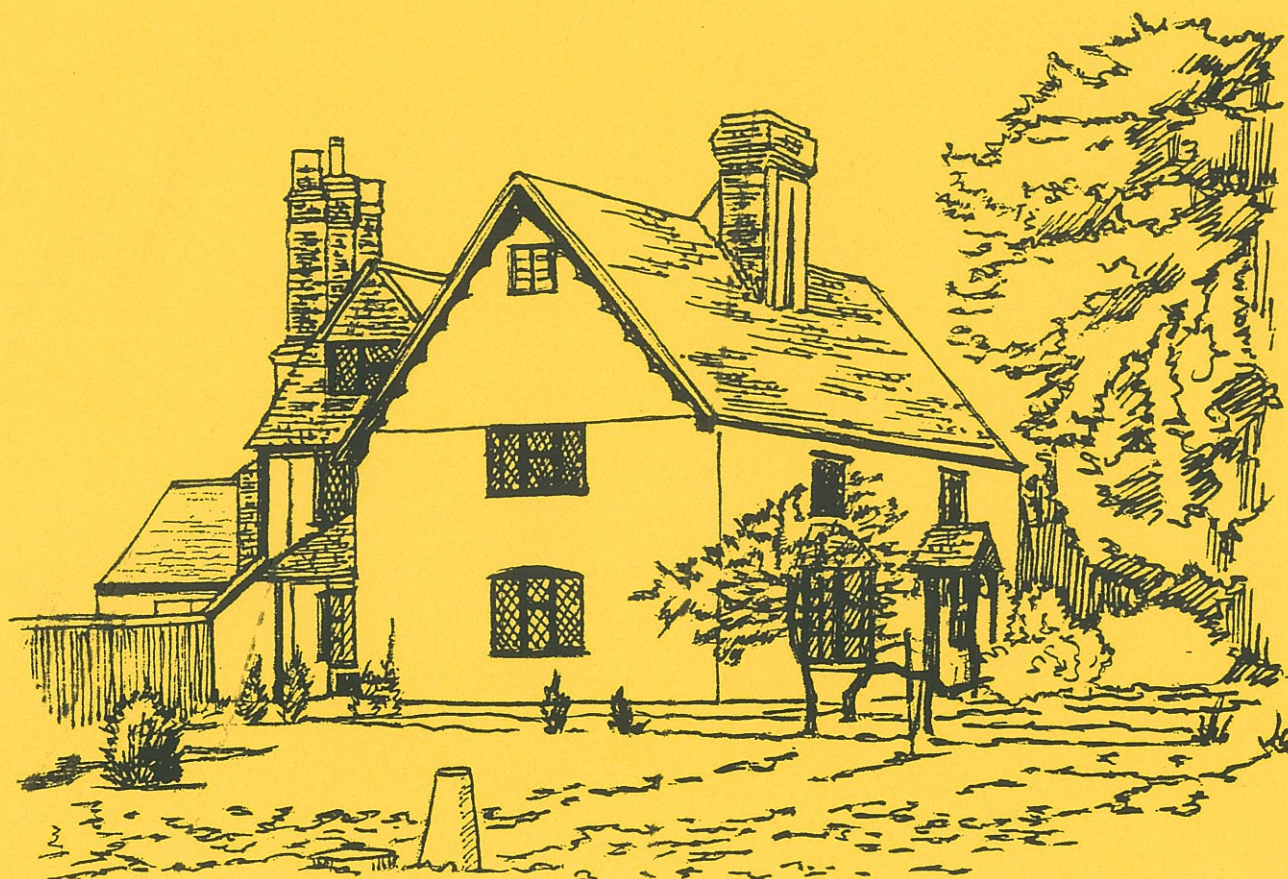


RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society



Journal 2000

£3.00

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE Local History Society Journal 2000

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Cover picture: Field End Farm, Eastcote.

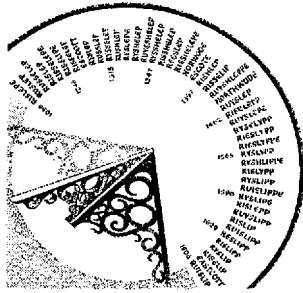
Designed and edited by Simon Morgan.

Line drawings (cover and page 27) by Denise Shackell.

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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 Membership 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.)

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 2000-2001

2000

18 September	The Romans in Southwark	Harvey Sheldon
16 October	AGM followed by: Harrow Weald: Past Glories	Eileen M Bowlt
20 November	Samuel Johnson's London	Natasha McEnroe
18 December	A Good Night Out	Patricia Melville

2001

15 January	Hampstead Heath: People & Places	Colin Bowlt
19 February	Images of London	Cathy Ross
19 March	Research Group presentations	
23 April	Hanworth Park	Andrea Cameron

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

EDITORIAL

I have always thought of the 20th century as not *really* history. Well, it was only a few years ago and much of it is within living memory. The facts are well established, so the main challenge for 20th century historians is in re-interpretation and revisionism - using the benefit of hindsight and distance to re-evaluate the established wisdom. Perhaps my antipathy to modern history stems from my schooldays when we were rushed from the feudal system to the Industrial Revolution in order to commence the 'O' level syllabus, leaving unexplored the events of the intervening centuries.

Another objection to 20th century history is that it is far too easy to research and therefore rather dull. It doesn't require the dedication needed for earlier periods: the long hours spent in libraries and record offices, the deciphering of faint handwritten documents. And where is the intellectual challenge? Research on earlier periods requires piecing together a jigsaw of sketchy and intermittent information. From the mid-19th century, records become much more numerous and complete. Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in 1837, with the first detailed census following four years later. Property transactions and the levying of the poor rate became better recorded at much the same time, giving us a wide range of sources to track people and places.

However, mysteries do remain and people do still slip through the net of bureaucracy. Censuses were only decennial and the occupants could be away and therefore unrecorded on the relevant date. Other records are strong on land and property owners but weaker on tenants. Some of these documents are hopelessly vague and were clearly not written for the benefit of posterity; they require a lot of cross-referencing and intelligent guesswork. In the 19th century censuses, hundreds of people were recorded as living simply at 'Field End' or at 'Northwood' with no further address.

With the turn of the 20th century, whilst the first census return is not available for another month, we do have street and trade directories, electoral registers, much more comprehensive local news coverage, and a higher likelihood of good local authority and institutional records. With detailed Ordnance Survey mapping, updated every twenty years or so, every building, hedge,

path and railway siding is documented. Considering also the increasing photographic archive of the 20th century, what is there left to know?

The 20th century is no longer 'our' century and thus immediately becomes a more appealing and serious subject for study. In any case, whilst events of national and global importance are well documented, locally this period has been neglected. This is a significant omission because the 20th century encompasses the most monumental change that Ruislip has ever experienced: the transition from a quiescent farming community to a populous London suburb. Whilst Northwood had started this process in the 1880s when the Metropolitan Railway opened, its development still had a long way to go when the 20th century dawned. To look at this another way, the early 20th century is our last link with the rural way of life that stretched back many centuries before.

Can we use the good documentary sources of the 20th century better to understand how our area functioned as an agricultural community? While information remains in the heads of older members of the community, now is the time to record it. Details that were once common knowledge can easily be lost, as I explore in this Journal in relation to the location of the Northwood chapel of ease. A more recent example is: where exactly was the Ruislip-Northwood council chamber, last used in 1965? The former council headquarters in Northwood remain largely intact in the form of the library complex and the house, Oaklands (now part of the Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue). The photograph of the 'Council Chamber first used in 1950' in *Ruislip Northwood - The Development of an Urban District 1904-1965* shows a large modern room with leaded-light windows which do not match the present external fenestration of either of these buildings. Does anyone know the answer, or is this a modern mystery?

There is still much to learn about our locality in the 20th century and much of what is now known might not be passed on to the next generation. Modern local history is a worthy subject and one that will always be welcomed for publication in this Journal.

When can we start on the 21st century?

FIELD END REVISITED

by Colleen A. Cox and Karen Spink

There were two areas called Field End in the ancient manor of Ruislip, one just south of Ruislip Station and the other near the present library in Eastcote. Both, as their name suggests, were on the boundary of the former open fields but it is the Eastcote one which is the subject of this article.

Both authors have written about the area in the past and have been equally frustrated by the problems of trying to locate individual householders when most were described only as living at 'Field End'. For the purposes of the article, Field End has been defined as the part of Field End Road from Field End Farm north to Field End Villas. Neither Eastcote House nor Eastcote Cottage has been included both of which border on the area but which have been dealt with elsewhere. These properties belonged to the influential Deane family who also owned Park Farm and Sigers and gradually acquired more land in Field End during the 19th century.

