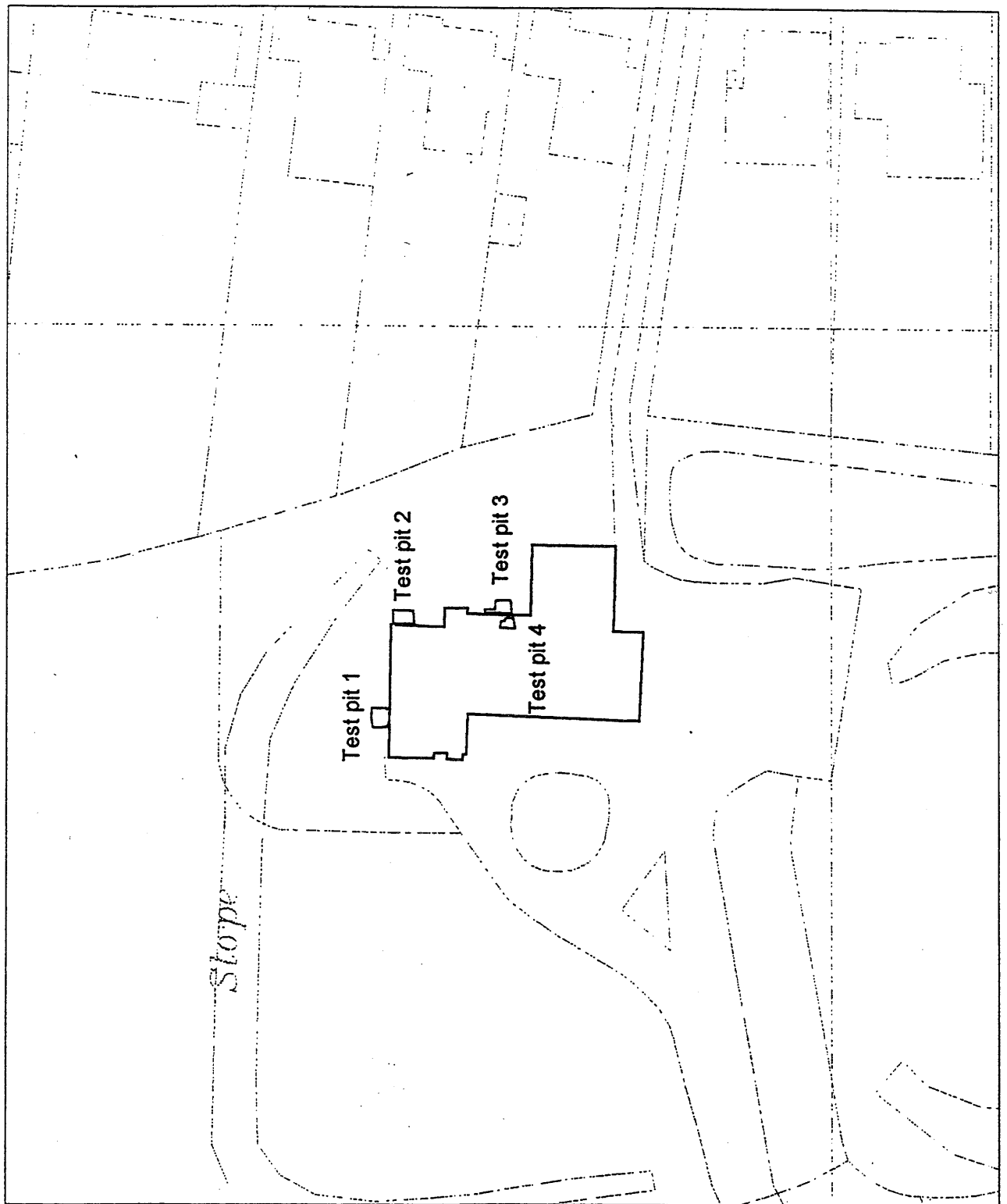
### Results

#### *Test Pit 1 (Figure 3)*

Test Pit 1 was located against the north wall of the standing building (see Fig.2). Until 1925, when the building was still in use as a manorial court, and possibly as late as the 1950's, when it was local government rooms, this area had been internal to the house. It had been the ladies cloakroom, with access from the tiled passageway on the west side of the house, now also demolished. Part of the reason for siting the test pit here, was to establish whether or not the cellar, said to be under the present kitchen, had been back-filled. The nature, condition and depth of the foundations also had to be ascertained.

The tiled surface of the former ladies cloakroom was stripped off over the area of the pit, 1.65m east-west by 1.50m north-south. This surface was at 45.56m O.O. (Section 4, Fig. 3). The archaeological sequence revealed was fairly complex, given the size of the pit. Horizons of archaeological significance were





test pits

Manor Farm House

OS base map

North arrow

**museum of LONDON**

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Project:  
Manor Farm House, Ruislip  
Hillingdon  
MoLAS site code: RMH97

Drawing  
Fig. 2: Location of test pits

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0 20

encountered O.I.Sm below the modern ground surface.

A firm natural orange clay «19), Sections 3 and 4) was encountered at 44.40m O.O. This was recorded in a small slot no more than 0.40m wide adjacent to the building foundation and it is therefore not known, whether or not this is a truncated height. Overlying the clay was the flint foundation (23). The foundation consisted of medium and large-sized flint nodules (up to 140mm by 140mm), which were roughly coursed and bonded in a distinctive orange mortar characterised by chalk flecks. It extended 1.25m east-west within the test-pit, with a right-angled return on the east side of the pit, which extended north for an exposed length of 0.66m (see plan, Fig.3). The east-west and the north-south extents of foundation (23) were definitely of one build, although the north-south ann was not quite of the same depth and in its exposed part, lacked a foundation off-set. It appeared to bottom out at 44.40m O.O., while the base of the east-west aligned masonry was set slightly lower, at 44.29m O.D.(surviving height 1.15m).

A grey clay silt deposit, (36), appeared to overlie the foundation off-set. Within the confines of the investigative slot, it was not possible to ascertain whether (36) was in a construction cut for foundation (23), or was a pre-existing deposit. Given the coincidence between the base of (23) and the base of deposit (36), and (36)'s apparent relationship with the off-set, it seemed reasonable to postulate an association between the construction of foundation (23) and the presence of the silt (36) (see also Test Pit 2, context (33)». A soil sample for environmental analysis was taken from (36) because of the perceived relative frequency of carbonised materials in the deposit.

Overlying (36) and perhaps also foundation (23), was a series of thin deposits (Section 4, Fig. 3). The first of these, (35), was a 100mm thickness of natural orange clay mixed with elements of the grey silt (36). Sealing this was (31), a layer which appeared to slope down and become thicker as it extended northwards. Layer (31) was characterised by fairly dense and frequent flecking with chalk, greensand, and brick or tile. It also included small fragments of all these materials. Deposit (34) was a sand and mortar with frequent flecking from chalk and greensand. Although nothing obviously modern was observed in the deposit,

it seems most likely that (34) was associated with the modern underpinning described below. It has to be emphasised that all these layers, including the natural clay, were only observed and recorded within a very limited area and that this limitation must be borne in mind when considering the descriptions and consequent interpretations.

Foundation (23) had been truncated and the stones removed or robbed from its north-south extent. Robbing cut (6) and its fill (5) were the evidence for this event (see plan of (23) Fig. 3). Unfortunately, no dateable material was recovered from the backfill of the robber trench to enable us to place this event. The robber cut extended north-south for 1.00m before turning west through a right angle and continuing east-west for a minimum 0.40m. The true extent of the robbed foundation is not known, as the northern half of the testpit was not excavated and it was quite difficult to distinguish the various deposits and fills that consisted mostly of demolition debris. It seemed likely, however, that the robber trench continued for the full east-west width of the test pit.

A north-south aligned foundation (4) appeared to overlie the backfilled robber trench (see plan of (4) and (7) Fig.3). This was a much less solid footing than (23), being only 0.3Sm wide and 0.20m deep (base at 44.93m O.O.). Its relationship with (23) to the south had been destroyed by modern underpinning works, but it seems probable that it abutted it. Foundation (4) continued north beyond the northern limit of Test Pit I, and appeared to be abutted on its west side by an east-west foundation (7). Again, the relationships described here are tentative because these contexts were not excavated. Foundations (7) and (4) were quite different in construction and appearance. (4) incorporated a variety of construction materials, including flint, chalk, greensand and tile fragments. Although one or two of the flint nodules were large, (up to 220mm x 100mm), most were medium and small sized fragments and on the whole had a slightly random appearance. This may, of course, have been owing to truncation. A silver penny of the reign of Stephen (1135-1153) was found in the base of the construction cut to foundation (4). That part of foundation (7) which was visible displayed fairly regular, coursed flint nodules of medium and large size set in a distinctive green coloured mortar. The south side of the foundation presented a fairly smooth face, the flints on this side having been roughly squared (see Section 4, Fig.3). Deposits (24) and (26),

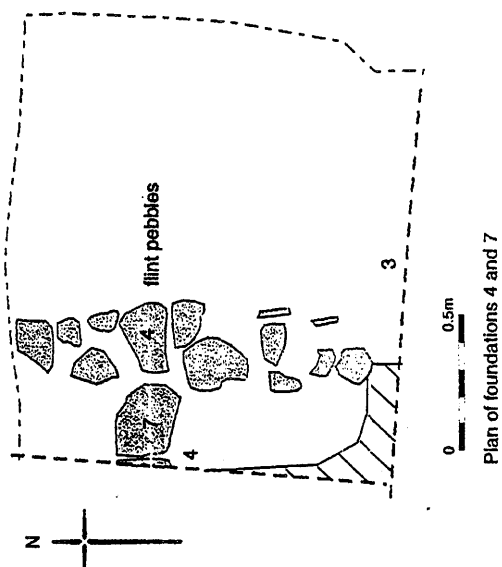
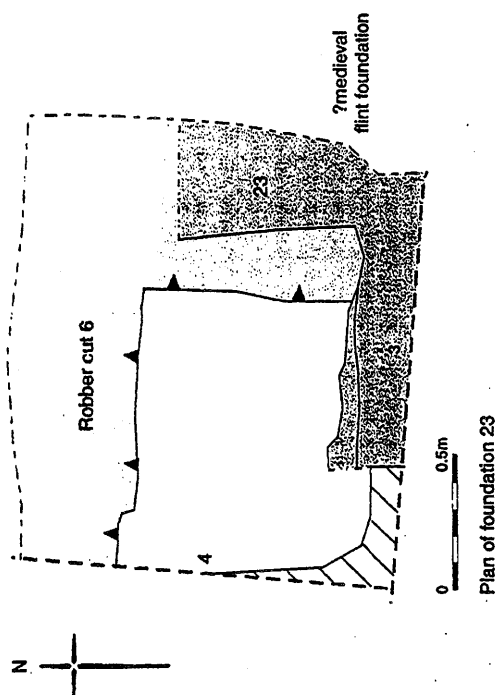
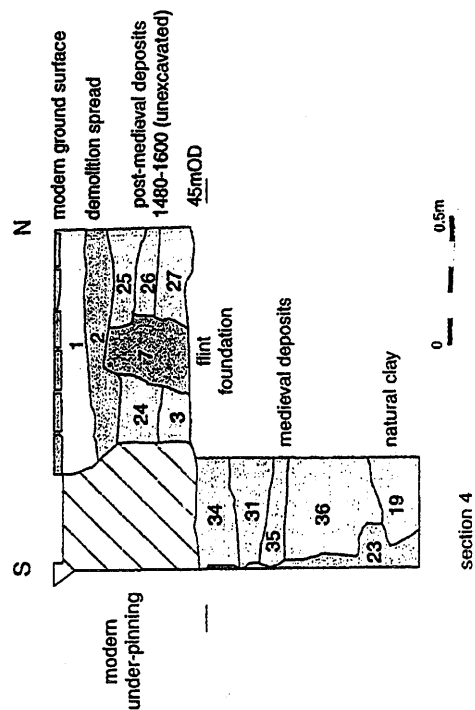
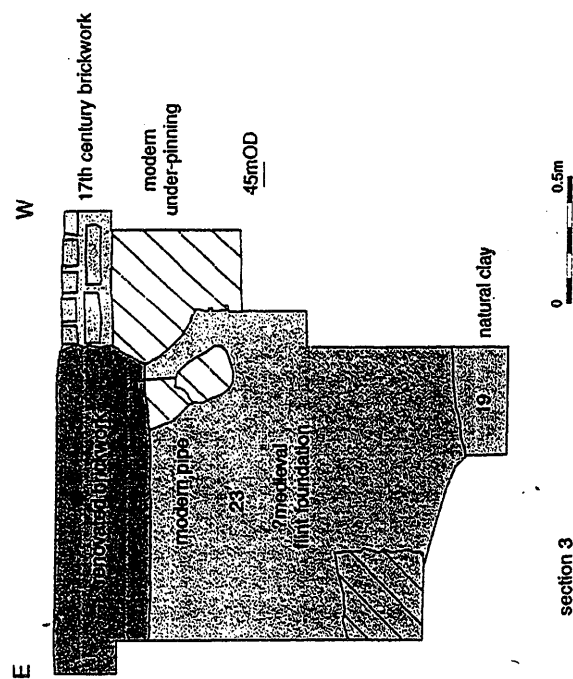


Figure 3 Plans and sections, Test Pit 1

visible on either side of foundation (7) (Section 4) may have been make-up layers to a floor surface associated with (7) and/or (4). Pottery from context (25), which was a demolition deposit similar to robbing fill (5), dated the layer to between 1480 and 1600.

The sequence described above was completely sealed by a demolition spread (2), which in turn was sealed by the make-up and tiled surface (1), which formed the modern ground surface. The test pit uncovered some modern brick and concrete which appeared to be part of a recent attempt at under-pinning the north-west corner of the building. This was thought to have taken place in 1958 when a local firm carried out some refurbishments (pers. comm. E. Bowlt, during fieldwork). This had caused some disturbance and truncated the potential relationship between foundations (4) and (23). The refurbishments had also included the heavy re-pointing and possible wholesale replacement of the brickwork of the standing building, where it rested on the flint foundation (23). Further damage to (23) had occurred in the recent past when a pipe for the sink outflow in the kitchen had been punched through (Section 3, Fig.3). It was noted, during the period of fieldwork, that this pipe dripped, thus accounting for the slightly damp, much more workable deposits in Test Pit 1.

### *Interpretation*

The flint deep flint foundation (23) was probably initially constructed as the footings for another, earlier building. In Test Pit 1, two factors tend to this view: firstly, the foundation is of one build, but continues north beyond the limits of the present timber-framed superstructure and includes an additional east-west return; secondly, the north wall of the timber-framed farmhouse appears to be original work and shows no sign of a blocked extension. Foundation (4) had every appearance of overlying the robbing of foundation (23), and could therefore either be a second phase of building associated with the deeper foundation or a later event. Foundations (4) and (7) represent a structure or structures which appear to have gone out of use at some time around the period 1480-1600, when they were sealed by demolition spread (25).

### *Test Pit 2 (Fig.4)*

Test Pit 2 was located on the east side of the farmhouse, between its east wall and the

projecting stub of a demolished buttress. This was said to be the site of a test pit dug in 1996, which had discovered water above the water table level. The objectives in digging Test Pit 2 were to establish whether water was still present, and why, and to confirm the nature, depth and condition of the building foundations.

The natural clay, (19), was as recorded in Test Pit 1, except that the top of the deposit was at 44.07m O.O., some 0.20m lower than in the first test pit. A significant difference was the extremely dry and therefore extremely hard nature of the clay in Test Pit 2. This was true of all other deposits in the pit. The height of the natural clay just above 44.00m O.O. is probably an untruncated height (see Section 2, FigA).

A large, sloping cut had truncated the clay adjacent to the base of the foundation. Cut (39) was at least 0.50m deep and was aligned north-south. Its base coincided with that of the flint foundation (21), and it was backfilled with a mixture of natural orange clay and a grey clay silt (38). Foundation (21) consisted of large and medium sized flint nodules with occasional ragstones, including one large ragstone which was at least 360mm long by 180mm in breadth. The whole was bonded with an orange, sandy mortar which included frequent chalk flecks. The overall height of the foundation was 1.25m from its base at 43.80m O.O.

The sequence of deposits which appears to have then built up against the foundation was essentially the same in Test Pit 2 as it had been in Test Pit 1. However, the O.O. heights of the layers varied between the pits, with the deposits in Test Pit 2 generally being 0.36m to 0.45m lower. Context (33), although very hard and dry, was essentially the same as (36) in Test Pit 1. It too was sampled for environmental analysis. Deposit (32) (see Section 2, Fig.d), a stiff orange-brown clay with chalk and mortar flecking (compare (31) Section 4) was essentially a dump of redeposited natural clay.

Directly overlying foundation (21) was what was recognised as a separate build of flint foundation {labelled (15) on Sections 1 and 2}. This had been constructed within a different construction cut, (13), which truncated layers (12), (16), (17), (18) and the top of (32). Foundation (15) was very evidently constructed out of re-used, smaller flints, set in varying bands of different mortars and incorporating brick and tile fragments. It formed an off-set to



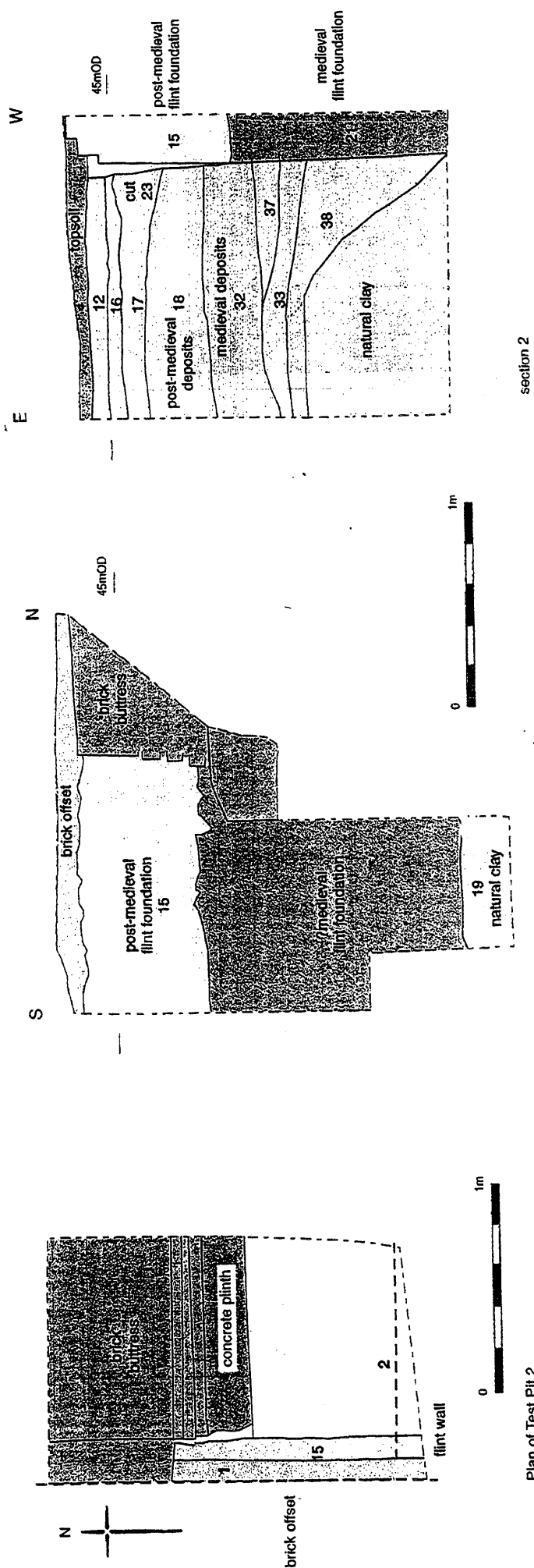


Figure 4 Plans and sections, Test Pit 2

the east wall of the standing building and was 0.57m high.

The brick buttress on the north side of the pit had been demolished to modern ground level (circa 45.18m O.D.). It rested on a corbelled brick foundation over a concrete plinth and was 0.90 high, the base being at 44.28m O.D.

### *Interpretation*

The height of the natural orange clay in Test Pit 2 suggests a slight slope down to the east. This is regardless of any subsequent truncation or redeposition caused by the moat digging. Deposit (32) may indeed represent one such redeposition, but if that is the case, it places the construction of the deep flint foundation (21) prior to the digging of the moat, or at least contemporaneous with it. It seems clear that the upper foundation represents a re-use of available materials for the construction of the farmhouse. The north and north-east sides of the timber and brick building appear to have been founded on pre-existing flint foundations.

### *Test Pits 3 and 4*

The archaeological results from these test pits can be combined as they concern the same evidence. Test Pits 3 and 4 were located on either side of the external wall of a passage that had been added to the building in the 1950's (see Fig.2). Test Pit 3 was on the outer side of the wall and Test Pit 4 inside the building within the passage itself. It was hoped to locate the cellar identified in a survey of the building completed in the 1930's, to establish whether it was backfilled, and to learn more about the nature, depth and condition of the foundations to the original east wall of the standing building.

The north wall of the cellar was located in Test Pit 3. It had been reduced to about 44.63m O.D., some 200mm below modern ground surface at 44.82m O.D. It had been backfilled with demolition rubble in a clay silt matrix, which included fragments of late brick; glass and metal objects. The backfill was completely excavated to the level of the brick cellar floor, at 43.80m O.D. The cellar floor consisted of large handmade bricks, laid on bed and mortared in stretcher bond. The corner of the cellar where the north wall met the west wall showed an area of disturbance where the bricks were not mortared, but bedded in sand and ash. Half the bricks in this area were broken. The regular pattern of the stretcher laid bricks had

not been adhered to where the floor abutted the walls. Against the north wall, bricks had been laid long side east-west, in opposition to the run of the pattern. Against the west wall, a selection of small, irregular brick fragments had been inserted into the small gap between the edge of the pattern and the wall. In addition, the general alignment of the bricks was not true to that of the walls.

Both walls were of alternate headers and stretchers, but in the corner, this pattern was disrupted. The west wall had been covered in a lime wash which made some of the constructional details difficult to see. The full height of the west cellar wall was 1.80m, this being also the foundation to the main east wall of the standing building.

### *Interpretation*

It seems probable that the cellar was not part of the original 17th century building, but a slightly later addition. Two pieces of evidence tend to this view: firstly, the misaligned floor, although that could be put down to later replacements and repairs; and secondly, the apparent rebuild of the corner between the north and main foundation walls. The height of the cellar/foundation wall was recorded at 1.80m, which roughly corresponds to the 1.75m of the two foundations observed in Test Pit 2. The character of the additional north wall, the similarity of the bricks and bond, may assign it to the 18th century.

### *Conclusions*

Observations made on the natural clay subsoil confirm a slight slope down to the east. This is made clear by the lower general levels of the modern houses along St. Martin's Approach, outside the eastern arm of the moat. The ground within the bailey was part of a natural eminence prior to the creation of any major earthworks in the Saxon or Norman periods.

