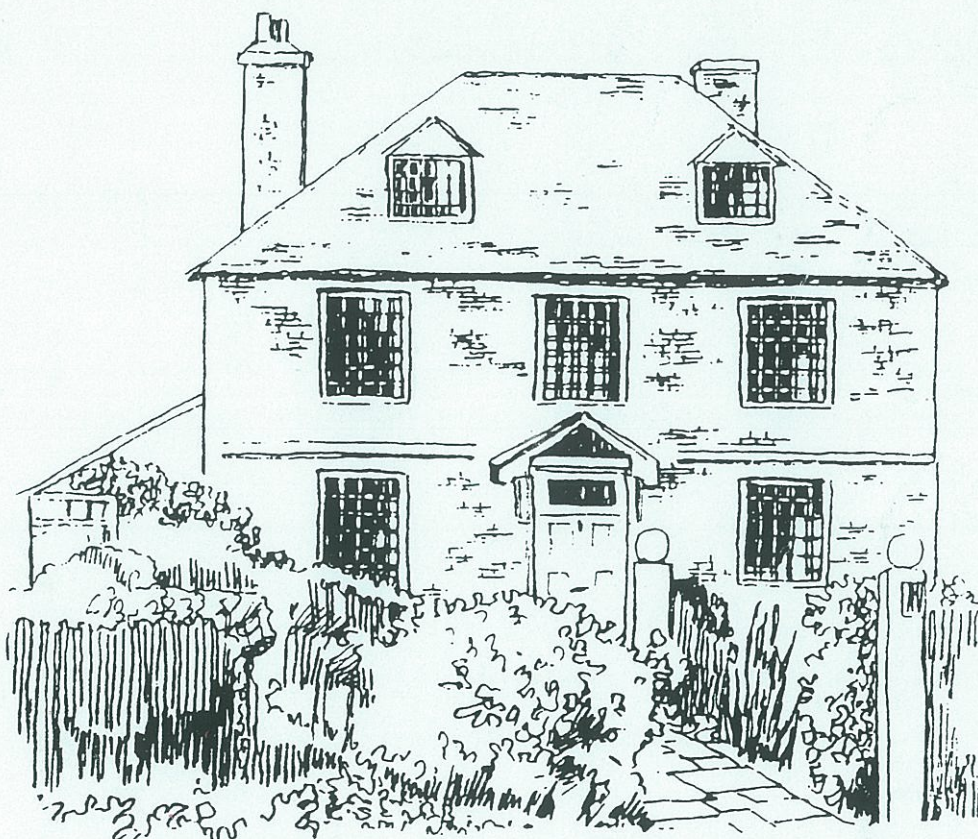


RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society



Journal 1999

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RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society

Journal 1999

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Cover picture: South Hill Farm, Eastcote by Denise Shackell

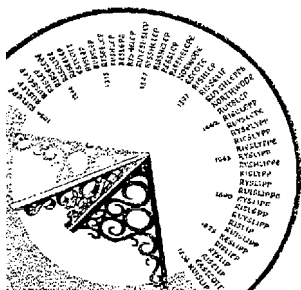
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LMA Research: Pam Morgan

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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 1999-2000 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.



RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society

Registered Charity no. 288234

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LECTURE PROGRAMME 1999-2000

1999

20 September	The Archaeology of the Jubilee Line	James Drummond-Murray
18 October	AGM, followed by: Pubs in Pinner	Ken Kirkham
15 November	Food and Fuel for the Mediaeval London Market	Jim Galloway
20 December	The History of the River Thames Police	Stephen Davies

2000

17 January	The really, really old History of our Area	Dr Robert Symes
21 February	Research Group presentations	
20 March	Erno Goldfinger and 2 Willow Road	Derek Middleton
17 April	The Compass Theatre	Michael Palmer

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

EDITORIAL

More Scholarship, Please

There can never have been a time when interest in the past was as great as today.

In the 1960s the Festival of Britain and other influences had spawned an era of 'modernism', and there was almost revulsion for things historical. Our local councils got away with demolishing Eastcote House and Hayden Hall, our two most important houses, and the 13th century Moor Hall Chapel in Harefield with very little public opposition.

Since that cultural abyss, there has been a gradual revival of interest in history, culminating in the present multi-million pound 'heritage' industry. As we approach the end of the millennium, this enthusiasm is being further fuelled with reviews and analyses of key events in the past 1000 years. Much of this is popular and even lightweight activity such as newspapers and radio shows electing persons of the millennium (my vote goes to Simon de Montfort, by the way, with General George Monk a close second).

Unfortunately, in the desire to serve up the past in an accessible and profitable way, accuracy and scholarship suffer. Many recent films, from 'Braveheart' to 'Titanic' have been rightly criticised for taking liberties with known historical record, resulting in an uncritical public taking away with them a distorted version of events. The same is true, to a lesser degree, of television documentary-style history, which is frequently more concerned with revisionism or making a point than in providing a balanced roundup, when there is more than one point of view.

A recent trend is to attempt the actual recreation of the past - the last word in presenting history 'on a plate'. Open-air museums rescue endangered buildings and industrial sites, and import objects and equipment from elsewhere to show them as in their heydays. English Heritage has recently gone even further in commissioning reproduction furniture for the 1930s interiors of Eltham Palace. And the ultimate must be the television series, *1900 House* - actually getting people to live for 3 months as if in that time. All these activities are in danger of falling into the same trap as befell the Victorian church restorers. A reconstruction can only ever be one interpretation. This approach is fine if this

limitation is made clear, and if information on the assumptions made and the sources used is available. However, there is rarely any such guidance, and the costumed guides often provided at themed locations are understandably of variable degrees of knowledge when departing from their set scripts. Any error in the reconstruction (at Beamish, for example, there are significant faults in the signal box equipment and signalling at the 'railway station') is therefore likely to be accepted as historical fact or, at least, as best current understanding.

There is a danger that the pendulum of modernism versus retrospection will swing back the other way to a new era of ignorance and disdain for the past. There is some evidence that this is indeed cyclical. The mid-Victorians discovered a deep interest in their heritage, applying this to the restoration of churches and other buildings and to their styles of architecture. With the passing of the century and the social and political upheavals of the First World War, this mood had changed to become more forward-looking. The pioneering Ruislip Town Plan of 1910 won general favour despite proposing the demolition of all historic buildings except for St Martin's Church.

By the 1930s middle England looked again to the past for its sense of identity, perhaps in answer to the rigors of economic depression, with 'Jacobethan' revival housing being all the rage. Eastcote House and Moor Hall Chapel were both 'saved' and restored during this period and entrusted to the council for preservation, only to be destroyed 30 years later.

The recent proposed 'slimming down' of conservation areas by Hillingdon Council (in the face of opposition from this Society and others) and concerns over the preservation of the Manor Farm area are perhaps signs that the mood is again changing.

Individuals and societies such as ours can make a difference, by resisting any trend to 'dumb-down' history and continuing to present it in an interesting, but scholarly manner. We have a responsibility to the community to promote understanding of its local heritage, so that democracy (in the form of public pressure) can prevail when it is endangered. At a time when the future of our heritage may seem rosier than ever, there are worrying signs that still greater vigilance will be needed.

CATLINS LANE, EASTCOTE

by Karen Spink

In 1998, Hillingdon Council conducted a review of the 25 conservation areas in Hillingdon Borough and issued leaflets with maps showing suggested changes. In Eastcote Village one of the suggested changes is that part of Catlins Lane should be removed from the Conservation Area. This affects two parts: some houses surrounding St Catherine's Farm on the east of Catlins Lane, and on the west the houses beyond Oakwood as far as The Cottage. It is the latter part that this article is concerned with.

The council's reason for the suggested removal is that: *On Caitlins [sic] Lane, the boundary has been redrawn at St Catherine's Farm, the point which marks a distinct change in character, as road becomes country lane. Oakwood would therefore be the last house in the Conservation Area.*¹ This removes the houses known as Harewood, The Moorings, Elmhurst and Dungail, simply on the basis, it seems, of their having a footpath in front of them and not being opposite St Catherine's Farm.

According to the conservation area review leaflet, however, conservation areas are designated in order to protect those areas which are felt to possess some special architectural or historic interest. It therefore seems appropriate to look at these houses in relation to their neighbours and also at any architectural features they may have.

In the nineteenth century, the only dwelling in the southern part of Catlins Lane was St Catherine's Farm (see map 1).² The name Catlins is a corruption of Catherine's. Opposite the farm on the other side of the lane is old enclosure no. 647. An area of 2a 1r 3p, it was owned in 1806 by Mrs Gregory. The 1837 Terrier (survey) names Mary Gregory as the occupier with James Smith as the owner, and then in 1847 the rate book puts James Smith as both the owner and occupier of land (2a 1r 25p) and barn, with a rateable value of £3.12.6d. This plot of land fits in almost exactly with the piece of land, parcel no. 319 of 2.484 acres, on the 1913 OS map, surveyed in 1911 (see map 2).³ It is divided into eleven plots, each with a

dwelling on it. In 1913, a sale document relating to the sale of seven lots in Eastcote and Pinner, including St Catherine's Farm, shows (though not part of the sale) the row of houses in question, and conveniently names most of them. A twelfth house, Litcombe, has been added at the bottom near Eastcote Road (see map 3).⁴ By 1935 other developments had taken place in Catlins Lane including The Cottage to the north and other buildings around St Catherine's Farm and on Eastcote Road (see map 4).⁵

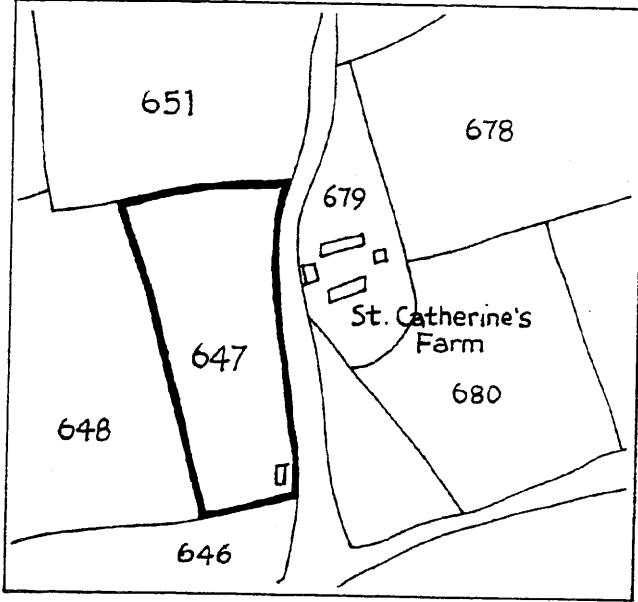
Catlins Lane is unusual in that the Post Office still accepts the sole use of house names instead of numbers. Over the years, however, the names of the early houses have changed and this has made it difficult to determine the exact dates and sequence of the building of these houses. Information in rate books, directories and electoral roll books⁶ has identified some of them, though not always as a person's address is sometimes referred to only as St Catherine's Lane or Catlin's Lane. The first occupation would appear to have been in 1903. By 1905 a main sewer running from Cuckoo Hill had a feeder serving Catlins Lane.⁷

The first house on the left, Litcombe, as has already been mentioned, was the last of the twelve houses to be built, in about 1913. A detached house, with a red-tile roof, it was built in the garden belonging to Ingleby. Its walls are mostly rendered except for several courses of red brick at the base, which finish with a decorative triangle pattern.

Ingleby, the left of a semi-detached pair, was owned in 1903 by C. Jacques and its neighbour, Eastfield, was occupied from 1905 by William Gregory and subsequently owned by him from 1907. William Gregory was councillor for Eastcote in 1904 and was RNUDC's first vice-chairman.⁸ These two houses are still the mirror image of each other, with red brickwork (though over-painted on Eastfield), a grey-slate roof, and sash windows on the first floor.

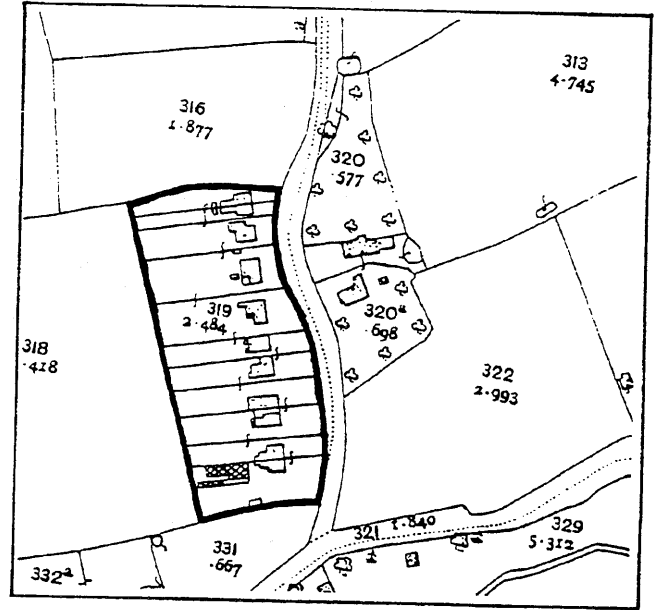
The next house, Anchorage, a detached red-brick (mostly over-painted) house, was occupied in 1913 by Mdme O'flie.⁹ Its gable

1.



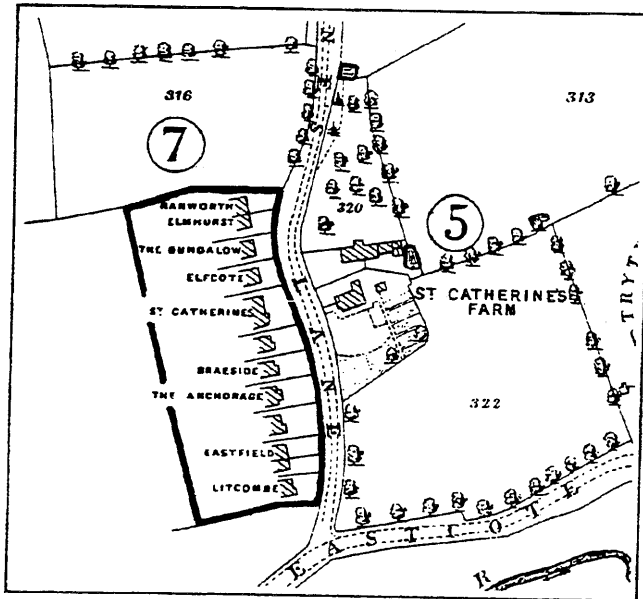
1806. Based on Enclosure Map

2.



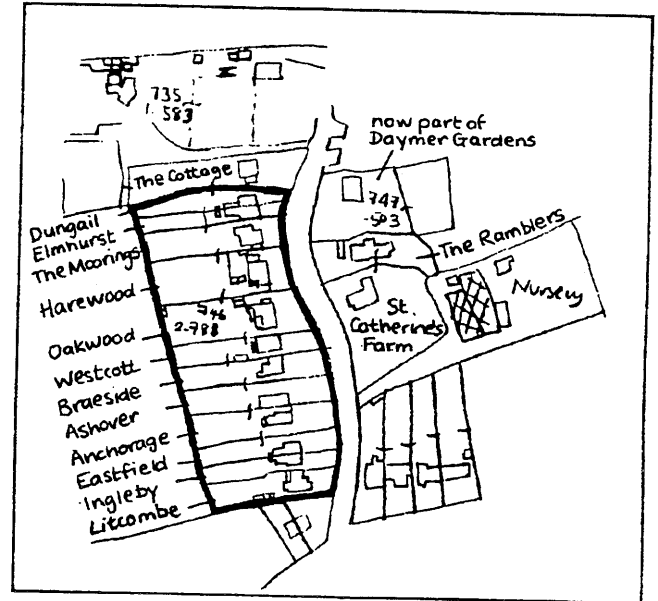
1913. Ordnance Survey Map.

3.



1913. Sale Map. NB. Anchorage appears to be marked in the wrong place.

4.



Based on 1935 Ordnance Survey Map with 1999 house names added.

has decorative bargeboards and there are attractive windows, notably a pretty sash on the first floor.