In 1565, a terrier, or survey, was made by King's College, Cambridge, the Lords of the Manor of Ruislip, of their demesne lands, which gave tenants' names with a description of their holdings. From this, it can be seen that in 1565 there were several messuages and cottages, about nine in number, scattered along what was then known as Field End and Clay Street. Today there are five buildings dating from the 16th century in Field End: Field End Farm, Tudor Lodge Hotel, Park Farm, a remnant of Field End House Farm called Retreat Cottage and Eastcote Cottage. It is most likely that something of these same buildings existed in 1565. Certainly there were buildings on these sites. The other important message from that date, of which nothing has survived, is Sigers which was next to Park Farm.

More detailed information about the area is obtained from the map drawn up by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1806 (*see fig. 2*) and the accompanying schedule which lists the old enclosure numbers, their size and ownership (*see fig. 1*). Information from the rate books, the censuses and street directories has also been used. In addition extracts have

been taken from articles in *The Aerial*, published by the Eastcote Residents' Association from 1936 to the 1970s, from local newspapers and from personal communication.

The rate books are an important source of information for local historians. Unfortunately the early ones for the area give few details of the properties and a number are missing altogether. However there is a copy of a terrier carried out in 1837 which lists the old and new enclosure numbers as well as the owners, occupiers, area and rateable value which means that the various holdings can be pinpointed at this date.

The article is written in the form of a walk following the route taken by some of the early census enumerators. Field End was approached from the south along what is now Field End Road but which used to be called Northolt Road when it was a narrow country lane with open farmland on either side. The first building reached was Field End Farm (*photo. 1*) with its large barn and other farm buildings.

Field End Farm OE 589

In 1806 a man called John Stiles owned several small plots, amounting to some 14 acres near his farm at Field End and 6 acres near Park Farm. They were OE 588, 589, 590, 592, 595, 596, 597, 599, 700 and 704. The 19th century rate books indicated that he still owned this land in 1820, but by 1827 a Mr Alleson had bought Field End Farm and some adjoining land previously in the ownership of John Stiles. In 1837 the Allesons still owned OE 588, 589, 590, 592 and 595. In 1847 these enclosures were held by the Deanes in whose hands they remained until the 1930s.

One of the earliest occupiers of the farm in the 19th century was William Durbridge, sometimes written as Durbidge, who was there in 1820. Durbridge was born in Wheatley, Oxfordshire. He settled in this area and according to the census was still at the farm in 1851. There were various occupiers in the 1850s and '60s and the size of the farm increased from 85 to over 200 acres, almost

Information on old enclosures
based on the Enclosure Schedule 1806

OE no.	Area		Owner	Location
	a.	p.		
588	2	2	John Stiles	F E Fm
589	3	2	John Stiles	
590	5	2	John Stiles	
591	3	2	Eliz. White	Orchard Fm
592	1	3	John Stiles	
593	3	2	Eliz. White	
594	7	2	T. T. Clarke	Cottages Tudor Lodge
595	1	11	John Stiles	
596	2	6	John Stiles	
597		32	John Stiles	Cottages Night' gale cotts
598		18	R. Bugberd	
599	1	8	John Stiles	
600	1	0	T. T. Clarke	F E House Fm
601	2	1	T. T. Clarke	
602	2	3	T. T. Clarke	
603	4	0	R. Deane	Eastcote Cottage
604	1	1	T. T. Clarke	
605	3	5	R. Deane	
606	1	22	John Stiles	

696	5	1	19	R. Deane	Eastcote House
697	4	0	21	R. Deane	
698		1	26	R. Deane	Park Fm
699			19	Jos. Bedford	
700	3	0	37	John Stiles	Sigers
701	1	1	35	R. Deane	
702	2	1	27	R. Deane	
703	4	0	30	R. Deane	
704	2	2	26	John Stiles	