Sections through the build up of deposits show the amount of made ground on the east and north sides of the standing building to be 1.10m. The depth of build-up associated with the flint foundations is probably around the region 0.50m, with all remaining post-mediaeval deposits accounting for the top 0.60m. The primary 0.50m of overburden may incorporate material cast up from the moat and indeed constitute the original bank of the bailey. This is only a tentative attempt to reconstruct viable land surfaces on a site that

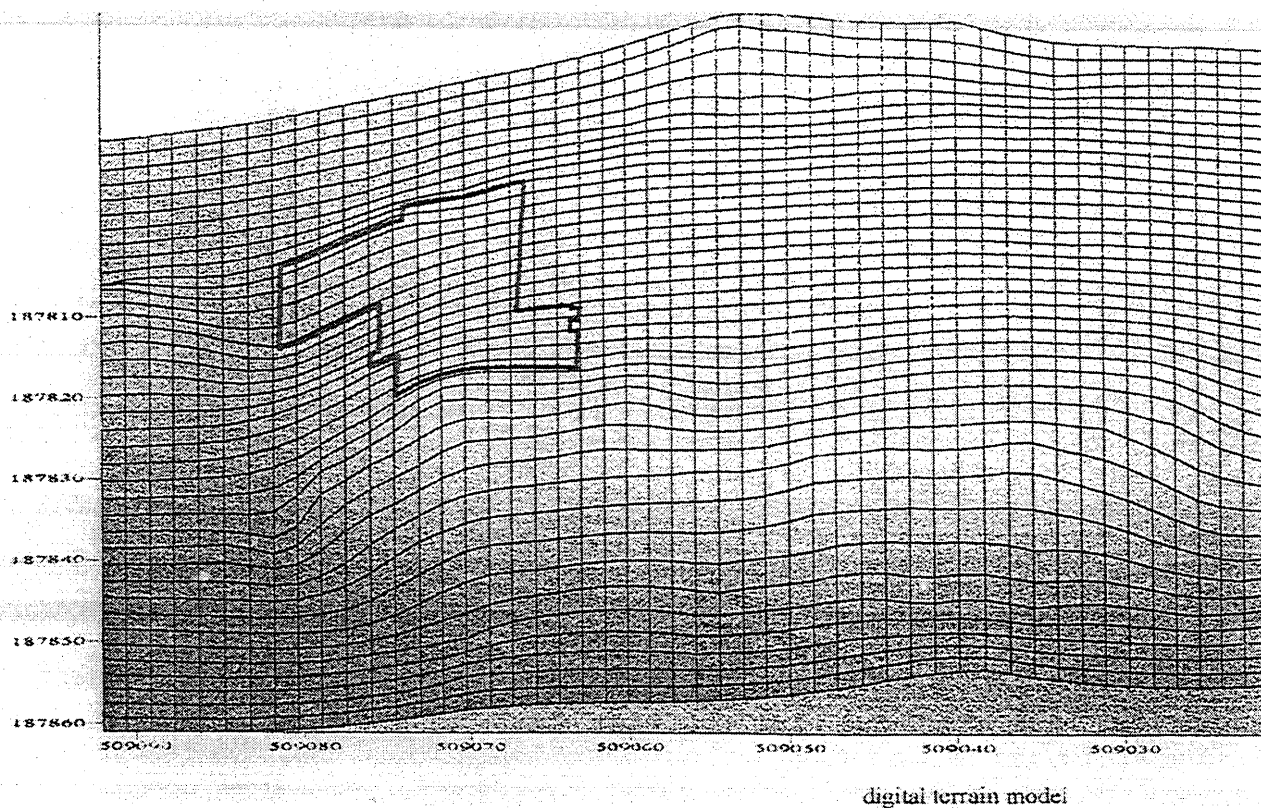
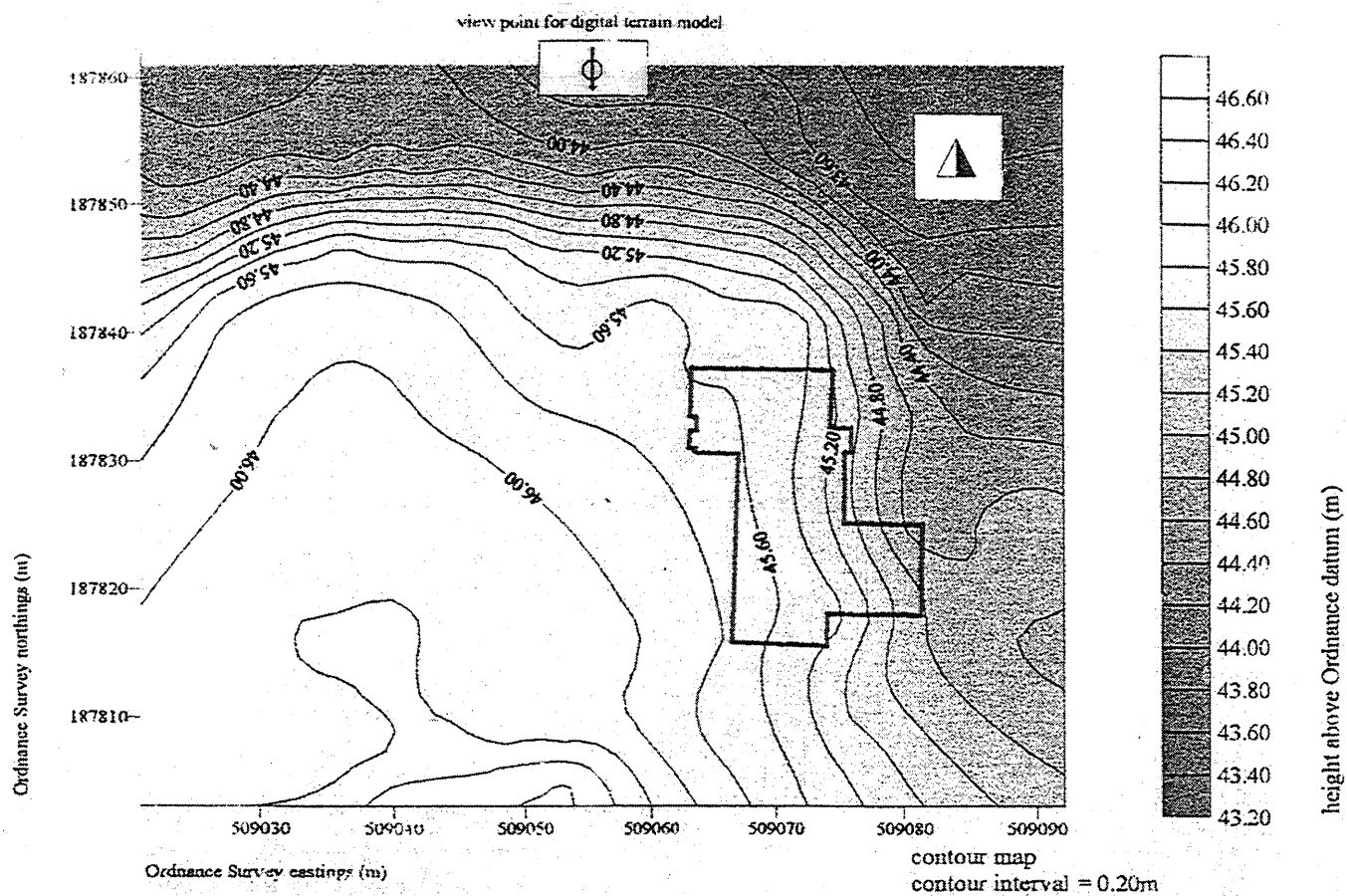


Fig.5: Location of Manor House Farm  
in relation to the moat: from the north

has undergone radical landscaping in antiquity.

The flint foundations (23) and (21) in Test Pits 1 and 2 seem to indicate the presence of an earlier structure, the foundations of which had been reused by the builders of the present Manor Farm House. One possibility is that they are part of the 13th-14th century manorial estate, when the manor was a priory and administrative centre. On the north side of the building, the full extent of these foundations is not known. Foundation (23) continued beyond the north, west and eastern limits of Test Pit 1. Similarly, the extent north and south of foundation (21) has not been established, unless some information from a 1996 test pit is able to throw some light on the nature of the foundations further to the south.

The date for the coin (1135-1153) is perhaps not as helpful as it might be, given the context in which it was found. It was in the base of the construction cut for the small flint foundation (4), which appeared to overlie the robbing of foundation (23). (Only a small part at the south end of (4) was excavated, where the foundation had been partially truncated by the underpinning works of 1958). If we accept the coin as securely stratified in the construction cut, then it is probably residual, as it otherwise places the robbing of foundation (23) before c.1100. This would place the foundations within the period of the motte, when general opinion holds that a wooden castle on the mound itself was probably the only structure on the site.

It seems more plausible that the foundations belong to a part of the priory buildings and that they are therefore post-1197. Documentary evidence refers to the existence of priory buildings on the bailey, and gives a date for their clearance in 1613, perhaps just prior to the erection of the present farm house. The placing of the very deep foundation, (21), in what seems a precarious location on the verge of the moat, may be puzzling. It has obviously since dictated the siting of Manor Farm House. If one accepts that the foundations are part of a complex of priory/early manorial buildings, and that they were possibly the base of an eastern range constrained within the island area of the bailey, the positioning of the building appears to make more sense.

### **Realisation of Research Questions**

The archaeological fieldwork has provided data which can now be assessed in terms of the

Original Research Questions. It is now possible to measure to what extent the data is capable of answering these questions.

#### *Motte and Bailey*

##### *Is there evidence for the construction levels of the motte and bailey?*

The level from which foundation (21) has been cut gives some indication of the ground surface levels post-1197 (if we can assume that the foundations belong to abbey structures). It is, of course, possible that the top of this cut has been truncated in antiquity. There is no finds evidence for the deposits in question. In Test Pits 1 and 2 two very similar deposits (31) and (32) could be interpreted as redeposited natural, which could have been thrown up from the ditch. Again, lack of dating from these contexts in the area of the test pits makes such an assertion less tangible.

##### *Can the date of construction be more closely determined from artefacts or ecofacts recovered?*

There were no finds from the period of the motte and bailey, that is between about 1070 and 1097. A single coin of Stephen may have been residual in a later context; if not, it may provide a date for a deposit, whose relationship with the structural foundations is not yet clear from the limited excavation undertaken. The potential for determining the date of deposits via ecofacts is limited. The presence of certain plant remains can sometimes be said to be characteristic of certain periods, and can therefore confirm trends presented by the dating of other artefacts. Similarly, assemblages of plant remains can in this way be identified as unusual within a given broad date range. The limited recovery of both artefacts and ecofacts from the site has not helped to determine the date of construction of the motte and bailey.

##### *Is there evidence for buildings pre-dating the farm house?*

The flint foundations (21) and (23) are almost certainly those of a pre-existing building. Foundations (4) and (7) may belong to an earlier period than the 16th-17th century farmhouse.

#### *Manor Farm House*

##### *Does the 16th century farmhouse include below ground elements of earlier buildings?*

The flint foundations (21) and (23) almost certainly belong to an earlier structure. There



is evidence of robbing (Test Pit 1) and reuse (Test Pits 1 and 2 of these foundations).

*What building materials and methods of construction were employed on the earlier structures?*

The earlier structures had foundations made out of medium and large flint nodules strongly bonded with an orange, sandy mortar flecked with chalk. The evidence from Test Pit 2 suggests that the foundations were free standing.

*What building materials and methods of construction were employed in the foundation levels of the 16th century building?*

Evidence from Test Pit 4 shows that the foundation/cellar wall of the farmhouse was of mortared bricks, although it is not known whether this rested on a brick or flint off-set.

*Are the cellars backfilled?*

The cellar on the east side of the standing building was backfilled (Test Pits 3 and 4).

## Additional Research Questions

Further questions have arisen as a result of the archaeological fieldwork:

- What is the full extent and the date of the flint foundations (21) and (23)?
- What is the full extent and the date of foundations (4) and (7)?
- Are the foundations of the farmhouse typically brick on a corbelled brick plinth or on an off-set flint plinth and how deep are they?
- Was there a superstructure over the cellar on the east side of the farmhouse, and if so, what was its date and plan?

## Appendix 1

Listed description of the Manor Farm House

TQ 0987 Grade II

16th century timber framed building with 18th century alterations. 2 storeys, 3 bays and projecting gabled north wing. Old tiled roof with compound ridge stack and right end chimney. Close studded 1st floor with brick nogging. Ground floor now pebble-dashed. Sash windows with glazing bars, those on 1st floor in exposed moulded frames, those on ground floor in reveals. 6-panel door under flat

hood. North wing stuccoed. Inside some exposed moulded beams.  
24.1.50

## Appendix 2

Mediaeval coin from Manor Farm House, Ruislip

(accession no. 1, context 4)

Counterfeit penny of Stephen (1135-1154): king's bust with sceptre and cross moline with fleurs de lis in angles, (?)...ON:HV...

Poorly struck, on irregular flan (as is usual for the issue), though here it appears to be of copper-alloy sheeting with a wash of silver; little wear; ?Huntingdon mint, moneyer illegible.

This false coin took advantage of the generally poor state of the national coinage during a period of political anarchy.

## Acknowledgement

This paper is reproduced by kind permission of the Museum of London Archaeology Service (Project Manager: Derek Seeley) whose work it describes. Whilst the text is included in full, some diagrams and appendices of the original report have been omitted for this printing, and coloured diagrams have been reduced in size and reproduced in monochrome.

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# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN BURY STREET April 1998

by Eileen M. Bowlt

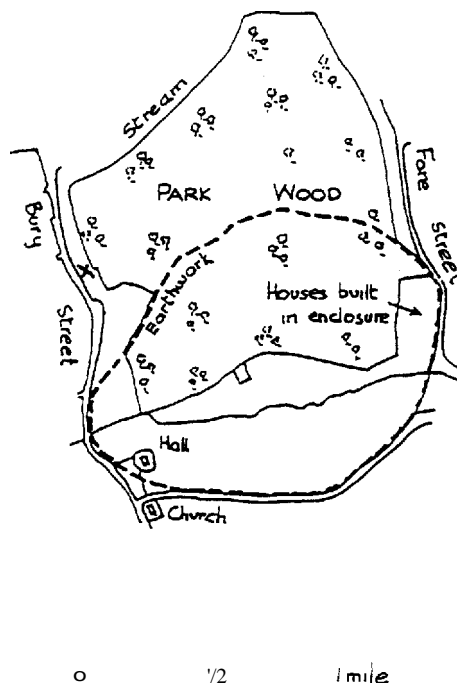
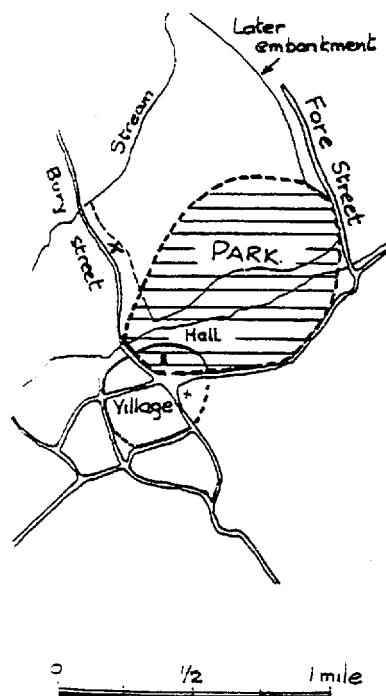
## The Site

Three bungalows on the north side of Laburnum Grove in Bury Street were demolished in April 1998 to make way for a development of houses and bungalows by Matthew's Homes. The site is a sensitive one, backing onto Park Wood and lying just north of the ancient park boundary mentioned in the Domesday Book. A few yards to the south The Plough, Woodman Farm and The Berries, all listed timber-framed buildings, still stand in an area which was known as Silver Street Green in the mid-14th century.<sup>1</sup> Further north in Bury Street there were cottages at Cannonsbridge by 1433<sup>2</sup>. A messuage stood within the present development area by 1563.<sup>3</sup>

The Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan (the first draft for public consultation was produced in October 1991 and a final period of consultation came to an end in May 1998) recognises the importance of the woods, all of which enjoy SSSI status (Sites of Special Scientific Interest), as being Sites of Metropolitan Importance.<sup>4</sup> Policy SCI<sup>1</sup> says "The Local Planning Authority will not permit development unless it can be shown that it will

not be detrimental to SSSIs, Sites of Metropolitan or Borough Importance for nature conservation ...When development is envisaged on or in the near vicinity of such sites, applicants will be asked to submit an ecological assessment to demonstrate that the proposed development will not have adverse ecological effects'. The Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group (on which this Society is represented by Colin Bowlt) proposed that Policy EC1 should be modified to preserve undeveloped buffer zones adjacent to SSSIs to further protect them from ecological and genetic isolation. The Inspector gave as his opinion that the Green Belt policy amply protected the surrounds of all SSSIs and that there was no need to modify the policy."

Some of the new houses now being built will be nearer to the boundary than the former bungalows. This Society was one of many groups and individuals which objected to the present development because it infringed the principles embodied in the UDP. In the summer of 1997 council officials, without consultation, changed the wording of the UDP slightly and planning consent was granted amid public uproar.



*The Park in early and later Medieval times  
The site is marked X on both maps*

## Archaeological Finds

The archaeological heritage is also protected by the UDP. 'Where development may affect areas of archaeological significance or potential, both within Archaeological Priority Areas and elsewhere, the Local Planning Authority will expect applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications of their proposals.'<sup>7</sup>

An archaeological survey of the site was agreed. It was carried out between 23rd and 31st March 1998 under the supervision of J. Hunn and R. Zeepvat. When the builders had cleared the areas of the new houses and bungalows, they were examined and recorded. The plot near to the boundary and on a level with 174b Bury Street (still standing) yielded the most interesting archaeological finds. Part of the wall of a building of post-medieval date was uncovered. It consisted of what appeared to be a flint cill (the flints were not exactly in line) with a course of red bricks on top. One that was removed and carefully measured proved to be very slightly smaller than what is considered a standard Tudor brick:  $8\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 2$  inches as opposed to  $9 \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 2$  inches. A number of potsherds came to light, the earliest being of Saxo-Norman date. Other medieval pieces included, Hertfordshire Middlesex grayware, and some green glazed ware. There was also 17th and 18th century red earthenware. The spread of pottery was such as to suggest that the bricks and tiles formed part of a domestic building".

The Saxo-Norman find is rare and therefore exciting, perhaps indicating the earliest known occupation site just outside the enclosed park. The site in the 11th century was on the edge of the outwood, which would have been wood pasture, where animals could graze. 13th century pottery was picked up in 1983 when the new houses called Plough Close were being built on the garden and orchard of Woodman Farm. There seems to have been a good deal of medieval settlement in Bury Street along the edge of the outwood and north of the park boundary, probably because of the availability of grazing and fuel in the form of brushwood and fallen branches. No evidence of medieval occupation has yet been found further south along the edge of the park itself until the motte-bailey site at Manor Farm is reached. This makes sense as it would not have been possible for would-be settlers to encroach upon the fenced and ditched park.

## The 16th Century Owner

The King's College Terrier of 1565<sup>9</sup> is the earliest document to refer to a building on this site. The entry runs:

*John Flye holds by copyhold a messuage...with an orchard and garden and meadow containing 2 acres...by a lease dated 7 August, 5 Eliz (1563).*

The pottery suggests that there was much earlier occupation in the same place, but we have no evidence as to previous owners. The only other property that John Flye owned in Ruislip was 2 acres of pasture at Michels Green, where there was a ruined cottage. (Michels Green was near Hills Lane, where there is now a children's recreation ground.) He made his will in March 1565<sup>10</sup> as follows:

*In the name of God Amen the 13th day of March Anno Domini 1565 I John Rye of the parish of Ruislip in the County of Middlesex yeoman, being sick of body but whole of mind and memory thanks be to God do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following.*

*First I bequeath my body to be buried in the churchyard of Ruislip aforesaid*

*Item I give and bequeath to the poor men's chest 6d.*

*Item I give to William my son a great chest standing at my bed's head with all things therein at my departing.*

*Item I give to the same William my son a cupboard and a table and a form now standing in the hall. Also I give unto the same William 4 silver spoons.*

*Item I give to Margaret my wife a black cow with one horn.*

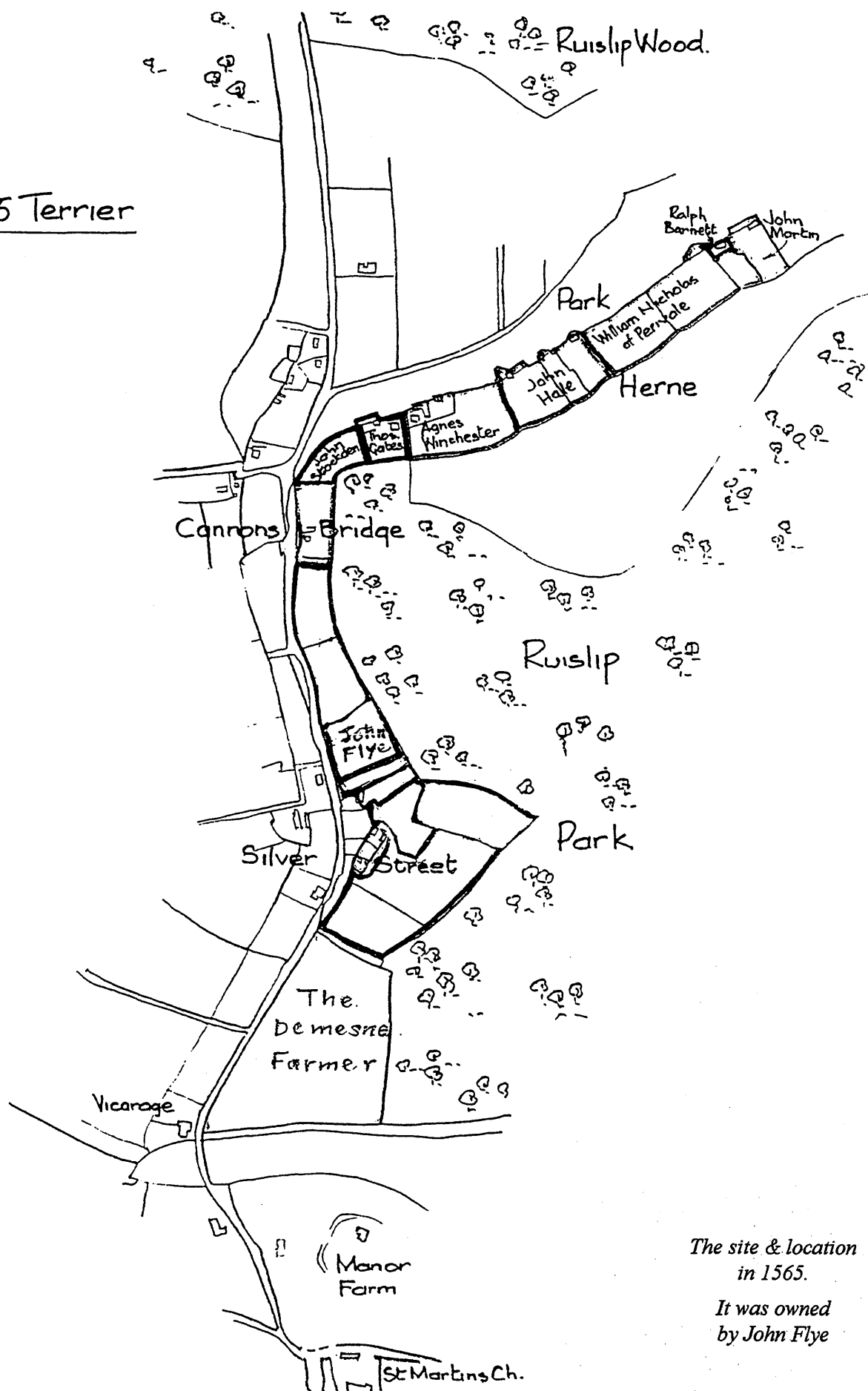
*Item I give to each of my godchildren 4d.*

*Item I will that Margaret my wife shall have my house and the orchard with the mead two years after my decease reserving the chamber that I lie in to William my son to put such stuff as he hath therein. And after the two years is ended my wife to have the parlour and the buttery in the highend of the house which is on the left coming in at the street door for her lifetime.*

*Item I will that William my son and Margaret my wife to have all the rest of my moveable goods within my house between them and my son to have the first choice throughout all my goods and she the next and so to part it between them.*

*Item I will that William my son and Margaret my wife between them to see me honestly brought to earth. That is to say with equal*

1565 Terrier



*The site & location  
in 1565.*

*It was owned  
by John Flye*



*charges between them. All other my goods unbequeathed I do give to William my son. And I do make him my sole executor paying my debts and taking my debts and fulfilling this my last will and testament.*

*And I do make James Osmond, Richard Robyns, Smith and George Flye Overseers of this my will. And I give to either of them 20d for their payment.*

*These being witness: Richard Barringer, John Lyving and others.*

Probate was granted 3 March 1570 to William Flye, his son. AS the message in Bury Street was John Flye's only upright house we can assume that he lived there and that the rooms and furnishings mentioned in his will refer to it. It is exciting to think that at least the bottom of one wall has survived and has seen the light of day if only for a short time.

A William Flye acts as overseer or witness of several wills in the 1570s and 1580s, but is mentioned for the last time in 1595. Perhaps the family died out. The only child of William's that we hear of, is an illegitimate daughter. The mother, Agnes Wheeler, died in 1588 and mentioned William in her own will".

## Later History of the Site

By the time John Doharty made his survey of the Ruislip Demesne in 1750<sup>12</sup> the plot belonged to Charles Turner and had no house, only a small building on the roadside. On the Ruislip Enclosure Map of 1806<sup>13</sup> the field was shown as owned by the Revd Richard Glover and the portion with the small building had been divided off and was Ann Carter's (Old Enclosures 471 & 472 respectively). From the Ruislip Valuation of 1807<sup>4</sup> it appears that the very small building was indeed a cottage and let by Mrs Carter to William Anderson, Senior.

A Terrier and Valuation" made 30 years later in 1837 reveals a changed pattern of ownership. Two old houses shown on Doharty's map immediately north of Ann Carter's plot had been demolished and replaced with a grander house called Bury House. (Not the present Bury House that was built about 1900 on the same site) It belonged to Thomas Truesdale Clarke whose father owned Swakeleys at the time. Ann Carter's land had also been taken over by Mr Clarke and was described as meadow. The little cottage was

still there. This layout is shown on the 1866 six inch OS map. The Revd Richard Glover's field had been purchased by Ralph Deane of Eastcote House, who owned the small farm latterly known as Bury Street Farm, which was demolished in 1978 to make way for Laburnum Grove.