Continuing up the lane, Ashover has a large new extension on the right with a gable which matches the original on the left. It is red brick, also with decorative bargeboards and a grey-slate roof. The side walls are of stock bricks. George Cornelius Albon Ellement is known to have lived here from 1903-1948. He was the elder brother of Thomas Ellement, Pinner councillor and builder. George Ellement, renowned locally for his cricket skills, played for Pinner and Eastcote Clubs, and was also a founder member of Pinner Football Club (1892).¹⁰ A member of the Ellement family lived at Ashover till about 1960.

Braeside comes next, a detached, part red-brick, part rendered house, followed by Westcott, also part brick (now over-painted) and part rendered, and with a grey-slate roof. Westcott was occupied in 1909 by Arthur William Cross who had moved from Field End Villas in Field End Road.

Oakwood, known as St Catherine's when it was built in 1904, was one of the largest in the lane. It was apparently built by Mr Jacques, a jobbing builder. It has an interesting circular bay on the left of the front elevation with a conical tile roof and there is a large gable on the right. The roof is made of different-shaped red tiles laid in a decorative pattern and there are impressive chimney stacks. This was probably first lived in by Edward Powell.

The other large house is Harewood, originally known as Elfcote. It has decorative brickwork between floors and an attractive doorway and door. From 1910-1916 it was occupied by David Richard Franks. In 1955 there was a handwritten board on the grass verge outside Harewood which said: *Motorists! This muddy lane is used by pedestrians.* ¹¹

The Moorings, formerly The Bungalow, was owned by G. Jacques, probably from 1906 but definitely in 1910 when it was occupied by Ralph William Gostick (or Gosted). It was built by Mr Jacques and the interesting pargeting, a feature of Mr Jacques' buildings, has motifs of plant-forms and birds. Mr T.G. Cross, the local councillor, lived here from

1920 until he moved across the lane to St Catherine's Farm in 1930.

Finally, there is the other semi-detached pair, Elrnhurst, occupied in 1908 by Ernest Edwards, and Dungail, once Ranworth, occupied in 1913 by J.N. St Heale.

In conclusion, the existence of a pavement in front of Harewood, The Moorings, Elrnhurst and Dungail would seem an irrelevance in determining the boundary of the Conservation Area. Historically, all these twelve houses form part of the same parcel of land and were built within a timespan of ten years. They are individually designed, detached or semi-detached, houses and it would be difficult to single out one as having more architectural merit than another. The pargeting on The Moorings and the brickwork of Harewood are as noteworthy as the details on those houses that the review would keep in the Conservation Area. It is as a row that all twelve houses have visual merit. To take four of them out of the Conservation Area would seem short-sighted, particularly as it is nearly 100 years since the start of this development.

Note

Despite these recommendations, in March 1999 Hillingdon Council removed Harewood, The Moorings, Elrnhurst and Dungail, as well as The Cottage, from the Eastcote Village Conservation Area.

References

- Letter to Mrs Jean Gibson, 17 November 1998, from Jane Hamilton, Assistant Conservation Officer, London Borough of Hillingdon
- ² 1806 Ruislip Enclosure Award and Map. Ruislip Library
- ³ 25-inch OS Map. Central Reference Library, Harrow
- ⁴ Sale document. Sale of seven freehold lots i.n Pinner and Ruislip, 15 July 1913. Lot 5 (St Catherine's Farm and Lot 7 (la 3r 20p in St Catherine's Lane) were not realised
- ⁵ 1835 25-inch OS Map. Central Reference Library, Harrow
- ⁶ Various Street Directories, Rate Books and Electoral Roll Books, 1900-1910. Uxbridge Library
- ⁷ Edwards, Ron, *Eastcote: from Village to Suburb*, p22
Kemp, WAG *The History of East cote* p 31
- ⁹ The spelling of this name is unclear in the street directory
- ¹⁰ *The Villager*, no. 33. Pinner Library
- ¹¹ Remembered by Mrs T.G. Cross

THE MISSING LINK: A WRITER AT SOUTH HILL FARM

by Karen Spink

Baroness Orczy's stories have had a revival recently with "The Tea-House Detective" on BBC Radio 4 and a new production of "The Scarlet Pimpernel", starring Richard E. Grant on BBCI television. There is a story in Eastcote that Baroness Orczy wrote part of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" sitting under the yew tree at South Hill Farm while she was staying there.¹ Where this idea came from or why she would have done so seems somewhat obscure.



*Baroness Orczy
with her husband, Montagu Barstow
(from her "Links in the Chain of Life")*

Eastcote is not particularly noted for its writers though it was popular with artists. There were at least two at the turn of the century: the landscape painter Hesketh Bell and Walter Kemp, a sculptor, living at Field End Villas,² and Harrow school pupils were often to be seen with their art master, William Egerton Hine, around Field End.³ There are also references to actors and actresses living in Eastcote," no doubt attracted by the increased accessibility of London on the Metropolitan railway, firstly with the opening of Pinner Station in 1885 and then Eastcote Halt in 1906.

South Hill Farm would seem a strange place for Baroness Orczy to be staying. In 1900, five years before the publication of "The Scarlet Pimpernel", the tenant farmer of South Hill Farm in Southill Lane was Rose Tobutt. In her

mid-forties, she had already been a widow for about twelve years. She had five children ranging in age from 15 to 25 and she fanned four acres of land in Catlins Lane and 21 acres at Southill.⁵ The farmhouse was large, with seven bedrooms, dressing-room, box room and offices, two WCs, a stable, coach house and a flower garden.⁶ As well as running the farm, Mrs Tobutt employed two or three women making pimps (bundles of firewood) which she regularly took by horse and cart to Uxbridge to sell to shopkeepers.' Not the sort of setting one imagines for a Hungarian Baroness, the daughter of Baron Felix Orczy and his wife Emma (nee Comtesse Wass), who boasted of her friendships with Franz Liszt, Arnold Bennett and Henry Irving.

However, South Hill Farm was not without its literary connections, as would be revealed in a letter sent to the Pinner History Society in 1998. It was in a bundle of papers found in a barn in Devon by someone who thought they looked interesting enough not to throwaway. ⁸ The letter was not from Baroness Orczy, but it was from South Hill Farm, Dated only "Monday", it was addressed to Mrs Dowdall from George L. Calderon, who refers to South Hill Farm, even though he is obviously not the farmer. He says he lives in a room where he writes and goes out to "pick daisies", and sometimes travels to London to copy things out of books. While Mrs Dowdall is addressed formally, the letter is chatty and friendly, and its purpose is probably to thank her for, and decline, an invitation to visit her and her husband.

Nothing was known of Mrs Dowdall, nor of the correspondent. Could anyone in Eastcote help? The handwriting and the style of the letter suggest a date somewhere around the turn of the century. It did not take long to find a promising entry in the Uxbridge Poll Book for 1900. Classified under Lodgers was George Leslie Calderon. He was renting two furnished rooms for 7s 6d per week from Mrs Tobutt at South Hill Farm. The tone of the letter shows someone who had a way with words and comparing the signature on the letter with that

reproduced in Percy Lubbock's biography confirms that this was the writer and dramatist George Calderon. So, South Hill Farm can claim an author, though not the one expected.

George Leslie Calderon was born in 1868. He was the son of the painter Philip Hermogenes Calderon, RA whose own father was Spanish, a former monk who turned Protestant and came to England to avoid Spanish orthodoxy, and whose mother was French from the Basque



George Calderon

*George Calderon and his Signature
(from "...A Sketch from Memory" by Lubbock)*

Pyrenees. Philip was the leader of a group of painters known as the St John's Wood School who specialised in painting historical and biblical scenes. He was a regular exhibitor of the Royal Academy and was elected Keeper in 1887. In 1891 he exhibited a very controversial painting, "St Elizabeth of Hungary's Great Act of Renunciation", which upset many Roman Catholics. The brother of Philip's wife, Clara, was the academician G.A. Storey.

It was in this artistic atmosphere that George Calderon and his five brothers and two sisters were brought up. George was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Oxford. He was one of those infuriating scholars who was good at everything: writing, drawing, languages, mathematics, athletics and playing the piano. He was also entertaining and popular, as well as good-looking. Yet he never excelled in exams at school and got a second class degree (in humanities). He pursued only those things that he was passionate about. Nevertheless it was always said that he would do well.

He was called to the bar (Inner Temple) in 1894 when he gave his address as 1 Cloisters, London EC. However, instead of pursuing a career in law, in 1895 George decided to go to Russia. With commissions from several London newspapers, including The Standard, to be their occasional correspondent, and with additional income from giving English lessons, he was able to support himself. He stayed in St Petersburg for two years and returned to England with a satchel full of notes and sketches which he turned into articles for various journals. He could speak and write Russian fluently.

During his stay in Russia, George had the idea to write a book on the beginnings of religion: a comparative study of customs and languages. It was one of the ideas that consumed him for the rest of his life. He also became interested in the possibilities of a universal language, though he was dismissive of Volapuk and Esperanto. He researched, studied, learned languages and meticulously filed all his notes. He attended lectures and conferences and involved himself in causes: "peace of the country road" (anti-motor-car of the rich), he was Honorary Secretary of the Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage in 1909, he tried to break the ring of strikers in the coal strike (1912). He was a member of the Board of Russian Studies and wrote freelance articles for The Times Literary Supplement and its predecessor "Literature".

In 1900 (the year of the South Hill Farm letter) Calderon took a job as library assistant at the British Museum which made use of his knowledge of Slavonic languages. A friend and contemporary at Trinity College, Laurence Binyon, who became a poet and art historian, was already working there and may have helped him secure this post. However, George left after three years as he found this employment left insufficient time for all his researches and writing.

His first published book was "Adventures of Downy V. Green" in 1902. It is an entertaining satire of life in Oxford as experienced by an American Rhodes scholar, Downy V. Green, grandson of the popular literary character Verdant Green (written by Edward Bradley, alias Cuthbert Bede, in 1853-7). The book is illustrated with George's own amusing drawings, rather in the style of Edward Lear or Max Beerbohm. It was published in at least three impressions and drew praise from reviewers. The Daily Telegraph wrote: "It is one of the best bits of fooling we have read for a long time, and it is written by one who knows Oxford perfectly, and has a command of American slang which Mark Twain himself might envy...; Till's book, which is cleverly illustrated by the author, deserves as wide a vogue as its predecessor 'Verdant'. Its humour is quite as irresistible and more subtle." The Times was even more effusive: "We never remember to have read anything which more compelled laughter than these too few pages. We have a perfect carnival of American slang... The line illustrations, which are by the author, are in some cases admirable; we may say comparable with Mr Kipling's."

George Calderon followed this in 1904 with "Dwala. A Romance". It opens in Borneo but is mostly set in London. It takes a humorous

look at evolution's "missing link" and pokes fun at London society.

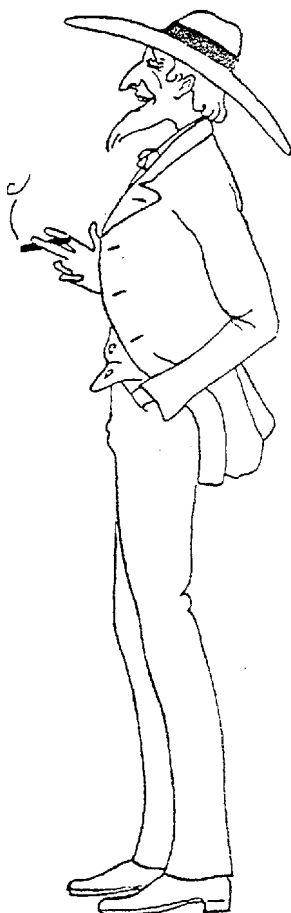
After these two books, George turned to writing plays. His first, "The Fountain" (performed in 1909), a satire on the times, was followed in 1911 by "The Little Stone House" and in 1912 "Revolt", which dealt with strikes and crowds. Others were "Thompson" and "Geminæ" in 1913. He translated Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" and "Cherry Orchard", and in 1914

Count Ilya Tolstoy's "Reminiscences of Tolstoy".

His compulsive studying and zest for life affected his health. He loved to travel and found that sea voyages were the best form of rest and recuperation, though inevitably he came back with more notes and journals. He made trips to Paris, Lisbon, Marseilles and the Canary Islands. In 1906, advised to take a restorative sea journey, he went to Polynesia for several months, also visiting New Zealand.⁹

As mentioned earlier, 1900 found George Calderon in Eastcote. How long he was here or why he chose to lodge here instead of in London is not known, though his love of the countryside and fresh air may have had something to do with it.¹⁰ However, George left Eastcote in 1900 and married Katharine, the widow of Archie Ripley, another good friend from Oxford, who had died two years earlier.¹¹ George and Katharine were drawn together during Archie's terminal illness and after their marriage they set up home with Katharine's mother, Mrs Hamilton, at Heathland Lodge in the Vale of Health, Hampstead. In 1912, Mrs Hamilton now deceased, they moved to 42 Well Walk, Hampstead.

What, meanwhile, of Baroness Orczy? Having first attempted a career in music (her father was a composer and conductor), she decided she



He only chuckled

George Calderon's drawing of 'Old Man Downy' from "Adventures of Downy V Green".

€

wanted to be a painter and secured a place at West London School of Art, a branch of South Kensington School of Art (probably because of her family's acquaintance with Lord Leighton, the President of the Royal Academy). However, finding study there rather dull, she attended Heatherleys in Newman Street, W1 where "Old" Heatherley ran life classes. It was here she met her illustrator husband, Montagu Barstow. She made friends with several academicians and had three pictures in successive years hung in the RA, as it happens just at the time that Philip Calderon was Keeper there. She married in 1894 and for a while both she and her husband worked as illustrators (she for a children's book, he for magazines), from their studio flat in Holland Park.

In 1899 her son John (Jack) Montagu Orczy Barstow was born, and later the same year the lease on the studio flat ran out. The Barstows found new accommodation in Kensington which would not become vacant till 1901. Having already planned to spend the second part of 1900 in Paris to enjoy the Great Exhibition, they took lodgings in London for half a year. They stayed with a family from Derbyshire (a couple with two daughters) in a "London suburb", a bus-ride from the canal at Westbourne Park, and it was here that Baroness Orczy had the idea to become a writer. This family had some small success having short stories published, and the Baroness being well-travelled and regarding herself as far more worldly-wise thought she must be able to do much better.

While in Paris she wrote six detective stories for the "Royal" magazine. These were known as the "Tea-House Detective Stories". On her return to London the Baroness conceived the idea of "The Scarlet Pimpernel". She apparently wrote it in five weeks while living in Kensington, and no publisher was interested. With her husband's assistance she turned the story into a play, which was finally put on in Nottingham in the autumn of 1903 by the Terry Management (run by the actor Fred Terry and his actress wife Julia Neilson). It was a flop. But with some re-writing by Terry, it was finally performed at the New Theatre in London in 1905. The Daily Mail wrote: "The only good thing about the play is its name". However, despite the critics, the play picked up, and the novel, published simultaneously,

was a success. It started a prolific career for Baroness Orczy in adventure romances, but none of her other books had quite the success of "The Scarlet Pimpernel".

There is no reason to believe that any of the writing was done in Eastcote. It is not inconceivable, though, that she might have known or visited Eastcote. Her son Jack went to prep school in Stanmore Park, followed by Harrow School, though by this time the family home was in Bearsted, near Maidstone, Kent.



Took them 'found the sight!'

from 'Adventures of Downy V Green'

Is it a fond hope to think that there might have been a small creative circle at Eastcote? Possibly. However, Baroness Orczy and her illustrator husband moved in artistic and theatrical circles and may have crossed paths somewhere else with the Calderons. Baroness Orczy wrote several plays early in her career as did George Calderon, and being something of an illustrator himself, George may have known Montagu Barstow. Intellectually there is not much to compare George with the Baroness.

It was unfortunate for Calderon's career that the Great War intervened. George did not see it this way. Though there was no call, at the age of 45, for him to go to the front to fight, he was determined that he should. He was an adventurer, moreover it was the 'right' thing to do. So with much determination he set about finding the means. He realised the most obvious way to get there was as an interpreter. So he brushed up his languages and learned to ride (essential for a war interpreter, he had been told). At first refused and then within 24 hours accepted by the Inns of Court OTC, within six weeks of the outbreak of war in August 1914 George was in camp on Salisbury Plain as an interpreter with the Royal Horse Guards (the Blues). He went with them to Flanders and during the 1st Battle of Ypres he talked his way into the 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a combatant officer. He had not been with them four hours when he was shot in the leg by a sniper and sent home to England.