Figure 1

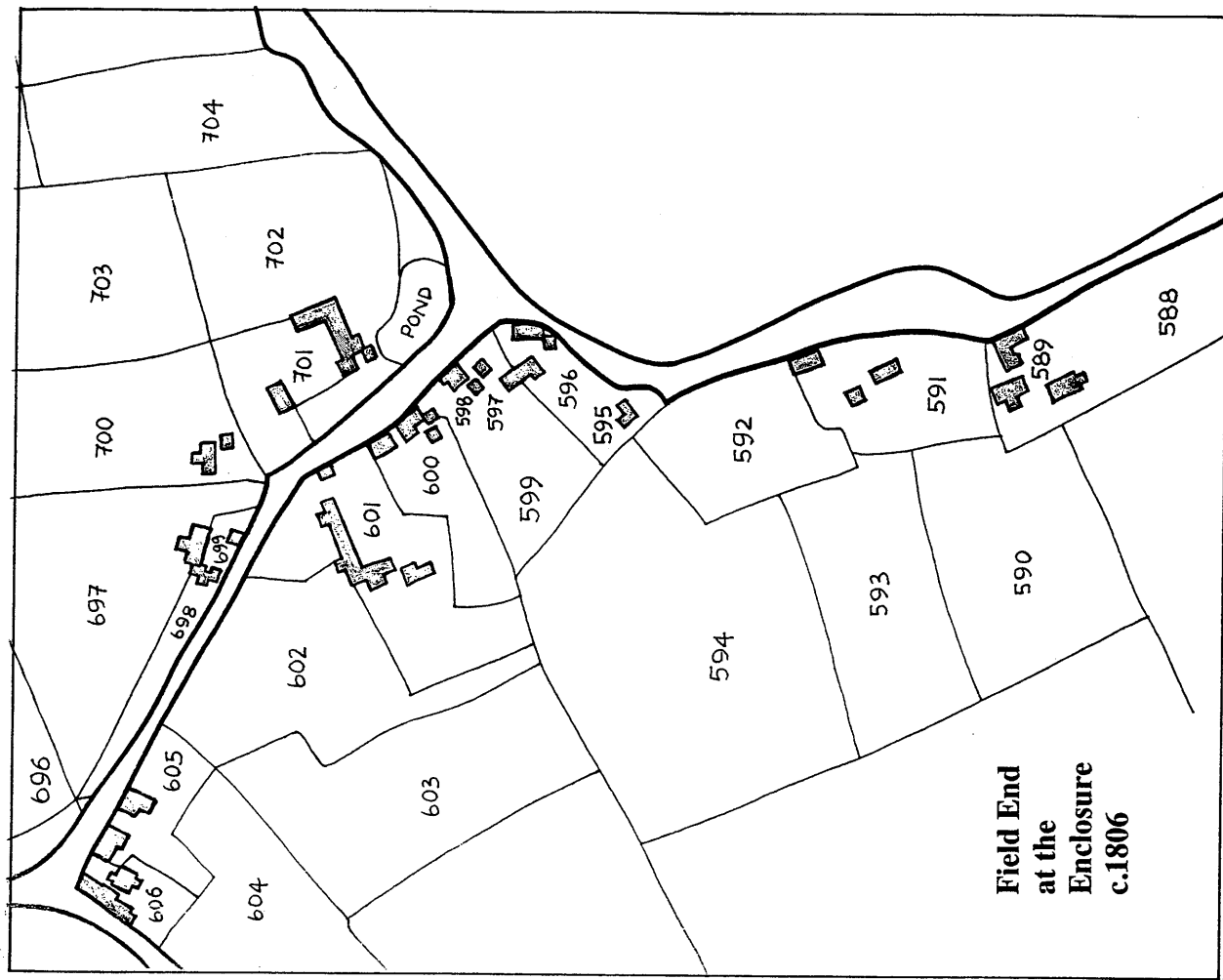


Figure 2

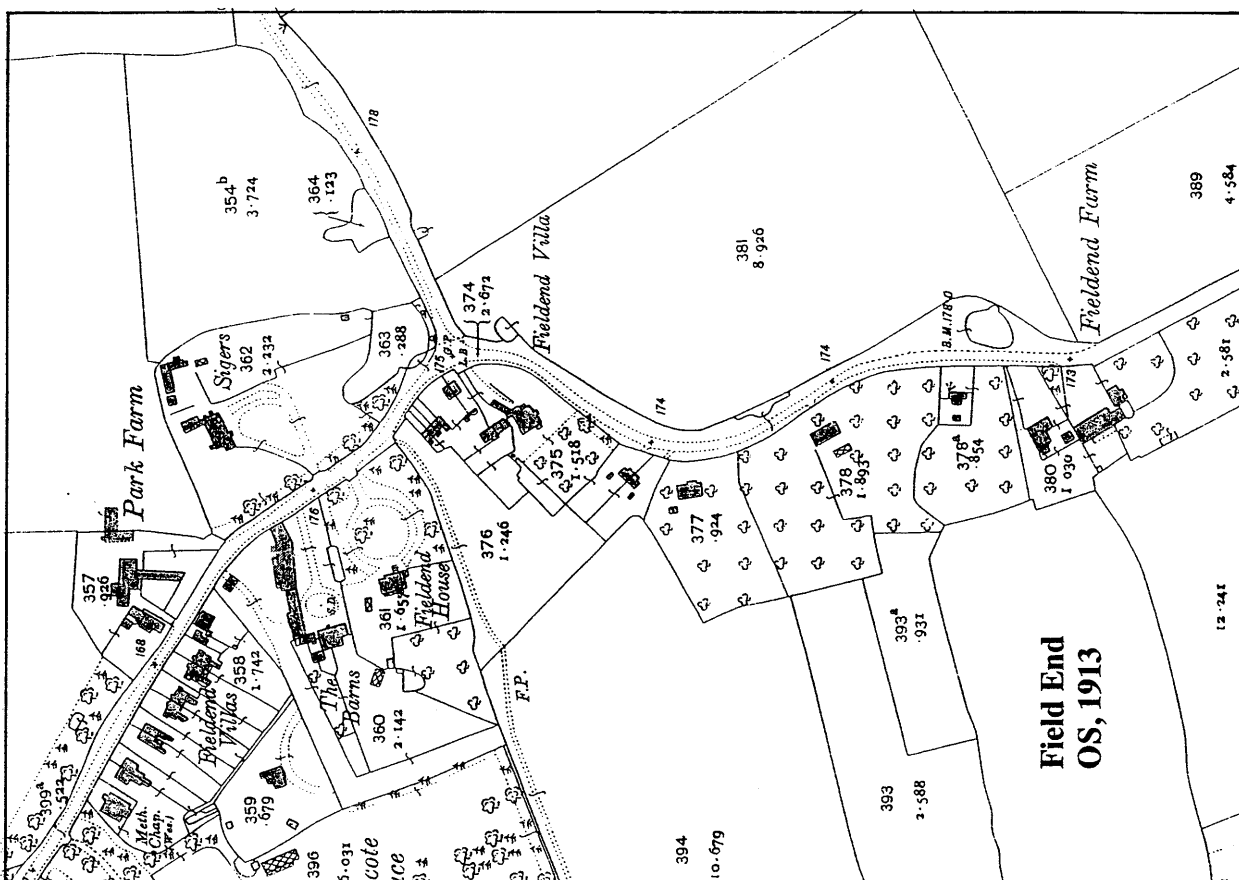


Figure 3

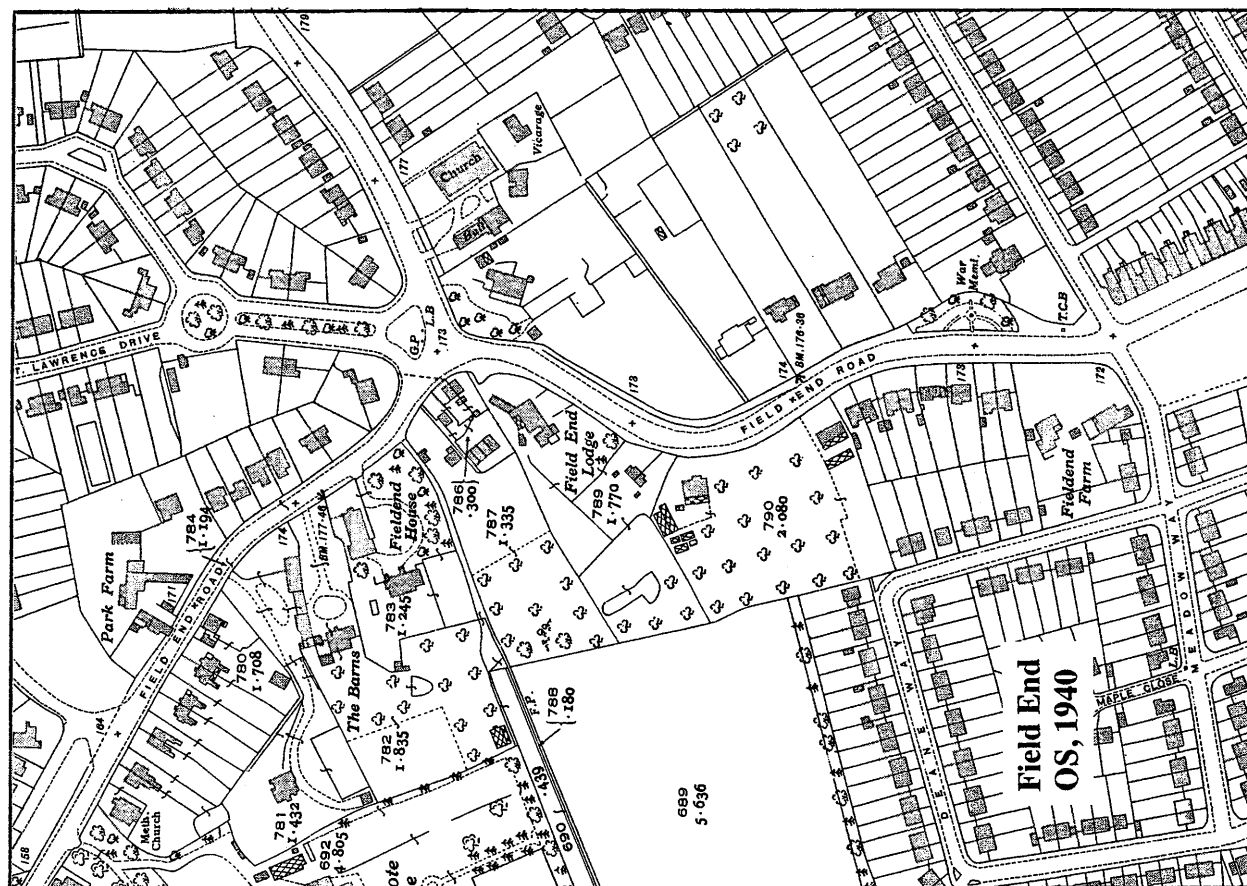


Figure 4

certainly because it included more of the Deane land.

In 1871 a man called John Somers was there. He was a 47-year-old man from Somerset who gained certain notoriety in the local press in 1873. In October, his wife Mary Ann Somers was summonsed for assaulting William Henry Hone, a bailiff's man, who was a broker at Notting Hill. Hone had *'entered into possession of Field End Farm, Eastcote, kept by Mrs Somers' husband, where he took possession under a Bill of Sale for a money-lender, Mr Page, also of Notting Hill. Mr Hone was recognised by both Mr and Mrs Somers as he slept at the Lodge where they were themselves living, and took his meals at Field End Farm. He was instructed to remain in possession for a Mr Moore, an auctioneer of Watford.'*

Then in November there was a notice of liquidation of John Barnes Somers of Field End Lodge and Field End Farm, Eastcote, Middlesex, farmer and grazier and the announcement of the date of the first meeting of creditors to be held on 15 December. However, in the meantime, Uxbridge bench intervened and ordered that John Barnes Somers of Eastcote be committed to the Debtors' Prison, Holloway, for one calendar month, for not paying the poor rate to the parish of Ruislip - an amount of about £31. Police Sergeant Bromfield of Ruislip caught up with Somers in Gray's Inn, London, and conveyed him to prison. Then the following month, the two Somers' daughters appeared in court to reclaim their property worth £436, which had been wrongfully seized by the auctioneers. This is the last time the Somers were heard of in Eastcote.

The newspaper reports suggested that Somers was living at Field End Lodge while farming Field End Farm. It was assumed that this was the house currently known as Tudor Lodge, however, further research has proved this to be incorrect. Somers was succeeded by William Page for a short time, but a street directory of 1877 indicated that Field End Farm was occupied by George Bodsworth from Bedfordshire, followed by William Woodland from Ickenham and by 1902 the farm was a dairy-farm run by John Westacott. He was

succeeded by his wife, Mary, who was recorded in the rate book as late as 1928.

George Joce of 4 Field End Villas, writing in the 1930s, recalls 1901 when: *'Field End Farm was occupied by a burly North Devon farmer named Westacott, whose voice could call his dogs from two fields away. Coming home on a summer's evening, Westacott usually provided something of interest.*

'Opposite the farm was a large triangular piece of roadside waste, containing a cattle pond, where Westacott's cows went to drink. This has now been filled in and the war memorial (removed from the crossroads further down) erected on its site. Harrow School art class sat here to sketch the farm and the wonderful old barn, which happily has been saved. The farm has been reconditioned, and the old farmyard made into a beautiful garden. But one misses the cows, the geese, the annual sheep shearing in the yard, the swallows skimming the surface and the water seagulls busy around its edge.'