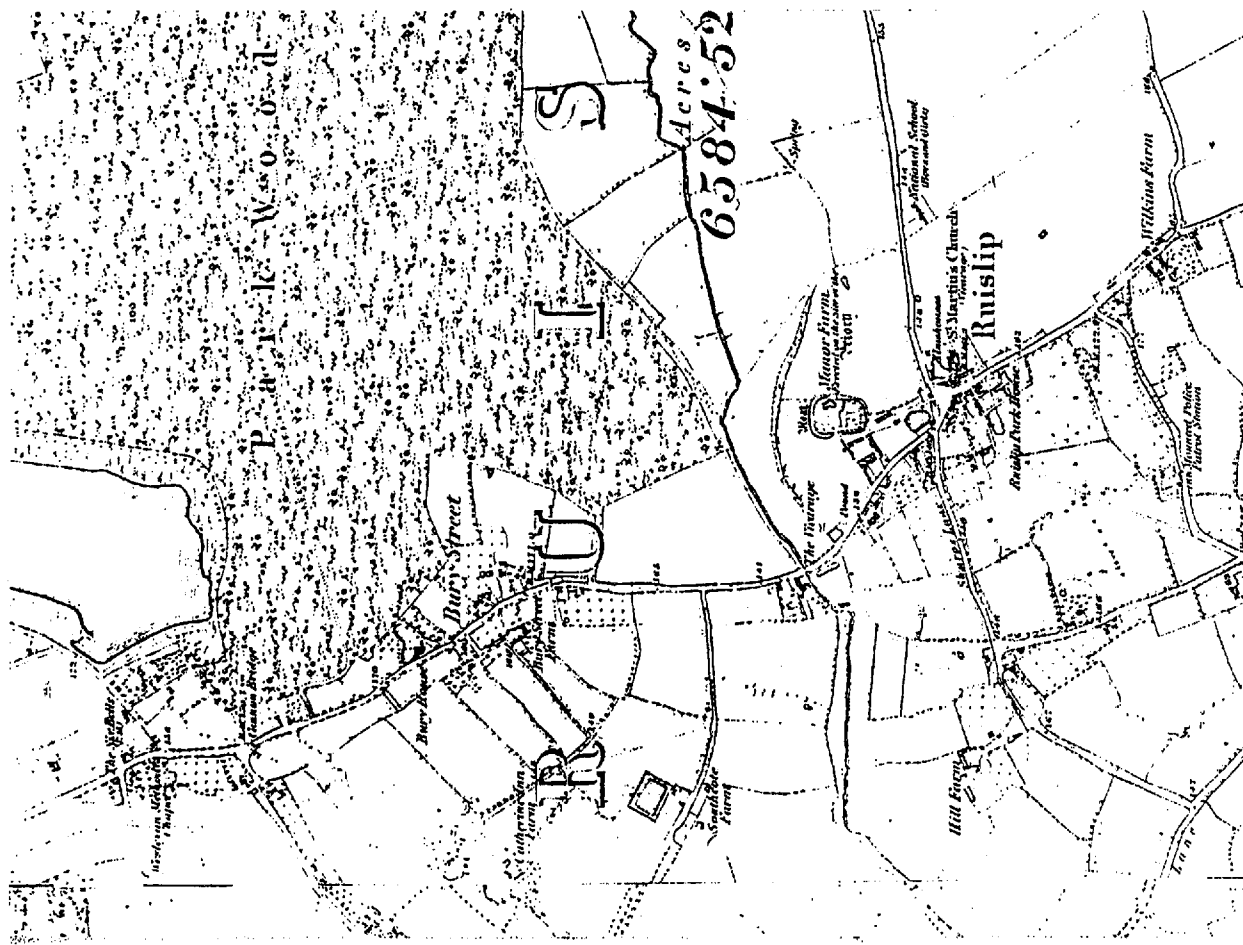
The Collins family lived at Bury Street Fann from about 1912, first as tenants, then as owners. The first of the bungalows was built on the northern edge of the field for Peter Collins in 1953-4. The other two came a little later on what had been Ann Carter's field. Mrs Florence Collins (mother of Peter) died in 1978 and Laburnum Grove was built over the site of the house, barn, garden and field.

## The Future

The developers have decided to build the new houses upon piles, which in theory will not damage any underlying archaeology, leaving it intact for future generations to uncover.

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# RUISLIP IN 1841

by Colleen A•. Cox

The first population census was taken in this country in 1801 and there has been one every ten years since then (apart from 1941). Information from the first four censuses i.e. 1801 to 1831, was collected by overseers of the poor and was limited to questions about the number of houses, the number of men and women and their occupation. The answers were transcribed in Census Enumerators Books which were destroyed in 1931 and are not available for further study. Occupations were classified into three categories:

1. Agriculture
2. Handcraft, manufacture and trade
3. Other.

The latter presumably included most women and all children but may have included other occupations.

The 1841 census was organised by T.H..Lister who appointed special census enumerators who had to be literate, numerate, honest and reliable and also healthy enough to deliver the schedules to each household in his district. In this area each enumerator had about 100 schedules to deliver. This census was the first to list the names of all the individuals, their age to the nearest 5 years, their occupation and whether or not they were born in the county in which they resided. Although this was a great step forward for those studying the information collected, only limited comparisons can be made with the later censuses. From 1851 onwards marital status, relationship to the head of the household and age to the nearest year were recorded together with occupation and place and county of birth. This enabled analyses to be made of family size as well as household size and a study of population mobility not possible from the 1841 census. In addition the 1841 schedules were completed in pencil and although the books are still available the writing in places is so faint as to be barely legible.

We are fortunate that in Ruislip in 1837 the Vestry had commissioned a Terrier, a survey of land ownership and occupancy for a review of the Rateable Value of the area. The names of owners and occupiers are recorded in this together with the area of land identified by old and new enclosure numbers. By reference to the Enclosure Map it is possible to locate the land of individual occupiers. Because the population was relatively stable at this time

many of the names appear in both the 1841 census and the Terrier.

Ruislip was divided into three Enumeration Districts, namely Ruislip village and hamlets, Northwood and the northern part of Ruislip (near the Lido) and Eastcote. The enumerators were William Phillips, the village schoolmaster, John Grigg, and Daniel Matherson who farmed at Haydon Hall Farm, Eastcote. We know from the 1851 census that William Phillips was a British subject born in the West Indies who was married to a Ruislip girl and lived in a cottage near The Swan PH. John Grigg described as a shoemaker in 1841 appeared as the parish clerk and collector of taxes in later censuses. Grigg lived in Bury Farm which is opposite the end of Park Avenue.

		1841	1851
Ruislip	M	344	356
	F	286	281
Northwood	M	125	119
	F	120	133
Eastcote	M	253	252
	F	285	251
All areas	M	722	727
	F	691	665
Total population		1413	1392

*Table 1. Men and Women  
in Ruislip in 1841 and 1851*

The total number of people in the three enumeration districts in 1841 was 1413, 21 more than in 1851. To enable comparisons to be made with later censuses the three natural divisions of Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote will be studied rather than the enumeration districts which were selected for administrative purposes so that each enumerator was responsible for a similar number of schedules. This article contains the results of analyses on Ruislip bounded in the north by Mad Bess Wood and as far south as Down Barns just beyond the present A40.

In some of the census years the enumerator followed a systematic route around the district which made it easier to locate individual houses. William Phillips however did not do so and it was only information from later censuses and the Terrier that made it possible to place most but by no means all of the occupiers. As

in later years there were more men than women in Ruislip, the numbers were almost equal in Northwood and in Eastcote there were more women than men. At this time the most important occupation for women was domestic service and the fact that so few houses in Ruislip had servants may explain why there were fewer women. Men could find work relatively easily as agricultural labourers and a number of single men lodged either at the farm where they worked or at the local inns such as The Swan with six lodgers and The George and The Bricklayers Arms with four each.

Although only required to record ages to the nearest 5 years some of the enumerators recorded them to the nearest year. Ages in Ruislip ranged from 7 months to 82 year-old Penelope Carol who lived in one of the almshouses as did 80-year-old Dinah Collins. There were three men in their 80s, one of whom, John Woodman lived at the cottage later known as The Plough in Bury Street although not licensed in 1841. Two others who lived in what was then called New Road but which seems to have been the present Breakspear Road. Only 7% of the population was over 65 years of age less than half the percentage at the present time.

The average household size was 4.6 which was very similar to that found in later years. The largest household was that of the attorney Henry Hill at Ruislip Park with 15 people. This is the large house in the High Street now occupied by the Royal British Legion. Little is known of the Hill family although a descendent living in the USA contacted Eileen Bowlt after finding a reference to an Edward Hill, Gentleman of Ruislip and Doughty Street in the will of his widow Nancy who died in 1842. In 1841 Nancy Hill aged 70 years and her daughter Nancy aged 50 both of independent means, were recorded in the household of her son, Henry. He was 40 years of age and married to 35-year-old Isabelle. The couple had five young children. The household was completed by one male and three female servants together with a 25-year-old woman whose name is illegible but who was recorded as "Independent". We do not yet know how long the Hill family lived at Ruislip Park. Orlando Stone owned and occupied the house in 1837 and it was occupied by Vacher Esq. in 1847.

The vicar at this time was the Reverend Christopher Packe who had moved to Ruislip in 1834 for the good of his health and that of his family (E. Bowlt RNELHS Journal 1983).

He was aged 50 years and living with his 40-year-old wife Mary, 79-year-old mother Thomasina and seven children most of whom he outlived. Three female servants completed the household of 13. The other household of 13 was that of Joseph Mann of Bourne Farm in South Ruislip. He and his wife had seven children living at home and four agricultural labourers boarding with them.

In the Ruislip area an occupation was recorded for 190 men and 24 women in 1841. Of these 145 (68%) were employed in agriculture. Most of the men were agricultural labourers but there were 22 fanners and two shepherds. The next largest group was that of people in service but this census did not distinguish between domestic and farm servants and it is almost certain that most of the male servants such as those at Manor Farm worked on the farm and not in the house. A total of 26 people were recorded as servants of whom 14 were men and 12 women.

Other occupations allied to farming included 3 blacksmiths, 3 wheelwrights, 2 harness makers and a cooper. There were 17 tradespeople including 7 licensees, 4 shopkeepers, 4 bakers and 2 butchers. Three of the public houses were at the church end of the High Street, three in Ruislip Common (North Ruislip) and the other was the White Bear at King's End. Most of the licensees were still at the same place ten years later. The two exceptions were Elizabeth Ratcliffe at The George who was succeeded by her son Matthew. In 1841 Matthew was a butcher living at Woodman's Farm in Bury Street. The other was William Gomm who was succeeded at The White Bear by James Weedon.

The building trade was represented by a carpenter and a bricklayer and there was also one woman sand miner. One could expect that labourers were heavy on their feet which would account for the 3 shoemakers but the 2 tailors were rather more surprising, and one can only speculate as to why there was a sailor at Prior's Farm. Unlike the findings of later censuses the only occupations linked to the woods were a woodward and one wood dealer. I was interested to note that William Smith who lived near the entrance to Manor Farm described himself as a "hawker" in 1841. In later years his occupation was given as a barber, a ginger-beer maker and in 1871 at the age of 74 years he was recorded as an agricultural labourer.



Occupations were recorded for 24 women. Three of the shops and two of the public houses were run by women, two were farmers, two were laundresses, one a nurse and one a needlewoman. The remainder were in service. No children were recorded as scholars even though Ruislip had a National School and schoolmaster at this time. It is possible that the enumerators were not asked to record this.

Ralph Deane was the largest land occupier at the time. The Deane family leased the demesne land from the Lord of the Manor, King's College, Cambridge and the rectory lands from the rector, Dean and Canons of Windsor. This land extended from Copse Wood and Park Wood in the north to the east of the High Street and West End Road as far south as the present A40. Ralph Deane employed someone to farm the land south of a line where the Metropolitan Railway now runs. This was probably Joseph Mann who lived at Bourne Farm and who although only an agricultural labourer in 1841 was described as a farm bailiff in the 1851 census. The old farm house was near the junction of Victoria Road and Long Drive in South Ruislip. Bourne Farm was one of the largest farms with some 450 acres. Robert Webb another agricultural labourer lived at New Pond Farm which was near but not the same house, despite having the same name, as that currently a nursing home at 173 West End Road.

The Deanes sub-let Manor Farm, another large farm of approximately 400 acres south of Park Wood. The tenant at this time was Samuel Pearce who was born in Gloucestershire. Another of the Deanes' farms was Priors Farm with about 160 acres near the southern parish boundary. In 1841 this was occupied by Joseph Watson who appears in the 1851 census at Gatehill Farm and who is buried in Northwood churchyard.

An interesting farm was Wilkins Farm. The farmhouse was near the present Woolworths building in Ruislip High Street. William Tollitt was the occupier recorded in the 1837 Terrier, the 1847 Rate Book and the 1851 census but he is not mentioned in the 1841 census. The land farmed from here belonged to the Hilliard family and in 1837 included some 6 acres near the farmhouse, 80 acres south of Wood Lane and 100 acres to the west of West

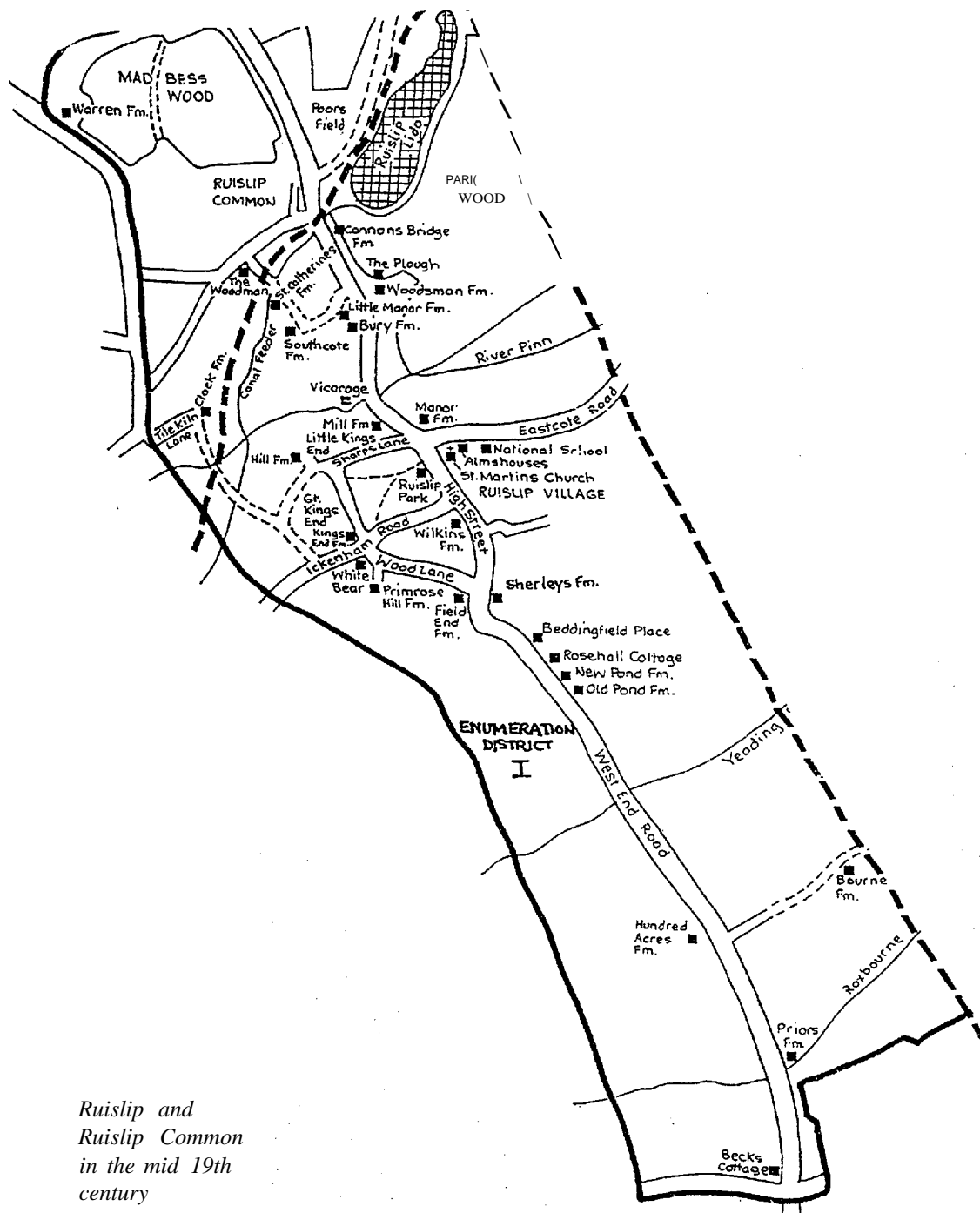
End Road which later became Hundred Acres Farm and is now part of Northolt Airport.

James Ewer was the occupier of Hill Farm now in Orchard Close. The land of this farm belonged to Thomas Truesdale Clarke of Swakeleys House in Ickenham and included 56 acres near the farm and 92 acres of New Enclosure to the west of West End Road in the Ruislip Gardens area. In 1841 James Ewer was aged 65 years, probably already a widower with 7 of his children still living at home their ages ranging from 11 to 25 years. Most of them were still there 10 years later and did not marry until after the death of their father. The Ewers owned Mill House Farm and its 15 acres of land which was leased to William Mason. They also owned Bury Farm, the cottage occupied by the enumerator, John Grigg.

According to the Terrier, Samuel Weedon farmed both the 25 acres of King's End Farm, opposite The White Bear, and Primrose Hill Farm on the site of the present Chichester Avenue. Field End Farm at the bottom of Wood Lane was farmed by George Watkins whose family continued to live here for most of the 19th century. The Martin family occupied Southcote Farm on Howletts Lane and

<i>Name of farm</i>	<i>Occupier</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
St Catherine's End	John Ashley	15
Little Manor Farm	Thomas Woodman	100
Cannon's Bridge	Dinah Brill	5
Bury St. Farm	(Sarah Weatherston)	nk
Woodman's Farm	(Matthew Ratcliffe)	nk
Mill House Farm	William Mason	15
Hill Farm	James Ewer	150
Manor Farm	Samuel Pearce	400
Wilkins Farm	(William Tollitt)	280
Field End (Old Barn)	James Webb (ag. lab)	54
Sharps Lane	John Collett	8
King's End	Samuel Weedon	25
Primrose Hill	Samuel Weedon	36
Field End (Wood Lane)	George Watkins	47
New Pond (Old Pond)	Robert Webb (ag. lab.)	100
Bourne Farm	Joseph Mann (ag. lab.)	450
Prior's Farm	Joseph Watson	160
Southcote Farm	William Martin	72
Clack Farm	Elizabeth Woodman	63
Tile Kiln	Edward Brill	nk
Tile Kiln	Charles Woodman	50
Tile Kiln	Francis Woodman	1
(Woodbine Cott)		
Warren Farm	William Brill	15
Wythies	William Churchill	24
(Ruislip Common)		
Ruislin Common	George Barker	nk

*Table 2: Farms and Occupiers in 1841  
(acreages as at 1837)*



*Ruislip and  
Ruislip Common  
in the mid 19th  
century*

Elizabeth Woodman, one of two women, fanned Clack Farm at Tile Kiln for many years assisted by her numerous sons. The other woman recorded as a fanner was 63-year-old Dinah Brill with 15 acres at Cannon's Bridge.

Then as now the heart of Ruislip village centred round St. Martin's Church, the almshouses, Manor Farm and the cottages at the end of the High Street. Nine of the ten almshouses were occupied by elderly people. William Page, the blacksmith, had a smithy near the entrance to Manor Farm but appears to have lived in the house south of the church

entrance (now a restaurant). To the north of the church entrance was a public-house known as The Bricklayer's Arms, run by William Doughty, a bricklayer with his brother James, a carpenter. One of the four lodgers was 22-year-old William Barrenger another blacksmith. This pub has also been known as The Bell or The One Bell. Across the road on the corner of The Oaks (formerly Park Lane) was a baker's shop run by William Ashby. Ann Wootton and Ephraim Dawes, a shoemaker lived in the lane and on the other corner was The Swan where James Godliman was the licensee. Next to this lived William

Saich, the harness-maker. Also nearby was a shop run by Richard Birch and next to The George lived Elizabeth Seymour, the mother-in-law of the enumerator William Phillips. The Qld White House at the end of Bury Street was occupied by the other baker, Thomas Newman.

Daniel Barringer the wheelwright lived in a house later known as The Poplars, on the corner of Ickenham Road and another wheelwright, Thomas Windfield lived in a cottage nearby. The only other houses in the High Street were those belonging to the three farms, Wilkins Farm, Sherleys Farm and Field End Farm. There were several hamlets around the village such as King's End, Bury Street near The Plough and the largest known as Ruislip Common near the present Fire Station.

Apart from a small beerhouse and a shop, the cottages in the hamlets were mostly occupied by agricultural workers with the concentration of skilled craftsmen and tradesmen in the centre of the village.

Details of the fannsand farmers are given in Table 2 and the heads of household are listed in Table 3.

The overwhelming impression that a study of the 1841 census gives is that so little changed during the early part of the 19th century. Ruislip was a quiet rural parish off the beaten track and its occupants were probably happy to keep it so.