By January 1915 he was passed fit and was given a commission in the 9th Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. A popular companion and a good leader, he spent four months in barracks and could well have stayed in England, leaving the fighting to younger men, but it never occurred to him to do anything other than return to the front. In May he was sent to the Dardanelles where he became attached to the 1st Kings Own Scottish Borderers. His letters home were full of mentions of the beauty of the area, the smells of the wild plants and the sound of the nightjars. "Last night I was rather wakeful, and heard a great noise of fighting, rifle and cannon. It was one of the most beautiful nights I ever saw; a full moon shining on the waters to right and left of me, a clear starry sky, and a landscape of hills and woods and distances like an early Victorian steel engraving. In the contrast of scene and war the scene far outweighs the war, which only plays an accompaniment. „¹² The letters express a fondness for his companions and his humour always comes through. On 1st June the soldiers were expecting an attack so they spent the night prepared. "It is a consolation," he wrote, "to think that if I sleep in my boots there can be no centipedes in them in the morning„¹³

On 4th June, George's platoon was among those that led the British attack. Close to a

Turkish trench, he was seriously wounded, and was never seen again. He was 46 years old. In his last letter home, written on 3rd June, he had written: "I only hope that the Turks will recognise the regiment; then they'll fly for Byance yelling 'Allah, it's them Scots again!' and nobody will find out that I'm a timid little penman from London."

South Hill Farm may not be able to claim the famous author Baroness Orczy, but for a short while it was home to a promising writer and man of ideas with huge potential. Had George Calderon survived the war his name might well have become a more familiar one.

And what of the recipient of his letter from South Hill Farm? She was the Hon. Mrs Dowdall, the fourth daughter of the 16th Lord Borthwick, and wife of Harold Chaloner Dowdall, a barrister, who was Lord Mayor of Liverpool in 1908-09. The future Judge Dowdall and George Calderon were at Rugby and Trinity together. Though an aristocrat, Mary Dowdall did not take Liverpool society seriously, as is shown in her tongue-in-cheek etiquette book "Manners and Tone of Good Society". Her bohemian behaviour endeared her to Augustus John and his family, and as well as becoming Augustus's patron she was the confidante of his wife, Ida. Mrs Dowdall acted in repertory theatre, causing something of a scandal by "taking the boards" on Good Friday, and was noted for walking barefoot through the mud, claiming it was good for the mind. She put this to good effect when writing her novels and magazine and newspaper articles.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to Jim Golland of the Pinner History Society who passed the letter on to me and suggested that the author might be the dramatist George Calderon. I am also grateful for his assistance with other pieces of information.

Notes and References

- In 1999 there is a very large old yew tree in front of South Hill Farm
- 1891 Census, Ruislip Library. Poll Books, Uxbridge Library
- ³ Kemp, WAG. *The History of East cote*. William Egerton Hine taught at Harrow School, 1892-1922
- ⁴ Ibid. Nancy Price lived at Field End House and Denise Orme at Mistletoe Farm
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- 6 26 June 1880. Property to let notice, Buckinghamshire Advertiser
- 7 Kemp W.A.G, *The History of Eastcote*, p68: AG. Bedford memories. The letter is the property of EA Kendail, whose permission to reproduce it has not been forthcoming.
- 9 *Tahiti. Impressions of the South Seas* by George Calderon was published posthumously in 1921
- 10 *Men and Memories. Recollections of William Rothenstein. 1900-1922.* "He [Calderon] and I went for long walks over the Heath, discussing art, ethics, literature, politics, religion, folk-lore - there was nothing about which Calderon could not theorise brilliantly."
- 11 George and Katharine were married in the parish of Westminster in the last quarter of 1900. Marriage Register Index, Family Records Centre. Katharine was living with her mother in Golden Square, W1 at the time
- 12 Letter dated 30 May 1915. *George Calderon - A Sketch from Memory* by Percy Lubbock
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HALLOWELL ROAD, NORTHWOOD

A Street Research Project

by Denise Shackell

Purpose

To discover when the houses were built, their style, what other type of buildings were erected and to note changes from 1900 to 1998.

Location

Hallowell Road is situated between Green Lane, to the north, and Northwood High Street, to the south, near to the Iron Bridge, (which carries the Metropolitan Railway across Rickmansworth Road, between Northwood Hills and Northwood Stations).

Name

The road got its name from the great-grandson of Admiral Sir Benjamin Hallowell (1760-

1834) who had succeeded to the Carew estates at Beddington, Surrey in 1828 after the death of his cousin, Mrs Anne Paston Gell, on condition that he assumed the family name of Carew. He was given the names Frank Murray Maxwell Hallowell Carew (1866-1943).

Background

Carew bought the Eastbury estate of 265 acres in 1887, when he was 21 years old, not to live on but to develop for profit. The land on which Hallowell Road was developed was part of this estate. He laid out the roadways, named them, divided the area into building plots to sell; he fixed a minimum cost for the houses to be erected on them. The price range for houses built in Hallowell Road was £750 for a

detached house or £1300 for a pair of semi-detached houses. All the roads were named after himself, his sons or his wife.

Method

The first task when starting my summary of the road, in 1998, was to go to there to make a list of the numbers and names, if any, of the houses, the types of houses, for example, detached, semi-detached, or terrace, and whether any were divided into flats. I also noted any open plots and evidence of modern roads, new houses, or buildings and where there were any businesses still operating.

Street Directories

I was working from the present day backwards. I already owned a Kemp's Directory of Ruislip Northwood for 1977. These books were published from 1939-1979. My 1977 book had a good scale map of the area, together with lists of roads with house numbers, but no house names, with the surname and the initials of the occupier living there. I listed these on a chart with the house numbers down the left-hand side and the year at the top of the chart. I added further dated columns as I found more street directories for other years. From Kelly's Directory of Pinner, Hatch End and Northwood, 1938, I got a second list, and from Rawlinson's Directory of Northwood, Eastcote and Ruislip, the occupiers in 1923.

There is a directory for 1915-16 Northwood private residences and a separate commercial directory. The names are listed alphabetically, with surnames, full Christian names and addresses. It does not give house numbers, but does include house names and, in the commercial section, types of business operating. There was a grocer and photographer. From my previous information I was able to establish that these businesses operated from numbers 26 and 41, respectively.

Cross Referencing

The house names and numbers in my present day survey enabled me to match names to those houses on my 1977 list that had only numbers. I was able to match the house names in the King's Gazette Almanac, 1904 in the same way. This ensured that the occupier's name was assigned to the correct house.

Because the 1904 Almanac was not very detailed it was difficult to match some names to particular houses. Sometimes I could match the surname, together with the initials, where no house name was given, because the occupier had remained the same from 1915-1923. This time there were ten names that I could not match to particular houses. The names were different from 1915, and no house names were recorded

Rate Books

The next useful record was the 1902 rate book, for the parish of Ruislip, which lists name of occupier, name of owner, description of property rated, such as house and garden, cottage and garden, house and yard, building land, stabling yard etc. situation of property, street name, and estimated extent.

In Hallowell Road the plots measured from two poles (one pole equals 5Yzyards square) to one rood, (one rood equals 5Yzyds x 220 yds or '14 acre). In fact there was a wide range of sizes: nine were twelve poles, the biggest plot was one rood (or 40 poles).

From both the old records and the modern survey I knew what churches were in the road: St John's (built 1914) at the top (Green Lane end) on the west and St Mathew's (built 1923) further down on the same side. At the bottom (High Street end) of the road there had been a Methodist church (built 1903) which was later converted into a synagogue. Its quite large plot is now covered by modern sheltered accommodation, James Court, belonging to Hillingdon Borough.

Newspapers

Advertisements in newspapers are useful. There were seventeen businesses advertising in 1910: a nurse, a milliner, a shoe smith, an ironmonger, a house decorating supplier, a wood dealer, a builder and decorator, a butcher, an artificial teeth institute, a photographer, a coal merchant, a surveyor, a paperhanger, a carpenter, a dressmaker, a silver plate cleaner and a motor engineer. There was a parade of shops near St Matthews church. I went back on foot to see whether the present houses showed evidence of once having been shops or businesses. Several of them did have big windows and one still had a builders yard behind it.

Findings

From the documents I have looked at I have gained information about the houses that were in the road, the names of the families who lived in the road, in 1923, 1938, 1954 and 1977. I found that some had lived there for forty or more years. At some houses I suspected that, because of the same surname recurring but with different initials, children stayed when their parents had died or left. It was possible to establish when churches had first started in the road, and when permanent buildings for worship were finally built. The first businesses that were listed in the directories were in 1902, only four being named in the documents that I

road is lined on both sides, from top to bottom, by vehicles. The effect of this is to reduce the width of road, for those using it as a thoroughfare, making the road no wider than a country lane, without passing places.

Shops: There were no fridges or freezers in 1900, and indeed were not in common use until after the Second World War. This meant that fresh foods were purchased every day, encouraging shops to open near to people's homes. In the middle of the century there was a change. In Green Lane, to the north of Hallowell Road, several large parades of shops were built. These provided the shopping needs



The Parade and Wesleyan 'Tin Chapel', Hallowell Road c 1905

studied. There were seventeen thriving in 1910, by 1938 there were twelve, by 1998 there were only two

Changes

In the period that has been covered by this research, 1900-1998, I found the following changes.

Houses: In the early part of the century a few houses were already divided into flats. In 1998 several more had become split into flats. The houses had been built without garages; cars were not owned by the social classes who would have lived in these properties. In a photograph of Hallowell Road of 1905 the road is completely free of traffic. Bicycles were popular, as revealed in another photograph. The situation is very different in 1998. The

of the people who lived in the streets nearby. The demise of the 'corner' shop began.

In 1998 more changes have taken place. Most families now living in Hallowell Road own cars. Large supermarkets have opened, and people are prepared to travel several miles to their favourite store. People can do all their household shopping for the week or longer in one big store. Cars are essential to get the bulky purchases home. The common practice of the shopkeepers before the war, to provide a delivery service to the home for foods, became unusual presumably because of car ownership.

As a result, only two businesses remain in Hallowell Road: a builder and, appropriately enough, a motor maintenance workshop.

Conclusion

It has been possible to establish:

- the number, and names of households which lived in Hallowell Road at various dates,
- the lengths of time that individual families have lived in particular houses,
- the number of businesses that thrived between 1910 and 1938;
- the development of purpose-built parades of shops, which took trade away from this road;
- the ownership of family cars, which enabled people to get to distant shopping areas and contributed to the closure of the shops in Hallowell Road.

Comparing these documents with the modern survey has given an insight into a way of life

that changed considerably during the ninety-six years investigated.

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House Name	1977	1954	1938	1923	1915-16
1 Monerey	Ferroussat Rev. Dr. G.P	LumleyM.M	MrsBoyle	AuvialL	
3	Hamilton A.J.S.	Hamilton A.J.	Hamilton Arthur J.S.	Hamilton A.J.S.	
5 Victoria	Dyson H.D/S Flat	DysonH.	Cotmore Miss	CotmoreF.	
5a	StrongN.A				
7 Braemar		Birch.C	Kemp.Mrs	Kemp.W	
9 Lelant		Terry.J.H	Desboughier Miss	Desboughier.L.E	
11Hart	WoodL.V		McLean Rt	Richardson J	
11a	Hancock Mrs.	BamesG.E	Barnes G.E		
11b			Woodman Bertie		
13 Broomhall	Richards N.A	PulfordI.B		Green S.L	
15 Ardsley	Kennedy AE	Kennedy M	Story Wm. G	Bowker Mrs C.M	
15	Doley E				
17 Kilmun	Carpenter R	Jenkins N.G	Jenkins Oliver	King Mes. AS K	
190akley	Swain M.J	Stevenson J.		McKechnie R.M	
19a	Pockock E.	Overy K.F			
21 St Cecilia	Milward F.J.M	ParkerH.S	Burrough Leslie R tailor	ClowW	
23 Devonia	Hawkins D.K heating, san. & vent. eng.	Hawkins D.H	Moore Chas Rt	MooreC.R	ttss « C (1...
25 Ferndale	Harrington P.	Eldridge E.H	Odell Mrs. Steven Miss M. SRN Dist. Nurse	Odell S.A	
27 St Margarets			Brown Geo.	BrownG.F	
27a	Moore A Byrne J.F	BrownF.E Brown Geo. & Son decorators			
29 Hilbre	Flynn J.	Phi lips S.G.	Stanbra Jos. E.	Stanbra J.E.T.	Rose Marie Miss Costumier
31 Lindhurst	Reeves DJ.	Garner L.		Rowell H.W	
33 Delamere	Godnran R.A & Co solicitors	Godman R.A & Co solicitors	Brown Miss K.M.	Knight Miss S.	
33	Oswald Miss C.P.	OswaldJ.			
35 Craighill	SommerP.H.	Ford E.	Ford Miss E.	Ford Miss E.	Cherry Miss Dressmaker
37 Cardigan	Vacant	BurkeL.J.	Haddon Chas.	Cherry Miss E.W.	
39	Keeler AE.	Rowell M.		LeggeC.C.	
41 StMary's	Paganini F.	WestonA.W. Photographer	WestonAW. Photographer	Weston Miss F.	Weston Alf. Wn. Photographer
43	Clucas I.J.	Burr F.J.L.	Burr Fred. J L.	Smythe F.R.	
43a	BurrF.J.L.				
45 Handel Hse	Reakes G.	Willows on F.J	Willowson Frank J.	Willowson Fr. J	Rawson Bottom F.A.Music teacher
45	ReakesJ.A				
47	Williams D	Fowler AJ.	Fowler Geo. F.J.	Fowler G.F.J.	
49 Brookfield	Norton KL.	WatsonH.E.		Lowe AS.	
51 Belle Vue	DoyleB.T.	Yorke H.J.	Yorke Henry J.	YorkH.J.	
53 Overton	BallW.	WhybrowAH	Palmer Mr. E.	Frith E	
55	vacant		Bennett H.		
570akridge	Jaques P.A	Marley J.	Marley J.	Marley J.	
59 Royside	Vost P.H	Brading F. W.	Beading F.W.	Elphick L.S.	Brown Geo. Frank House decorator
61IvyHolme	Nevill D.C.E.	WeightF.J.	White Mrs. AB.	BeerH.E.	Beer Herbert Ed.
63	BodieKT.	Cater M.	Cater Joshua Hy		
65	Newborn Z.C.	Smith F.	Halsey Robt. H.		
67	Fulwell W.	Fulwell Wm			

Hallowell Road: Example occupancy table for part of the east side of the road

by Eileen M Bowlt

A house, today known as Eastcote Cottage, stood at the junction of Field End Road with Eastcote Road, opposite Eastcote House, from at least the 16th century. According to the 1565 Terrier¹ of the Manor of Ruislip it was a

A hand-drawn map of a street layout, likely a historical or planning sketch. The map shows a network of streets and property parcels. Key features include:

- Streets:** Clay Street (top right), Field End Lane (bottom right), and a street running vertically on the left labeled "Hale End".
- Property Owners and Numbers:**
 - Top: John Robins (jun.), Rich^d Stanborough, James Ferne, Well Green alias Long Marsh.
 - Left side (Hale End): Wm. Nicholas of Perivale, Thomas, Richard Stanborough, John Hale, John Ferne.
 - Center: Chambers, Richard, John Redinge of Field End.
 - Right side (Clay Street): John Redinge, John Stanmore, Field End, John Redinge, John Nicholas, John Ferne Miller.
- Numbers:** Various numbers are written on the parcels, including 604, 603, 602, 601, 600, 599, 598, 597, 596, 595, 594, 593, 592, 591, 590, 589, 588, and 587.
- Other Labels:** "Field End Green" is labeled near the bottom right.

Fig 1: Holdings referred to in the King's College Terrier 1565 related to the Old Enclosures shown on the Enclosure Map 1806.

cottage called Plockettes owned by John Redinge of Stanmore. Five and a half acres of pasture in three small closes and an orchard were attached to it, and 20 acres scattered about the common fields of Eastcote. The bottom end of Field End Road was known as Clay Street at the time. It was situated to the north of a messuage belonging to another John Redinge (of Field End), which can be identified

This map was devised and drawn by Jim McBean, based upon the Enclosure Map of 1806. The numbers denote various Old Enclosures. Numbers 603-6 which have been allocated to John Redinge of Stanmore contain 6 acres 1 rood 38 perches, more than the 5 and a half acres given in the Terrier, but as we know that the larger wood pole (18 feet) was used in Ruislip in the 16th century as a unit of

measurement and that the Enclosure Map is based on the statute pole of 16 and a half feet, the discrepancy is not so great as might appear.