The 'saved barn' had become very derelict by the 1970s but was finally restored and converted into offices in 1977.

Orchard Farm OE 591 & 593

The next property visited by the enumerator was the cottage on OE 591 on which Orchard Farm now stands. The owner at the time of the enclosure was Mrs Elizabeth White, described in the 1806 rate book as the 'late Mrs White'. She also owned the adjacent plot OE 593. Both enclosures were purchased by Ralph Deane some time before 1827 and they belonged to his family for the next 100 years. Joseph Ambridge occupied Mrs White's cottage and the two small pieces of meadow in 1806 and he was still there in 1851.

The Ambridges are an old Eastcote family who can be traced back to the 18th century. In the middle of the 19th century there were also Ambridges in Fore Street and at Highgrove Lodge, and Mary Ambridge was working as a cook at Haydon Hall. There were still Ambridges living in neighbouring Harrow, Watford and Hendon at the end of the 20th century as was revealed by an interesting story told by the Pinner History Society.

One of the great grandsons of Joseph Ambridge of Orchard Farm whose name was also Joseph had six children. He died in 1913, and Ada, his widow, unable to cope with their large family gave up the three eldest children to Dr Barnardo's Homes from where they were sent to Canada. The third child Alfred, who had been born in Cambridge Villas in High Road, Eastcote, ran away to the United States where he took an assumed name. It was only after his death that his daughter discovered his real name and where he came from, and she contacted the Pinner History Society. Jim

1891 census we learn that he was a 37-year-old man born in Suffolk, married to a woman from Northamptonshire with successive children born in Cambridgeshire, Warwickshire and then Northamptonshire. The electoral roll indicated that in 1891 he had recently moved from a cottage near The Firs in Harefield. He seems to have settled in Field End as, according to the 1914 rate book, he occupied a house and 6 acres of land called Field End Gardens, presumably because it was still a market garden.



*Photo 1: Field End Farm
rear view, May 2000*

Golland looked up the name Ambridge in the phone book and the first person he rang was one of Alfred's brothers. He had had no news of Alfred since they were children.

A plaque on the present building indicates that it was built in the 1860s so this cannot be the cottage occupied by the Ambridges. It was difficult to identify the occupiers after 1851 but by 1891 it appears to have been David Crack who ran a market garden there. Crack seems to have been a rolling stone. From the

Orchard Farm was bought by William Murch around 1928. The cottage itself was acquired by Edwin Hartley in 1931. He was the architect for the Rotherham Estates who built Meadow Way, Deane Way, Crescent Gardens, etc., on land behind Field End Farm that had belonged to the Deanes. Hartley was keen on exploring the area and wrote a series of articles on West Middlesex and Buckinghamshire entitled 'In and around Eastcote'. Hartley altered the simple three-bedroom cottage. He added an extension on the back and bay

windows at the front and transformed it into a modern 1930s pebble-dashed four-bedroom house.

In 1970, his daughter, Madeline Hartley, wrote *'I lived in Eastcote from 1932 to 1957. My father bought the old cottage and converted it into a modern house. Previous occupiers had sold apples and "did Teas", for we found an old notice board in the front garden advertising the fact and we had many would-be customers calling on us in the early days of our residence. Also in those days many people would stand at the gate staring and pointing out to their companions where and how the alterations had taken place.'* There was an old well in the garden, which is still there. The water was very cold and hard wrote Madeline, but as there were no refrigerators in those days, the Hartleys found it very useful for storing food. They packed the food in a bucket and lowered it carefully to just above the water-level.

OE592

The enumerator would next have passed OE 592, a plot of meadow-land just under two acres in area. This was another of the small plots owned by John Stiles at the beginning of the 19th century and purchased by the Allesons by 1837 when the tenant was William Durbridge of Field End Farm. It was owned and occupied by the Deanes in 1857 and it remained as meadow until purchased by William Murch.

William James Murch was born in Pinner, the son of William Murch who was variously described as grocer, farmer and fruiterer. After his marriage in 1882 to Marion Wilshin-Pugh, also from Pinner, William junior and his wife moved to 3 Field End Villas. It is said that he walked every morning to Hatch End station to catch the train to his office at the London and Western Railway in Euston where he was employed as an accountant. By 1885 things were made slightly easier with the opening of Pinner Station, and by the time Eastcote Halt had opened in 1906, William Murch was living in his newly-built house, Ruislip House. This was made from local red bricks from the Cheney Street brickworks, probably built by the builders Gallop, who were based in the Old Barn in Eastcote High Road.

William had several daughters and two sons, Guy and Kenneth. In 1914, in the electoral roll book, Guy was shown as a paying lodger at Ruislip House, entitling him to a vote. His father was charging him 10 shillings a week for a first floor bedroom. William served on the parish council and was a churchwarden at Ruislip where he helped raise funds for the two windows in the north chancel depicting St Martin, and the oak litany desk, all in memory of the late Rev. Thomas Marsh Everett.

Ken Murch lived in Ruislip House after his father's death in 1938. By this time there was a verandah running the length of the back of the house and several large glass houses in the garden where he grew grapes. Ruislip House was demolished in the 1960s when the new housing development called The Sigers was built.

Field End Cottages OE 595

The land on which Field End Cottages now stand was yet another of the plots owned by John Stiles, purchased by the Allesons and then the Deanes. In 1837 there was a small cottage on it occupied by Henry Douglas who was succeeded by his widow Mary. In 1851 she was recorded as a charwoman. It seems likely that Joseph Ambridge left the cottage near Orchard Farm in the 1850s and was living in this cottage in 1861 when he was described in the census as a 71-year-old carrier of parcels. He may have stayed there until his death in 1865. The cottage either fell down or was demolished soon after this and the existing ones were built by the Deanes in about 1888. In 1891 the new cottages were occupied by William Lees, a gamekeeper, and Henry Gadd, a gardener, possibly both employees of the Deane family. In the 1914 rate book Fred Ayres and Harry Hawkins were recorded as the tenants.

Fred Ayres worked for the Deanes as head gardener at Eastcote House. His children Fred, born in 1906, and Dorothy were born in the left-hand cottage of this pair of cottages (now 54 Field End Road). They both attended the Pinner Road School in Northwood followed by Bishop Winnington Ingram in Ruislip. Fred junior became the head gardener of Horn End in 1930 and lived in Horn End Cottage in Cheney Street. His son lives just off Cheney Street today.

In 1932 the Deanes sold Field End Cottages to Waiter Tapping.

Tudor Lodge OE 596 & 599

The next enclosure visited by the enumerator was that on which the Tudor Lodge Hotel now stands (OE 596). This building has had its name changed several times during the last two centuries but to avoid further confusion, it will be referred to here as Tudor Lodge.

This is a very old site which may have been occupied as early as the 16th century. The two enclosures, OE 596 and 599, were linked together and both were owned by John Stiles at the enclosure. By 1827, however, they were owned and occupied by William White. In 1841 he was a farmer of about 70 years old who was still at Tudor Lodge in 1847. He was succeeded by Richard Watts who was admitted to the property on 14 January 1850.

Richard Watts was a corn chandler who also owned The Grange in Eastcote High Road where he and his family were living in 1851. At this time, Tudor Lodge was leased to Thomas Axtill, a landed proprietor from London. By 1861 Mrs Watts, now widowed and described as a retired corn chandler, had moved from The Grange to Tudor Lodge. The occupier could not be identified in the 1871 census but in a street directory of 1875, the house, called Field End Cottage, was occupied by Mrs Watts. In 1881 the head of the household was Mrs Susannah Willcox, a proprietor of houses living with her sister, Miss Charity Watts. The 1886 rate book and the 1891 census both record Miss Charity Watts as the occupier.

By 1902 the house was occupied by Benjamin Phillip Richard and owned by Henry Perryman. Richard was still there in 1908 but it is thought that the property was then bought by Benjamin J. Hall, an engineer. He certainly owned and occupied the house at Field End by 1914. On the 1913 map (*see fig. 3*), the house was known as Field End Villa but in the 1914 Rate Book it was referred to as Field End Lodge. According to the 1956 Kemp's directory there were two residences on the site: Field End Lodge and 50 Field End Road. Mr J.K. Landless had moved there by 1973 and by 1976 occupied both houses, converting them to

the Tudor Lodge Hotel. There have been many alterations and it is now quite hard to identify the original buildings. Mr Landless ran the hotel until the autumn of 1999.