*Table 3: Heads of Household in Ruislip in 1841 and 1851*

Location	1841			1851		
	Name	Age	Occupation	Name	Age	Occupation
Sherley's Fm	James Webb	71	Fanner	Thos. Humfries	37	Fm bailiff
	John Hows	70	Ag.Lab	William Bell	60	Cowherd
Ruislip Village	John Gladman	69	Ag.Lab	Martha Martin	52	Charwoman
	Thos. Winfield	30	Wheelwright	Thos. Windfield	43	Wheelwright
Wilkins Fm	Wm Heavens	35	Ag.Lab	Wm Tollitt	76	Farmer
	James Hows	34	Ag.Lab			
Poplar House	Daniel Barringer	53	Wheelwright	Daniel Barringer	63	Wheelwright
	Frances Gough	43	Police			
Ruislip Park			Constable			
	Henry Hill	40	Attorney	Wm Curtis	35	Gardener
	Sarah Young	50	Needlewoman			
	Ann Wootton	35		Ann Wootton	49	Dressmaker
	Wm Ashby	35	Baker	Wm. Child	48	Baker
Park Lane	Sarah Ashley .	53	Monthly nurse			
	Ephraim Dawes	37	Shoemaker	Ephraim Dawes	48	Cordwainer
	Jos. Woodley	70	Ag.Lab			
The Swan PH	Jas. Godliman	50	Victualler	Jas. Godliman	60	Publican
	Elizabeth Nelson	50		Cath'n Weatherly	45	Ag.Lab
	Wm. Saich	65	Harnessmkr	Wm. Saich	74	Harnessmkr
	Richard Birch	74	Shopkeeper	Daniel Barringer	30	Grocer Wheel wrt
The George PH	James Bray	30	Ag.Lab	James Bray	40	Fann Lab.
	Wm. Phillips	20	Schoolmaster	Wm. Phillips	36	Schoolmaster
	Eliz. Ratcliffe	59	Publican	Matthew Ratcliffe	37	Publican
	Eliz. Seymour	66	Grocer	Henry Goodman	36	Grocer
	Wm. Smith	40	Hawker	Wm. Smith	53	Barber
Manor Fann	Samuel Pearce	58	Farmer	Samuel Pearce	66	Fanner
	Edward Sceney	75	Ag. Lab	Thos. Sherman .	42	Fm bailiff
	John Birch	30	Ag. Lab			
Alms houses	Mary Moores	57	Ag. Lab	Mary Moores	67	Pauper
	Dinah Collins	80		Sarah Woodley	70	Pauper
	Wm. Bugberd .	68	Ag. Lab	Sarah Lawrence	77	Pauper
	Thos. Franklin	53	Ag. Lab	Thos. Franklin	67	Ag. Lab
	Ann Webb	55	Ag. Lab	Ann Webb	63	Pauper
	Mary Godliman	68		Mary Godliman	77	Pauper
	Henry Weedon	77		Eliz. Bowden	65	Pauper
	Penelope Carrol	82		John Gorman	73	Ag. Lab

1841				1851		
Location	Name	Age	Occupation	Name	Age	Occupation
BricklayersAnns	Robert Turner	66	Ag. Lab	George Jennings	65	Pauper
	Sarah Young	65	Pauper			
	Wm. Doughty	56	Bricklayer	Wm. Doughty	67	Bricklayer
	Wm. Page	77	Blacksmith	Eliz. Page	81	Blacksmith
	James Webb	40	Ag. Lab	James Webb	50	Ag. Lab
	Ben. Watkins	38	Ag. Lab			
	John Saich	30	Harnessmaker	John Saich	44	Harness-maker
	Wm. Lavender	32	Ag. Lab	Wm. Lavender	42	Farm Lab
	Ann Mason	46	Ag. Lab			
SharpsLane	Charles Tiplady	43	Ex Comm. Trav.			
	Eliz. Meadows	30		Eliz. Meadows	43	Monthly Nurse
	Robert Redwell	33	Ag. Lab			
Hill Farm	James Ewer	65	Farmer	James Ewer	77	Farmer
SharpsLane	Edward Hopping	45	Ag. Lab	Edward Hopping	56	Farm Lab
SharpsLane	Thos. Norby	25	Ag. Lab	William Hill	37	Ag. Lab
	William Bowles	53	Ag. Lab	Hemy Martin	27	Farm Lab
	Isaac Andrews	34	Ag. Lab	Hemy Hill	30	Farm Lab
	John Collett	50	Farmer	John Collett	60	Hay dealer
	Edward Bray	30	Wood dealer	Edward Bray	40	Mkt Gardener
	Samuel Weedon	55	Farmer	Samuel Weedon	67	Farmer
	James Andrews	66	Ag. Lab	Isaac Andrews	44	Ag. Lab
Kings End Fm	Chas. Henwood	37	Clk. Timber			
			Whf			
	Wm Gomm	54	Hay dealer			
White Bear PH	Wm. Gomm	40	Publican	James Weedon	30	Publican
	John Weedon	45	Ag. Lab	John Weedon	53	Ag. Lab
	James Weatherly	45	Ag. Lab	John Weatherly	33	Hay binder
	Wm. Webb	30	Farmer	John Collett	21	Hay dealer
Primrose Hill	Wm. Weedon	36	Farmer			
	James Weatherly	60	Farm Lab			
Wood Lane	Eliz. Weedon	49	Ag. Lab	James Hows	32	Farm Lab
Field End Fm	George Watkins	32	Farmer	George Watkins	43	Farmer
West End Rd	Robert Webb	43	Hay dealer			
New Pond	Robert Webb	31	Ag. Lab	Thos. Clayton	51	Farm Lab
Bourne Farm	Joseph Mann	30	Ag. Lab	Joseph Mann	49	Farm bailiff
100 Acres Fm	James Smith	22	Farmer			
Priors Farm	Joseph Watson	47	Farmer	Richard Smith	23	Fanner
Down Barns	Thos. Harding	40	Ag. Lab	John Wallace	36	Fann Lab
	John Nuttman	25	Brickmaker			
Bury Street						
White House	Thos. Newman	44	Baker	Thos. Newman	54	Baker
Mill House Fm	Wm. Mason	50	Farmer	Wm. Mason	66	Fanner
Vicarage	Christ. Packe	50	Cleric	Rev C. Packe	59	Vicar
Bury Farm	John Grigg	49	Shoemaker	John Grigg	59	Parish clerk
	Thos. Woodman	30	Farmer	Chrltte Woodman	39	School-mistress
Woodmans Fm	James Benstead	42	Shoemaker	James Benstead	52	Shoemaker
	Thos. Bray	30	Ag. Lab	Thos. Bray	38	Ag. Lab
	John Woodman	80	Ind.	Thomas Howell	36	Gamekeeper
The Plough PH	Matthew Ratcliffe	28	Butcher	James Stent	43	Publican
Bury Street Fm	James Churchill	53	Ag. Lab	John Churchill	73	Hay dealer
	Wm. Ayres	26	Ag. Lab	George Ayres	48	Ag. Lab
	John Ayres	35	Ag. Lab	John Ayres	45	Ag. Lab
	Martha Martin	40	Ag. Lab	Wm. Webb	42	Hay dealer
	Mary Woodman	55	Ind.	Wm. Brill	38	Fanner
St. Catherines End	Thos. Bunce	60	Ag. Lab	Thos. Godliman	41	Red. Farmer
	Gec. Norby	29	Ag. Lab	Thos Brill	78	Ret'd Farmer

Location	1841			1851		
	Name	Age	Occupation	Name	Age	Occupation
	James Brill	49	Ag. Lab	James Brill	63	Ag. Lab
	Sarah Wetherston	50	Laundress	Henry Lavender	25	Ag. Lab
	Charlotte Milton	35	Laundress			
	James Churchill	53	Ag. Lab			
	Thos. Clayton	42	Ag. Lab			
Tile Kiln						
Clack Farm	Eliz. Woodman	60	Farmer	Ekiz. Woodman	74	Farmer
Til~Kiln	Edward Brill	20	Farmer	Wm. Scaffold	76	Beerhousekpr
	Chas. Woodman	30	Farmer	Chas. Woodman	45	Farmer
	Francis Woodman	25	Farmer	Francis Woodman	36	Farmer
	John Finch	30	Ag. Lab	Jon Finch	44	Hay dealer
	John Watson	50	Ag. Lab	Joseph Dean	26	Farm carter
Warren Farm	Wm. Brill	25	Farmer	James Thrift	54	Farmer
Breakspear ReI	Isaac Ives	25	Ag. Lab	Wm. Brill	36	Ag. Lab
The Woodman	Joseph Hill	30	Beerhousekpr	Joseph Hill	42	Beerhousekpr
Breakspear ReI	Daniel Collins	30	Ag. Lab	Joseph Martin	25	Hay dealer
	Wm. Woodley	70	Ag. Lab	James Massey	34	Ag. Lab
[pt Rose Cott]	Joseph Milton	80	Ag. Lab	Wm. Milton	33	Farm Lab
	Thos. Collins	30	Ag. Lab	Henry Poulter	28	Woodcutter
[pt Rose Cott]	John Alday	30	Ag. Lab	Thos. Allday	32	Wood dealer
[pt Hope Cott]	James Bunce	60	Ag. Lab	James Bunce	74	Sand dealer
	Joseph Bray	30	Ag. Lab	Daniel Collins	33	Land drainer
[pt Hope Cott]	Wm. Bunce	25	Ag. Lab	Wm. Bunce	35	Land drainer
[pt Hope Cott]	Fanny Alday	50	Shopkeeper	John Lavender	33	Ag. Lab
[Brill Cott]	Thos. Collins	65	Farmer	Fanny Collins	75	Shopkeeper
	Rich'd Goodman	50	Ag. Lab	Edward Woodman	32	Hay binder
Wythies	Wm. Churchill	30	Farmer	Wm. Churchill	44	Farmer
	George Tobutt	35	Ag. Lab	Maria Tobutt	48	Washerwoman
	Wm. Lavender	25	Ag. Lab	Hemy Tobutt	23	Ag. Lab
	Wm. Lavender	50	Ag. Lab	Wm. Lavender	67	Ag. Lab
	James Brill	25	Ag. Lab	John Weatherley	49	Wood/sand dlr
	James Milton	40	Ag. Lab	Wm. Milton	27	Ag. Lab
	James Lavender	45	Ag. Lab	Henry Lavender	50	Sand dealer
	George Allday	38	Ag. Lab	Wm. Lavender	38	Ag. Lab
	Wm. Woodley	82	Ag. Lab			
	Sarah Hill	65	Shopkeeper	Daniel Collins	40	Shopkeeper
Ruislip Common	Abr'am Andrews	65	Ag. Lab	Thos. Hunt	34	Bricklayer
Six Bells PH	Georgelve	35	Victualler	George Ive	46	Victualler
	Job Woodley	35	Ag. Lab	John Allday	44	Ag. Lab
	Wm. Hill	25	Ag. Lab	James Brill	39	Ag. Lab
	Thos. Bray	50	Ag. Lab	Edward Bray	25	Wood dealer
	Wm. Bell	60	Ag. Lab			
Ducks Hill	Mary Bray	65	Sand miner	John Bray	50	Wood/sand dlr
Nr. Reservoir	Henry Meadows	65	Woodward	James Lavender	44	Wood dealer
	Wm. ?	55	Ag. Lab	John Lavender	20	Wood dealer
	Chas. Massey	35	Ag. Lab	Chas. Massey	48	Woodcutter
	George Barker	60	Farmer	George Barker	73	Reservoir kpr
Reservoir Cott , Nr Reservoir	Henry Lavender	40	Ag. Lab	Henry Lavender	30	Woodcutter
	James Massey	45	Ag. Lab	James Massey	56	Ag. Lab
	Thos. Hill	45	Ag. Lab	Thos. Hill	56	Woodcutter
	John Bray	40	Ag. Lab	Edward Bray	25	Woodcutter
	Eliz. Wright	50	Ag. Lab	James Lavender	66	Kindlemaker
	Daniel Collins	55	Ag. Lab			
	James Body	30	Ag. Lab	James Boddy	41	Ag. Lab
	Wm Webb	65	Ag. Lab	John Brill	32	Ag. Lab
	Thos. Tobutt	75	Ag. Lab	Eliz. Tobutt	79	Ret. Laundress

SOURCES: Ruislip censuses for 1841 and 1851

## BOURNE FARM LODGE

by Colleen A. Cox

Amongst the papers which have recently been given to the Local History Collection by Ian Tait's family is a drawing of a cottage thought to be Bourne Farm Lodge. The drawing was apparently given to Mr Tait by Edward Saywell, Clerk to the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council from 1951 to 1965, and is dated 1927.



Between  
Eastcote & Northolt. 10.7.27.

In the angle where rough lane from  
Northolt Junction Station joined the  
public road as above.

Cottage (or lodge) shown  
was being demolished -  
2.7.33.

Bourne Farm was one of the post-enclosure farms with land leased by the Deanes of Eastcote House from the Dean and Canons of Windsor together with adjoining land purchased by Ralph Deane from T.T. Clarke of Swakeleys. The farmhouse built soon after 1812 was situated near the present junction of Victoria Road and Long Drive in South Ruislip. Little is known about the lodge which is described as being where the lane from

Northolt Junction Station (now South Ruislip) joined the public road, West End Road. The first reference that I have found so far is in the 1863 Rate Book which describes Bourne Farm as having a farmhouse, premises, grass, arable and meadow land and an entrance lodge. The 1866 Ordnance Survey Map shows a building in the position described and as it was not mentioned in earlier Rate Books it is possible that the lodge was built between 1860 and 1863.

The next reference to Bourne Farm Lodge is in the 1881 Census when it was occupied by Jonas Hobbs, a 33-year-old hay carter who was born in Luton and who lived there with his wife and three children aged between four and nine years all of whom were born in Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire. It is not possible to identify the occupier in either the 1871 or 1891 Censuses and Jonas Hobbs does not appear in either. The 1902 Rate Book gives the occupier as William Kerr.

A long-time resident of Ruislip, Mrs Florence Payne, recalls that there was a small house on the corner of Station Approach at its junction with West End Road. She remembers that it was occupied by a Mr Figg who was involved with the development of the Deane estate to the south of Station Approach. According to the 1913 street directory E.J. Figg lived in West End Road but although the exact location is not given it is likely to have been on the corner of the lane leading to the station which Mrs

Payne passed regularly on her way to and from the church school in Ruislip. Information on the drawing indicates that the cottage was being demolished in 1933.

If any of our members is able to confirm that the lodge and Mr Figg's cottage are the same building or have any information about either building, I should be delighted if they would contact me.



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RETAIL TRADE IN EASTCOTE

by Ron Edwards

Up to the beginning of the twentieth century Eastcote did not possess any permanent retail shops. The 1891 census registered a population of 563 dwelling in 118 houses over the area extending from Haste Hill to near the present Eastcote Arms PH in Victoria Road. The density was highest around the village and the three major houses - Eastcote House, Haydon Hall and High Grove - but was insufficient to justify trade for retail shopping. The large houses would not have used local shops to satisfy their more specialist needs; deliveries would have been arranged from major London stores. They were also better equipped to store consumable goods and other household requirements. 'Occasional' shops appeared in Old Cheyne Cottage in Wiltshire Lane and the "combined living room and small grocery store" at the "Case is Altered" PH remembered by A G Bedford. He also recalls Frederick Bedford, who was landlord until 1896, having "a pig killing day" at the old inn. "Neighbours were invited to order joints of pork, and when the fateful day dawned Bill Bailey, a well known local butcher, arrived to carry out the business of disposing of the ill-fated animal, and later the carcass in his usual methodical manner." Another early shop was

along the High Road between the Old Shooting Box and Ramin and housed the first post office to come to the district.

The Benson family lived in the Old Barn House in the High Road from 1904. They took over the running of the post office which was transferred from its original site to a double fronted shop alongside the Old Barn which together with a shop in the cottage owned by the Tapping family formed the basis of Eastcote Village centre. The Tappings also operated a smithy on the opposite side of the road. Laundries, boot repairs, building and decorating trades were small scale in private hands and dairy produce came directly from the local farms and dairymen. Mrs Ward Dyer (nee Hinman) and others recall Mr Golding from Myrtle Farm in Joel Street, with his old style milk cart containing a chum with tap and measures for milk to be poured into customers' jugs. There were a few small shops in Ruislip and Pinner but other requirements were obtained from Uxbridge or Watford or by delivery. Mrs Ratcliffe, who came to Cote Ford Close in 1919, used to walk with pram to Uxbridge or Watford to shop. There was no butcher in Eastcote, Crookalls being the nearest



*The Old Barn House, 1908  
Eastcote Post Office run by the Benson family*

in Ruislip. Some older residents remember two calls in a day from the butcher - one for the order and one for delivery. Alfred Button & Sons of Uxbridge later opened a grocer's shop - Howard Roberts Ltd - in the village to which the Post Office was transferred. They were joined later, in a newly erected block, by a greengrocers and a butchers. The double fronted shop changed to confectioner and newsagent.

Roads were laid out for development around Eastcote Halt prior to the First World War, but the first major private initiative was by Telling Brothers Ltd., who created Morford Way and Morford Close. They also built the row of shops known as Field End Parade on the west side of Field End Road. These were built between 1924 and 1926, and are distinctive in appearance as being more closely associated with house design and less blatantly commercial than later shop building was to become. They run between numbers 154 and 184 Field End Road. There is a fractional difference in the facades of those to the north and south of Morford Way, as the latter include a patterned diapering at first floor level which might indicate that this was the first block to be erected. Some confirmation of this can be obtained from an advertisement by Miss Clements, Ladies' and Children's Outfitters, in the June 1939 issue of "The Aerial" of the Eastcote Association which questionably claims to be Eastcote's oldest business, founded in 1925. Miss Clements business was in the double fronted shop (no 184) which projects out in front of the main building line.

From 1929 Rotherhams Estates Ltd and T F Nash began their estates on each side of Field End Road to the north of Telling's estate. They were followed in the 1930s by Comben and Wakeling's Eastcote Park Estate. To cater for increased demand for consumer goods from the new residents Rotherham Estates built a further block of shops - Devon Parade - opposite to the Field End Parade of Telling's. It is an easily identified between numbers 177 and 195 Field End Road. By 1935, T F Nash built Deane Parade, between Deane Croft Road and Abbotsbury Gardens and a further block between numbers 161 and 171 Field End Road. Around 1936/7 Devonshire Lodge, a large house on the bend of Field End Road opposite to the Manor House PH, was demolished and a parade of shops built from Abbotsbury Gardens to join up with number 161. An individual insert block, represented by the present 173/5 was then built to house J Sainsbury Ltd, grocers and Walton (London)

Ltd, fruiterers. After 1935 Station Approach was built by T F Nash between North View and the station terminating at the footpath to the car park. Queen's Parade opposite was built about the same time. Telcote Parade had been built south of the station by Tellings, and just before 1939 the quadrant of shops at the junction (north side) of Elm Avenue and Field End Road and the corner shop at the end of Devon Parade on the corner of North View were built. On the west side of Field End Road, Orchard Parade was built between the Manor House PH and the present Post Office. Between the Manor House and Field End Parade were Ideal Motors and the Ideal Cinema. There were no shops on the west side of Field End Road south of the railway.

In 1932 there were 26 shops in Field End Parade; by 1939 the number of businesses in the shopping centre was 105. In 1932 there had been a representative group of types of shop with one of each trade, but by 1939 there were 10 grocers, 6 butchers, 5 fruiterers, 4 bakers, 4 fishmongers and fried fish shops and 3 dairies. In 1932 there had been a music salon which sold pianos, sheet music etc. This had gone by 1939 but instead there were 2 radio shops. There were two private circulating libraries where the normal charge for borrowing books was 2d a volume a week. The only county libraries available were after school hours at Cannon Lane School and Coteford School in Fore Street. Multiple stores were well represented; as well as Sainsbury and Walton there were branches of Westminster Wine Company; Watford Co-operative Society; J H Dewhurst Ltd.; United Kingdom Tea Co.; Fifty-Shilling Tailors; Tesco Stores Ltd.; Eastman and Son, cleaners; Sanders Brothers, grocers; F W Woolworth & Co. Ltd; Walton, Hassell and Port, grocers; Bata Shoe Co. Ltd.; Truform Boot Co.; Boots the Chemists; Sketchley Dye Works Ltd.; Express Dairy Co. Ltd.; W H Smith & Son Ltd. and United Dairies (London) Ltd. Eastcote Village had a small selection of shops which included a butcher, grocer, greengrocer, post office, garage, newsagent and tobacconist, sweet shop, blacksmith and the Black Horse PH.

After the outbreak of war in September, 1939 shoppers faced shortages and price increases. As early as September 15th, 1939 the 'Advertiser and Gazette' reported dissatisfaction in Eastcote at the varying level of sugar prices. It noted that an Eastcote fish trader was forced to send a lorry to Colchester and back- 120 miles - to obtain supplies which



*Field End Road, shopping centre at time of Silver Jubilee 1935.*

would normally have come from Billingsgate. Argus, the Ruislip-Northwood correspondent of the 'Advertiser and Gazette' reported in December on the shortage of torch batteries in shops even though new torches with batteries were plentiful. From January 1940 the housewife also had to contend with rationing of various foods. This involved registering for meat and groceries at specific shops. The Food Control Office were responsible for issue of ration books, and were sited at Eastcote House. There were shortages of many commodities due to few imports of overseas goods and because manufacturers had been required to change production over to essential wartime goods and services. Each person was allocated a specific amount each week of essential food supplies and had an allocation of 'points' for a range of other goods.

After the war ended in 1945 the retail trade tried to resume normal business: The shopping centre was as 1939 with the exception of war damage in Deane Parade. The railway station with wing shops each side was not completed. Similarly the present service road over the bridge was not yet in existence the space being occupied by waste land. Lying back from the pavement before reaching the station was a gas decontamination centre run by Civil Defence during the war which is now incorporated into the rear of the north station wing shops. Most occupants and trades of shops were as at the outbreak of war. Wartime had been very trying

for retailers and customers had experienced queuing such as they had not seen before. Relationships between shopkeepers and customers was not always 'sweetness and light'. Where some foodstuffs were in short supply as opposed to being rationed, accusations sometimes arose that goods 'disappeared under the counter' and went to favoured customers. The element of competition within many trades virtually disappeared and customers were glad to be able to purchase anything at times. In June 1945 a letter sent to the 'Advertiser and Gazette' from an Eastcote resident complained about rudeness from shopkeepers during the war. Without doubt there were tensions from time to time but most people managed to weather the storm even if they did not come out smiling. On the other hand, it wasn't always bad news that prevailed. In July 1945 the tea ration was increased to 2½ oz weekly with 'elderly people' (those over 70) getting 3 oz!

From 1945 housing development took place south of the railway and between Fore Street and Wiltshire Lane. It was thought that the main shopping area and that in the village would not provide sufficient retail outlets for the increase in population. The local authority planned for new shopping centres for the southern end of Field End Road close to the Eastcote Arms PH; in Whitby Road and in Salisbury Road. These came into being over the years but one other planned shopping area

didnot. That was to have been on the site of the Govenunent offices along Eastcote Road opposite to the end of Fore Street. A change which arose as a result of the war was to eat out. Some who had been in the Services had experienced restaurant and .cafe eating for the first time. Before the War, in the suburbs, choice was mainly restricted to the availability of Lyons, Express, ABC cafes or family run tea shops. British Restaurants were organised by the local authority and a basic meal could be obtained for 10d (4p) which helped to supplement rations. That in Eastcote occupied the present Post Office premises in Orchard Parade and continued until 1947 when it was closed due to cessation of Government finance. A vacant double shop in the parade opposite to the Manor House PH was opened by H H Kerswell as the Palm Court Restaurant. This provided facilities for parties and events held by local organisations as well as running as a restaurant. In June 1945 they were advertising lunch, dinner and afternoon teas and were open from 8 am to 1030 pm. Meals were subject to the restriction that there was only a single choice for the main dish - meat or fish or game or poultry. The Clay Pigeon PH in Field End Road also had facilities for private dinners and functions.

Retail distribution continued as pre-war from main supplier through wholesaler to shopping centre. Deliveries to shops accorded with type of trade - perishables daily where possible and others as required. However, supplies still depended on availability. Rationing did not completely disappear until 1954 after 14Y2 years. There had been a complete upset in world trade and although a Labour Government with an idealistic programme had been elected in 1945 United Kingdom trade balances after wartime expenditure on armaments and other essential supplies were sadly depleted. Shipping fleets had suffered and there was an almost complete breakdown of society in Continental Europe. Petrol was severely rationed and this hampered distribution as did vehicle breakdown arising from age and lack of maintenance and spare parts. Local deliveries were still carried out by horse drawn transport or by 'errand boys' on bicycles. Only a minority of shops and houses had refrigeration and daily shopping was the norm. As most shoppers walked or used infrequent public transport the amounts they purchased was limited to what they could carry. A bus service commenced in 1945 running from Eastcote station to Northwood Hills but only ran at half-hourly intervals. Those living south of the railway did not immediately benefit.

Symptoms of monopoly and large scale retail supply came with controlled areas of distribution under Government wartime regulation. Major companies received the distribution rights and in Eastcote this meant that consumers could receive their milk only from United Dairies or Express Dairies dependent on where they lived. There was no competition for some years but as rationing decreased so these delivery services extended the range of products carried. In those days it was virtually unheard of for people to purchase milk in any other way. Initially, there were still two deliveries a day which custom arose from lack of refrigerated storage facilities at local farms who had been the original suppliers. Gradually, the major suppliers increased their storage capacity and network distribution and daily household deliveries decreased to one daily. Over the years to come there were to be major changes in ownership and types of retail outlet in the main shopping area. During the late 1940s and 1950s there were 'neighbourhood' shops suitable to provide for day-to-day shopping. There were family businesses and branches of multiples. Changes in family businesses occurred. A casualty of the times was the closure of the two private circulating libraries particularly after the opening by the Middlesex County Council of the branch public library in 1956.

In June 1945 an application was submitted to the Ruislip-Northwood UDC by P C Bacon for permission to establish a covered market behind Telcote Parade with stalls on offer to ex-servicemen. However, this was objected to by residents in Woodlands Avenue and local shopkeepers who felt that the concept was foreign to the character of Eastcote. The matter was referred to the Town Planning Committee who rejected the application. The remainder of Orchard Parade was constructed in 1953. This extension was completed with the building of the new public library on the corner of Meadow Way in 1956. The next steps were taken when London Transport completed the station frontage and erected the single storey wing shops on each side. Final completion of the main shopping area came with the erection of the shops on the south side of the station down to the yard entrance beside Telcote Parade and the small parade opposite to Telcote Parade. The pattern of shops available in Eastcote from time to time was determined by changing economic and social conditions. Following the end of the war and with new residences being developed south of the railway there was an increasing demand for new or replacement furnishings. Fullers were the only furniture

shop in Eastcote at 119 Field End Road but when Kerswell closed the Palm Court Restaurant in the double shop at 129/131 Field End Road, Adams the furniture company from Harrow took over the premises and opened a furniture shop on two floors. A little later Sheratons from Ilford opened another store in a double shop in Orchard Parade.

Changes in retail distribution in the Eastcote area took place slowly at first but nationally new methods were being studied. In 1946 Jack Cohen of Tesco visited the United States and saw how self service had progressed during the War and determined to introduce this new form of trading into the United Kingdom and in 1949 Alan Sainsbury also visited that country. The United States had extensively developed packaging, refrigeration, self service and the new concept of 'supermarket'. Cohen converted a small shop in St Albans in 1947 to self service with turnstile checkout and wire baskets for shoppers. Novelty increased sales by 50% in the first week but Government restrictions which limited conversions of premises to £100 outlay only and continuation of rationing caused Tesco to abandon the experiment until 1949. As Government restrictions relaxed Tesco was able to acquire more stores for conversion and by 1951 had 72 self service units through the country. Their first supermarket was a converted cinema in Maldon, Essex which opened in 1956. In 1955 Sainsbury adopted the new methods with a new shop at Lewisham which was then the biggest all-food self service shop in Europe.