The Enclosure Map shows buildings in OE 606 and in OE 605 and the question arises as to which of the two houses was the 16th century Plockettes. John Readinge of Plucketts (spelling has changed) surrendered Plucketts House, the ground about it and some meadow and one acre of arable in Burcroft, to Ralph Hawtrey Esq. and his heirs at a Manor Court in November 1616². Thereafter the house remained in the hands of the Hawtreys and their descendants the Deanes until the late-19th century, although the name was lost, not being heard of later than the 17th century. By 1806 the land on the corner of Eastcote Road and Field End Road which is now part of the grounds of Eastcote Cottage and was then OE 606, belonged to John Stiles and had a cottage and stables standing on it³. This suggests that the house in OE 605, which belonged to Ralph Deane, was the 16th century Plockettes and is now called Eastcote Cottage. It is the subject of the article by Pat Clarke, which follows this. Ralph Deane also owned OE 603, a four acre meadow whilst Thomas Truesdale Clarke (of Swakeleys) had OE 604 which was one and a quarter acres.

Ralph Deane owned OE 606 as well as 604 and 605 by 1837⁴ and had a house and cottage adjacent, presumably all the buildings shown on the Enclosure Map. In an article in this Journal 1997 entitled A Cottage at Eastcote 1835, I suggested that the cottage therein described had been joined to the house at a later time and now together formed the present Eastcote Cottage. Having looked at the various OS maps since then, I now think that the cottage was the one with the stable in OE 606 which was demolished before the survey was made for the 1866 25 inch OS map. John Ashley junior occupied the house (OE 605) and meadow (OE 603) from 1843 to 1849 when William Porter took over the meadow⁵.

Francis Henry Deane who had inherited from his father, Ralph, in 1852, probably made some alterations to the house and gardens, for the next time that it is clearly defined in the Rate Books is in February 1857, when the four old enclosures 603-6 have come together to make up 6a 1r 38p and the whole is let to John

Milner⁶. George Calvert was living there in the 1860s. There is a gap in the rate books from 1866 to 1886 which makes the property difficult to trace, but Andrew Kingsmill was in occupation at the time of 1871 census. However, Francis Henry Deane sold it to a young man called Horace Johnson, a Colonial Broker's Agent, in 1889⁷. The house and grounds then covered 6a 1r 38p (corresponding to OE 603-6). (See Fig 2.)

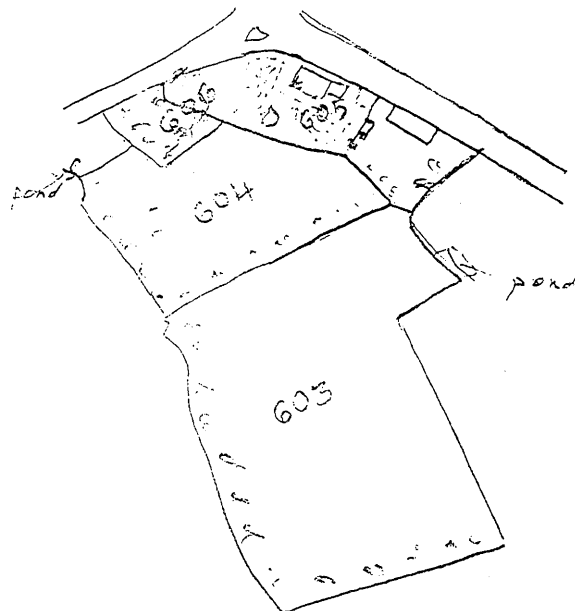


Fig 2: Eastcote Cottage & grounds 1894
(from the Middlesex Deeds Registry memorial)

Horace Johnson had a two-year-old child who had been born in Eastcote at the time of the 1891 census and had himself been born in Clapham. He sold the house to David Johnson of Latimer, who may have been a relative, in October 1894⁸. It was sold again to Millicent Ada Bevan of The Duneaves, Mount Park Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill in July 1896⁹ and she had a new house, Eastcote Place, built in the grounds the following year, much grander than the old cottage. The cottage meanwhile was apparently let Mrs Hart Dyke appearing in the street directory for 1899 and AH Ashmore in 1899.

Eastcote Place

The new house appears in photographs¹⁰ taken before the First World War as an attractive looking brick and mock half-timbered dwelling covered in creeper, somewhat different from the stark reality, now to be seen converted into flats towards the top end of Azalea Walk. The architect was William Howard Seth-Smith (1852-1928) whose work can also be seen at 31 Paines Lane, Pinner, which was built as an

extension to the 16th century Moss Cottage next door. In both cases he was probably intending the modern houses to be compatible with their elderly neighbours.

The 1902 rate book¹¹ shows that Eastcote Cottage and Eastcote Place had changed hands and were both then owned by Major Ernest Sullivan, but the name, Eastcote Place, had not yet come into use. The street directory¹² for 1902 shows Major Sullivan living at Eastcote Hill and that for 1904 as New-House, Eastcote Hill. The new name is in use by 1907 when C. Murray was living there.

During these years there is no record of anyone living in the old house (could it have been used for staff?) When the estate was put up for auction in 1909, the catalogue was entitled Eastcote Place with four different photographs of the new house, but only one of Eastcote Cottage. Eastcote Place was described as: "A most picturesque and comfortably arranged house, designed by an eminent architect, placed in the centre of the property, approached by a long carriage drive shaded by chestnut trees through well-timbered undulating park land." The way in was along a winding drive, from the entrance beside the old Methodist Chapel in Field End Road. The house had ten bed and dressing rooms, two attic rooms, two fitted bathrooms, principal and secondary staircases, lounge and garden halls, four reception rooms and ample domestic offices, including a servants' hall.

Eastcote Cottage 1909

Eastcote Cottage was clearly inferior by this time and has simply become a pretty old

creeper-clad cottage on the property said to have originally been the farmhouse. The entrance hall had old panelled walls and tiled floor. There were two sitting rooms each fitted with a slow combustion stove; a pantry with sink and cupboard, a kitchen with range and dresser, a scullery, larder and Wc. Upstairs there were six bedrooms and a bathroom, and a lobby with a sink.

The Andersons¹³

John Anderson and his wife, Winnifred Ethel Dunbar Anderson appear to have bought it. They were in possession by 1914, possibly earlier, but there is a gap in the rate books and street directories for this period. They seem to have lived at Eastcote Place, but let Eastcote Cottage, where a Lt Col Meyer was living in 1916, a Louis Chaplin in 1924 and Wing Commander RFS Morton of the RAF in 1938¹⁴.

John Anderson (1852-1924) was born in Scotland, but his mother took him to Australia at the age of four, where his father, a sea-captain, had already gone and was running a passenger and goods boat service. This proving unsuccessful as his crewmen constantly deserted to try the gold fields, he removed the family to Singapore, where he became harbour-master and his wife ran a Young Ladies' Seminary. When John was 24 he joined the firm, Scott, Guthrie & Co, shipping agents, and eventually became sole partner in 1892. He developed the interests of the firm, particularly investing in rubber plantations and thus made his fortune. A new company was floated in 1903, Guthrie & Co. He advanced socially as well, becoming Consul-general for Siam in Singapore and a member of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements.

His first wife had died after only three years of marriage, but he met and married Winifred Ethel Dunbar Pope, a barrister's daughter, in January 1901, while on business in London. 'Honest John', as he was known in Malaya, was knighted in 1912 for services to Singapore, especially as President of the Commission on the use of opium. (He managed to ensure



Fig 3: Eastcote Place 1909

<i>Year</i>	<i>Property name</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Occupier</i>
1565	Plockettes	John Readinge	John Ashley jun
1615	Pluckets	Ralph Hawtrey	
1806		Ralph Deane	
1837		Ralph Deane	
1843		Ralph Deane	
1852		Francis Henry Deane	
1857		Francis Henry Deane	
1860s		Francis Henry Deane	
1871		Francis Henry Deane	
1889	Eastcote Cottage	Horace Johnson	
1894	Eastcote Cottage	-David Johnson	John Milner George Calvert Andrew Kingsmill Horace Johnson David Johnson
1896	Eastcote Cottage	Millicent Ada Bevan	
1898	Eastcote Cottage		Mrs Hart Dyke AH. Aslunan
1899	Eastcote Cottage		
1902	Eastcote Cottage	Major Ernest Sullivan	Col Charles Meyer Louis Chaplin Wing Commander RFS Morton Keith Anderson RK. Carradine A Gibson Mr & Mrs Philips
1914	Eastcote Cottage	Lady Anderson	
1924	Eastcote Cottage	Lady Anderson	
1938	Eastcote Cottage	Lady Anderson	
1954	Eastcote Cottage	Lady:Anderson	
1959	Eastcote Cottage		
1966	Eastcote Cottage	A Gibson	
1998	Eastcote Cottage	Mr & Mrs Philips	

Owners and Occupiers of Eastcote Cottage

the supply of good quality opium.)

There were four children of the marriage, a daughter, Wynfreda Dunbar (1902-36) and three sons, John Scott (1903-42), Alastair Douglas (1907-47) and Keith (1912-78). Wynfreda became engaged to Francis Goldborough Hogg in 1923 and after the marriage they lived at Eastcote Lodge which adjoined Eastcote Place on the west.. John Was killed by Japanese troops in an ambush in Malaya and Alastair's life was curtailed by TB which developed during his war service. Both are commemorated on the stepped memorial cross beside the main path in the new part of St Martin's graveyard, where the rest of the family are buried. Sir John Anderson died in 1924, but his widow continued to live at Eastcote Place except for a period during the Second World War, until her death in 1960. During the war she moved to Cookham and was responsible for her grandson Donald Hogg, then at Harrow School.

Soon after taking over the estate John Anderson applied to the RNUDC for permission to extend Eastcote Cottage 15, but the actual plans are no longer available and the extension mentioned in Pat Clarke's article is earlier, being shown on the photograph in the 1909 auction catalogue. The 1935 OS map shows the house forming a continuous line up to the driveway to Eastcote Place apparently having been extended as far as

a coach house with flats above, where the gardener and chauffeur lived. For a long time, from the 1930s to the 1950s, Robert Macormac was Lady Anderson's chauffeur and in the 1930s Gilbert Absolum was the gardener. Their flats are referred to in Kelly's Directory of 1938 as Gate End, an appropriate name considering the position.

Second World War¹⁶

South-east England was the area of Fighter Group Number 11, of which Sector Z was controlled from Northolt Aerodrome. The Operations Room was moved from Northolt to two shops beside Ruislip Manor Station in May 1940 and later to Eastcote Place. In April 1944 an Allied carrier command post was set up there, acting mainly as a telephonic co-ordination centre. Parties are said to have been held in the very comfortable surroundings for airborne troops about to go into action.

Development

Keith Anderson worked in Guthries from 1936, first in Malaya and Singapore and after the war at the head office in Dorking. He probably lived at Eastcote Cottage from 1946 for which date an electricity meter reading card found at the house shows his name. The street directory names him during 1954-5, but by 1959 R.K Carradine had taken possession and was the owner when A. Gibson took it over in 1966.

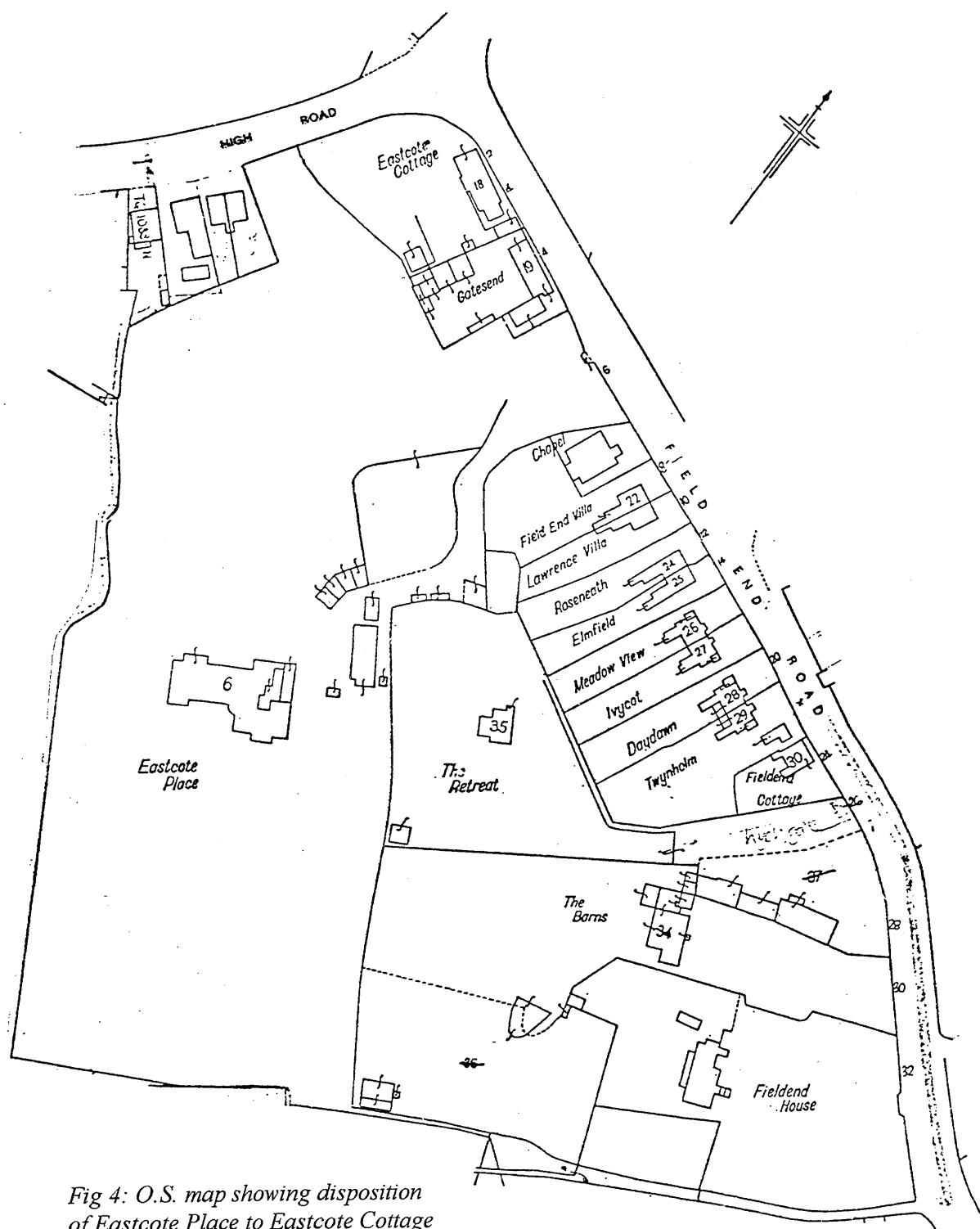


Fig 4: O.S. map showing disposition of Eastcote Place to Eastcote Cottage

Following Lady Anderson's death in 1962, the estate was sold for development. Prowings built Azalea Walk in 1963-4. The lovely entrance to Eastcote Place in Field End Road, remembered for its glorious display of wood anemones and crocuses in spring, was obliterated by the block of flats called Georgian Lodge. At the time the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Councillors were planning to

demolish Eastcote House and were seeking some building to replace it for community purposes. Their eyes first alighted upon Eastcote Place, but after planning delays, the RNUDC decided to build a community hut at Haydon Hall instead and Eastcote Place was converted into flats. It must be considered a miracle that the really important building from a historic point of view, Eastcote Cottage, was

allowed to remain and is still standing to delight us today. Mr and Mrs Philips bought the house from Mrs Gibson and moved in during 1998, and we hope they will be happy there.