The house was enlarged when the Halls owned it, and during the First World War it was put at the disposal of the military for use as a Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital. Many local girls became VADs including Gertrude Lavender and Gladys Gregory. *'After the war,'* wrote Mr Joce, *'Mr and Mrs Hall obtained permission to erect a small war shrine on the patch of grass which then occupied the centre of the crossroads at Field End. This bore the names of Eastcote men killed; it was later placed in the temporary church of St Lawrence, and is now in the permanent church.'* The whereabouts of this cross now is not known. Its place was taken by a stone memorial cross in 1922, but the site proved to be quite unsuitable as the cross was continually damaged or knocked down by the traffic. It was finally re-erected in 1929 in its present position in a permanent memorial garden opposite Field End Farm.

Mount Pleasant OE 597

Next to Tudor Lodge was a small plot of land, OE 597, of just under a quarter of an acre. This was yet another of the plots owned by John Stiles which had been bought by the Deanes by 1837 when there were two cottages on it occupied by Thomas White and John Rose. The latter was described in the 1841 census as a 75-year-old carpenter and living with him was John Cox, a 35-year-old carpenter from Amersham. Ten years later Cox was still living in the same place, although by 1861 he had moved to a cottage near Ramin in Eastcote High Road and with his sons became the local builders.

The 1865 OS map shows two pairs of cottages on this plot and it is thought that the ones at the back are the earlier ones occupied by Thomas White and John Rose. It is interesting to note that almost all the occupiers of this plot had connections with the building trade. The old cottages were still there in 1925 when Benjamin Hall bought the land from the Deanes but had gone by 1928 when four flats were built almost adjacent to them. These were occupied from 1929 and are still in

occupation today, though at the time of writing are threatened with demolition.

The pair of cottages at the front of the plot, known as Mount Pleasant Cottages, are said to date from the 1840s and may have been built on roadside waste (*photo 2*). It has not yet proved possible to establish who the occupiers were until the beginning of the 20th century. The first record of them by name was in the 1915 street directory when the occupier was Edwin Lavender. The 1929 rate book revealed that they were owned by B.J. Hall and the occupiers were John Hill and Thomas Beck. The cottages were in occupation until they were demolished in 1968.

The Nightingale family was continually up before the magistrates' court and their misdemeanours were colourfully reported in the local press between 1868 and 1875. The Wesleyan Chapel, further down the road, seems to have been the place where the local youth congregated to cause a nuisance.

By 1902, Nightingale's land and cottages had been purchased by George Barter of Hope Cottage, Pinner. He kept them until 1925 when they were bought by B.J. Hall. At some stage the cottages were demolished and replaced by White Cottage, set well back from the road and a bungalow built to the left in front.



Photo 2: Field End 1950s.

Left (behind trees): Tudor Lodge, centre: Mount Pleasant, right: flats (38-44 Field End Road), far right: White Cottage.

Nightingale Cottages OE 598

The next plot was even smaller with an area of approximately an eighth of an acre. In 1806 it belonged to Richard Bugberd and the cottage on it was occupied by James Nightingale. He had purchased the plot by 1827 and the Nightingale family lived there for the rest of the 19th century. By 1837 James Nightingale had built four small cottages there which he let out to his son and to labourers and their families.

White Cottage was occupied in 1928 by Walter Lappage who ran a nursery on the land. This seems to have continued until the war, when the occupier was Len Clark who had kennels there. He was followed by a dealer in animals, Reg Barney, who kept horses and cows. And, just like the Nightingale family before him, he was continually being called up before the Uxbridge magistrates for letting his animals roam the streets.

In 1928, the Bungalow was used by the Eastcote Child Welfare Association, and in the following year by Vincent Hill. Before the Second World War, William Thompson was there. He was apparently a chef by trade, but was also the local bookie. He had a tendency to disappear for long periods at a time and then suddenly reappear again. During the war, a bomb hit a paving slab in front of the Bungalow, and this flew up in the air and landed on the pillow of Mr Thompson's bed. Fortunately for him, he was in the air raid shelter at the time. After this incident the Bungalow seems not to have been repaired and is not mentioned in the 1950s street directories. By 1966 the White Cottage had also gone. The land was taken into the development of The Sigers, and a pair of maisonettes was built (34 and 34A Field End Road).

Sigers OE 701

At some stage the enumerators crossed Field End Road to Sigers. This was one of the farms of about 130 acres that had always belonged to the Deanes. The first occupier to be identified in the 19th century was Richard Eales who was there in 1837 and was still there in 1857. The occupier could not be identified either in 1861 or 1871 censuses, however in 1871 John Somers of Field End Farm had 220 acres of land and it is possible that this consisted of the 85 acres of Field End Farm and the 130 acres of Sigers. It was also reported that Somers lived at Field End Lodge which could not be Tudor Lodge, as had previously been thought, as this was owned and occupied by the Watts family at the time. A search of various documents was undertaken to see if at any time Sigers had been known as Field End Lodge. The link was established when it was found that a street directory of 1901 recorded F. Jackson living at The Sigers and a rate book of 1902 had H. Fielden Jackson at Field End Lodge, a property belonging to the Deanes.

It seems that after Somers left the area, Sigers was converted into a private house occupied by a solicitor at the time of the 1881 census and 10 years later by a stockbroker's agent, Henry Barnes, who according to the 1899 directory lived at 'Seizers'. He seems to have been followed by Mr Jackson,

Kenneth Goschen, a member of an illustrious banking family and himself a director of the

Bank of England, moved to the area before the First World War. He leased both Sigers and Park Farm with 57 acres of land on which he bred pedigree cattle.

Sigers was famous for its garden fetes. In the 1890s, Mr and Mrs Barnes raised money for St Martin's Church, and then later the Goschens did the same for the new Eastcote church, St Lawrence, holding annual garden fetes.

After the Goschens, Sigers was occupied by General Sir Henry W.G. Cole. In 1930 the land was sold by the Deanes to Comben and Wakeling for the development known as Eastcote Park Estate. The house, looking rather forlorn, survived probably till the end of the 1930s.

Park Farm OE 698

Park Farm was the home farm of the Deane Eastcote House Estate. The acreage varied but was usually about 57 acres. It was occupied by William Lawson from 1837 but by 1851 he had been replaced by the farm bailiff, Henry Powell. He was still there in 1861 but then moved to run Fore Street Farm, another of the Deanes' properties. Sixty-two-year-old William Barter, from Hampshire, was there in 1871, but a newspaper report of 1876 gave details of the sale of his goods on leaving. He was followed by James Foxley, there until his death in January 1892. S. Hunt, a dairyman, followed him and Herbert Jackson was there in 1901.

On 30 March 1901 it was reported in the local press from the Uxbridge Petty Sessions that: *'Herbert Jackson of Piccadilly and Eastcote was fined £2 5s Od [£2.25] for keeping two servants without a license and £1 1s Od [£1.05] for keeping two dogs without a license.'*

The 1914 rate book shows that Kenneth Goschen was leasing Park Farm with Sigers. In 1928 Frederick Cradock was farming it while at the same time owning one of the Field End Villas across the road. Most of the Park Farm land was also sold by the Deanes for the Eastcote Park Estate, but some in the immediate vicinity of the farmhouse was retained along with the barns. Park Farm became one private residence, and next door a larger piece of land with the barns on it had a

detached house built on it and became a separate residence (*see Fig. 4*).

It was there that from the 1950s Norman Robarts, the dairy farmer from Northwood, was living. It was still a rural corner in the early 1980s. The Robarts kept hens, geese and ducks and some rather noisy peacocks. It was said that Mr Robarts had his shotgun permanently aimed out of an upstairs window in case the fox strolled by. Certainly, the gun's retorts were heard from time to time. And on at least one occasion, a brood of ducklings was seen wandering across Field End Road.

Field End House Farm OE 600, 601 & 602

Across the road from Park Farm was Field End House estate. The boundary was adjacent to a footpath which has been a public right of way for at least 150 years. In the mid-19th century this path went past the field used by Eastcote Cricket Club and along the boundary of Highgrove Estate until it came out at the bottom of Eastcote High Road. Today the exit is next to the American Base.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Thomas Truesdale Clarke of Swakeleys in Ickenham owned a considerable amount of land in Ruislip and Eastcote. He drowned in rather mysterious circumstances in shallow water on his Swakeleys estate in 1840 and his holdings in Field End (OE 600, 601 and 602) were subsequently sold. The new owner Miss Cordelia Winter took a keen interest in local affairs and in 1847 she built a Wesleyan chapel on a piece of her land and the road alongside became known as Chapel Hill. The chapel became the centre for many enjoyable village activities.