Tesco was the first shop to convert to self service in Eastcote although Ruislip and Pinner had self service grocery shops before the war. It was not an idea which took on rapidly in this area and other grocery shops continued counter service for some years. However, times were changing. Refrigeration in shops and homes spread; domestic freezers became an economic possibility; family cars became more numerous and manufacturers developed pre-packaged goods. No longer would it be the custom for grocery shops to have open tins of biscuits for the customer to choose from and butter and tea, among other commodities, ceased to be sold loose. Self service also meant decreases in delivery services and no credit accounts. Although Eastcote retained its neighbourhood shops for some time there was a gradual disappearance of grocers such as Sanders, UK Tea Company, Devon Stores, Watford Co-operative and Sainsbury. Bishops (later Budgens) moved to larger premises and developed a large self service store.

Today, we have a high ownership of refrigeration, home entertainment, car and telephonic communication and central heating. Fuel retailers have virtually disappeared; there is a decreasing demand for delivery of milk and dairy goods; groceries and butchery products delivery has disappeared. Money is distributed differently amongst the population and more use made of credit cards. There is a greater demand for larger consumer goods such as electrical ware - freezers, refrigerators, mixers, hi-fis, TVs and then computers. Smaller electric and radio shops have disappeared due to competition from major chains. The development of supermarkets means change to weekly or even monthly shopping for everyday consumable goods. Distribution from manufacturers has changed and some wholesalers have disappeared with delivery direct from manufacturer/importer to supermarket. Larger lorries and development of motorways with access to Europe mean a wider range of goods becoming available. Imports of vegetables and fruit are available throughout the year rather than seasonally. Overseas holidays has changed tastes in food and furnishing. The development of telephones, both house and mobile, change access to goods and services. Finally out-of-town shopping centres with super stores or hypermarkets have changed local shopping centres. In many cases, local shops could not compete in range of goods or price levels and the gradual move over to 7-day opening by major stores produced many difficulties for local shopkeepers and in some cases brought about their demise.

The current position in Eastcote shows the shopping layout in the main centre in appearance as it was by the mid-1950s with the exception of the small parade opposite to Telcote Parade being replaced by an office block. The Ideal Cinema and Ideal Motors have also been replaced by offices and the village centre has changed in appearance with the building of Black Horse Parade on the site of Eastcote Lodge. The tenancies of the shops has, however, fundamentally changed. The original Field End Parade has ceased to be the centre of trade and is now occupied by a wine bar, a double glazing showroom, three restaurants, a private employment agency, a record, tape and CD retailer, a gas fire showroom, a charity shop, a florist, an undertaker, a second-hand book seller and a hairdresser. Of the original trades, only a jeweller remains. Overall, the main centre retains only one main retailer of groceries with three smaller general stores combining some

packaged groceries with drinks and newspapers. There is one butcher and two greengrocer/fruiterers. There are eleven restaurants and four take-away food shops; seven banks and building society branches and an antique retailer. The smaller centres in Whitby Road and Salisbury Road have also experienced major changes in types of distributor and one is fortunate in 1998 if there

is a complete range of retailers offering everyday consumer goods within walking distance. In the 1930s there were 14 cinemas within reasonable travelling distance in Eastcote, Ruislip, Northwood, Pinner and Harrow; in 1998 there is one multi-cinema only but 15 supermarkets within the same area. Who can forecast the next changes: computer buying on Internet?



*A modern view of Field End Road  
looking south from the Library*

## THE STORY OF RUISLIP COMMON WATER PUMPING STATION AND ITS CURIOUS AFTERMATH.

by Colin Bowlt

The exciting childhood memory recounted in the 1997 Journal, by Mr John Sullivan of his descent down a well being bored near the Ruislip Lido in the early 1940's, and his query as to whether it was connected with the recent large hole that opened up beside the Lido prompts the following account. It is based upon letters and notes of 'S.W. Hester', the Ruislip geologist who worked for the Geological Survey and an article that appeared in *The Surveyor and Municipal and County Engineer*, on 10th May 1946<sup>2</sup>.

### The Two Wells.

A proposal to construct a pumping station at Ruislip Common and abstract water was approved by Parliament in 1939 by the passing of the Colne Valley Water Act. This had not been completely straightforward since in January of that year the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council had sealed a petition of protest against the Bill. Whilst not opposing the work the Council desired to secure certain safeguards. It was stated that Harrow and Wembley as well as the Middlesex County Council were opposing it. What effect this had



is unknown, but the commencement of World War II probably expedited matters.

The position of the well was in the field behind the houses on the north side of Reservoir Road as shown on figure 1. Progress was slow owing to war-time difficulties of man-power shortage and poor quality materials, so that it was not until April 1942 that the 8 foot diameter well bottom was reached at a depth of 275 feet and the top 100 feet had been lined with steel tubes. It had gone through 37 feet of clay, 25 feet of Reading Beds and into 213 feet of the Upper Chalk. The trouble with the whole enterprise was that it failed to produce the hoped for yield of water. Prior to the deposit of the Bill, consulting geologists had stated that 2.5 m.g.d (million gallons per day) was not an over optimistic estimate, but apparently with no basic reasoning in support. An initial flow of 0.4 m.g.d looked encouraging, so an addit (tunnel) was driven north under Copse Wood and then north-east under Poor's Field, (see figure 1) to tap more of the chalk, but the yield only increased to 0.8 m.g.d. This was eventually coaxed to 1.1 m.g.d after a total of some 300 feet of costly tunnelling, Figure 1 shows that to go under Poor's Field meant going beyond the Limits of Deviation of the 1939 Act. In peace-time this would have necessitated going back to Parliament to get anew Private Bill passed, but under the Defence Regulations the Minister of Health simply issued an Order to legalise progress in June 1943. The Order was subsequently confirmed by Parliament retrospectively in 1945.

It was decided to sink a temporary 12 inch exploratory bore towards the northern end of Poor's Field (see figure 1) and it was completed by August 1943. It went to a depth of 330 feet and the results were felt to be sufficiently encouraging to justify a proper well. However, Poor's Field is common land, so a site for a 5 foot diameter well was arranged on land adjacent, in what was then the northern end of the Reservoir property (figure 1). The concrete capped well surrounded by iron railings, and looking like the tomb of some forgotten warrior, can still be seen beside the Ruislip Nature Local Reserve. It was completed to a depth of 300 feet by August 1944. A yield addit was extended under Poor's Field as shown. This eventually provided 2.25 m.g.d. With the 1.1 m.g.d from the first well it was decided to build a treatment works to handle 3.5 m.g.d. on the site of the original boring. The operational buildings at the site of number 1 well appeared very

temporary and I can remember the chugging of the pumps in the 1950s. It is so often difficult to recall when things actually cease. My best estimate is that water production stopped in the late 1950s/early 1960s. A letter dated 5th October 1977 to Mr S.W. Hester from Mr John Christie, Chief Engineer, Colne Valley Water Co. says: "It may be of interest to you to know that the combined reliable yields of the Ruislip Common and Poor's Field wells fell far short of the hoped for 3.5 m.g.d. When we last used them some years ago the yield was about 1.5 m.g.d.",

#### Swallow-holes.

On February 26th 1951 Mr Hester gave a lecture on swallow-holes to the Ruislip and District Natural History Society (which also included local historians at that date before the formation of the Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society) explaining that they were holes which appear in the ground, sometimes without warning, where chalk strata is close to the surface and cavities occurring in the chalk collapse. He said that ten had been observed around the Reservoir in the last six or seven years [i.e. since 1944] and that three were present in Poor's Field. In what appear to be notes for a paper he says: "Over a period of six years I have observed nine swallow-holes along the northern and western sides of the Reservoir. The largest of these seen in November 1944 was situated at the waters edge and a large amount of water from the Reservoir had disappeared down it. Its dimensions were 15 feet long, 12 feet across and 10 feet deep." I think it significant that the swallow-holes did not occur until after water pumping started under Poor's Field. In an article on the local geology in 1942 Mr Hester makes no mention of any such swallow-holes' and I well remember the interest they were causing in the Natural History Society in the early 1950's, as if they were still a novelty.

An interesting reference to a possible connection between pumping water from bore-holes and swallow-holes occurs in a reply letter to Mr Hester dated 25th March 1942 from a Mr F.K. Sinclair in connection with the Eastbury Pumping Station. "... I should doubt very much if you would be afforded any information about the system there, as the Company was violently attacked in 1927 by the Watford Corporation and other bodies, alleging that the pumping at that station was the cause of the subsidence which took place about that date in Kingsfield Rd., Oxhey, when a hole 70 feet deep opened in the front garden of a house.

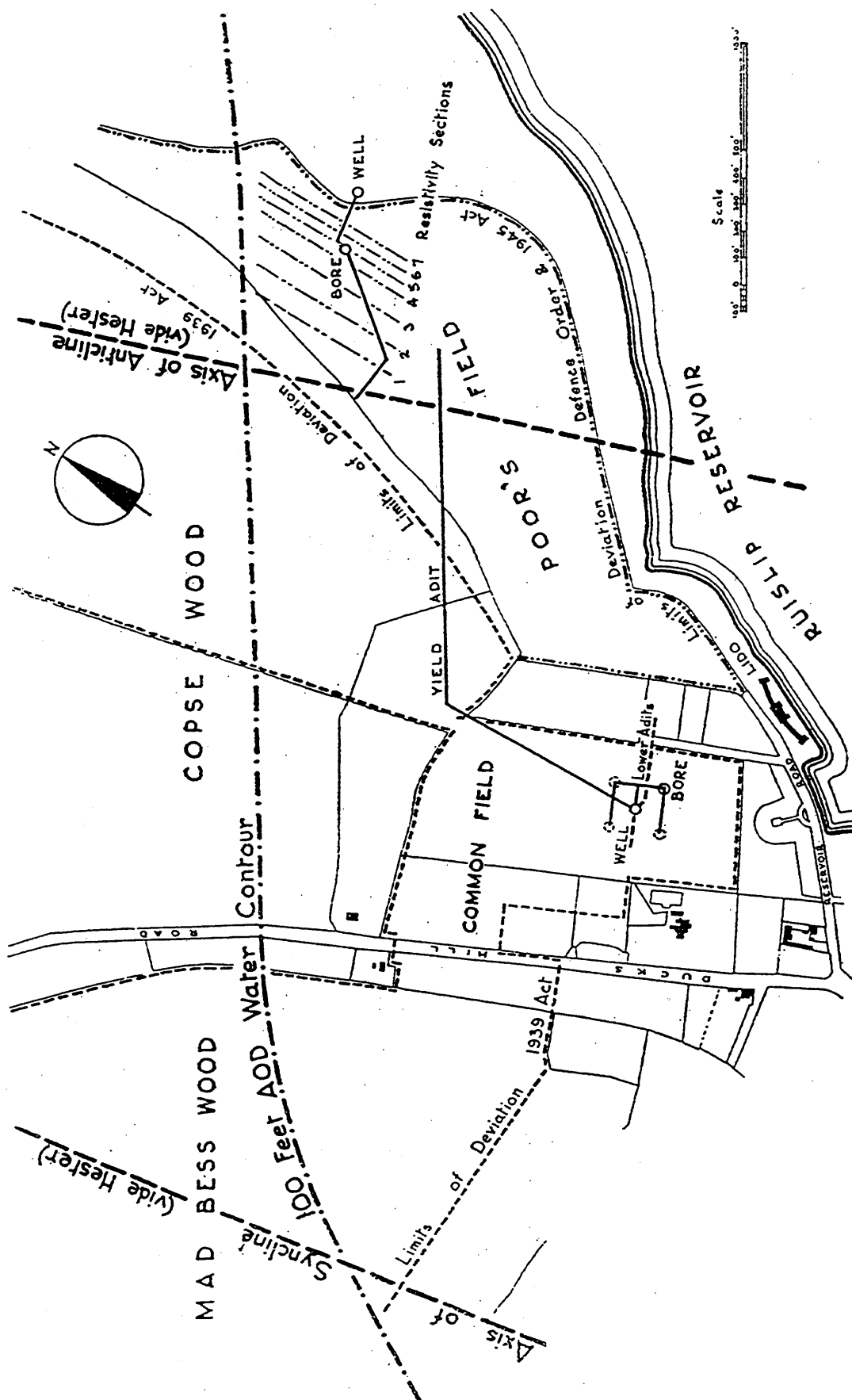


FIG. 1 —RUISLIP COMMON AND POOR'S FIELD WELL SITES.

The petitions which were lodged against the Colne Valley Water Bill 1927/8, mainly based on this matter, resulted in the Company withdrawing the whole of the proposals in the Bill for the sinking of further wells in the valley of the Colne." Could this have been the reason for the siting of the pumping stations on Ruislip Common? Mr H. Wallhouse in his article in *The Surveyor* about the project says, "The site was, in fact, largely dictated by political necessities, the intricacies of which are outside the scope of this paper".

**It all happens again,  
with some curious results.**

In a postscript to an article in the Society's Journal for 1991, I mentioned that because of continued lack of rain following the partial draining of the Lido in early 1990 to allow repair work in the swimming area, it had been impossible to refill it by natural means in time for a charity event in July. Water was therefore pumped from the now disused well that penetrates 300 feet deep into the chalk under Poor's Field. The sound of the pump chugging away night and day continued for many days, but eventually the water-level in the Lido was up again. Never had I seen the water so clear, clean and limpid. The day was saved! But the bore-hole had been activated again and in the summer of 1991 a very large swallow-hole opened up on the western edge of the Lido and swallowed-up a large amount of Lido water.

Hillingdon Borough had let the Lido to a private company calling itself Eau Naturelle in February 1991, with a view to granting the company a 99-year lease from October 1991. There was ferocious public opposition as the company was planning mega concerts by the waterside and was even considering organising War Games in Park Wood. Council officers and the directors of Eau Naturelle suffered a withering attack at a public meeting held in a marquee at the Lido in August 1991. The swallow-hole had opened up about a month before and the Council were beginning to rue their decision. Council officers seeking a contractor to fill in the hole were given estimates of £70,000 and upwards. To minimise costs the Council agreed to pay Eau Naturelle's rates of £22,000, if the company would take over responsibility for the hole. In the event the company paid David Cokeley just one pound and he did a deal with the National Rivers Authority who paid him for the right to dump clay which was being dug out of the

Yearling Brook's flood alleviation works", The site of the swallow hole is shown on figure 2.

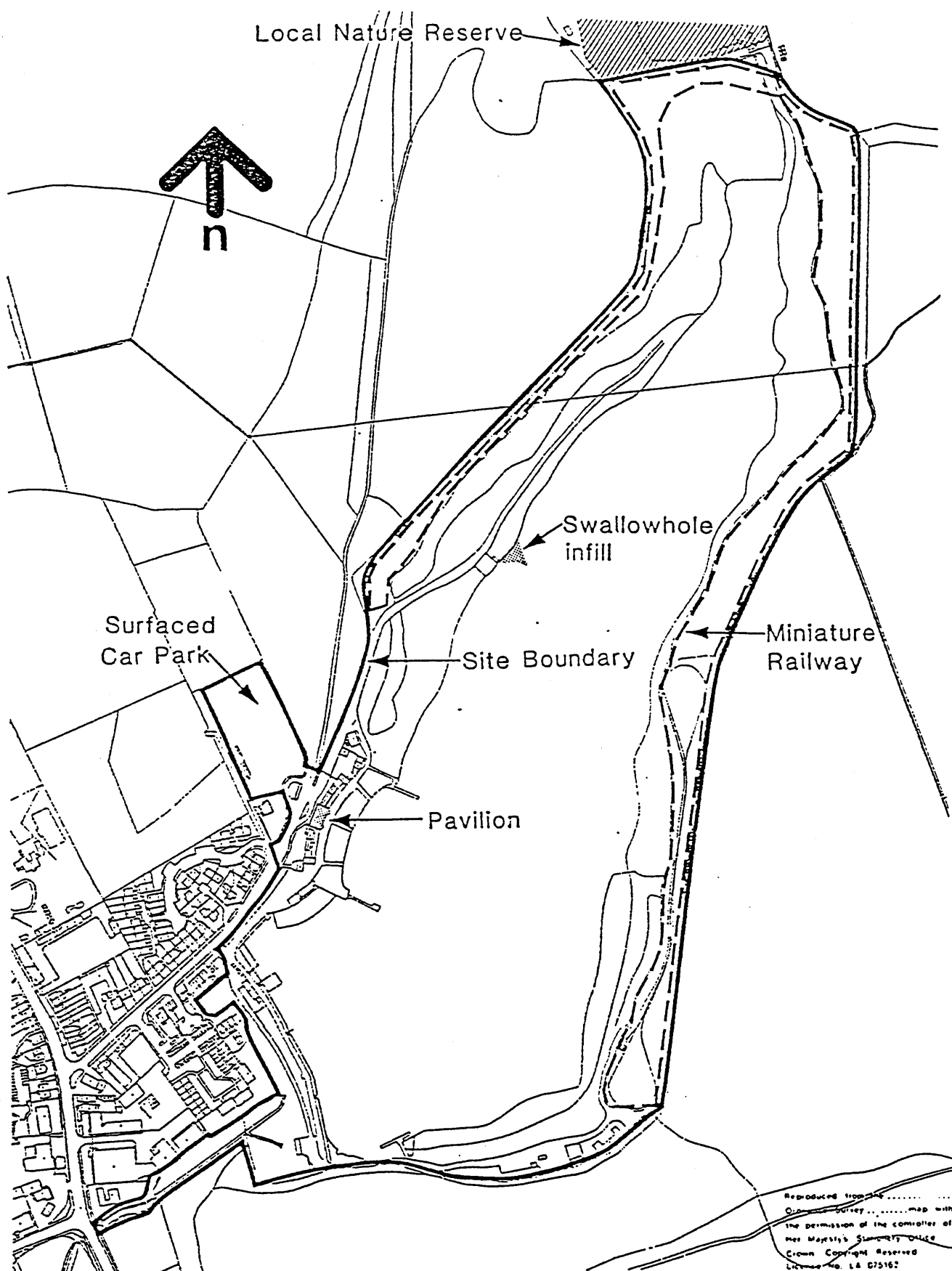
The low water level stopped the dinghy sailing and curtailed the water skiing and put a blight on Eau Naturelle's plans. The company agreed to share the costs of restoring water levels with the Council, but about this stage the Borough Engineer decided, for entirely unrelated reasons, that the level of the water in the Lido should be kept permanently low. This was to contain a possible massive cloud burst (risk: once in a hundred years) which might otherwise flood houses which had been built downstream on the bed of the Canal Feeder. The Feeder stream had been diverted into the bed of the Canon Brook.

Another trouble for Eau Naturelle was that lorry loads of clay and even rubble kept being dumped in the Lido even when the swallow hole had been filled. This was just the chance the Council were waiting for. Eau Naturelle had breached their contract and were ordered to leave in June 1992. The Lido management was put out to tender again in December 1992, but the Lido site lay derelict for a couple of years before an arrangement was made with the Whitbread Breweries in 1994 to build a family restaurant and renew facilities". In the interim the Art Deco building had not been properly protected and was set on fire in June 1993 and demolished in March 1994<sup>7</sup>. Whitbread's Waterside Restaurant opened in August 1996, faintly echoing the lines of the original 1935 Lido building.

The former Reservoir never was allowed to fill up. The Council were too afraid of that once in a hundred year flood and the compensation implications. The sailing boats have not returned and the muddy exposed edges have become covered with grass and developing scrub. Things have changed, but who would guess that it all started with a bore hole.

## References

1. Rester, S.W. Archive: personal possession.:
2. Wallhouse, Hal, *Genesis of a Pumping Station*, The Surveyor and Municipal and County Engineer, 10th May 1946.
3. Rester, S.W. Archive: personal possession.
4. Uxbridge Gazette: 27 May 1992
5. Ibid: 17. 6. 92
6. Ibid: 6.7.94
7. Ibid: 16.3.94



*Fig. 2 Ruislip Lido Jan 1993,  
showing the site of the 1991 swallow hole.*

## St Martin's Chancel South Window

by Valery Cowley

'This two-light window, in cusped tracery, is surmounted by four angels in four lights with grisaille background, imitating the effect of clear and grey tones found in some medieval glass, notably the enormous Five Sisters Window in York Minster.

Both pictorial lights below have brown and green trees against red backgrounds, framed by white pilasters and topped by white and yellow canopies with crowns. The left-hand main light shows Christ in blue, white and gold carrying in his left hand a shepherd's crook (model for bishops' croziers) and gesturing towards a white lamb at his feet. In the right-hand light are three disciples facing Christ, one in green and white standing next to a bearded figure in brown and white, with a third kneeling, dressed in gold and blue. The Gothic lettering below reads: *Jesus saith unto Peter feed My Sheep.*

The window is in memory of Daniel Carter Lewis, M.A. and vicar, 1797, for 40 years Minor Canon of Windsor, who served Ruislip for 37 years. He died on March 21st, 1834 aged 70 years. He was on the Vestry committee for educating poor children and for Ruislip's National School the year before his death'. According to F H Mansford's article in the November, 1925 issue of the parish magazine 'Outlook', Lewis's widow was the last person interred inside the church, in what was then the vestry, in 1865. 'The Girl's Own Paper', 15 March, 1890 shows this memorial window but the bottom panels seem to feature several small figures which do not appear now.

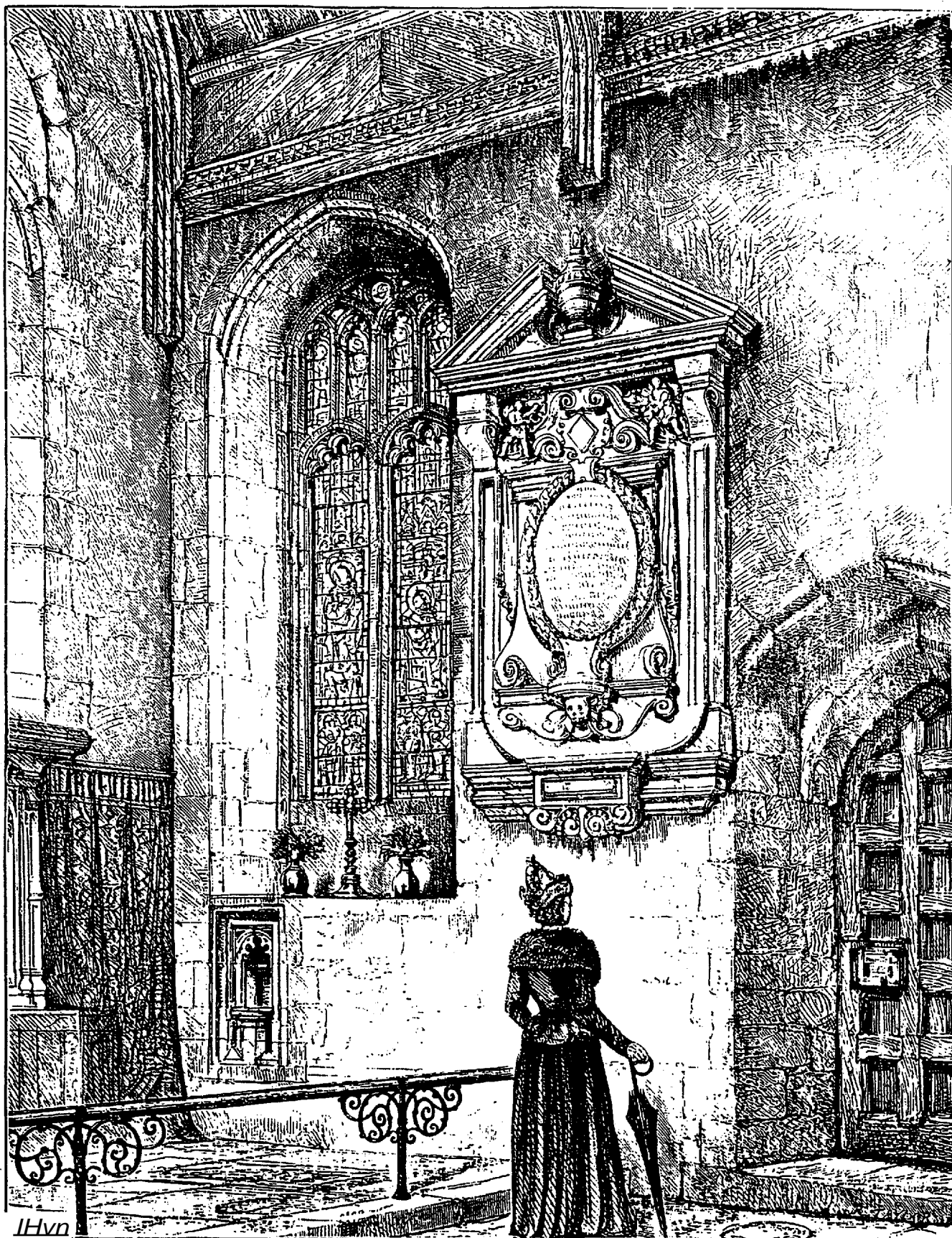
However, the parish magazine for March, 1926 asserts: *Internally the South Wall of the Chancel was filled with stained glass in memory of the Reverend C Packe and that of the East Window in memory of Mrs Everett's mother.* The latter is confirmed by the East Window's inscription but it seems that either the writer was misinformed or that the Packe memorial window was replaced, for whatever reason, by the one extant. Packe succeeded Lewis as Vicar in 1834 and died in 1878. Rosa Packe (1835-1934), Christopher Packe's third daughter to survive infancy, painted Lewis's portrait, which was given for the Vestry by

Miss Stacey of Courtenwell, Langton Green, according to the Vicar's Notes in Outlook, May, 1930. The previous year, a daughter of Christopher Packe, visited the parish in her eighties, she was presumably Elizabeth Frances, born 1842, his fourteenth and last child.. If any reader can shed light on this apparent anomaly, please let me know.