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- LMA: MLR 1889 26 571
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 LMA: MLR 189624 938
 10 Uxbridge Library: Ruislip etc. Sale Catalogues 1.
 11 Uxbridge Library: Ruislip Parish Rate Books
 12 Uxbridge Library: Street Directories (Lucy & Birch)
 13 Details of the Anderson family come from notes made by and kindly lent by Jim Golland.
 14 Uxbridge Library: RNUDC Rate Books and street directories.
 15 Uxbridge Library: RNUDC Minutes, 15 Jan 1912.
 16 Edwards, Ron: *Eastcote from village to suburb*. Hillingdon Borough Libraries 1987.



Fig 5: Eastcote Cottage 1909

EASTCOTE COTTAGE: THE STRUCTURE

by Pat A Clarke

General

The house consists of a northern part, four bays long and timber framed with brick infill, and a southern extension of late 19th century or subsequent date, built in brick. The southern part was not examined.

The northern part has a pitched roof of tiles, gabled north and south. There is a full-length extension along the eastern side, beneath three east-west gabled roofs. Along the western side is a full-length single storey lean-to extension of brick, which itself has a further westward, single storey extension of brick, roofed by three little westward facing gables.

Bays 1 and 2

Bays 1 and 2 are the oldest part of the building, having a roof of collar and clasped purlin construction. The rafters are well trimmed, halved and pegged together, and have 'rafter holes' near their bases. They are clean. Cross-frame 3 was originally closed, and is completely unweathered on the north face. The wall posts of bays 1 and 2 have large jowls at the top, the tie beams are waney edged but very deep, and the wind-braces and upward braces in the walls are curved. These are the characteristic types of roof and wall

construction in Middlesex during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The ceiling beam visible on the ground floor of bays 1 and 2 towards the west is probably the original west girding plate (or its replacement). The axial beam is hidden. No scarf joints are visible, nor any evidence of windows and doors, except that the studding in cross frame 2 is such that there could have been a doorway between the upper rooms beside the eastern brace. The closed truss in cross frame 3 implies that the two upper rooms were originally open to the apex.

Bays 3 and 4

Bays 3 and 4 are of different build. I was unable to get into the roof of bay 4, but viewed it from bay 2. The roof is of the same type as bays 1 and 2, but the rafters are slighter and less well trimmed. The purlin of bay 3 is attached to that of bays 1 and 2, by a halved and pegged scarf, now sagging slightly, and to that of bay 4, which is slighter, by an unexamined scarf.

The timber of bay 4 is better squared, the wall posts have no jowls, and the wind-braces are straight. The scarfs are largely obscured. The upward braces are slightly irregular. The axial beam in the ground floor of bay 4 is the original one, chamfered, and step-stopped at the southern end. The floor and ceiling levels of bay 4 are lower than the others. Once again there is no evidence of original windows or

doors. There is no obvious clue to the position of the staircase. In houses with a brick stack it would be typically at one side of the stack.

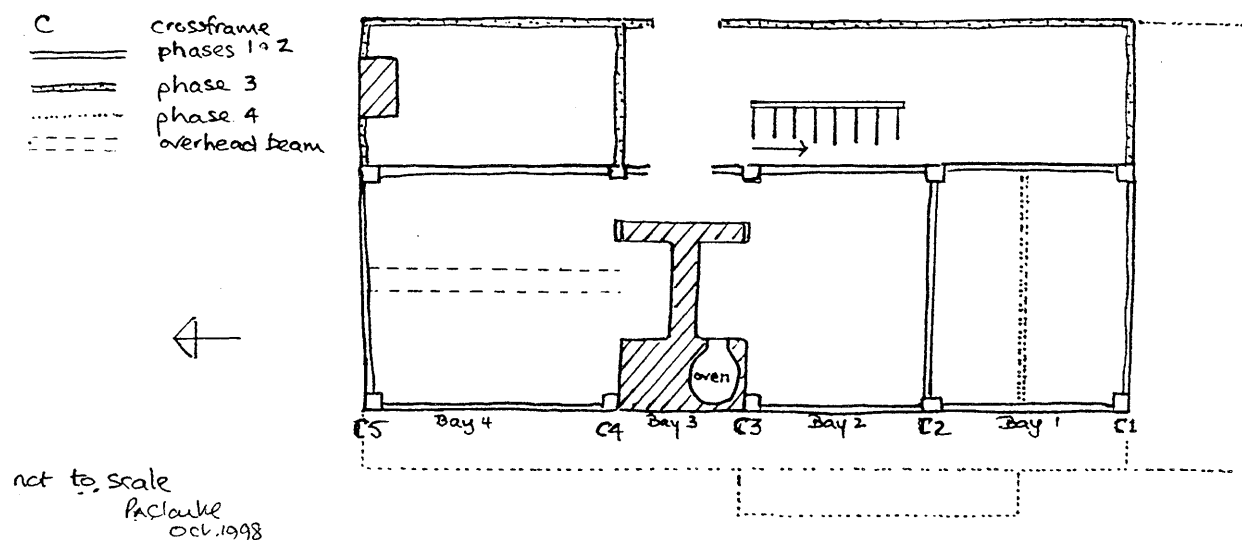
The chimney stack

The chimney stack has four shafts, apparently original. Its form is typical of the late sixteenth or early 17th century. Since there are four hearths, and the bricks are only a little narrow, I would put the stack later rather than earlier. Only the ground floor hearths are exposed. The lintels are original, are chamfered with step stops, and both show signs of considerable wear, more particularly the southern one.

Each fireplace has wooden jambs, chamfered with step stops, and a panelled chimney-piece. In both pieces the sides take the form of superimposed pilasters, and the panels contain Jacobean motifs; each has a modern mantelshelf.

The southern chimney-piece has a band of horizontal fluting at the base. The western flank of the hearth contains an oven of probably contemporary build, with a fire hole beneath; the interiors are in good condition though the openings of both have been renewed. The rest of the inner walls of the hearth are entirely covered with blue and white Dutch tiles; they are considerably chipped, in a way that I think cannot have occurred in situ here.

The northern chimney-piece has fielded panels of late 17th century pattern above the mantel



Eastcote Cottage: Ground floor plan

shelf. The hearth walls are of brick but I did not note their detail. In my opinion both panelled chimney-pieces are later importations to this house, though I think they are otherwise genuine, save that the northern contains work of two different periods. The timber jambs are also later introductions.

The eastern extension

The eastern extension is of a later period. The roof timbers suggest a date between about 1680 and 1750; the timber is slighter and less neatly worked than in bays 1 and 2, and the rafters are roughly carpentered together at the top. The northern end of the extension contained an upper and a lower room, both heated - the stack in the northern wall almost certainly had a hearth at the ground floor also, but is too heavily concealed to be dated. The pivot for a hinge in a post in the east wall upstairs near the stair head suggests a door and an earlier room division. There are a couple of late 18th or early 19th century doors upstairs in this and the older parts. While the newel posts are of square, flat-headed, late 17th style, the balusters and handrail are Victorian or later. The dado panelling of the lower wall is late Victorian or Edwardian, though of early 17th century style.

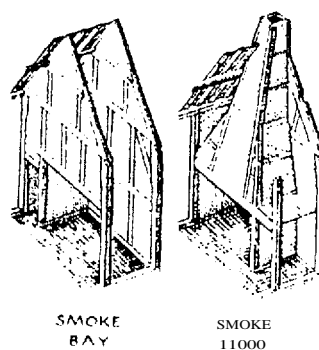
Development and date

In my opinion the sequence of development was as follows.

Phase 1 - between 1530 and 1580.

The house was built of three bays, possibly more, but very unlikely. The clean roof timbers show that there was no open hall in bays 1 or 2. The condition of cross frame 3, and the length by which the purlins and wall plates project beyond it into bay 3, show that this phase originally extended at least one bay further north, but that this bay has been demolished. The heating must have been in the now missing third bay, making this an end hall house, though not an open hall house, as the clean timbers prove. The heating may have been by means of a smoke bay, or by a timber stack of lath and plaster. A smoke bay - often an end bay, and shallower than the others - was virtually a tiny open hall. It might have a bay to itself, or be contained within a larger one. Alternatively there might have been a hearth and chimney of lath and plaster built against the north wall of the missing bay, with a large hood

of timber above, like a huge chimney, with the fumes being gathered and led away through this. Both were fairly short-lived transitional developments between the open hall and the brick chimney stack, and were superseded in most cases by a brick stack built on the same spot. With either arrangement there would in this house have been three rooms below and two above, plus the possibility that there was a usable space around the upper part of the smoke hood, if used. The staircase might have been anywhere.



Phase 2: between 1600 and 1650.

Bay 3 was dismantled and a brick stack with four hearths, and probably an oven, was built, enclosed within its own short bay, while a further bay was added to the north of the stack to create two new rooms. The entrance was probably in the eastern (street) side of the house, directly opposite the new stack, with access from it to either side of the house. In a house of this plan the staircase was traditionally on the other side of the stack but here that position would have been precluded by the oven, if it was of one build with the stack. The greater wear on the lintel of the southern hearth indicates that the kitchen was in its traditional place at the middle of the house, in this case bay 2.

Phase 3: between 1680 and 1750.

This comprised the eastern extension. There is no reason to suppose that the whole is not of one build, but I have not examined it seriously on this point. It provided at least two more heated rooms at the northern end and may well have contained an entrance and staircase at the centre. The upper access doorway opposite the stack belongs to this phase.

Phase 4: late 19th century and later

The addition of the large brick extension at the south is of late 19th or early 20th century date (the OS map of about 1898 might be helpful on this point). In my opinion this phase also included the addition of the western lean-to, all the dormer windows along the western side of the house, the repositioning further to the south of the wall between the ground floor rooms in bays 1 and 2, the reopening of the ground floor hearths (which had almost certainly been successively reduced in size), the reopening and repair of the oven, the introduction of the panelled chimney pieces and the Dutch tiles, the creation of the ornamental shelf in the eastern side of the stack, and the introduction of the dado panelling in the present staircase hall. I will not try to suggest a date for the refashioned surround of the upper southern fireplace, the most westerly extension, the removal of the eastern ground floor wall of bay 4 (the fireplace west of this was probably removed at the same time as the wall), or the insertion of the brick infill.

The original status of the house

There is no reason to suppose that the premises, as first built, were any different from those of other yeomen and smallholders in the neighbourhood. The chimney pieces are far too grand to have been original - they are only appropriate to gentry or above. The fireplace lintels show the hard use to have been expected in the kitchen (especially) and the parlour of a working country cottage. If this house, once called Plocketts, is correctly identified as the one vacated by John Dean in 1835¹, then the existence of register stoves in his two main lower rooms is conclusive proof that the Dutch tiles came later, and by implication the chimney pieces also. The register stove was a late 18th century development in the improvement of domestic heating, and could only be used in an enclosed hearth, not in the present inglenooks. However, Dean's house did not have as many rooms as this house had in 1835, for I am sure that the eastern extension was built well before 1835.

Reference and Note

¹ Bowlt, Eileen M, *A Cottage at Eastcote 1835*, RNELHS Journal, 1997

Eastcote Cottage, 2 Field End Road, Eastcote, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Philips, grid ref. TQ 106 886, was visited by P. A. Clarke and I. S. Golland on 22.10.1998.

Glossary

- axial* in line with the length of the house or wing
bay portion of a building between the principal posts
beam a major horizontal timber
chamfer surface formed by cutting off an edge
clasped purlin a purlin supported by a collar
collar transverse timber connecting rafters
crossframe the framework dividing one bay from another
girding plate plate in a wall at the level of an upper floor
hall see 'open hall' below
jowl the thickening of a post at the top
lintel horizontal beam over a fireplace, door or window
parlour see 'open hall' below
plate a horizontal timber, usually at the top of a wall
post a substantial vertical timber forming part of the main framework
purlin a longitudinal timber in a roof slope, supporting rafters
queen struts a pair of struts between tie beam and collar
scarf joint between two timbers meeting end to end
step stop a stop where there is a step, or change of plane, between the chamfer and its end
stop decorative ending of a chamfer
stud a less substantial or minor timber in a wall
tie beam main transverse timber connecting the tops of walls
truss framework across a roof at bay intervals
upward brace brace running from a vertical timber upwards to a horizontal one
wall plate the horizontal timber forming the top of the wall frame
waney an irregular timber surface, part of the tree's original outer surface
wind brace a brace within the plane of a roof, usually between a purlin and a principal rafter

open hall house.

In an open hall house the principal living room, the hall, had a hearth near the middle of the floor, and as a result the room was left open to the roof to allow smoke and fumes to escape through a louvre, or chinks, in the roof. At one or both ends of the hall was a two storied section, or bay, whose rooms were unheated. A passage with a door at each end crossed the house between the hall and one of the end bays - it might lie within hall or wing. In the fanner case the hall would be protected from draughts by a screen dividing it from the passage. In the bay on the other side of the cross passage were service rooms, most commonly a pantry and a buttery for food and drink respectively. Beyond the other end of the hall were private rooms for the owner.

A MIDDLESEX VILLAGE: NORTHWOOD IN 1841

by Colleen A. Cox

For most of the 19th century Northwood was a small village in the northern part of the parish of Ruislip, "an accidental aggregation of houses far from church or school" according to Rebecca Soames, wife of Nathaniel Soames of Northwood House. It was bounded in the south by Ruislip Woods, to the east by Pinner, to the west by Harefield and to the north by the Middlesex county boundary (see Fig I below). Until the coming of the Metropolitan Railway in 1887 the population of the village never exceeded 266. Although the turnpike road from Harrow to Rickmansworth ran through the

time was John. Grigg. He was a shoemaker who lived in Bury Street, Ruislip and later became the parish clerk. The census was taken on June 12th, 1841. Grigg appears to have been a well-organised man with neat legible writing who followed an orderly route through the village which made it possible to identify the position of many of the cottages. Further clarification was sometimes obtained by reference to the Ruislip Terrier of 1837. This gave the names of the owners and occupiers, the size of the holding and their location by reference to the 1806 Enclosure schedule.

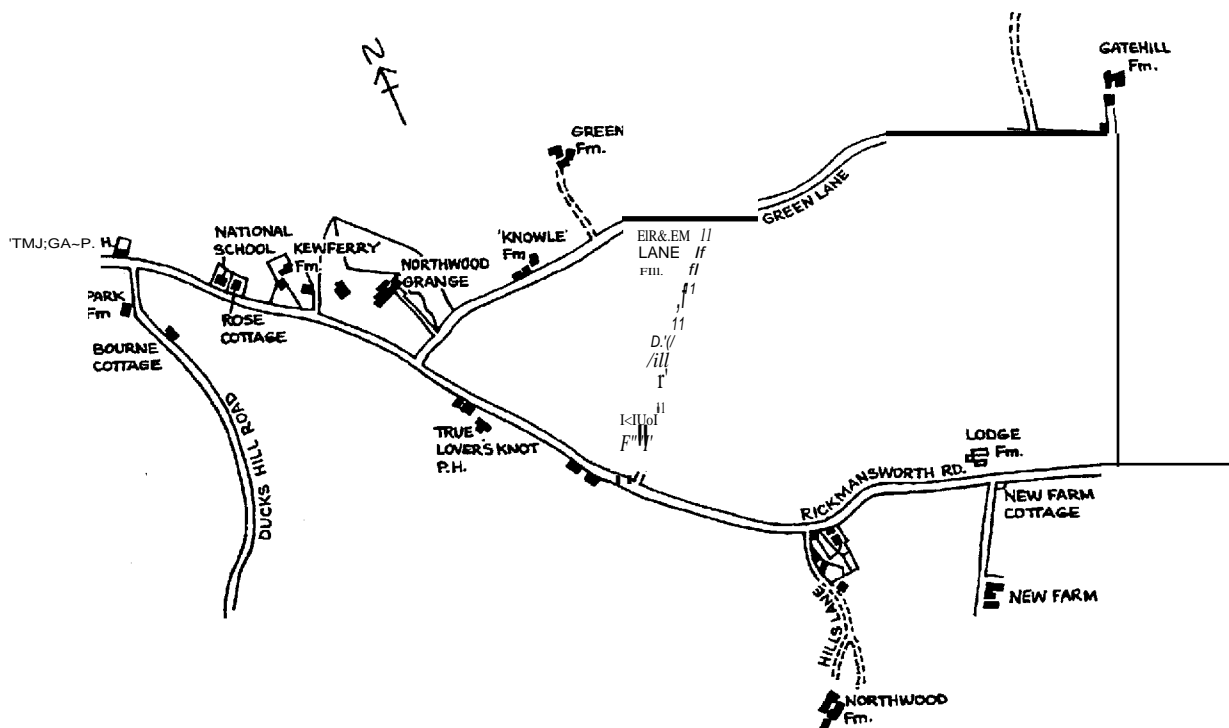


Fig 1: Northwood, circa 1841

village, the travellers on the road do not appear to have been tempted to settle there. There was no church until Holy Trinity was built in 1854. Before this the Reverend Christopher Packe of St. Martin's Church in Ruislip reportedly rode over on horseback to conduct services in a specially licensed chapel in one of the buildings at Northwood House (now known as The Grange).