William Lawrence inherited Field End House Farm and its 100 acres of land from Miss Winter and was formally admitted on 1 August 1851 although he must have been living there before this as he was recorded in the census taken that year on 31 March. Initially Lawrence lived in the old farmhouse near the line of barns, the only survivor of which is Retreat Cottage at the entrance to Farthings Close. By around 1856 he had built himself a new house on an adjoining piece of land and moved in with his new wife, Sarah, formerly

his housekeeper. This house was known as Field End House.

Like their predecessor, the Lawrences were staunch Methodists and supported the Sunday School and its activities. Mrs Lawrence gave the children a copy of the New Testament after an anniversary party and on another occasion children and friends of the chapel were entertained to tea at Field End House Farm when the garden '*was beautifully illuminated by a variety of coloured lamps*'. These lamps were obviously a speciality of the Lawrences and appear in descriptions of other events.

William Lawrence died in 1880 and the estate passed to his brother Henry and to Mark Coakes, a corn dealer from Hayes, Middlesex on condition that it was not sold until after the death of Mrs Lawrence. In 1901, the year in which Sarah Lawrence died, a strip of land was sold to the Railway Company and in 1902 the remainder of the estate was sold to Walter Morford for £6200. Morford lived in The White House in Sharp's Lane, Ruislip and four years later he also bought Ruislip Park estate as a speculative venture. He died in 1915 but his executors still owned most of the Field End House estate in 1928.

From 1902, Field End House was occupied by A.C. Cross, followed a few years later by Lillian Minnie Carmen. She ran a Joy Club, what would be called a youth club today. C.W. Benson, writing in *The Aerial* explained '*The activities of the Club comprised the usual games, Maypole dancing, boxing and theatricals, and for this she had a large hut in the back garden. At Easter time a special feature was always an Easter Egg hunt in the grounds.*' Mr Benson described the house in 1911 as '*a fine old house standing partially hidden by a large Monkey Puzzle tree*'.

Field End House was occupied from 1909 and during the first World War by Henry Kiell Ayliff, an actor, producer and stage manager.

By 1934 the house was being used by the Grail, a Catholic organisation. Then in 1936 Ruislip-Northwood Council granted permission for the erection of a Roman Catholic church and church hall on land at Field End House. One of the conditions was

that 'there shall be no public ringing, pealing or chiming of bells. ,

The consecration of the new Eastcote Catholic Church of St Thomas More was on Sunday 23 May 1937. This report was in *The Aerial*:

'The Architect of the new church, Mr L.H Shattock, FRIBA, has given us a simple, pleasing brick building delightfully sheltered under old trees. Quietly, unassumingly almost like a violet on a river bank, it has arisen in the grounds of Field End House, enriching rather than disturbing the rural serenity of the old world estate. After the orgy of destruction to be witnessed almost everywhere it is delightfully refreshing to see a modern church grow - as it were - in a beautiful old setting. Its pleasing architectural lines, its mellow tinted bricks and woodwork blend harmoniously with surrounding scenery of moss-bearded trees and ancient buildings. For all that it is modest, the new sanctuary is a worthy addition to the amenities of Eastcote. '

The original church is now rather hidden behind the new church which was built onto it in 1978. The first church was down-graded for use as a church hall. The new church is the most striking new building in Field End. Field End House itself was used as a presbytery till a new one was built in 1966 and was then demolished.

The old farmhouse, vacated by Lawrence in the mid-1850s, was occupied by the bailiff John Whiting. He came from Kent and was originally a police constable living at Field End Cottage nearby but things had not gone too well as was learned from a newspaper report in 1874.

,The Secretary of State, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Police, has been pleased to grant a full pension to Acting Sergeant Whiting who is incapacitated from further duty through ill-health. Whiting joined the force in 1858, and for the past 13 years has faithfully discharged his duties in the Parish of Ruislip. He leaves the force without a stain on his character, and we hope he will live long to enjoy the pension he has well earned.' It seems that he did. In 1874 he became the farm bailiff for William Lawrence, occupying the old farmhouse by the

1881 census. He lived there until the estate was sold to Walter Morford in 1902.

After that, the old farmhouse with its line of barns, became known as The Barns. The occupants included Edith Phillips and G.H. Edwards and by 1914 Mrs Charles Maude was there. She was the famous actress Nancy Price, best known for her roles as Calypso in Stephen Phillips's 'Ulysses' and Adeline Whiteoaks in Mano de la Roche's 'Whiteoaks' in the 1930s. It was probably no coincidence that she was living next door to another actor, Henry Ayliff. Nancy Price, as well as being an actress, was also a theatre manager who in 1930 founded the People's National Theatre. She produced more than 50 plays for the company at the Little Theatre in John Adam Street near The Strand in London. This theatre was unfortunately destroyed in the Second World War. In 1950 Nancy Price received the CBE. Her husband Charles Maude was also an actor and had a famous grandmother, the singer Jenny Lind.

By 1928, The Barns had been bought by Werner Glur who also owned The Retreat and a gardener's cottage, which was probably the present Retreat Cottage, a former barn turned into a residence. The 90 acres of farmland still belonged to Morford's Executors.

During the 1930s The Barns was occupied by F.W. Barlow and in the 1950s by Stephen Haywood Statham. The house, barns and garden were sold off in about 1966. The buildings were demolished and the site was developed as White Chapel Close, now called Farthings Close. The only building that was retained was Retreat Cottage.

Retreat House Part of OE 602

The Retreat House was built in an orchard on land which had been part of Field End House Farm. At the entrance to the drive was a covered way with a small square barn on the right hand-side. The house was built after the land had been sold to Walter Morford in 1902 and it was occupied by James Frederick Gannaway Atkins from 1911 until 1916. By 1924 Werner Glur was living in the house, and he purchased it along with the old Field End House Farm and outbuildings. Mr and Mrs Brealy were there in the 1930s. He was one of two brothers, directors of Rotherham Estates.

After the Second World War it belonged to Middlesex County Council and in the 1950s was run by Harrow Borough as an old ladies' home. It was subsequently acquired by Hillingdon Borough and used by social services. It now belongs to West Hampstead Housing Association and during renovation work in 1998 the house went up in flames. At the time of writing plans for development have not been agreed.

Field End Cottage Part of OE 602

Field End Cottage between the Catholic Church and Field End Villas was built in 1857 when it was occupied by Richard Eales, Junior described as a beer seller. In 1871 John Whiting, still a police constable, lived there, followed by Reuben Lavender and William Hatchley.

The cottage had been bought by Morford in 1902 but by 1914 it belonged to the Neal family who still owned it in 1928 when the occupier was Frederick Charles Sudbury.

Field End Villas OE 602

William Lawrence was not slow to exploit the potential of his land for development. The railway had reached Hatch End in 1842 and it was only a three-mile walk to the station. He had plots laid out for four pairs of villas and started building them in 1856. The first pair next to the chapel was occupied in 1857, two more by 1861 and all eight houses by 1862. The villas were described as six- to eight-roomed houses with large, productive gardens and aimed to attract professional people from London such as bankers, the military, doctors and people with private incomes. Examination of the census data up to 1881 suggests that he was successful in attracting such people.

As the 20th century approached, several creative people joined the more professional classes. Just as actors and actresses were moving in up the road, so artists came to the area too. In 1889 to 1893, Hesketh Bell was living at 6 Field End Villas. He was a landscape artist, though in the 1891 Census he was described as a retired artist living on his own means. Next door though, lived Waiter Kemp, a 39-year-old sculptor, who described himself as employed. He was born in Camden Town, but moved to Eastcote in 1888 from Surbiton. He exhibited at the Walker Gallery,

Liverpool, and the Royal Academy. He rented 5 Field End Villas as well as the 3-stall stable and coach-house at no. 8 which he used as a studio. His wife died at the early age of 47 in 1906, and only two years later Walter Kemp himself died, aged only 53.

No. 8 itself became home to an artist in 1938. This was Ervin Bossanyi, a painter and stained glass artist. Hungarian by birth, as a refugee he moved first to Germany and then to England where he arrived with his wife Wilma in 1934. He had Hungarian friends in Northwood whom he had known while studying at Camden Art School and they fixed him up in a rented bungalow nearby. At Southampton Quay he was watching as all his crated possessions were being unloaded at the quayside, when some ropes broke and several of the crates crashed to the ground smashing a lot of his glass.