Peter Connack says the present window is probably by Clayton and Bell, c1885<sup>2</sup>. Aged 29 and 24 respectively, they set up their firm in 1856, both having worked in the offices of leading architects, as well as being experienced freelance glass designers for four or five years. Clayton began as a sculptor and Bell was an accomplished draughtsman-designer in the offices of G G Scott, who carried out most of Ruislip's 1869-1871 restoration. Birkin Haward<sup>3</sup> says that, together with such firms as Lavers, Barraud and Westlake<sup>4</sup>, and Heaton and Butler (later with Bayne), Clayton and Bell were inspired by the colours of thirteenth century glass and took advantage the new 'antique' quality glass produced by Powell. Discussing the recent controversy over the West Window of Sherborne Abbey, Sarah Brown (Hon. Secretary of the British Society of Master Glass Painters) wrote to *The Times*: "*The products of studios such as Clayton and Bell or Morris & Co. were and are justly admired throughout the world.*" C E Kempe, whose firm designed the T M Everett memorial windows on the North Wall of the Chancel, was a student with Clayton and Bell.

### Notes and References

- <sup>1</sup> Cox, C, A *Quiet and Secluded Spot*, p. 101
- <sup>2</sup> Cf G B Kent memorial window of the Three Apostles, described in the author's article *Footnotes to Park House* in RNELHS Journal 1992
- <sup>3</sup> Haward, B, *Suffolk Stained Glass*, 1989
- <sup>4</sup> responsible for Ruislip's South Aisle three-light window depicting Ss. James, Peter and John (see RNELHS Journal 1992, as above) and Nave West Window of four major OT prophets (see RNELHS Journal 1996).



*Lady Bankes ' memorial and the Chancel south window  
from The Girl's Own Paper of 1865*

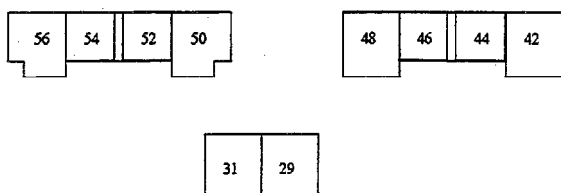
# MEMORIES OF ACRE WAY

by Pearl Gardner

I have RNELHS Journals going back to 1978 but can find no reference to the council estate which was built in the early 1920's. This consisted of Addison Way, Acre Way, Townsend Way, Addison Close and some houses on the Pinner Road. Addison Way was named after Dr Christopher Addison, first Minister of Health 1919-21 and a former parishioner of Emmanuel Church. Acre Way was named after One Hundred Acre Farm.

There was obviously a need for good reasonable housing in Northwood, in addition to the private developments, and this estate provided it. In my parents' case, the small cottage they were living in previously was damp and unhealthy, as were many other farm cottages, and my grandparents were frequently moving from one cottage to another.

The houses were mostly in blocks of four but all varied internally. Some had only one large front room and kitchen on the ground floor, while others had two rooms and kitchen. Numbers 34, 36, 38 and 40, now called Neal Close, were then known as 'Little Acre'.



My parents moved to 52 Acre Way in 1938 from Asp Cottage. My Grandparents had previously lived at both 10 and 40 Acre Way, where I was born in 1931. I married in 1950 and my parents continued to live at 52 until 1963.

When we first moved in there was still gas lighting in the kitchen, although there was also Electricity. The street lamp outside no. 54 was also gas. The bathroom was off the kitchen downstairs and the Toilet was situated outside by the back door. A large walk-in coal cupboard was also in the kitchen area. A large brick built copper with coal fire below was in the corner of the bathroom. Water from the copper was scooped out for baths and the copper was also used for cooking the Christmas puddings! We had an open tiled

fireplace in the living room with an oven above, some of the houses still had large black ranges.

All the houses had large gardens and the council awarded certificates for the best kept. At the end of Little Acre was a gate which led into the field where Robarts' cows were kept. From where we lived you could see across Robarts' field to the Hogs Back, a favourite play area, which, in the 40s consisted only of low hedges and bushes. The narrow strip of land which ran behind No's 42-54 was owned by the hospital and was let to the tenants of the houses as allotments during the war. Land next to No.18 was also used as allotments. The Scout hut was used as storage by the hospital.

We were quite a close community then and knew who lived in every house. A group of the children put on concerts in the back garden of our house and, with the help of mums, sold cups of tea and cakes, the proceeds going to the local hospital. A couple of us also collected all the books we could and went from door to door running a library service.

During the War a brick street shelter was situated in Little Acre, but to my knowledge was never used for its intended purpose. We played in it but it was damp and smelt! Most of the houses had Anderson shelters in their gardens, one or two had the shelters inside the house. The garden shelters were usually damp but great fun for playing in.

Houses in Addison Way were destroyed with the explosion of a Flying Bomb on 28th June 1944. Four people were killed and 36 injured, including two service personnel. Many houses in Acre Way were damaged and our house being directly opposite had windows broken and ceilings fallen down. Fortunately none of us was badly hurt; I had a small cut on my arm from flying glass and my dad, along with other soldiers, was allowed home on compassionate leave.

The same family names appear over the years in all of the adjacent streets:

Acre Way: Gurney, Hinton, Gristwood,  
Pope, Nicholls  
Addison Way: Gutteridge  
Townsend Way: Hinton

These same names can also be seen in Hilliard Road, the High St and several other streets



around Northwood., in many cases like mine either related or because families seemed to move frequently.

In Acre Way both Mr Legge and my Grandfather, Mr W Hinton, worked as coal men for Nicholls Coal merchants. Mr Barnett was also a coalman. Mr Lodge and Mr McDoDaJ.dwere policemen and Mr Lofty was a builder. "

The two Mr Bowleys were brothers to William Bowley. Mrs Meriday and the two Mrs Carols

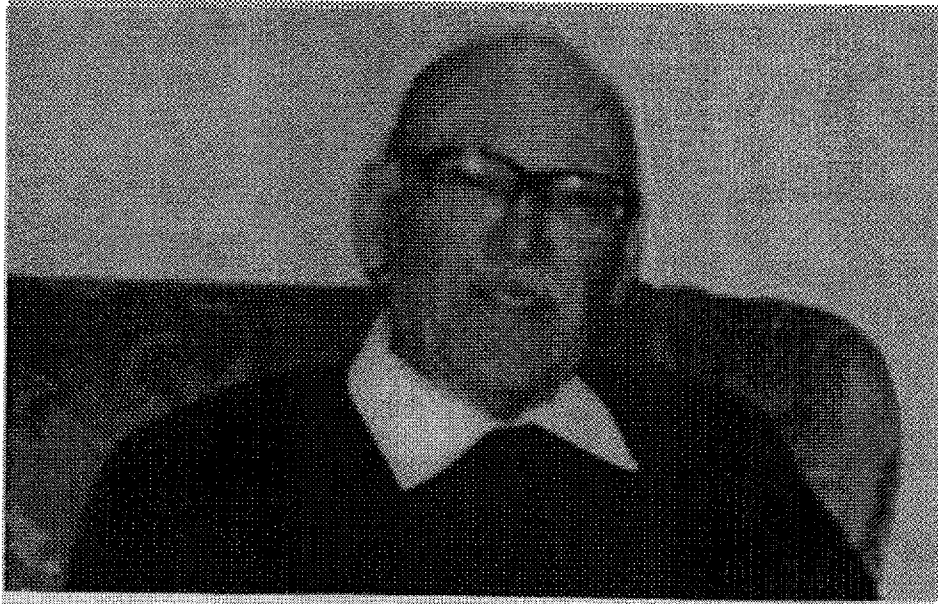
were sisters with the two Mr Carols being brothers. One lived in the alleyway leading to Pinner road. Mrs Waller was grandmother to John Bartlett, later a notable councillor, who spent a lot of time with his grandmother when a boy.

My grandmother's sister married James Ford one of the Fords of Hilliard Road before emigrating to Australia in the early 1900s.

*This table shows the residents of Acre Way in the 1940s as I remember them, and those in 1975 taken from Kemp 's Directory.*

	1940s	1975		1940s	1975
1	Atherton	Atherton	2	Gristwood	Gristwood
3		Harris	4	Williams	Weston
5	Bray	Bray	6	Lofty	Lofty
7	Gage	Patterson	8		Norfolk
9	Bowley	Bowley	10		Shord
11	Westlake	Westlake	12	Koski	Koski
13	Waller	Bartlett	14	Bearcroft	Bearcroft
15		Hopkins	16	Carol	Butchard
17		Wilby	18	Meriday	Partington
19	Lodge	Lodge	20		Kitchen
21	Becket	Williams	22	Kendall	Kendall
23	Smith	Treloar	24	Richards	Vacant
25	Wyrill	Cox	26	Bundy	Mathews
27	Barnett	Duffy	28	Watson	King
29	Legge	McNally	30	Pinnell	Bashford
31	Wilford	Gurney	32	McDonald	King
			34	Carter / Milton	now Neal Close
			36	BennetlRew	ditto
			38	Bowley	ditto
			40	Purdom	ditto
			42	West	Avery
			44	Lightwood	Lightwood
			46	Pope	Pope
			48	Nicholas	Turner
			50	Miles	Miles
			52	Beeton	Harqwick
			54	Cox	Cox
			56	Surridge	Palmer
			58	Davies	Davies
			60	Palmer	Bartlett
			62	Rew	Gorman
			64	Saunders	Purcell
			66	Sadler	Sadler
			68	Nicholls"	Nicholls
			70	.Jenkins	Lavender
			72	Bell /Jenkins	Figueried

## KENNETH JAMES McBEAN 1912-98



It was with great sadness that the Society heard the news of the death of Jim McBean on 18th April 1998 at Michael Sobell House. He made a great contribution to historical research in the parish of Ruislip during his 22 years as a member of RNELHS. K.J. McBean (sometimes known as Kenneth, but usually Jim) was born in Finchley, the youngest of the seven children of Alexander and Lily McBean. He was educated at Haberdasher's School and afterwards became a chartered surveyor. - The whole of his working life was spent with Berkshire County Council. He worked at Reading, where he lodged during the week. Jim McBean's mother moved to '82 North View Eastcote in 1938 after the death of her husband, with those of her family who were still at home, and there Jim returned each weekend. After his retirement he lived there permanently with his brother, Keith and sister, Doris and after their deaths on his own. During the war he served with the army in India where he was a sergeant. He hated being in charge of groups of men who were inclined to disappear into pubs, leaving Jim in a quandary uncertain what to do, but no doubt his wry sense of humour saw him through!

Jim's grandfather, Alexander McBean, a grocer with a shop in Mayfair, had moved into a house called 'Hazelmere' in Maxwell Road, (a block of flats is now on the site) before 1912, having discovered Northwood in the course of rambles with a group of friends around the countryside opened up by the Metropolitan Railway. Jim's aunts, none of whom married, lived there together and became noted figures in the Northwood scene and 'the aunts' house'

figured prominently in the memory of Jim's and the next generation.

Jim threw himself heart and soul into a variety of interests. He was an ardent follower of rugby and life-long member of the WASPS. Several of us discovered this in the late 1970s only after he disappeared from a Local History Conference (in those days held at Hatch End) after the morning session. We were amazed to discover that it was a mere rugby match which had dragged him away! Bird-watching also appealed to him (he was a member of the RSPB) and gardening and archaeology and maps (he was a member of the London Topographical Society) and heraldry and family history - the list seems endless. Then there was his passion for collecting - coins, medals and books and journals relating to the subjects which he studied with such zest.

But so far as this Society is concerned it was Jim's interest in local history which is so important. He first appeared in the spring of 1976 when we were essaying our first 'dig', a trench across the ditch at the bottom of Manor Farm orchard, to try to establish the date of the ditch and embankment at that time thought to be a mill leat. Presumably Jim turned up because of his interest in archaeology. He wielded his spade with gusto and came on a Society walk around Ruislip a few weeks later as well. In the autumn he joined my first WEA Local History Class and became involved in practical projects like surveying St Martin's graveyard. He contributed a chapter on styles of gravestones with beautiful illustrations, to a

subsequent book produced by the class, *Here Lyeth -Life & Death in Ruislip 1700-1900*.

Every year from 1977 to 1996, except two, he wrote well-researched articles for this journal, starting with a piece on Edward Prior, the architect of Highgrove and ending with the Gawdy Papers (letters between members of the Hawtrey family). From 1978-80 he was co-editor with Len Krause and served on the committee. In addition he spent hours at the Greater London Record Office (now the London Metropolitan Archive) the British Library and the Public Record Office, not just looking things up, but patiently copying details from the Enclosure Award, the Rate Books, Manor Court Books, the Court of Requests and local wills. These copies annotated and indexed were then lodged in the Local History Room at Manor Farm Library for the use of other researchers. The general accessibility to the information stored in the Local History

Room is a lasting memorial to Jim, for he spent an afternoon there nearly every week over the years, cataloguing the material and repairing and mounting much of the material kept in the map drawers. For all this the Society owes him a great debt. On a personal note Jim was of great assistance to me when I was writing *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex*, which has some 40 maps, practically all of which were drawn by him. He drew with great accuracy and skill and filled in details of some of the local families.

He had not been able to attend Society meetings in recent years first because he was caring for his sister who lived to be 96 and then because of his own health problems, about which he said very little. He will be generally missed by us and especially by his family with whom we sympathise.

EMB

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## MUNITIONS IN RUISLIP DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

### Something of a Puzzle

by Eileen M. Bowlt

A reproduction of a Metropolitan & Great Central ticket 025 appeared in the Journal of the Transport Ticket Society in February 1995. It was a return ticket from Ruislip to Harrow-on-the-Hill and superscribed "Munition Worker". The author of the article, John Shelbourn, suggested that it was probably dated about 1917-20. He had been unable to find any reference to a Ministry of Munitions establishment in the Ruislip area. Mr D.G. Down of Cowley drew my attention to the article and sought information about such a factory. I was baffled, but turned for help to two of our older residents; the late Mr Matt Oswald, who was president of the Ruislip Manor Art Society and Mrs Alice Hood, who was born in 1898 at Field End Farm (opposite the Old Barn Hotel).

Mr Oswald worked as a carpenter and provided most of the woodwork for the Manor Homes from 1933 onwards. He clearly remembered numerous pits in the ground scattered about the area now known as Ruislip Manor, as far as New Pond Farm (now the Ruislip Nursing Home on the corner of Cornwall Road and West End Road). There was one in the garden of the house where he, himself, lived in Chudleigh Way. He believed that they had been used for storing shells, which had been filled with gunpowder in little huts built over the fields of South Ruislip.

Mrs Hood (then Alice Weedon) used to walk down West End Road and along Bourn Farm Lane (now Station Approach, South Ruislip) to visit her friends, the Smiths at Bourn Farm. She remembers wooden huts on the south side, but thought that London families had come out to live there at the time of the Zeppelin raids. She vaguely recalls something of munitions and wonders whether these huts actually housed munitions workers.

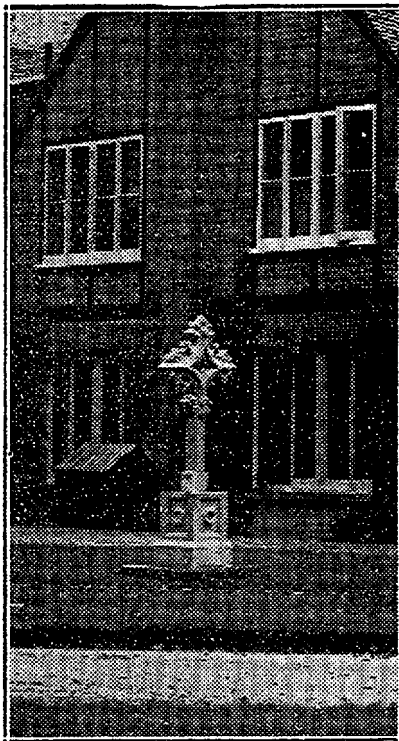
More recently Colleen Cox has interviewed Mrs Payne of Dulverton Road, who came to live in Ruislip in 1919 at the age of ten. She says that when walking from school (Ruislip Church of England School on Eastcote Road) to South Ruislip, she passed the War Department Ammunition Dump on the stretch of road between Old Pond Farm (just south of Cornwall Road) and the Ruislip Gardens railway bridge. She remembers iron gates and bollards and warning notices and consequently never went near there.

So was there a small munitions factory or not? If so, were the shells associated with Northolt Aerodrome (opened 1915)? If the Met & Great Central were issuing Munitions Workers' tickets, it looks as if something must have been going on in that field. Can any of our readers help with information, please?

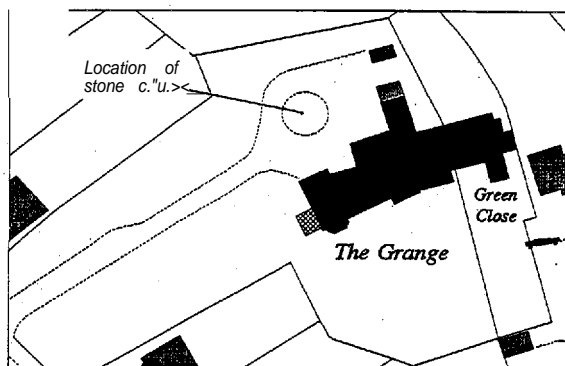
# THE STONE CROSS AT THE GRANGE, NORTHWOOD

by Simon Morgan

In the 1997 Journal I described the finding of a 'maltese cross': during demolition work at The Grange, Northwood in 1933. I have now discovered a further newspaper article and photograph, which shed more light on this matter.



The photograph shows what might be described as a foliated or crocketed cross mounted on a stone plinth. Its location is revealed by the portion of The Grange in the background, which is recognisable today. It is at the centre of a circular lawn, shown on the 1935 O.S. map, which was surrounded by a drive for vehicles to turn.



We learn from the accompanying article that the plinth was given by WA. Telling (as presumably was the cross itself; although no-one acknowledged this at the time) and that his firm had been involved in reconditioning The Grange. Mrs Garrett thanked him for his "much kindness and patience in dealing with the many intricate and tiresome details." No further light is shed upon the likely origin or age of the cross or what it was doing "embedded in an ivy-covered buttress in an outbuilding which was being demolished" or "on a demolished building" according to Mrs Garrett. Is it of ecclesiastical origin or is it a secular architectural ornament?

Also in the article are details of internal fittings provided in the Grange, all of which now appear to be lost: an 'anthracite stove in the hall, given by Mr & Mrs Winch, who also provided iron gates for the new entrance' on Rickmansworth Road; a dining room clock given by Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Garrett's aunt; primrose coloured china, from Mrs Watson and her daughter; and, candlesticks, ornaments, pictures and household furniture from various donors.

The statue by Julian Allan was the 'gift of St Helen's School old girls and the Fernie and Garrett families in memory of Miss Janet Fernie, who was a staunch supporter of the preservation of The Grange. Finally, an 'American organ' (a reed instrument similar to a harmonium) was given in memory of Rev E.B. Backhouse, vicar of Holy Trinity 1895-1917, by his widow and daughter. 'Jerusalem' and 'The Builder's Song' were played on it at the dedication ceremony by G.F. Dodds, organist of Holy Trinity.

George Peche tells us<sup>3</sup> that the cross disappeared, during the Second World War whilst The Grange was in military occupation. Is it still waiting to be discovered beneath some undergrowth or was it removed or broken up?

## References

- 1 Morgan, Simon, *WA Telling and the Development of The Grange Estate*, RNELHS Journal 1997
- 2 *Middlesex Advertiser & Gazette*, 12 October 1934
- 3 Peche, George, *From Hamlet to Town*, The Ruislip Press Ltd, 1953.

# THE HORN END FETE<sup>A.</sup>

by Evelyn Harris

Summer in Cheney Street - The-HornEnd Fete. The history of Horn End, an interesting old house now a listed building, has already been recorded, but perhaps its importance to the life of the local community in this rural corner of old Eastcote is less well-known.

For many years it has been the home of the Philip family, of school atlases fame. The late George Philip was a keen supporter of the Scout movement, and many years ago he gave a disused squash court, in a corner of his garden, to be converted into a Scout 'den'. It became the home of the 1st Eastcote Cubs, Scouts, and later, Beavers. They were popular and flourishing Troops. The leaders were dedicated, committed, and enthusiastic, and most of the young lads' in the area were members at some time or the other, including my two sons some twenty years ago.

The event of the year was the Fete held in the garden of Horn End every June or July. The organiser in the seventies was the late Patricia Hegarty, whose three sons were keen Scouts. She worked tirelessly from one year to the next to ensure the event's success in attracting the public and thereby raising essential funds for the Troop. There were numerous stalls selling cakes, plants, books, bric-a-brac, toys, and many other items donated by supportive parents. There were tombolas, competitions, games for the children, and a grand raffle. Some years even pony rides were available. Everything was set out on the wide lawns of the Philip family's beautiful and extensive garden.

As an insurance against bad weather, cubs were sent round neighbouring roads selling tickets in advance. The boys competed to see who could collect the most money. Nowadays, children on such missions must be accompanied by an adult, a sad reflection on the times.

My family and I were in charge of the drinks tombola, which was very popular, as small boys thought it daring to try to win something alcoholic. Such winnings were always handed over to a parent, never to a child. One summer the temperature was over 90°F and business boomed, even though it was impossible to keep the bottles and cans cool.

George and Margaret Philip always presided over the raffle in grand style. They knew everyone, and everyone knew them. We felt as though we were manorial tenants living in a country village rather than modern London suburban dwellers.

Tea and home-made cakes were served on the terrace. China crockery was used then, and volunteers spent the afternoon in the kitchen washing up. Now, alas, the tea is served in disposable cups, and the cake on paper table napkins - much less elegant!

Inevitably changes occurred. A new generation of parents took over the organisation; part of the garden was sold off to build Horn End Place; the Fete began to contract. Sadly, George Philip died, and a few years later Margaret was forced to move away. Without the 'Squire' and his 'Lady' the atmosphere has never been quite the same. The Fete continues to be held, and it is nobody's fault that it is only a pale shadow of its former glory. Its fate hangs in the balance, as does that of the house itself. There have been several plans for re-development of the grounds, and it is likely that the house will be sold to new owners and take on a different role. The Scouts' 'den' was left to the 1st Eastcote troop in perpetuity by George Philip, and it cannot be touched. However, without access to the spacious garden, the Fete, as we who live nearby know it, will die, and an historic institution, unique to this special corner of Eastcote by the River Pinn, will be lost forever.

# **RUISLIP BOWLS CLUB**

## **The Early Years 1911-1924**

### **by Ron Lightning**

In the early 20th century the village of Ruislip was rapidly changing. The opening of the Metropolitan Line station in 1904 and the consequent influx of new people led to the need for new social organisations and to the creation of new forms of entertainment.

It is against this background that a group of residents gathered together to form what was ultimately to become two separate clubs; the Ruislip Bowls Club and the Ruislip Tennis Club. This brief survey is based on the minutes of what ultimately became the Ruislip Bowls Club. As details of matches are not recorded in the minutes this account will highlight some of the events leading up to the emergence of an independent club. Bowls did not feature in the early days of the club's history, but was introduced after the 1914-1918 war. Bowls and tennis are inextricably bound together in the early days of the club before going there separate ways in the 1920's.

At the inaugural meeting on 30th October 1911 it was decided to call the club The Ruislip Tennis and Croquet Club. It is likely that the meeting was held in the vicarage in Bury Street, for the vicar, Rev W.A.G. Gray, made the club an offer of the use of a field, which would, however, not be available on Sundays.