Information about the inhabitants is obtained from the decennial censuses the background to which has been described in a previous journal'. This article is based on the 1841 census. The enumerator for Northwood at this

John Grigg visited the three farms on Duck's Hill Road north of Mad Bess Wood, diverted along Jacket's Lane and then continued up Duck's Hill to the junction with Rickmansworth Road near The Gate beerhouse and the toll bar. At this point he turned east along the road to Kewferry Farm and Northwood House. He then turned on to Green Lane and visited three farms before returning to Rickmansworth Road near the True Lover's Knot public house, the grocer's shop and the kiln cottage and farm. After this he seems to have visited Gatehill Farm and cottages before moving to the eastern boundary and toll bar on Pinner Road. Finally, he called on several

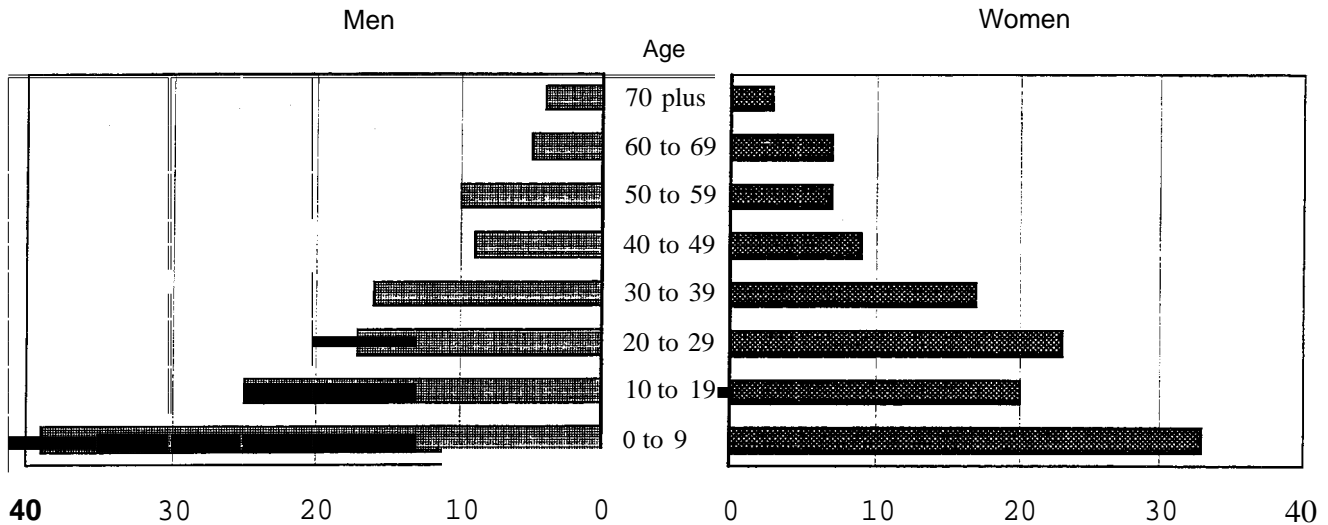


Fig 2: Age/sex pyramid/or Northwood in 1841

cottages in the lane now known as Hill's Lane before finishing at Northwood Farm and returning to Ruislip across Poor's Field.

In 1841 there were 47 inhabited houses in Northwood and one unoccupied. The total population was 245 with 126 men and 119 women. Their ages ranged from three-day-old Alfred Lawrence, son of John, an agricultural labourer who lived near the top of Duck's Hill Road, to 75- year-old John Gregory who was living with William Woodward and his family near The Gate beerhouse. The age pyramid (Fig.2) reveals a slight excess of males over females in those under 20 years, the reverse between 20 and 30 years but after that a symmetrical decline in both sexes until the seventies. This was a common pattern during the 19th century and is different from the latter

part of the 20th century when there are many more people in the older age groups.

Because the relationship to the head of the household is not recorded in the 1841 census, it is not possible to calculate household or family size. All that can be calculated is the number of occupants per house and the distribution is shown (Fig. 3). The mean household occupancy was five people.

Occupations were recorded for 65 men and 13 women. The most common occupation for men was agricultural labourer (35) and for women, servant (7). It is likely that the women were domestic servants who worked inside the house. As 6 of the 7 men servants lived with farmers they were probably outdoor farm servants. The seventh was a fifteen-year-old

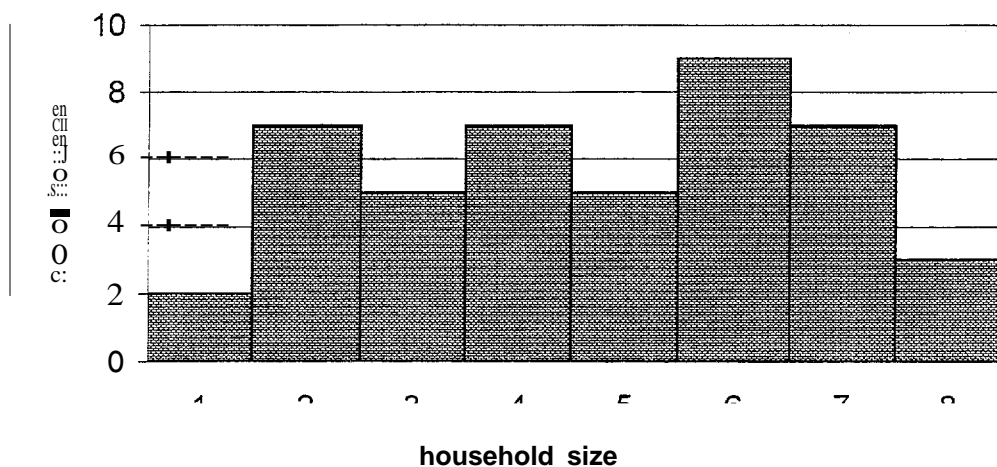


Fig 3: House Occupancy in Northwood 1841

<i>Farm</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Owner</i>
Youngwood	21	Charles Churchill	W.H. Shepherd
Ashby	25	Charles Ive	Peter Bonython
Ducks Hill	100	Thomas Tobutt	George Hemmings
Jackets Lane	23	Francis Kimpton	MrsHoward
Maze Farm	26	Daniel Norton	Daniel Norton
[near Maze Farm]	13	Maria Warman	Daniel Hill
New (Park) Farm	132	Joseph Lawrence	Misses Noyes & Phrip
Kewferry	72	George Taylor	Marquis of Westminster
Northwood House	230	Nathaniel Soames	Nathaniel Soames
[Knowles]	96	Daniel Kirby	vanous
Greenhill	40	Joseph Churchill	Nathaniel Soames
Green Lane	20	John Townsend	Nathaniel Soames
Kiln Farm	86	Thomas Watson	Nathaniel Soames
Gatehill	124	William Abey	George Soames
Northwood Farm	96	John Houghton	Ralph Deane

*Table 1: Farms and Farmers
{uncertainnames in brackets}*

boy employed by Nathaniel Soames and he most likely had general household duties.

Five men were involved in the brickmaking industry and 11 men and one woman were described as farmers. Daniel Kirby, the brickmaker also leased land and was recorded in 1851 as a fanner. Nathaniel Soames, of independent means, presumably employed men to work on 230 acres of the land he owned, and leased another 140 acres for others to farm. The entry for Daniel Norton is barely legible but it is known from the 1851 census that he was also a timber merchant and that he later became a large landowner in the area. John Houghton the land agent at Northwood Farm managed the 186 acres of demesne land leased by Ralph Deane of Eastcote House. Using additional information from the 1837 Terrier, a rate book of 1847 and the 1851 census, a list of the farms and farmers, owners and estimated size of holding has been compiled (Table 1).

Of the remaining males with occupations, two were licensees, one a grocer, another a shoemaker and the third a sand merchant. Other occupations recorded for women were a nurse, a toll gate keeper, a laundress and one described as "Independent". A list of heads of household has also been compiled and compared with those in the 1851 census (Table 2). Although the enumerator recorded whether or not the individual was living in the county in which they were born, the entries are too faint to be analysed.

Only the most basic needs of food and drink were available in the village and it is likely that other goods and services were obtained from Ruislip, Pinner or Rickmansworth. The only industry other than farming was that of brickmaking. The clay, sand and chalk found locally provided the raw materials and there is a long history of brick and tile making in the area.

The picture of Northwood which emerges from the census tends to confirm Mrs Soames' view. Her husband was one of the largest employers and a significant number of families must have been financially dependent on him. He seems to have used his influence to good effect and took a keen interest in local affairs. He allowed a room in one of his houses to be consecrated and used as a chapel for church services. The overall impression is of a quiet village relatively untouched by the turnpike road, although The Gate and the True Lover's Knot may well have been lively on occasions when the men partook too freely of the local ale.

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- 1841 census
- 1851 census
- Ruislip Terrier and Valuation 1837
(LMA DRO 191E)
- Ruislip Rate Book 1847 (LMA DRO 191E)
- Bowl, E.M., *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex*.
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- Cox, CiA, *A Quiet and Secluded Spot*, RNELHS,
1991

1841				1851			
<i>Location</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	
Ducks Hill	Chas Churchill	30	Farmer	Chas Churchill	42	Fanner	
	Chas Ive	43	Farmer	Chas Ive	43	Fanner	
	Thos Tobutt	40	Farmer	Thos Tobutt	54	Fanner	
Jackets	Francis Kirnpton	55	Farmer	Francis Kimpton	67	Fanner	
Maze Fm	Daniel Norton	30	Farmer	JaneNash	62	Housekpr	
Lodge				Chris. Payne	63	Farm bailiff	
	Maria Warman	40	Farmer	James Puddefoot	61	Gardener	
	John Lawrence	30	Ag.lab.	Thomas Worman	30	Hay binder	
	William Morton	35	Shoemaker	John Lawrence	42	Ag.lab	
	William Kirby	30	Ag. Lab	Williarn Morton	48	Cordwainer	
	John Cooper	55	Ag. Lab	Williarn Kirby	43	Brickmaker	
Park Fm	Jos. Lawrence	50	Farmer	George Neal	61	Ag.lab	
Toll Bar	Mary Saunders	50	Toll Gate Kpr	Jos. Lawrence	69	Fanner	
The Gate	JamesMason	35	Beerhouse Kpr	Mary Ann Bourne	59	Beerhouse kpr	
Rick'wthRd	Wm Pritchard	65	Ag. Lab	Wm Pritchard	77	Annuitant	
	Thos. Kirnpton	36	Ag. Lab				
	Dan'l Lawrence	25	Ag. Lab	Dan'I Lawrence	40	Ag.lab	
	Wm. Woodward	56	Ag. Lab				
	Joseph Ratcliffe	70	Ag. Lab				
	Henry Allitt	30	Ag. Lab	Henry Allitt	40	Ag.lab	
Kewferry	George Taylor	40	Farmer	George Taylor	52	Fanner	
N'wdHse	Nat. Soames	50	Independent	Nat. Soames	59	Landed prop't'r	
	AnnBains	70	Laundress	AnnBams	81	Annuitant	
	John Shirley	40	N.K.	John Shirley	51	Ag.lab	
Green Lane	Daniel Kirby	70	Brickmaker	B. VonDerPlank	47	<i>Fanner/woollendlr</i>	
	Jos. Churchill	30	Farmer	Jos. Churchill	40	Fanner	
	Sarah Lawrence	60					
	John Townsend	55	Farmer	Ezekiel Hopcroft	46	Fanner	
Rick'wthRd	Joseph Ricket	65	Ag. Lab	Alfred Woodward	30	Sand miner	
	William Clarke	30	Ag. Lab	William Clarke	43	Sand dealer	
				Edward Weatherly	31	Ag.lab	
				George Gristwood	48	Ag.lab	
				James Milton	50	Ag.lab	
T Lovers Kn't	Jas. Weatherly	65	Publican	Jas. Weatherly	77	Lic. Vict.	
				James Cotton	26	Police constable	
Grocer's	William Barnett	45	Grocer	Thomas Croft	65	Shopkeeper	
KilnFann	Thos Watson	40	Farmer	Edward Kirby	31	Sand miner	
	JohnKirby	50	Brickmaker	John Boys Kirby	63	Brickmaker	
	Thomas Croft	56	Ag. Lab				
	Sarah Chilton	60		Jane Gregory	78	Shopkeeper	
Lodge Farm				John Smith	63	Fanner	
	Sarah Townsend	60		Sarah Townsend	73	Charwoman	
	Wm. Bonothon	65	Ag. Lab	Thomas Evens	28	Ag.lab	
				SarahLawrence	69	Charwoman	
	Daniel Field	45	Ag. Lab	Daniel Field	57	Fanncarter	
GatehillFm	John Gome	60	Ag. Lab				
	William Abey	20	Farmer	Joseph Watson	59	Fanner	
PinnerRd	Thos. Burrows	30	Ag. Lab	Thomas Kimpton	43	Ag.lab	
Toll Bar	John Saunders	55	Brickworker	John Saunders	68	Ag.lab	
	John Field	25	Ag. Lab	John Field	40	Ag.lab	
	James Birch	20	Ag. Lab	James Birch	35	Rail lab.	
				James Brown	44	Ag.lab	
				Edward Brill	32	Ag.lab	
Hills Lane	Edward Kirby	35	Sand mercht	Richard Damer	28	Brick/tile mkr	
	James Birch	40	Ag. Lab	James Birch	55	Wood dealer	
	John Birch	45	Ag. Lab	John Croft	30	Ag.lab	
				John Gomm	22	Ag.lab	
				Wm Woodward	68	Ag.lab	
N'wdFm	John Houghton	30	Land Agent	Jos. Herridge	31	Fannbailiff	

Table 2: Heads of Household in 1841 and 1851

EASTCOTE IN THE THIRTIES

by Ran Edwards

Some development in Eastcote had taken place just prior to and after the First World War, which resulted in the creation of Elm Avenue, Morford Way and Close, Lime Grove, Acacia Avenue, Oak and Beech Avenues. However, the largest change did not occur until the thirties. This article is based on personal memories and impressions gained in that period.

We had moved from the outer suburbs of Essex in 1929 to Hillingdon but my parents wished for more rural surroundings and their thoughts turned towards Eastcote. This gives an indication of the type of district prevailing at the beginning of the thirties. To arrive in Eastcote was to be confronted by a very different Field End Road to that which we know today. The walk north from Eastcote Station was bounded on the left by Dixon's Nursery, then by a two-storied building containing a cafe and laundry office. On the right were W H Smith, the newsagent, and Christies coal office in small temporary style buildings. This took one as far as the cross-roads formed by Elm Avenue and the beginnings of North View with its handful of houses on the south side developed by the Metropolitan Country Estates Ltd. Elm Avenue, Morford Way and Morford Close were reasonably built up. There was scattered housing in the other "tree" roads. The shops on the western side of Field End Road commenced with Field End garage, where the present Chinese restaurant stands and finished at the present Petra's Hairdressers. These had been developed by W A Telling, as was the Ideal Cinema on the site now occupied by Steel House. The Manor House public house was built 1929/30.

A development of shops by Rotherham Estates, named Devon Parade, had commenced on the east side, from North View but excluded the corner site. It terminated at the present Midland Bank Site. More shops were built by T F Nash from the present site of Boots the Chemists through to the present Tops and Bottoms. Later, two shops housing Sainsbury and Walton's, the fruiterer, were to join these two parades to complete the row. At the bend of the road opposite the Ideal Cinema stood

Devonshire Lodge, erected in the late Victorian/Edwardian period, which was then occupied by Mr Hague. This large detached house with its grounds of approximately two acres formed quite a feature with its tall surrounding hedges. I can remember attending a garden party there with my parents. Continuing northwards one came to the main areas of development, an estate on the west side being erected by Rotherham Estates Limited and opposite by T F Nash Limited. The former had laid out Meadow Way, Crescent Gardens and Deane Way with the latter having planned Abbotsbury Gardens, Deane Croft Road, The Chase, Rushdene, Lowlands and Devonshire Roads. Each builder gave a choice of about five or six types of house with varying sizes of plot. Prices ranged between £825 and £1100 so a fairly wide choice was available to the prospective purchaser. Each estate had its "show houses" fully furnished to give an idea of the finished product.