Through mutual friends he made some useful contacts, notably a Hungarian, the Honourable Rozsike Rothschild, and also the architect Charles Holden. Holden designed the new London University buildings and many of the 'Metroland' stations such as Eastcote. Bossanyi designed some windows for the University and for the new Uxbridge Station. He was always disappointed that his designs for these were confined to heraldry.

According to an exhibition catalogue of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, it was on the strength of two commissions: a window for the Tate Gallery and windows for the State Gallery of Aundh, Maharashtra in India, that *'In 1938 Bossanyi bought a modest house in the village of Eastcote not far from London. A large studio was built in the garden, rare plants were nurtured, this was to be his oasis of peace until he died.'*

After visiting the villas and passing the Wesleyan Chapel the census enumerator's visit to Field End was complete.

No longer an oasis of peace, it is still possible to find reminders of an earlier age along what is now a busy road. With constant demand for new development, local residents need to be vigilant and maintain pressure on planners so that the surviving historic character of Field End is not lost.

Field End. Owners

OE	Location	1806	1837	1847	1857	1863	1886	1962	1914	1928
602	Field End Villas	T.T.Oarke	T.T.Oarke	C.Winter	W.Lawrence	W.Lawrence	S.Lawrence	various	various	various
601	FE House Farm	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	W.Morford	W.Morford	W.Morrord
600	Field End House	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>
598	N'gale Cotts	R.Bugberd	J.Nightingale	J.Nightingale	J.Nightingale	J.Nightingale	J.Nightingale	Geo.Barter	Geo.Barter	BJ.Hall
597	Cotts	John Stiles	R.Deane	R.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane	BJ.Hall
596	Tudor Lodge	John Stiles	WmWhite	<i>not known</i>	Richard Walls	MrsWalls	WallsExecs	H.Perryman	BJ.Hall	BJ.Hall
599		<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>not known</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>ditto</i>
595	Cotts	John Stiles	Rev. J Alleson	R.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	RDeane	R.Deane	R.Deane
592	Meadow	John Stiles	Rev J Alleson	<i>not known</i>	FR.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	.R.Deane	<i>part</i> W.Murch	<i>part</i> W.Murch
591	Orchard Fann	Eliz.White	RiDeane	R.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	R.Oeane	R.Deane	W.MUlch
589	Field End Fann	John Stiles	Rev. J Alleson	F.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane
701	Sigers	R.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane
698	Park Fm	R.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane	F.H.Deane	F.H.Deane	FR.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane	R.Deane

Table 1

Field End. 19th Century Occupiers

OE	Location	1837	1851	1857	1861	1871	1881	1891
602	FEVillas		-	Jas. Mitchel!	Mary Watson	-		Julia Ivinge
	<i>dilld</i> 1		-	Mrs Francis	S. Francis	Geo. Fairbank	W. Michelson	W. Michelson
	<i>dilld</i> 2		-		V. Holmes	John Williams	Rev.A. Ward	Wm. James
	<i>dilld</i> 3		-	Wilkinson	1. Y. Wilkinson	Rev. Roumieu	Wm.Elliott	Ed. Powell
	<i>dilld</i> 4		-				S.F.Longbottom	Waiter Kemp
	<i>dilld</i> 5	-	-	-	-	Franeis McEvoy	Eliz.Bult	Hesketb Bell
	<i>dilld</i> 6	-	-	-	-	Eliz. Marshall	Thos.Inglis	Thos. Inglis
	<i>dilld</i> 7	-	-	-	-	James Sayers	<i>not known</i>	Geo. Kerryst
	<i>ditto</i> 8	-	-	-	-	John Whiting	R. Lavender	Wm. Hatchley
	RECottage	-	-	R. Eales Jun.	R. Eales Jun.			
601	The Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Retreat Cottage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	FE House Fann	Thos.White	W.Lawrence	W.Lawrence	W.Lawrence	W.Lawrence	John Whiting	John Whiting
600	Field End House	H.Douglas	Douglas/BigneU	W.Lawrence	W.Lawrence	W.Lawrence	S. Lawrence	S. Lawrence
598	N'gale cotts	J. Nightingale	I.Nightingale	J.Nightingale	J.Nightingale	J. Nightingale	J. Nightingale	J. Nightingale
	<i>dilld</i> 1	W. Peveral	W.Peveral	W. Peveral	W. Peveral	R.Moore	Hatchley	E.Moore
	<i>dilld</i> 2	T.Edmonds	John Hawse	Button	John Cox Jun.	H. Nash	Mary Hill	F. Barker
	<i>dilld</i> 3	T.Eales	Henry King	Eales	Townsend	Townsend	J. N'gale Jun.	J. Nightingale
	<i>dilld</i> 4	-	Job Wise	<i>not known</i>	<i>not known</i>	D.Gregory	<i>not known</i>	<i>not known</i>
	<i>dilld</i> 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
597	Cottages	T.White	John Cox	Lawrence	C. Lawrence	P. Lawrence	A.Shackell	A. Shackel!
	Mount Pleasant	John Rose	-	Russell	T. Pearce	<i>not known</i>	F.Ivinge	Chas. Baker
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
596	Tudor Lodge	WmWhite	Thos.Axtill	Richard Walls	Eliz. Walls	<i>not known</i>	S. Willcox	MissC. Watts
595	Cottages	Henry Joel	Mary Joel	Ambridge (late)	J.Ambridge	<i>not known</i>	<i>not known</i>	WilliamLees
		-	-	-	-	<i>not known</i>	<i>not known</i>	Henry Gadd
592	Ruislip House	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
591	Orchard Fann	J.Ambridge	J.Ambridge	Late Ambridge	<i>not known</i>	<i>not known</i>	<i>not known</i>	David Crack
589	Field Ead Fann	W.Durbridge	W.Durbridge	J. WatsonJun.	<i>not known</i>	John Somers	Geo. Bodsworth	W. Woodland
701	Sigers	R. Eales	R. Eales	R. Eales	<i>not known</i>	John Somers	Henry Fox	Henry Barns
698	ParkFann	W.Lawson	H.Powell	<i>not known</i>	H. Powell	Wm. Barter	James Foxley	James Foxley

Table 2

Field End. 20th Century Occupiers

Field End Road No.	1902 Sale doc. & 1902 Rate book	19130 & 1914 Poll & 1914 Rate book	1929 Rate book	1938 Direclory	1966/67 Directory
8 Field End Villa 1	Mr F. Curtis	F. Curtis	Fred Curtis	Methodist Church	E. Curtis
10 Lawrence Villa 2	Mr F.B. Weller	<i>not known</i>	Reuben Lavender	Frederick Curtis	E. G. & R. Lavender
12 ROSenealh 3	WJ.Murch	R. Husbands. Junior	Robt Roberts	Misses Lavender	A.E. Clements
14 Elmlield 4	J.Baucolt	George Albert Joce	Geo. Alb. Joce	Robt Hughes Roberts	T. O'Mahoney
16 Meadow View S	W.M.Kernp	Frank Wm aulow	Fred. Wm Cradock	Mrs Joce	H. Sheppard
18 IvyCot 6	A.W.Cross	T. Noble (St aeer)	Rupert M. Berry	Mrs F. Cradock / H. Sheppard	G. Franck
20 Daydauw 7	Miss Selchell	J.H. Aramadale	Wm Horace Hall	Edw. P. Warner	M.C.A. Shepardon
22 Twynbolm 8	Mrs Poole	RJ.G. Leven	Laurence H. Worrell	(Erwin Bossanyi)	E. Bossanyi
24 Field End Cottage	William Halchley	Alfred Nash	Fred Chas Sudbury	William Frank Gilham	E.O'Connor
26 The Retreat.	<i>not built</i>	J.F. Gannaway Atkins	Werner Glur	Mrs EA. Breal	Old Ladies Home, MCC
28 Retreat Cottage	<i>not converted</i>	<i>not converted</i>	Werner Glur	William Rowe	W. Rowe
The Barns	John Whiting	F. Edwards	J.W. Barlow	Fred Barlow	S.H. Statham
32 Field End House	A.C. Cross	H.K. Aliff	Hcrbert Wm C. Lister	Rom. Cath. Chapel of Ease / Women of Nazareth / Blessed Thos More House	Father E. Langdale Catholic Church
Footpath -----					
34 5 cottages	Emma Moore	J. Whiting	Grace Skead (The Nurseries)	Chas E. Moore (White Coli)	<i>Yacant plot</i>
36	Henry Frost	Edw Lavender	Vincent Hill	Wm Thompson (F.E. Bungalow)	<i>Yacant plot</i>
	Thomas Whiting	F. Turner			
	Jane Ni-lingale	J.R. Cooper (Fams)			
	<i>unoccupied</i>	George Hook			
38			4 Fred Hart	4 Mrs A. Hart	WJ.Davies
40			3 Hezekial Norcull	3 Harry Norcut!	GADay
42	Shackell	A.Shackell	2-	2 Mrs E.L. Abbot!	JAWard
44	Baker	C.Baker	1 Bertie Boydon	1 Horace Pepperrell	E. Reeves
46 Mount Pleasant	<i>not known</i>	T. Whiting	John Wm Hill	-	S.Giddings
48 Mount Pleasant	<i>not known</i>	J. Nightingale	Thos Beck	Robt John Macormac	A. Carruthers
Field End Ladge 50	H.Perryman	Benjamin James Hall	John Gower Saunders	John Gower Saunders	EL. Ford W. von-Koettlitz
52 Pair cottages	Charles Tilbury	H.Hawkins	Alb. Horwood	Harald Tranl (Romany CoU)	W.Tapping
54	James Lord	Fred Ayres	Fred Ayres		G.A.Stoncr
56 Ruislip House	<i>not built</i>	WJ. Murch + lodger son	Wm J.Murch	Wm James Murch	K.Murch
	David Crack	D. Crack (F. E. Gardens)			F. Linney (Ea Nursery)
58	-	-			EJ. Eden
80 Orchard Farm		Dr D.W. Jones (Carmalt, Orchard Cottage)	-	70-78 (5 new houses) Edwin Hartley LRIBA	L.C.F. Jones
86 Field End Farm		John Westacoot!	Mary Westacoot!	82-84 (2 new houses) Stedman Haywood	Maj. WA.Baldwin
31 Sigers	H.F. Jackson	K.Goschen	U-CoI H. W. G. Cole	CM. Robarts & Son	NJ. Robarts
2S Park Farm	H.F. Jackson	A.W. Johnson / K. Goschen C.Lord	Fred Wm Cradock	Jack Iohnson	M.Benjamin I.M.Tyrer