During the ensuing winter and spring various meetings were held and equipment ordered; and before the commencement of the season Rev W.A.G. Gray generously offered the club a Wimbledon croquet set and the use of the ground rent free for a year.

In April 1912 officers were elected. Mr Gray was elected president and the members of the committee included several well-known local figures, including Mr Shatford Ewer of Hill Farm.

The minutes do not give details of matches played, but one must envisage a rather tentative start to the first season; it is also not certain whether tennis or croquet was played. The committee decided to have a tournament on Whit Monday 1912 as long as 20 took part,

and the following June 3 pairs were chosen to play Pinner. The ladies of the committee provided teas on Saturday afternoons.

This early period of the club's history, which may be regarded as a prelude to the appearance of bowls in Ruislip, was rather short-lived. Soon after the commencement of the First World War a whist drive was held to raise money for the Belgian Refugees, some of whom came to stay in the area; and early in 1916 it was decided to suspend play for the duration of the war.

To what extent croquet featured in the club is not known, but the games of croquet and tennis were associated at the All England Croquet and Tennis Club at Wimbledon, and it may have been in the villagers' minds when they formed a club at Ruislip. But as tennis increased in popularity croquet tended to decline in the 1880's, so it is likely that croquet played a minor role compared with the more vigorous tennis.

Shortly after the end of the war, on 29th March 1919, a meeting was held at the Poplars with E.L. Ewer in the chair, to form a "Tennis and Bowls Club". Bowls had become more popular since 1903 when the English Bowling Association was formed and was increasingly taken up by local communities and social clubs in preference to croquet, which in the popular mind was regarded as a game played on vicarage lawns. Despite the change of name continuity with the old club is suggested by the following facts:

1. The minutes book of the old club was used by the new club.
2. In a subsequent meeting held on 9th April the "committee decided upon giving up the ground near the vicarage".
3. The balance of money from the old club plus the value of the stock taken over by the new club, making a total often pounds, was handed over to the vicar to help pay for repairs on the Church Room.

A committee was formed and Mr Borkitt was elected president. The club rented a piece of

land from the Ruislip Manor Company between Kingsend and Wood Lane, in the area now occupied by the Waitrose Supermarket and Mr Bray was appointed to get the ground ready for the summer. He agreed to provide and keep in order two tennis courts and a bowling green. Play was to be permitted on Sundays after 2 pm. During the first season various social events were arranged, including a Garden Fete at the Firs in September 1920, where a tournament was held and prizes awarded to Miss Phipps and Mr Robbins. During that first season a club bowls tournament was also held and was won by Mr Weller. Details of matches are not recorded, but in 1920 8 bowls matches were arranged. The popularity of the club is attested by the fact that in June 1920 there were 98 paid-up members; but as only two tennis courts were available, tensions arose as the minutes indicate, for members were requested "to refrain from the formation of cliques and of monopolising any particular court", and also "to sparingly introduce visitors, especially in the evenings".

From the start the idea of running a joint club for tennis and bowls was fraught with problems. At the first AGM held on 31st October 1919, it was agreed that in place of a bowls secretary and a tennis secretary one general secretary should be appointed and that there should be a tennis and a bowls captain. Mr C. Selway was elected secretary and, interestingly, the two men subsequently elected as captains had held the position of secretary to the two respective sections of the club before the AGM. They were Mr E. Bedford Knowles (tennis) and Mr Wetherall (bowls). They, together with the new secretary, would form the Ground Committee; but on 24th June 1920 "the secretary announced his intention of placing his resignation in the hands of the President as he found it quite impossible to work in harmony with the tennis captain". A few weeks later, on 12th July, at a committee meeting letters were submitted from the secretary and Mr Bedford Knowles, both desiring to resign their posts. They were approached and asked to reconsider their positions. Mr Bedford Knowles resignation was accepted and a vote of thanks was sent to him for his services as tennis captain. It is, however, not clear from the minutes whether the secretary withdrew his resignation; however at the AGM held on 28th October 1920 he was again elected secretary.

The fact that he was a bowls player may account for the friction between himself Mr Bedford Knowles. It is likely, however, that with the resignation of the tennis captain a degree of harmony was achieved; but there is no doubt that the rapid changes in the committee and the change of roles reflect internal tensions within the club.

The minutes reveal that much time was taken up with discussions about the maintenance of the ground and to acquiring a permanent ground. Mr Shatford Ewer offered a piece of land at the "back of Ickenham Road"; but various offers were made by Mr Bray of Ruislip Manor Ltd. At a committee meeting held on 8th November 1920 it was reported that the company had offered the Wood Lane site for 6 pounds per annum "tenancy to commence from the completion of the path from Kingsend to Wood Lane". This path still exists and enters Wood Lane by the Medical Centre.

At the AGM held in October 1921 it was revealed that the membership consisted of 84 tennis players and 24 bowls players. A year later, on 10th November 1922, at a meeting of the Ruislip Bowls Club section it was "decided to run the branches of the club separately and that the Bowls Club had agreed to pay 15 pounds per annum for the use of the green and pavilion". At this meeting the secretary was authorised to arrange Wednesday and Saturday matches for the 1923 season. Mr J.R. Sims was elected captain. Club competitions were important for the small club and Mr J.Weller was awarded the Challenge Cup in 1923.

Separation of the two clubs appears to be complete by the end of 1923, for a meeting at Ruislip on 23rd October of that year, was recorded as being a general meeting of the "Ruislip Bowls Club". 20 members were present at this meeting at which it was proposed to hold a dinner at Kings End Farm at the invitation of Mr Weedon. Minutes of meetings continued to be recorded in the original minutes book started in 1911.

Thus ended the first phase in the history of bowls in Ruislip. Henceforth the club would be free to develop independently. It was affiliated to the Middlesex Bowling Association; and in 1924 16 matches were arranged, double the matches played in 1920.



# JOHN AND JOHN PAUL ROWE OF NORTHWOOD

by Geoff Saul

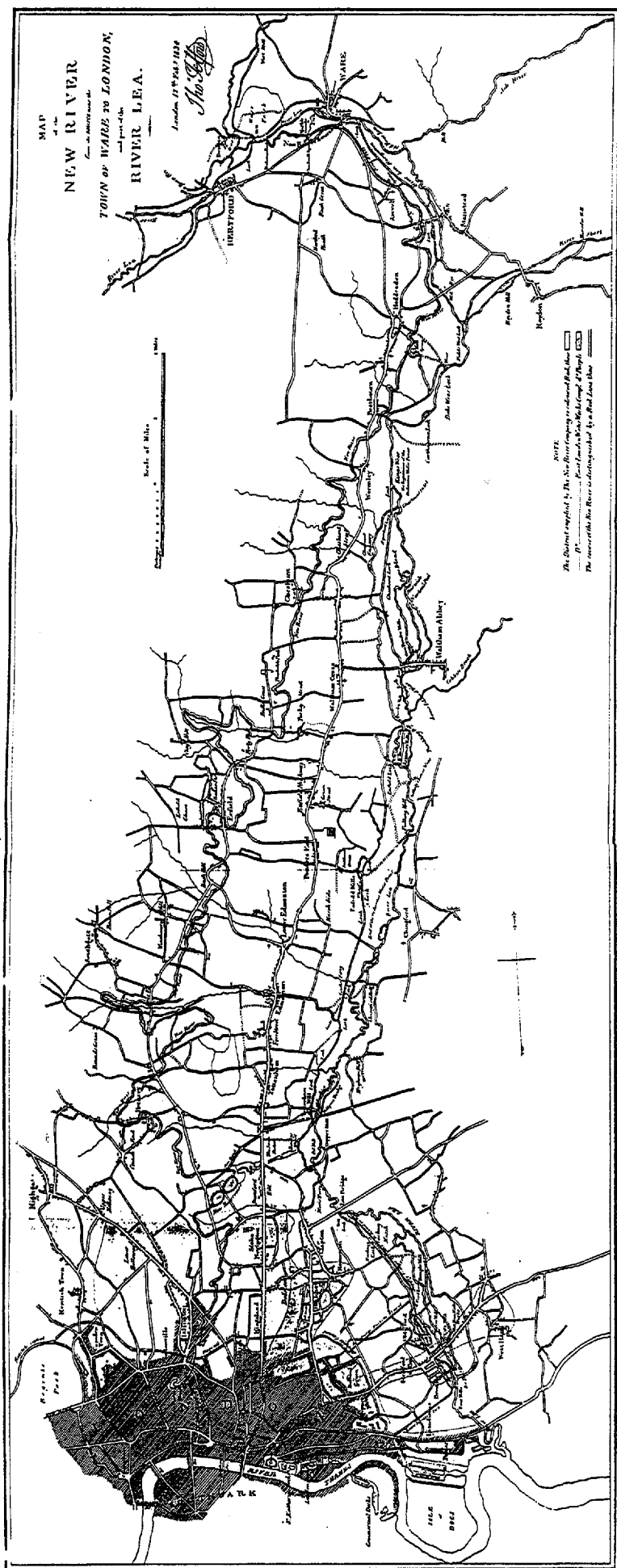
John and John Paul Rowe, father and son, owned The Grange, Northwood, just off the Rickmansworth to Pinner road. Both were employed by the New River Company over a period of forty five years, both as "Collector of Water Rent" and as Clerk. The records of the New River Company contain no reference to their being resident anywhere but London whilst in the employ of the water company. The Collector was required to live within the area or "walk" in which he collected rent. The Clerk lived with his family in the office house. In the 1770s this was by Dorset Square in St Bride's Parish of the City. Early in the following century the office, including the Clerk's house, was moved to the New River Head, between Islington and Clerkenwell.

The New River was built between 1608 and 1616 and consisted of a channel from springs north of Ware which dropped on average four inches a mile as it followed the contours of the Lea Valley to Islington. At "The Head" the water entered a large round pond and from here was fed into the wooden mains which carried it down to the Company's "water tenants" in the City. The owner or occupier of each house supplied was required to sign an agreement to pay for the water. It was the function of the Collector to seek tenants and collect the water rent, and oversee the workmen assigned to maintain and extend the wooden mains and service pipes supplying the tenants in his walk. It was as very responsible job. The rent collected annually averaged about two thousand pounds for each of the Collectors. The Collector handled all this cash and was accountable initially to the Clerk. Each collector was required to find two sureties each willing to pay a maximum of £500 to cover for default before he was given his "books". The sureties were vetted by either the Clerk or the company solicitor. Before 1800 it appears that nomination for a collectorship depended on knowing one of the managers who was a share holder.

The records of the company are sparse before the beginning of the 19th century and so we do not know whether John Rowe was known to any of the company managers when he wrote "petitioning" for the next vacancy of a collectorship in February 1776. The weekly Board minutes which have survived intact from 1769 have a minute recording receipt of a letter from John. No action was taken because there

was no vacancy. In December 1777 collector Beesley resigned and another petition was received from John Rowe. Notice was given by the Governor of the Company that at a later meeting an appointment would be made and nominations were invited from any of the members of the meeting. The minutes are brief and no other candidates are named. It might be surmised that Rowe was known to one or more of the principal officers of the Company but we have no evidence. The sureties proposed by Rowe were Simon Wilson and Thomas Wilkinson. It is difficult to identify them conclusively in the contemporary London Directories. Beesley's walk included Old Street and was not one of the most important.

The collector's books were delivered to Rowe on 15 January 1778 the bond having been signed. Six months later another development occurred: "... Cuthbert Fisher resigned as a Collector this day (in person)." His walk included Portman Sq., and Rant another collector was discharged for reasons of infirmity. His walk included Battle Bridge. At the same meeting the petitions of P. Ouvry and J. Amos for collectorships were read. It was customary for notice of vacancies to be given to all Board members so that they could present and support any petitions they personally had received. There was some order of precedence allowed to the three officers, Governor, deputy Governor and Treasurer, indeed they usually took it in turn to present a nomination at this time (assuming they individually had received one). Quite regardless no nomination could be made without initial agreement of the weekly meeting of the Board and the subsequent vote in a General Court held largely to fill such a vacancy and finally also the Annual General Court held early in November. The additional General Courts were held as deemed necessary for other matters as well! The wording of minutes makes some of this clear e.g. two weeks later on 30 July: "Gov appointed Peter Ouvry in room of Rant. John Rowe was moved into Fisher's walk and John Amos was appointed to replace Rowe's old walk". In view of Fisher's imminent election as Board member this can only be interpreted as a considerable vote of confidence and more because Fisher's walk was one of the more lucrative ones. John Amos was appointed to Rowe's Old Street walk. Ouvry took over Rant's Battle Bridge walk. Rant's book was reported to be irregular and he was suspended



*Map of the New River, 1834 (reduced)  
 Prepared for the Select Committee reviewing London's water supply  
 and signed 'Thomas Telford'*

*The New River is the uppermost (most westerly) meandering line,  
 passing through Hornsey, Enfield and Cheshunt, and bounded by a thick and a thin line.*

more through old age too. Cooper was again given the unenviable task of checking through the book. Cooper appears to have been regarded as one of the most reliable and conscientious collectors. He was certainly one of very long standing.

On the occasion of the resignation or dismissal of a Collector it was customary for the assignment of the walks to be changed and the newcomer to be assigned the least remunerative. The Portland and the St Marylebone walks were very lucrative even on the standard of 5% commission. The houses were big and the rents high. One call produced as much as £5 for each half year. In other parts of the city rents might be as low as 4/- (20p) a year. Initially the walks were aimed at giving each collector an annual income of £150. There was the incentive to earn more by signing up more tenants. Taking company water was not the "saturation" situation of today, many houses had their own well. Rowe took over Beesley's walk without any reorganisation. Within a year and a half he was moved to one of the most prestigious (remunerative) walks, which included Portman and Manchester Squares. No reasons were given.

Collecting rents was only one part of the job. The collector in securing new tenants would have to apply to the Board for extensions to the pipes. He would have to keep an eye on the turncocks who diverted the water from one service pipe to another. Water was not supplied continuously as it is now. Each road would receive a supply for two to three hours every other day ... and then only if the turncock was scrupulous in his duties. They were known 'to be open to offers' for extending the period of supply! They were also known to be inebriated so some supply periods were missed. Tenants affected complained and the Collector was the officer charged with handling the problems and reporting back to the weekly board. Each Collector was required to attend a Coffee Shop weekly for those unable to pay their rent from home. This attendance was advertised throughout the walk. It is interesting that there is no information about where John Rowe lived within either of his walks in the New River archive.

Whilst there were opportunities for the workmen to be less than honest not all tenants and their unsupplied neighbours were totally above board. All the company's employees could expect a reward if a "surreptitious"

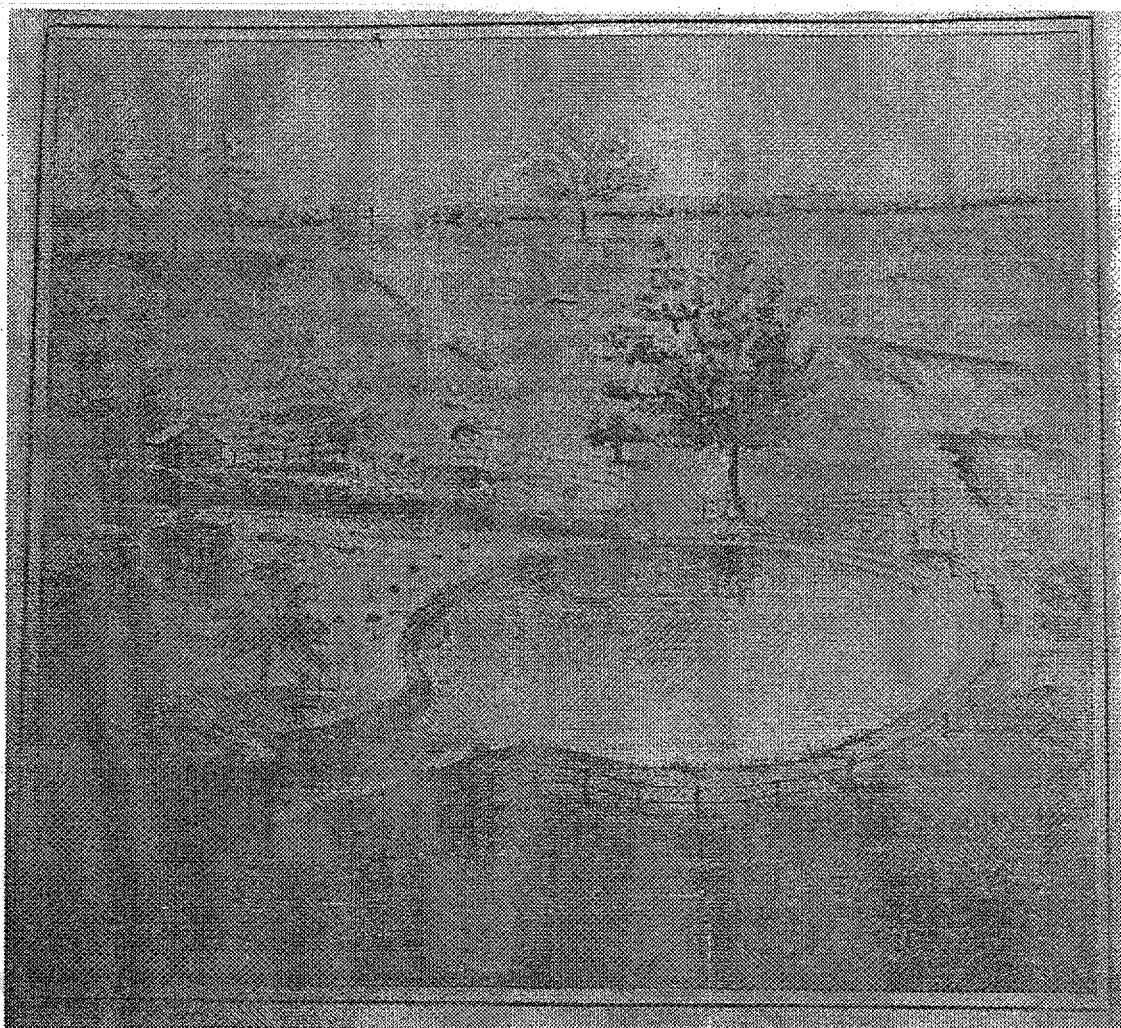
supply" was detected. The Collector knew who paid for a supply and thus was aware who might be attempting to steal it, albeit with the collusion of the paying tenant. The pipe layers and repair gangs as well as the turncocks would have been aware too, and the 5/- a time reward (half a week's wages) was a highly desirable prize. Oversight of all of this came within the Collector's remit and the weekly meeting would have been able to judge the effectiveness of their officers assisted by the Clerk.

The frequency of Rowe's requests for pipe extensions was a measure of his assiduity at increasing the value of his walk. The bi-annual audit highlighted the changes in collected rents in the various walks.

A year and a half after John Rowe was first appointed Collector, the Clerk to the Company Robert Holford whose brother was the Governor gave notice of his intention to resign at the following Easter. He had been Clerk for twenty five years. John Rowe let it be known that he wished to be considered! The speed of the request being reported leads to the conclusion that Rowe was essentially "a favoured son". Nothing which happened subsequently suggests otherwise.

The Weekly Meeting immediately agreed his application and appointed him assistant Clerk. He was to work with Robert Holford for several months whilst at the same time continuing with his collection, before appearing before the General Court to swear his allegiance to the Company, and find increased sureties! Robert Holford was immediately elected to the weekly meeting and that meant being in continuing contact with Rowe. Rowe now moved into the Clerk's house on the Dorset St site. At the same time that Robert Holford resigned the Treasurer also resigned. The newly appointed, Henry Benyon was ordered to pay John Rowe £80 by way of interest. Holford was reimbursed for £44/10/- worth of useful furniture fitted to the apartments and now added to the inventory of the office belonging to the Coy. An assumption may be made here that Holford had lived at the office and that Rowe was going to occupy the apartments.

Sometime after John took over the Clerkship he amended the numbering of the pages of the Board minute book. He also appears to have inserted a note about his nomination to the collectorship! Whereas Holford signally failed



*Chadwell Spring, near Ware, one of the sources of the New River.  
from a water-colourofc1800 owned by the Thames Water Authority in the LMA.  
The scene is little changed today.*

to record his own re-election as Clerk, Rowe never failed to make the entry! Within two months the Weekly meeting had ordered their new clerk to "walk the river" accompanied by the "River Surveyor". This was a three day expedition. The Board itself or those members who could spare the time and felt capable, also carried out a regular survey and when the next was made in the following year John added his comments to those of the company surveyor, Robert Mylne. The arrangements for the Board walk were made by Rowe and Mylne. This consisted in booking meals and accommodation where the river crossed a convenient main highway with a good inn adjacent.

Various small alterations were made to the siting of the Clerk) hOUSEsuch that "he could command a the Yard gate". "A leaden funnell"

was ordered to be "fixed in the privy to prevent the smell and damp."

One of the odd tasks of the Clerk involved the handling of legacies received by the company. A former Board member, Gregory Hardwick, had left money at the discretion of the Board to pay for the apprenticeship of a son of a distressed employee or his widow. It fell to Rowe to act in respect of Sutton, a former walksman, from Middleton Mill; the company added £5 towards clothes annually. Widow paid 2 guineas in her distress. Rowe was authorised late October 1783 to pay the bill from his account.

Nearly a year later Richard Till, the secretary of the London Bridge Waterworks wrote to Rowe after Managers' meeting asking if the New River would reaffirm an agreement of 173617 about the rent to be charged when a

tenant changed their supply. There was always the temptation for tenants to seek either a cheaper supplier or a better quality of water, or to delay payment by changing just before the collector came for the rent. It was primarily the avoidance of paying that London Bridge wished to contain. The weekly Board discussed the matter and Rowe wrote expressing their agreement to what has all the appearance of an "anti-poaching agreement".

Even though Rowe's experience of collecting was short he was despatched to report on and re-establish the company presence in the Whitechapel walk where a former collector had successfully embezzled a considerable amount of the collection for several years. He was awarded a £70 gratuity in July 1784 for the first part, and more later. The rent rose £500.

The response received by the London Bridge managers was less than they had hoped for. They wanted an agreement that no lesser rent would be charged by the New River for late Bridge tenants. This the Board were unwilling to agree to and Rowe was despatched to explain in mid-December 1784.

A far more intriguing matter came before the Board early in 1785 when Rowe asked that he be allowed to accept the invitation of the Treasurer to act as his clerk. Some years later this decision was the subject of a full enquiry and Rowe was found to have acted entirely honourably, but the practice was not continued. It is quite possible that Rowe gave the job to his son and merely passed the remuneration to him without reporting it to the Board. Rowe certainly had his own private clerk who was not paid directly by the company at this time.

The New River Company was a long established company which gradually over time became quite unique amongst water companies. So much so that when the London companies were amalgamated and formed the Metropolitan Water Board the New River Company divided into that part supplying water and a property company which continued in existence into the 1960s when it was the subject of a take-over bid. The archives form a separate accession in the London Metropolitan Archives. Much of the property which the company acquired was copyhold and that implies that an individual had to be admitted into the tenancy at a Manor Court. The change of clerk from Holford to Rowe was seized upon by the various Manors as money making times and each eventually got round to requiring the

Company to nominate a new tenant on its behalf. John Rowe spent a considerable amount of time going out to the manors in which the New River held land and being admitted to the rolls, at a cost. His expenses were reimbursed. Because many of the properties were mills he had the task of dealing with maintenance correspondence in conjunction with Mylne the Company surveyor. For each of these properties there are plans showing the extent of the holding. Two such were at Ware and Brickenden.