Between the Ideal Cinema and Meadow Way was an orchard (commemorated in the name of the row of shops which now stands on its site) and between Abbotsbury Gardens and Deane Croft Road was stabling used by T F Nash. At the corner of Abbotsbury Gardens was Nash's estate office, Rotherham's being in Devon Parade. Beyond Field End Farm at the corner of Meadow Way, Rotherham's had commenced a short row of houses. T F Nash built a house for his own use called Gleneagles (destroyed by enemy action during the war) on the opposite side. Beyond the Rotherham development was Ruislip House of the Murch family, two late 19th century semi-detached cottages and Field End Lodge, now the Tudor Hotel. Griffinhurst, completed during the First World War, was sited on the right hand corner with Bridle Road. The war memorial was still in its original position at the intersection of the two roads.

Turning left into Field End Road at the junction, one came to the part known locally as Chapel Hill. On the left hand side of the road were Field End House, The Barns and The Retreat. A barn partly converted for domestic use stood between the latter two houses. Then followed the late 19th century semi-detached houses which still stand, the Methodist Church,

Eastcote Place and Eastcote Cottage. On the right hand side of the road were Park Farm and Sigers, the latter being unoccupied. Turning right from Field End Road into Bridle Road were two detached houses on the north side as one approached Cheney Street, and then a further row of detached houses which still stand between Cheney Street and Francis Road. The only property on the south side of Bridle Road comprised the original 'tin' church of St Lawrence with the asbestos-built vicarage.

It is not easy to visualise the district with this small amount of development but in the early thirties Abbotsbury Gardens was 60% developed, Devonshire Road nearly complete and Lowlands Road 50 % built. Deane Croft Road was half completed up to just beyond The Chase, the latter only having around 15 houses erected, and four houses only in Rushdene Road - between Deane Croft Road and Abbotsbury Gardens. There were open fields between Rushdene Road and Cannon Lane and also between Lowlands Road and the railway. The Rotherham estate was similarly incomplete with Hawthorne Avenue being unmade forming a mud road in wet weather. This formed the basis of a protest to the local authority by those living there. The only development south of the railway consisted of a few houses in Field End Road and Woodlands Avenue. This area consisted of sports fields, the Cavendish Club, the Pavilion (an entertainment centre for outings), a firing range for clay pigeon shooting and farms.

Initially transport facilities were adequate for demand with trains running from Eastcote Station at approximately half-hour intervals. The new developments called for increased facilities as time went on and there were many protests to the railway companies. The station was served by both the Metropolitan Railway to Baker Street and the City, and the District Line to Hammersmith and the West End. Because the demand during the day was light the Metropolitan ran four coach trains and the District two coach. In the rush hour these were increased to seven and six coaches respectively. When we first moved to Eastcote I travelled to school at Uxbridge and I remember that the trains at 8.30 and 4 o'clock were almost empty. Nevertheless it was our ambition to travel in the guard's van when permitted, this giving the short journey the element of difference so much

desired by small boys. There was one never-to-be-forgotten occasion when the driver of a District train opened his door to the passenger compartment and allowed us to watch the track ahead whilst the Journey proceeded. One disadvantage of travelling by Metropolitan from London outside of the rush hour was to be disembarked at Rayner's Lane Station which at that time consisted of wooden platforms and two tiny huts serving as waiting rooms - not an attractive proposition in inclement winter weather. Major development at Rayner's Lane was to develop as the thirties progressed.

A word must be said about the original station at Eastcote. All were sorry to see it disappear although one must admit that it would not have been adequate for present day requirements. It really was a most attractive station with a long slope leading down from the small booking office on the bridge to the up platform. A similar slope ran to the down platform. Each slope was attractively planted out with shrubs. The up platform had about one third of its length under cover but the down platform was served only by a small hut for waiting. By its construction the station had an inbuilt advantage - not however planned or I am sure approved by the railway company. If one wished to travel to town by Metropolitan, and due to unforeseen circumstances was a little late off the mark, it was possible, with some degree of agility, to see the train entering the station whilst one was still in the region of Dancer & Green, the greengrocers in Devon Parade, and catch that same train, helped by the slope down to the platform and the type of carriage which had hand holds by each door and a running board which enabled one to open the door after the train had set off. Those days are far off and we must now time ourselves according to the present conditions.

Eastcote was also served by public road transport with two bus services from Pinner to Uxbridge via Bridle Road, Ruislip, Ickenham and Hillingdon. The companies which operated these as a half hourly service were the General and the Royal Highlander, later to be amalgamated as one service which became the 220 route after the advent of the London Transport Act. There was not, however, any route to Northwood. At the beginning of the thirties Northwood Hills did not exist, and at

Ruislip Manor there were houses only north of the railway.

There was considerable scope for schoolboy activity at this time. As mentioned earlier the district was to a great extent rural and this allowed for exploration - much better in a rural than urban area. The woods at Ruislip were comparatively unpopulated and the reservoir was a delight with Park Wood on one side and the common edging the other. One did not have to go so far afield to find hedgerows, which still existed where Boldmere and its accompanying roads now order themselves. The incomplete portions of the Chase, East and West Towers and Cannonbury Avenue gave wonderful opportunities for birds nesting and the discovery of other field flora and fauna. I can remember being scared out of my wits by partridges flying out of the ground where Boldmere Road now stands.

There were also many ponds in the immediate locality and these, of course, held a deep fascination for boys and, I think, also girls. One could experiment with raft building, catch a multitude of water creatures or could just sit and contemplate the water. Most of these ponds were originally used by cattle but there were also those which had been artificially created by the pulling down of large trees. Whichever kind of pond it contained frogs and newts. There was a beautiful pond at the junction of Cheney Street with Bridle Road, which often had ducks swimming on its surface.

A building site is an ideal place for a boy to live on, there being so many possible activities,

mostly unofficial. Castles could be erected on the stacks of bricks, mountaineering feats could be achieved on the scaffolding of partly erected houses and glorious rides could be had on the miniature trolley system which the builders laid out for the delivery of materials over the estate. The workmen were remarkably tolerant of inquisitive small boys and would let one in to many secrets of their trades. If one were lucky one might be allowed to lay a brick or two, and I look with pride on one or two well built houses and remember that I have assisted in some small way with their construction.

Sigers represented the ideal 'haunted' house in its unoccupied state and many were the conjectures as to the purpose of the ice chamber, which was still open in the grounds of Haydon Hall where they adjoined Southill Lane. Another region of delight was the old brickfield site in Cheney Street, which had the added attraction of two old horse drawn Royal Mail coaches being parked there. How I wonder did they ever come to be there and what was their previous history? One must not of course forget the donkey that lived in a small field half way down Cheney Street whose serenade could be heard over a large part of the district.

These are just a few recollections of the writer from the early thirties. There was much change in the latter part of the thirties up to the outbreak of the Second World War by which time Eastcote had assumed much of its contemporary pattern.

At a Vestry meeting on 13 September 1833

Proposed with respect to the Building of a Parish Cage or place of confinement that a specification be made and tenders received from competent persons for building the same without delay. The Stocks to remain as at present.

6 December 1833

The foregoing order of Vestry to build a Parish Cage or place of Confinement having been reconsidered it was determined that the square of the Groundfloor be of dimensions 7ft. by 5ft. Wall Brick 4 1/2 thick Arched over the same thickness Deal floor Oak Sleepers Strong Door Frame & Ironwork and that Mr. Kirbys offer to supply materials of Bricks and Lime - at Cost Price from Cowley or elsewhere be accepted when the season permits to have the same erected.

LMADRO 19/C1/3

THE D RING ROAD PROBLEM

by Ran Edwards

Most readers will have their opinion of the M25 motorway. Some see it as a threat to the outer perimeter districts of London with its potential encouragement for commercial and domestic expansion. Others are glad that heavy through traffic has been diverted away from local roads and has relieved living areas of congestion, noise and pollution. Users are grateful for the linkage between motorways around the capital provided they overlook the rush-hour build-ups. Living within a reasonable proximity of the motorway residents of Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote are able to reap the benefits without being too affected by disadvantages of living within earshot. However, the situation might have been very different for our area if the proposed D-Ring Road had come into being during the 1950s.

Residents had finished their wartime upheavals only to be greeted with a real threat to their community arising from proposed town and country planning. The advisory Greater London Plan of 1946 had been drawn up by Professor Abercrombie to control the outward sprawl of London, which had accelerated between the wars. The Plan was also intended to enable residents of Greater London to obtain the best from the existing situation which lacked, to some degree, the advantages of good social planning. Cllr J H Mitchell stated in the March 1949 issue of the "Aerial" of Eastcote Residents Association:

The preamble to the report points out that the destruction and general dislocation wrought by the war presents the opportunity, in considering future planning, to locate population and industry more logically, to improve transport facilities, to determine the proper use of land and to limit the size of London.

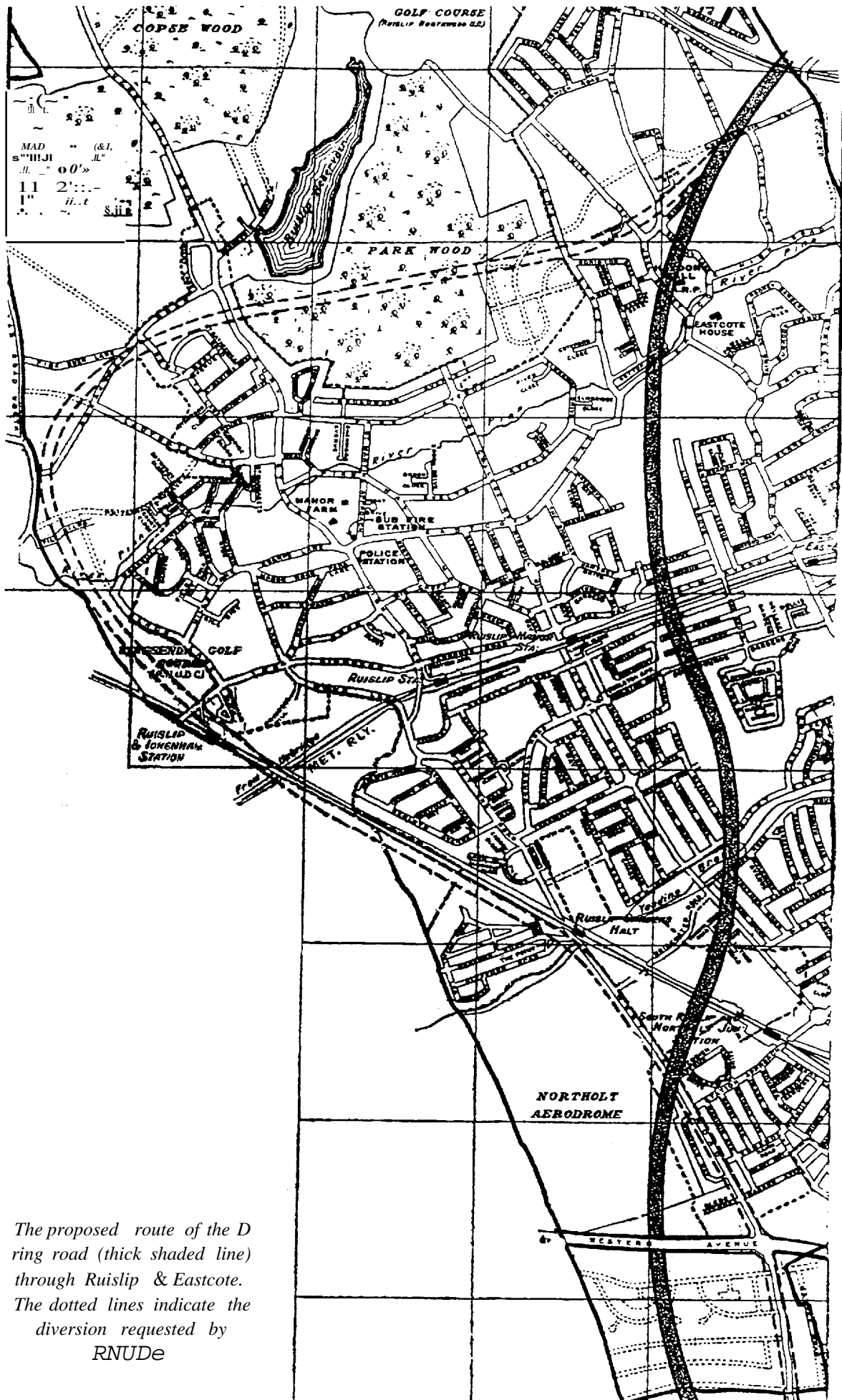
A Green Belt would be enforced around London. This would be of great advantage to those who had moved to areas such as Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote, as theoretically it would prevent them from becoming inner suburbs of London.

To assist this new planning policy, transport regulation was required and the Plan envisaged ten 'express' arterial roads radiating outwards

with five ring roads: A, B, C, D and E linking them. The Ruislip-Northwood area would be between two of these new 'express' roads: the first towards Gloucester and Cheltenham would follow the route of the existing Western Avenue (the present A40), and the other to Birmingham and Carlisle would leave London via Wembley and Pinner Hill. Linking these through the locality would be the D Ring Road. The local section was planned to run from the corner of Northolt Aerodrome (approximately by the present Polish War Memorial) through Pinner Green to Grims Ditch at Harrow Weald. The proposed road would cut across Ruislip-Northwood with Eastcote directly in its path.

The road was planned to be dual carriageway with cycle tracks and measure some 120 feet wide. It was planned to run partly at ground level, partly overhead on an embankment and partly in cuttings. The route would have affected the following roads in South Ruislip: Edwards Avenue, Great Central Avenue, Victoria Road, Station Approach, Long Drive, Angus Drive, and West Mead. In Ruislip Manor both Melthorne Drive and Exmouth Road would become cul-de-sacs. In Eastcote, Whitby Road, Southbourne Gardens, Beech Avenue, Linden Avenue, Elm Avenue, Acacia Avenue and Myrtle Avenue would have been bridged over or had an embankment cutting them. Eastcote Road through the village centre and Joel Street would have the roadway overhead on stilts up to Southill Avenue, which would have been converted into a cul-de-sac. At the northern end of Joel Street a junction with the new road was proposed.

As well as roads being altered in routing and appearance, it was calculated that Ruislip-Northwood would see the destruction of 350/400 houses, with government buildings, two schools and several open spaces being damaged. It needs little imagination to envisage the change in appearance to Eastcote if a dual carriageway partially overhead road were to bisect the district. Additionally, it was pointed out that property values would plummet. The Urban District Council protested vigorously against the proposal. An earlier town planning scheme had envisaged increases in official open space when post war



The proposed route of the D ring road (thick shaded line) through Ruislip & Eastcote. The dotted lines indicate the diversion requested by RNUDe

development took place. Bessingby Road open space, which measured some 19.9 acres, would be split by the new road. The recently erected county council school in Southbourne Gardens would be demolished. The temporary housing site opposite to the school would disappear and a bridge would be constructed over the railway. Eastcote Recreation Ground in Lime Grove/Myrtle Avenue would be destroyed, as would the High Grove estate where it had been planned to site a town hall and further open space. St Michael's School, where Deerings Drive now stands, and Haydon Hall open space would be destroyed.

By autumn 1949 the RNUDC had firstly, suggested a local re-routing of the proposed road, which would create less upheaval for the community; secondly, they had refused A J Taylor & Co development plans in South Ruislip on the proposed route. This brought about an appeal to the Ministry from the developers which enabled E S Saywell, Deputy Clerk to the Council, the opportunity to state the Council's case that only a major enquiry into the total routing through the Council's area would serve any useful purpose. It was announced soon after that the Ministry were abandoning 60% of the proposed D road route, namely, from Barnet eastwards to the Thames and then South of the river through to Kingston. This left the north-west section from Barnet to Kingston-on-Thames as the basis for the new road. A public meeting held in September 1949 at Kerswell's Palm Court Restaurant in Field End Road, Eastcote strongly supported the protests of the RNUDC and saw the new concept as a by-pass from Barnet to the Staines Road which would cause considerable damage to the community without noticeable local benefits.