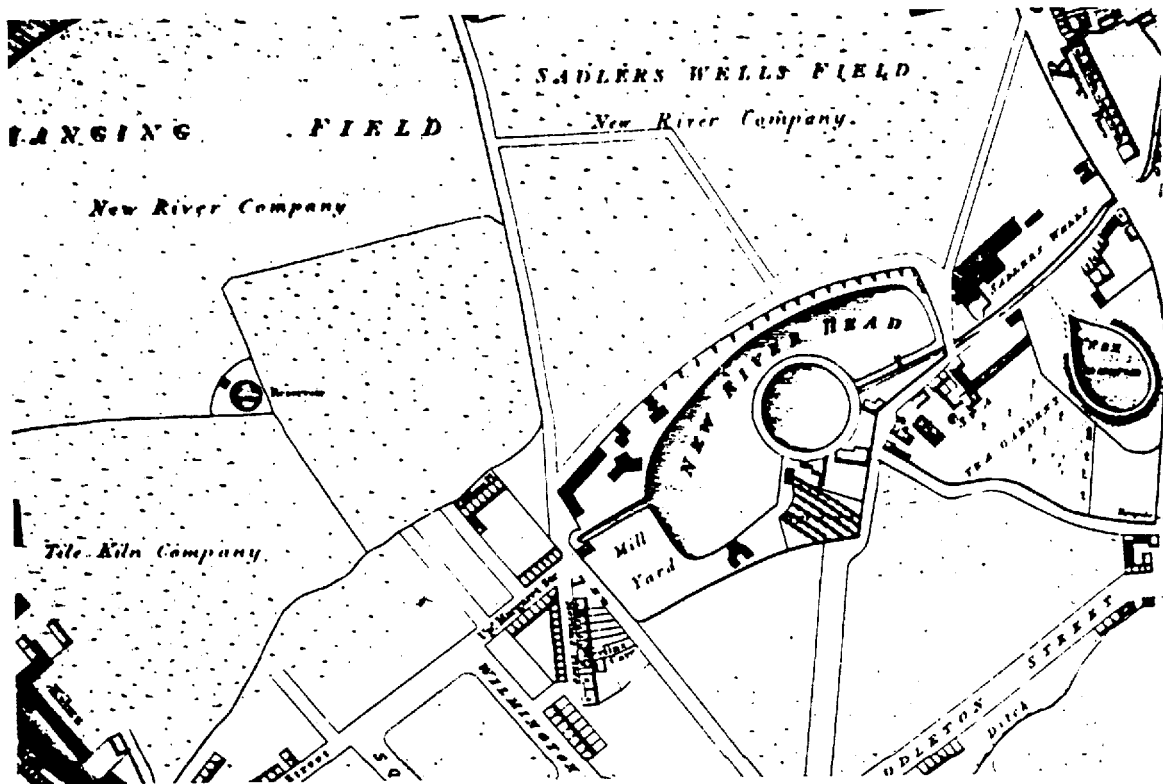
Having been a company collector the task of reorganising the turncock's districts within adjacent collectors' walks did not fall entirely upon the surveyor, Mylne. In 1786 the Board ordered Mylne and Rowe to divide the turncocks Becket and Johnson's walks into three. It was a measure of the Board's confidence in him that the task was not left to Mylne alone. It may also have been because Mylne had his own private practice which took him as far away as Edinburgh on occasion.

A quite disturbing affair, or rather two, occurred in 1789. Word got back to the Board that the Clerk was receiving commission from at least one of the company's suppliers, John Rothwell of Nine Elms. An investigation followed by a small sub-committee of the Board. The allegation referred to an incident in 1785 and Rowe was ordered to table an account, and the money. Rowe was exonerated but tradesmen who offered inducements were to be disqualified and Company servants were to be discharged if proved to have taken such.

Another detail of Rowe's life came out with the outcome of the investigation: He complained he was out of pocket paying the porter and his woman cleaner, awarded a further £25.

The other incident concerned the ordering of elm timber for pipe boring. The Board had previously left the advertising to the Clerk and the assessment to Mylne. In circumstances which are not entirely clear Mylne, in urgent need of elm pipes "forged" Rowe's signature on an advert. The Board were horrified and ordered Mylne not to repeat the practice, possibly the only time he was disciplined.

The New River Head is not far from Mount Pleasant where a dispute arose between the company which owned land between Grays Inn Lane and Theobalds Road and one of the Highway Trusts. The strength of the Board becomes apparent because there were not only



*New River Head, Sadler's Wells, Islington  
from the early 19th century Horwood map.*

bankers but attorneys present who were able to give the Board and Rowe sound advice about the Company's position and the best way of handling the problem. It was a boundary dispute and could have had serious consequences because of the numbers of labourers available on each side to defend posts and fences!

The Company paid a dividend every half year on the 36 shares. That is a simple statement of fact which belies the real situation. Over the two hundred years of the company's existence "whole" shares had become divided into fractions as small as  $\frac{1}{32}$ . All the holders of parts and whole shares were recorded in the Company books and it was the Clerk's responsibility to calculate and pay the dividends. There was one simplifying measure. The dividend would only be divided by the Company into 36 parts, one part for each whole share. There was a "family tree" which showed the origin of each fraction however small. The holders of the fractions were required to nominate a person to receive the dividend for the parts and make the division.

The Clerk handled one divided share, presumably for a commission. All changes of shareholder were referred by the Clerk to the company's solicitor before dividends were paid.

It was in 1799 that John Paul Rowe's name first appeared in the minute books. At this time iron pipes were only being used for new laid mains or difficult situations where strength was essential. Timber merchants were being circulated regularly and advertisements appeared in newspapers such as the Oracle, Reading Mercury, True Briton, The Times and The County Chronicle. It was at the turn of the century that Rowe became more involved in the purchase of elm for pipes. The life of an elm water pipe could be as much as fifty years, in a clay soil, but in sandy soils i.e. those which tended to dry out easily, five years was not uncommon. With about a hundred miles of pipes the company had an insatiable appetite. It was essential that there was a reserve stock at all times. In November 1799 Rowe was ordered in an emergency to purchase five hundred yards of various sized pipes, the only reference to Mylne being that he could reject

unfit timber. There is no clear evidence that they were at logger heads!

One of the hazards of life for responsible-men was the likelihood of nomination to a Parish Office such as Constable. For someone as critical to the good running of the Company Office he just could not be spared and the Board took immediate steps to buy him out of the appointment. Seven years later Rowe was nominated Overseer and again he was ordered to pay the fine to avoid the duty. It came from his account.

There were though other hazards and particularly so in the City. Sometime before 1798 the Board had changed the title of the company's "paviors" to "foremen" presumably without realising that the City authorities could not charge foremen for incompetent work in relaying paving over the water pipes. It was a measure of the power of the City Council that they could summon Rowe without reference to the Board to explain why the New River had made the change, and press him and successfully too, to seek a reversion to the former title. Paviors could again be charged, foremen could not!

One of the other charges against Rowe's Clerk's account was the occasional "charity" call from a retired or severely sick worker. A former pipe borer Thomas Stevens pleaded for "help in his present distress" and was offered 5/- a week "during pleasure", the money to come from Rowe's account.

The parish authorities were always looking for sources of funding and St Brides raised the company's poor rate substantially in 1803. Rowe was deputed to appear before the Parish finance committee to plead for a reduction to the former level which he did successfully; No doubt one of his arguments would have been that the company would raise their assessment on the Parish property! There were other disputes with the parishes in which the company had pipes. It was usual to leave a ~ pipe trench open after replacement or the laying of a new length of pipe immediately after the work was complete. A day or so later the ground would have been made up and rammed before paving was replaced. A dispute was reported in 1803 with the United Parishes of St Andrew Holborn and St Geo. the Martyr, whereby a trench was left open for a long period and the length then disputed. Rowe ordered to write to the Commissioners of Paving and send the original voucher. This

was a case where the Commissioners actually carried out the repaving rather than the company's pavior.

The final minute of the Board meeting at the end of September 1803 is of interest in several respects: "The Clerk on his request hath leave of absence on his private affairs for two Thursdays". Eight months later: "The Clerk asked leave for Thursday next and the Whit recess." There is no reason recorded on these or any other occasions when leave was sought. This was the time of the Ruislip Enclosure Act; so may have been in connection with his land purchases in Northwood.

At a Board meeting a month later it was moved that "Rowe jnr be nominated a Collector". The matter was deferred to the following week when John Paul Rowe was formerly appointed subject to the Annual Meeting. There had been a resignation of a collector, Ed Harris. Thos Davidson of Islington and John Andrews of Brentford were named as securities.

Within two months JPR was commissioned to carry out a listing of the large users of water in his new walk. The Board reviewed the charges and left the Clerk to handle the implementation of the new rents. JPR's listing was to act as a model for the other collectors when they were ordered to carry out similar surveys.

A quite different kind of correspondence began to emerge with other water companies in 1805. There had always been the possibility of competition between adjacent companies. In 1775 the Shadwell and West Ham companies fought a serious battle for custom. Both suffered heavy losses with neither side winning. The same was about to occur in the City. Richard Till wrote about New River Labourers digging up their pipes and not relaying them properly. It was left to the two clerks to try and reconcile the differences.

All work stopped in the City, or as much as could, on the 9th January 1806. It was the state funeral of Lord Nelson. There was a strict economy in the Company Yard. The elm, bought for making into pipes left a considerable quantity of chips and these were offered to the trade. When the contractor, Miller, refused to continue paying the previous contract price it was left to the Clerk to seek another purchaser, a task which was not easily fulfilled. A far more serious disagreement arose with the Commissioners of Tax. They were allowed to assess "clerks" and wished to include the



company's auditors. Rowe was ordered to ask them to state a case. The Board had appointed two of their number to carry out this function and £25 had been allowed each for each audit.

John Rowe sought further leave in 1806 without reason being stated. For only the second time mention was made of a "Rowe" in connection with company business when George Rowe thanked the company for the favours of stationery orders (and hoped they would continue one presumes!) The Board decided that half the company's stationery should come from Wimbolt St Paul's Church Yard. Whether there was any relation between George and John is not stated.

Later in the year JPR sought two weeks leave for his private affairs and seven months later John was given "two or three weeks to re-establish his health". There followed a succession of periods of leave for both recorded as indisposition. In midsummer 1807 John's salary was raised to £380 per annum "for long and faithful service". He had worked for the company for 30 years. During August John was off work for first four weeks "for him and his daughters" and in mid-September he asked for an additional two. All was granted with out comment.

In March of the following year a most unusual order was issued to the Clerk, "He was to survey the Minories with the Collector Ned Sterry, the turncock and any other officer as a spot check on a part of the business. No suspicion of anyone was implied". The subsequent report suggests that the Turncock was of the opinion that there were surreptitious supplies which the Collector denied. The Clerk and those accompanying had 'visited tenants. "All were on the NR book were paid and the rest were London Bridge Waterworks' tenants, one showed his receipt! Meanwhile John Paul reported waste in Britannia Row, Islington and from the tank in Seabrook Place White Lion-St, Pentonville; the ball-cocks were broken and an order was given that the houses be cut off until repairs had been carried out. The order to cut came from the Weekly meeting.

John Rowe asked for two Thursdays off about Easter 1808 "for his private affairs ...". No further unusual requests appeared for two and a half years. In August 1810 John Paul asked for leave and another Collector agreed to stand in for him at his weekly Coffee Shop session.

One of the problems for all the water companies in the days of essentially unpaved roads was the erosion of the ground over the pipes. Laid bare they were vulnerable to the passage of coaches and wagons. In August 1810 Thomas Sellon Smith, Clerk to the Trustees of the Stamford Hill and Green Lanes Turnpike Trust sent an aggressive letter about the state of the road which Rowe was ordered to rebut by pointing out that the foot way had been removed and the New River pipes laid bare. In fact today the New River had repaired the pipes and recovered them. To leave them damaged was not in the interests of the Coy. The blame was entirely the Trust's. To answer thus the collector and the foreman of the pipe repair gang would have had to attend the weekly meeting to give evidence in person, all to be organised by the Clerk who then had to write the letter.

1811 saw the beginning of a water rate war in earnest between several companies. There had been sporadic sniping in several parts of London but another new company was formed in June when the Grand Junction Waterworks Company received its Act of Parliament. The New River was in conflict with the East London in the East End, the West Middlesex and the Grand Junction in the West End, York Buildings and Chelsea in the Westminster area. Each of the others had at least one other battle except the East London. All of this increased the work load of the Clerk as he supported his Collectors - who were, in effect, the "local commanders". During the next two years the dividend dropped from over £200 a year to £20 and this caused much hardship amongst those for whom it was their sole income. Of the company's employees, the collectors were badly hit as their income was derived solely from commission on rents. A basic income was agreed with each, but certainty of continued employment if the area supplied was lost to a competitor. The outcome is another story because shortly the Clerk, John Rowe, was retired on £250 for long and faithful services from Midsummer next (£380 until then continuing) and his son also John (Paul) Rowe appointed at £300 with an allowance of £50 per annum for his clerk but to continue collecting until he took up his appointment.

Another of the problems with wooden mains came when they burst and a horse and carriage plunged into the gushing water. The -damage negotiations were handled by the Clerk and John Paul found himself with several very quickly. In May 1813 the Bishopsgate main

burst and a horse and chaise met with an accident, £20 was claimed and the Clerk ordered to negotiate. The bill was paid a week later. Such matters had to be handled quickly. A quite different claim came from Wm. Goodcheape Inspector of the Commissioners of Pavements of Goswell St who asked for compensation for trouble over the laying of the large iron main, he was offered 5 guineas which was charged to the Clerk's alc.

Not only was the water rate battle intensifying but in 1812 a quite different development occurred. In 1802 no fewer than four plans were outlined for building a canal from Paddington to Limehouse. For various reasons these came to nothing but in 1812 John Nash, the Regent's favourite architect, became involved and an Act was passed allowing the creation of the new canal which would pass under the New River itself and under many of the company's mains. The Board members themselves became deeply involved in the efforts initially to prevent the Bill becoming law and later in securing clauses to protect the company's interests. At the point at which he retired as Clerk John Rowe was nominated as a member of the Weekly Board by no less than the Treasurer, Charles Bemers, a signal recognition of his service to the company. He remained a member until he died in 1816.

A Collector GN admitted in September 1813 being in arrears with his payments- in of water rent, Clerk was ordered to contact GN's sureties. This was notice of intent and the account had to be audited immediately, either by another collector or by the Clerk. A year later Rowe sought more help from the Board and was authorised to engage help for as much as four hours an evening.

John Paul Rowe became Clerk at probably the most difficult time in the history of the Company. The three new water companies aiming to supply north London and secure some of the lucrative business which hitherto had been confined almost entirely to the New River started with a massive advantage, they had been able to raise considerable capital which was devoted to laying iron mains. The New River had miles of leaking wooden pipes which necessitated several gangs employed continuously in repairing, relaying and repaving, and other gangs boring elm logs. Once laid and tested the iron mains could be ignored, on-going labour costs were going to be negligible by comparison. The new Clerk had to find a way to change the old company

rapidly. One member of the Board was a Director of the Bank of England, others were wealthy men. Robert Mylne had died in 1809 and was succeeded by his son William Chadwell Mylne who was, to quote the Duke of Northumberland, "only a boy"! Robert had been the Duke's surveyor for thirty years, the youth of WCM clearly frightened him. But the New River Board which had allowed him to act as Assistant Engineer during the first years of the century placed their confidence in him and appointed him company engineer and time clearly showed they were right. He planned the re-piping of the company's district in the City, involving as it inevitably did the closing of main thoroughfares wholesale, and with the new Clerk pacifying aggressive vestries as well as the powerful City administration. The key was finance and John Paul created a plan to raise a large sum on loan from the existing shareholders, but there were not enough of them and the scheme had to be replaced. Charles Holford wrote to the Treasury and asked for a Government loan for £150,000 to be secured on the assets of the company and the shareholders. This was agreed, eventually, the surviving correspondence is in the Bank archives, the company survived as a smaller and more efficient entity. The Clerk's salary was raised two years later and the dividend recovered dramatically. The loan of £100,000 was paid off before the scheduled time. The engineer won his spurs too. The funding of the iron pipes was aided by the collapse of the cast iron industry. Iron founders went out of business and prices dropped. In fact the loan was as much an effort to bring relief to those parts of the country as to help the New River.

Whilst all this was going on in 1816 the company had sought to end a part of the warfare by proposing an amalgamation with the West Middlesex company. Clearly extra work fell on the Clerk. All to no avail the legal problems were too much and the proposal dropped, though the hostilities between the two lessened considerably.

The inter-company war ended in December 1817 with the partition of north London between all the companies except York Buildings which was taken over by the New River Company. Whilst all this was going on the ordinary work of the company continued. Some aspects became more fraught, the public played one company against another and massive debts arose which became very difficult to recover. The Collectors were obviously in the line, tenants moved and cold

not be traced. New tenants refused to cover for the previous ones even when they knew where they were. Collectors' commissions dropped and rents were written off. The Board delegated this ultimately to the Clerk and accepted his decisions. There was probably little else they could do.

One other London water company, the Hampstead Company, had supply problems of their own and appealed for help to the New River. The opportunity could not be overlooked and arrangements such as had been made previously were repeated only this time the Hampstead Company ceded a small district to the New River permanently. Nearly fifty years later the Hampstead company was acquired by the New River, as indeed was the London Bridge Waterworks. This was a quite different matter. The expansion of the wet dock capacity at the turn of the century was undermining the position of the Bridge works. It was only a matter of time before the wheels

under the bridge would have to be removed. In 1822 the City initiated the take over but it was not straight forward. The Bridge district at the north end came almost entirely within the New River's district, but not all. The East London Waterworks competed with the London Bridge works in a small area of East Smithfield. The division became a matter for the respective Clerks to negotiate. Part of Southwark was supplied from the south end of London Bridge. The area south of the river was a nightmare because three companies competed with the Bridge works within their area, and, the City were the ground landlords with absolute power. The divestment of this part of the works was totally different and took nearly two years complete. The mortgage was not paid off until the 1840s, long after most of the characters involved were dead. It came after John Paul Rowe had long since retired and is one of the less creditable episodes of the Company.

Main source: LMA Ace 2588 New River File.

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## INDEX to RNELHS JOURNALS 1978-1998

This index refers to every article relating to an historical subject or to an individual in any edition of the RNELHS Journal, which was first published in 1978 and annually thereafter. The RNELHS Bulletin, the predecessor to the Journal, last produced in 1977 is not included, nor are the recent newsletters. Reports of Society and LAMAS meetings, visits and other activities are not included, nor are recipes, short local paper extracts and other similar 'fillers'. Obituaries are indexed, but not brief references to the deaths of members. Only complete articles are identified, not individual pages within them.

### How to use the Index

The index is in three parts, the first of which, *Articles by Year and Reference*, is the key to the reference numbers used in the other two. These references uniquely identify each contribution and which Journal it is in by

year/article no. They also appear in the *Contents* for this and the 1997 Journal.

To find articles which cover particular subjects, refer to the *Keyword Index*. This gives the major themes (up to 12) of each article, sorted alphabetically. It is not a complete list of all names or places mentioned in passing, but aims to cover all cases where there is a paragraph or more concerning a single subject, building, place or individual. Buildings are identified by modern street names: not by the names in use at the time in question.

The *Author Index* enables contributions by a particular author to be found.

This Index will be re-published after several years to form a cumulative reference, so any corrections or suggestions for improvement would be welcome.

SKM

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85/4	Woodman's Farm, Silver Street Green, Bury Street	Eileen M Bowlt
85/5	The Ruislip Park Estate from 1870	Valery Cowley
85/6	From Horsens to Ruislip College: The Story of Battle of Britain House	Celia Cartwright
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86/1	The Hearth Tax 1662 - 1689	JimMcBean
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86/3	The Development of King's End and Wood Lane	Colleen A Cox
86/4	Frederic Herbert Mansford, FRIBA 1871-1946	Eileen M Bowlt
86/5	Early Ruislip Memories	Hugh Mansford
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8617	The Far Pavillion	Leonard Krause
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87/1	Domesday Book & the Hundred of Elthorne	Research Group
8712	The High Street I Wood Lane I Ickenham Road triangle	Eileen M Bowlt
87/3	Conserving the W~ Paintings in St Martin's Church	Valery Cowley
87/4	Churchyard Memorials: St. Martin's, Ruislip	JimMcBean
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87/6	Field End: A Glimpse of Life in the 19th Century	Karen Spink
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87/8	John Goodman & Mistletoe Farm	Colleen A Cox
8811	Extracts from "Remembrances of my Childhood"	E Molly Jefferson
88/2	Northwood High Street	Denise Shackell & Colleen Cox
88/3	16th Century Ruislip Homes	Derek Jacobs
88/4	Ruislip Probate Inventories 1662 - 1724	JimMcBean
88/5	Discoveries at Bury Farm, Ruislip:	ColinBowlt
88/6	Adam Mordon's Will	Celia Cartwright
8817	A Foundling Hospital Country Nursery at Ickenham	Eileen M Bowlt
88/8	Some Thoughts on the Study of Local History	Sheila Jones-Owen
88/9	An Eastcote Jubilee 1938 - 88	Leonard Krause
88/10	Ruislip in 1937	Karen Spink (ed.)
89/1	Good Pub Guide 1851 - 1881	Colleen A Cox
89/2	Some 16th Century Ruislip.Families	Derek Jacobs
89/3	Letter from Private Henry Lavender, 1847	
89/4	The Hemrit in the South Aisle	Valery Cowley
89/5	Beetonswood Farm and Ickenham Green	Eileen M Bowlt
89/6	An Original Shuttered Window	ColinBowlt
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89/11	Shoe 'burial' in Ruislip	ColinBowlt
90/1	Extracts from the First Log Book of Holy Trinity Primary School	Denise Shackell
90/2	Nos. 5 to 15 High Street, Ruislip	Eileen M Bowlt
90/3	Early Memories ofMrs LucyHayward	Celia Cartwright
90/4	Observations on a 13th Century Pottery Kiln in Potter Street, Northwood	Robert Bedford
90/5	Some Christening & Burial Statistics for Ruislip	Derek Jacobs
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90/7	Withy Lane c 1940	Eileen M Bowlt (ed.)
90/8	50 Years of North wood School	Eileen Camp
90/9	An Archaeological Investigation at Beetonswood Farm, Ickenham, 1989	ColinBowlt
90110	Commemorative Counter Finds from Beetonswood Farm Site	ColinBowlt
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91/10	Ruislip Man makes Bad Smell in City	Eileen M Bowlt
91111	The Winchesters & 'Blackes'	Derek Jacobs
91/12	The Relation between County & Local History	Ron Lightning

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92/2	Northoh Race Track	DeniseShackell
92/3	A Hunting We Will Go	Eileen M Bowlt
92/4	Frank Welch	Alexander Gander
92/5	Footnotes to Park House	Valery Cowley
92/6	Court Rolls & other 16th Century Sources	Derek Jacobs
92/7	Manor of Ruislip Book of Entries 1589 - 1681	limMcBean
92/8	Querry Gate	RonHarris
92/9	Counter Move at Northwood (Police Station)	Eileen Watling
92/10	St Matthew's Church, Hallowell Road, Northwood	Eileen M Bowlt
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92/12	St Edmund the King, Northwood Hills	Marjorie Pimm
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93/1	The Rickmansworth-Pinner Turnpike	limMcBean
93/2	Graffiti in St Martin's Church	Derek Jacobs
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93/6	The Roumieux	Karen Spink
93/7	Methodism	Alison Akennan
93/8	Childhood Memories: Northwood Hills 1930's & 40's	Pearl Garclner
93/9	A Rediscovered Sand Mine in Northwood	Eileen M Bowlt
94/1	Eastcote Grange: Report on the Fabric	Patricia A Clarke
94/2	St Martin's Church: The Reredos & Chancel E Window	Valery Cowley
94/3	The Head & the Quadruped (wall paintings)	Valery Cowley
94/4	Some Ruislip Cases in the Court of Requests	limMcBean
94/5	Home Farm, Ickenham	Eileen M Bowlt
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94/7	Ruislip War Memorial	Colleen A Cox
94/8	Ruislip Cottagers' Allotments Charity	Eileen M Bowlt
94/9	Home Farm, Ickenham	Patricia A Clarke
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95/2	John Kirton, 17th Century Tilemaker	limMcBean
95/3	The End of Hostilities in Eastcote	RonEdwards
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95/9	A Windmill on Haste Hill	Eileen M Bowlt
95/10	The Donkey Tale	Eileen Watling
95/11	Highgrove and the Hume-Campbells: The East Window in St Martin's Church	Valery Cowley
96/1	Ickenham Manor Moat	Colin & Eileen Bowlt
96/2	The Gawdy Papers	limMcBean
96/3	Mad Bess and a Local Wood	Valery Cowley

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96/5	Scout Camp in Ruislip in 1915	Kay Holmes
96/6	Many-quartered Coats of Arms	Kay Holmes
96/7	Scout Chapel in Mad Bess Wood	Kay Holmes
96/8	The American Base, South Ruislip 1949-72	Eileen M Bowlt
96/9	The Oerlikon Gun Factory, Ruislip Gardens	Eileen M Bowlt
96/10	Four Maintenance Unit & RAF Records	Eileen M Bowlt
96/11	Griffinhurst	Mary Pache
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97/1	WA Telling and the Development of The Grange Estate, Northwood	Simon Morgan
97/2	The Changing Shape of The Fells	Simon Morgan
97/3	Hilliard Road, Northwood - The Early Years	Colleen A Cox
97/4	Charms Hall & the Decharms Family in Ruislip	Eileen M Bowlt
97/5	A Cottage at Eastcote 1835	Eileen M Bowlt
97/6	Memories of a Hole by the Lido	John Sullivan
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