In 1952 the Eastcote Association proposed employing Counsel to put the Federation case to a future Ministry enquiry but this was opposed by the Ruislip and Northwood representatives. It was also advised that the Middlesex County Council would be submitting their Draft Development Plan for the County which would still show the D Ring Road in its original position. The RNUDC were not being supported either by the MCC or neighbouring local authorities. The Council engaged a consultant town planner and consultant engineer to formulate objections and

alternative proposals. It was noted that the district already contained three major north/south roads: West End Road, Victoria Road and Field End Road and the suggestion arose as to whether either of these could be adapted for use as a through road. Maybe Victoria Road could take traffic from the south and Field End Road flow from the north? This would still have left problems for the shopping areas of the district. There was considerable opposition from residents near to Victoria Road to this suggestion and the RNUDC were petitioned to oppose the road absolutely.

An Official Enquiry commenced on 23 March 1953 when Counsel was appointed to represent the views of all of the local residents' associations who had now come to an agreement. It was pointed out that residents living within 400/600 yards of the proposed line of the road were apprehensive of the nuisance of noise and access. The building of elevated sections, a viaduct and pedestrian access bridges, the conversion of some roads into cul-de-sacs, the destruction of houses, the curtailment of open spaces, the limitation of access to shopping centres, churches and other facilities, and the alteration of the catchment areas of schools would all have caused fundamental change to the district. In addition, there would be sterilisation of the district for up to twenty years when the road was finally completed. House prices would suffer and compensation payments would only be made when the road was taken over. The district, which was now a parliamentary constituency in its own right and had lodged a petition for borough status, would be split between east and west.

In June a possible change for the proposed road was suggested, namely that the route might be moved to the east and roughly follow the boundary line between Ruislip-Northwood and Harrow from Northolt to Pinner. The Federation had no time prior to the enquiry to examine this proposal and had to put their case based on instant reactions. The Enquiry closed in October and was to consider the original suggested route only. In April 1954 it was advised that the Minister had received the inspector's report and had decided not to proceed with either route. However, by October of the same year it was clear that, although the Minister of Transport had made

the decision not to proceed, the Minister of Housing and Local Government had not taken a decision on the Draft Plan and the MCC was trying to preserve the original route.

At that time a local authority could have a 'purchase order' served on it if it refused to give planning permission for a specific project, and the owners were convinced that the status of the land in question was prejudiced. The county council had refused to grant permission for a development at Harlyn Drive and Chamberlain Way on the original D Ring Road route, but the Minister of Housing and Local Government would not support this refusal. The Minister would not comment on the MCC Development Plan but noted that the Minister of Transport had not approved the route coming through Ruislip-Northwood and felt that as

alternative routes had been suggested for consideration it was unlikely that the projected road would be built for some time. The MCC appealed against this decision and a private hearing was held in December 1955. Although the MCC hoped that the RNUDC would discuss the matter with it to come to a beneficial conclusion to assist their Draft Development Plan, the outcome was clear and by August 1957 the D Ring Road threat had disappeared from the Ruislip-Northwood area.

Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that much of the information contained in this article has been gleaned from running reports recorded in the "Aerial" which was published by the Eastcote Residents Association.

LONG DISTANCE RAIL SERVICES IN 1947

by Simon Morgan

If you were asked to name the station in Ruislip-Northwood which provided the best railway connections, you would probably think of West Ruislip. Ruislip & Ickenham Station, as it was previously known, was on two main lines: the Great Western Birmingham route and the Great Central, and it certainly saw many crack expresses. However, it saw each one only too briefly, as it thundered through without stopping.

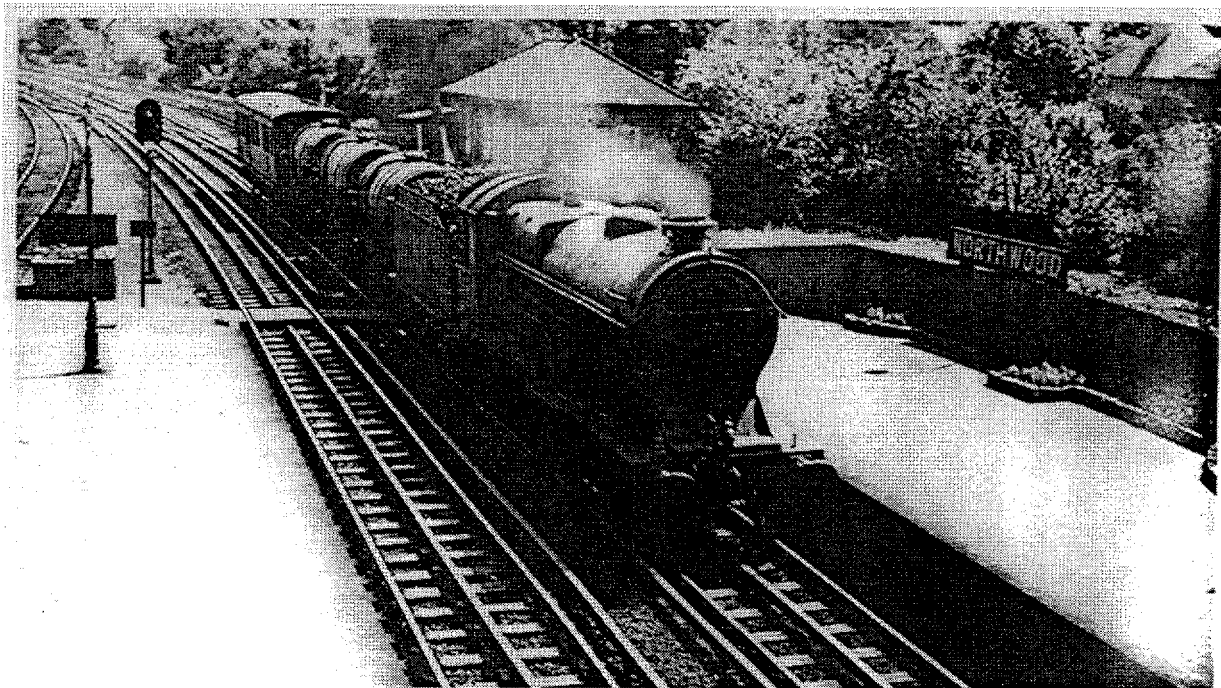
In fact, around the time of railway nationalisation in 1948, Northwood was the station that offered the widest range of through trains to distant destinations. It was considered the main intermediate point between Harrow and Aylesbury, and had some trains which called at Northwood as their first stop after leaving Marylebone (journey time: 30 minutes). The main expresses ran straight through, but an interesting variety of semi-fast services did stop here. Most called also at Rickmansworth and Amersham, but only Northwood appeared in Table 2: the timetable for the former Great Central main line from Marylebone.

In late 1947, the last ever London and North Eastern Railway timetable shows four principal down (northbound) trains stopping at

Northwood. On Mondays to Fridays the 8.18 & 10.50 am and the 2.24 & 6.36 pm trains all gave a direct service to Brackley and (except for the 10.50) called at Aylesbury on the way. On Saturdays an extra service at 12.55 pm gave a total of five through trains to Brackley.

Most of these services terminated at Woodford & Hinton Station (later Woodford Halse), a quiet spot which became a minor railway centre, 10 miles north of Brackley. The 8.18 am train continued via Rugby Central to arrive at Leicester Central at 11.47 am. It took 3 hours 29 minutes to cover the 90 miles from Northwood to Leicester: an average speed of only 26 mph.

The 6.36 pm was perhaps the most interesting service. It managed the fastest journey times of the day: 58 minutes to Aylesbury and one hour 39 minutes to Brackley. After calling at Woodford & Hinton, the train reversed around a curve known locally as the 'Nibble' to join the pretentiously named East & West Junction Railway (by then part of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway). It ran over this circuitous and inconsequential line, to arrive at the only place of any importance on it, Stratford-on-Avon, at 9.26 pm.



*A view looking south from the footbridge at Northwood
as a down train of empty milk wagons passes through (c 1950)*

On Sundays one could travel as far as Nottingham without changing trains, a distance of 113 miles. The 8.52 am from Northwood called at all major intermediate stations, including Rugby, Leicester and Loughborough Central, which is now the main station on the preserved Great Central Railway. It arrived at the magnificent Nottingham Victoria Station, of which only the clock tower now remains, at 12.44 pm.

Passengers wishing to make the return journey to Northwood had only one major up train. The 12.50 pm from Nottingham called at most intermediate stations and arrived at Northwood at 5.52 pm, over one hour slower than the equivalent down service. At other times, they needed to change at Aylesbury.

These services from Northwood were eventually stopped not by the running down of the former Great Central in the mid-1960s, but by the conversion to quadruple track of the line

between Harrow and Moor Park. By 1962, Northwood no longer had platforms serving the tracks used by 'main line' trains.

West Ruislip did have its share of trains to destinations no longer served directly, but only local ones. In addition to the present services to Marylebone and to High Wycombe via Beaconsfield, in 1947 one could get a Great Western train direct to Paddington or to Ealing Broadway. Passengers could also board most of these trains at South Ruislip or Ruislip Gardens Halt. After the Central Line opened to West Ruislip in November 1948, getting to Ealing Broadway required changing at Greenford, but other services remained for a while.

Sources

Bradshaw's *British Railways Guide*, Sept 1 1947
The ABC Railway Guide, August 1950
 Jackson, D & Russell, O, *The Great Central in LNER*
Days- 2, Ian Allan Ltd, 1986

*At a meeting called by the Churchwardens
and held in the Vestry Room of the Church on October 2nd 1833*

To consider of a proper place to pay the Poor as their assembling at the Church on a Friday evening is judged to be highly improper. It was unanimously agreed that weekly payments to the Poor be made in future in the School Room of T Collett instead of the Vestry Room of the Church and such remuneration made to him as may be hereafter agreed upon at some future Vestry Meeting.

LMA DRO 19/C 1/3

RUISLIP BOWLS CLUB

The Move to Manor Farm in 1940

by Ran Lightning

After the emergence of an independent Ruislip Bowls Club in 1923, the club continued to play on the Wood Lane green into the 1930's. In the years after the First World War the rapid growth in population and residential homes threatened the heart of the old village centred around the parish church of St. Martins at the end of the High Street. But the acquisition of the historic Manor Farm in by the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council in the 1930's ensured that at least some of the old buildings would be preserved. One of the barns was converted and opened as a library on 2nd November 1937. These developments may have influenced the decision of the committee of the bowls club to inquire about the possibility of the RNUDC constructing a public green for the use of the club. On 17th December 1937 the committee decided to draft a letter for publication, asking for residents' support.

The minutes of the committee meetings reveal the growing impetus to the idea of a new site. Representations were made to the Council for a public green to be constructed at Manor Farm. The rickyard site between the library and the pond was favoured by the council. Old photographs show hayricks in this area.

By the 30th March 1938 a letter had been received from the Council, and in response to this a sub-committee was authorised to arrange terms on behalf of the club, the main provision being that of the 6 rinks 3 should always be available for matches.

At a committee meeting held on 20th October 1938 the secretary of the club announced that a satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with the Council had been reached for the construction of a full size Cumberland turf bowling green with a pavilion at Manor Farm and that contracts had been placed. As the club shared the lease of the Wood Lane site with the tennis

club arrangements were made to terminate the lease and sell off old equipment.

The creation of the new facilities was obviously going on during the early months of the Second World War. At a meeting on 7th March 1940 it was decided to open the green on the 27th April "subject to the approval of the council". But at a meeting held on the proposed day of opening the secretary of the club read correspondence from the council relating to the official opening of the green. The content of the letter is not known, and to date no information regarding the "official" opening of the green has been found. The minutes do not refer to an actual official opening, but there is no doubt that the Ruislip Bowls Club was playing at Manor Farm during the summer of 1940. On Saturday 11th May a match was held against Yiewsley on Ruislip's "new green, a welcome addition to the Cumberland turf greens of west Middlesex."! From the end of April committee meetings were held at the Pavilion, Manor Farm. The balance of accounts for the year 1939-40 refers to the "sale of club property from the old ground."

The impact of the war overshadowed the early months of the club's season on their new green. It was decided to donate a percentage of income from whist drives and 25 per cent of income to the Red Cross. An ominous note was sounded at a meeting held on 21st June 1940 when one member questioned whether the club matches should be continued; but the majority felt that the club should carry on and try to complete the fixtures "war permitting". In August, despite air raids, some "pleasant games" were played, which helped to distract the bowlers' minds from the war.

References

- Ruislip Bowls Club:
Minutes of Committee Meetings 1934-1945
Minutes of AG.M's 1933-1957
¹ *Middlesex Advertiser & Gazette*, 17th May 1940

At a Vestry meeting on 14 January 1825

The parishioners present agreed that all persons out of employ shall be put to work on the Roads and at the Gravel Pits instead of expending any more money in the said Grounds for this season.

[The 'said Grounds' referred to the Poor's Allotment where the unemployed had previously worked.]

LMADRO 19/C1/2

RNELHS: THIRTY FIVE YEARS

by Ran Edwards

It is not easy to visualise 35 years that have passed by and to attempt mentally to fill them with people and events, even those within one's own experience.

To set the clock back to 1964, recall that November 1963 had witnessed the assassination of President Kennedy, one of those memorable occurrences which people have always registered in their minds. 1964 saw the beginning of the United States involvement in Vietnam, and the government of Ian Smith in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was about to break away from British control.

At around this time, Cliff Morrell and I became disturbed by the disappearance of the background we were familiar with. In Eastcote Village there were major changes under way. Eastcote Lodge had been demolished in 1962 and, following the death of Lady Anderson, there were queries over the future of Eastcote Place. The old Methodist chapel had been demolished and the village shops were under threat. The smithy had ceased operation. Overall there were continuing discussions over the shape of local government with the planned disappearance of the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council and proposed unification with Uxbridge, West Drayton and Yiewsley, and Hayes and Harlington within a new borough. Northwood had been undergoing piecemeal change and development throughout the 1950s and this was not showing any signs of a slow down.

Our thoughts became directed towards the possible creation of a group which would aim to protect, or at least to record, the historic places remaining. During this pre-birth period, we searched for information as to the form a new group should take. Early contacts were formed with Laurence Morris and W A Kemp; the unique Miss Pollard who had been librarian at Ruislip but lately transferred to Harrow; Sir Christopher Cowan, previously Chairman of the Middlesex County Council and, from our Urban District Council, Cllr C A Smith, the

Chairman, and Edward Saywell, the Clerk. Support and encouragement came from local societies and associations following a campaign of letters. Advice of great value also came from existing local history societies at Uxbridge and West Drayton through the persons of L Jarvis and A H Cox.

All pointed to it being the right time to press on with the project and an interim committee was formed with Sir Christopher as Chairman, myself as Secretary and Cliff Morrell as Treasurer. W A Kemp, Laurence Morris, Miss Pollard, Howard and Enid Crane and my wife, Doreen acted as committee members. We decided to hold a public meeting at Manor Farm Library on 22nd May to launch the Society. Cllr. Cecil Smith who had just completed his term of office as Chairman of the Urban District Council chaired the meeting and Laurence Morris gave a short talk on the meaning and value of local history. Around sixty attended the meeting and 45 of those became initial members of the new Society.

The first meeting was held on the 22nd June followed by a local outing on the 5th July. A constitution was drawn up, the committee membership was regularised and a programme of events set up. Since then, against the background of considerable change, both world-wide and locally, the Society has continued to increase its membership, provide 35 years of programme variety and regular outings which have provided enjoyment and education for many people. There have been a variety of speakers from many walks of life offering a range of expertise. The Society has also, dare one say, exceeded by far the expectations of the original members with its impressive array of publications and the continuing scholarship of the Bulletin. None of this could have been achieved without the selfless offerings of personal time by those who have acted as Committee members and helpers over the years and by those who continue this work in 1999.

At a Vestry meeting on October 4th 1833

Mr. Houghton proposed to take 100 Loads of Chalk if the Parish Officers [agreed] at one shilling per load

LMADRO 19/C/3