Table 3

Sources

1. Ruislip Terrier 1565. King's College Muniments.
2. Ruislip Enclosure Map and Schedule 1806. Copies in Local History Room, Ruislip Library.
3. Ruislip Terrier and Valuation 1837. Copy in Local History Room, Ruislip Library.
4. Ruislip Rate Books. Uxbridge Library and transcripts in Ruislip Library.
5. Censuses 1841 - 1891. Photocopies in Ruislip Library.
6. Local street directories. Uxbridge Library.
7. The Aerial Eastcote Residents Association.
8. Local newspapers. Uxbridge Library.
9. Electoral Rolls. Uxbridge Library.
10. Personal communication. (KS.)
11. The Urban District of Ruislip-Northwood 1904-54 (photo 2)

DOMESDAY PARK BANK & DITCH AT RUISLIP

by Colin Bowlt

Introduction

The Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society has made an application to English Heritage to have the earthwork running through Park Wood (figure 1) listed as an Ancient Monument. Until the 1930s the earthwork still continued out of the wood and along Eastcote Road enclosing an extensive oval area with Manor Farm in the south-west corner. Hugh Brau!! suggested that this was

RUISLIP. It answers for 30 hides Pasture
for the village livestock; a park [Parcus] for
woodland beasts; woodland, 1500 pigs and
20d too.... "

In the whole of England, the Domesday Survey lists about 35 parks.' Only one other was listed for Middlesex (at Enfield). How many of these date to pre-Conquest times is unknown, but Rackham claims that

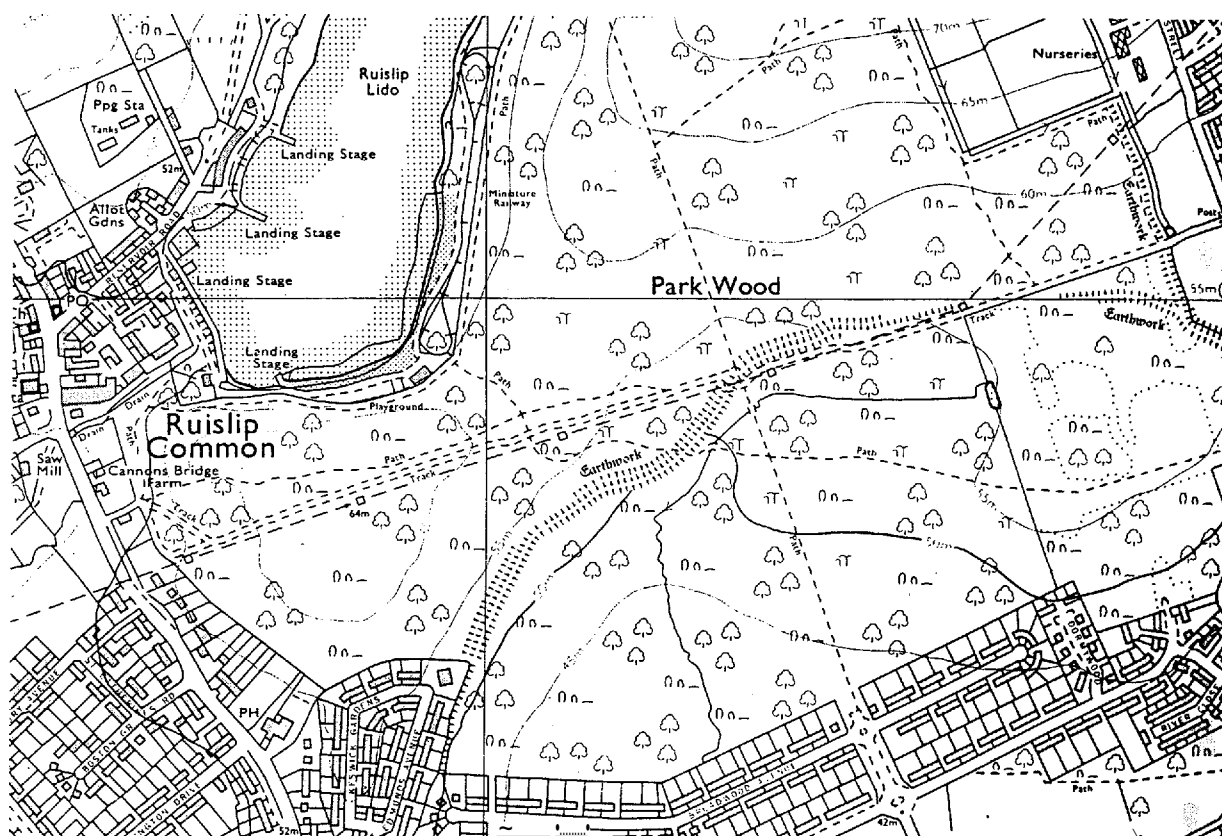


Figure 1
Ancient earthwork in Park Wood
(0.S. 1:10,000)

the bank, with ditch on the outside, which surrounded the park listed in the Domesday Survey. Since then nothing has caused this view to be changed. The loss of the southern half to the building of houses along Eastcote Road makes it important that the remaining section of this ancient monument be recognised and given proper legal protection. The following is based on part of the application to English Heritage.

The Domesday Survey (1086) entry for Ruislip (figure 2) includes: "*Arnulf of Hesdin holds*

documentary evidence supports the existence of Ongar Great Park, Essex before the Conquest (it was largely destroyed c.1950).

Later references to the park at Ruislip include an order in 1270 to Richard de Cliffe, receiver of the Archbishopric of Canterbury, to deliver five live does from Harrow Wood to the prior of Ruislip to stock his Park. In 1436 the repair of the palings was ordered.³

Ruislip and the surrounding district remained something of a backwater until the beginning

x TERRA ERNULI DE HESDINGHELETOBYE HUN
 ERENULF de hesding tenet Ruislepe . p . x . car .
 se defit . Tra . v . xx . car . In dmo . xi . hid . 7 ibi suat . m .
 car . p . m . franc . 7 uill . suat . xii . car . 7 v . adhuc poss . fieri .
 lbi p . tr . dim . hid . 7 ii . uill . de . i . hid . 7 xvii . uill . q . sq .
 . i . uill . 7 x . uill . q . sq . dim . uill . 7 vii . bord . q . sq . ii .
 ac . 7 vii . cor . 7 iii . serui . 7 iii . franci . de . ii . hid .
 7 i . uill . p . asti . ad pec . uill . p . are . est . ibi . ferari . silua
 acari . Silua mille . 7 q . n . gent . porc . 7 xx . den . In ual
 ualent . ual . xx . lib . 7 do . p . cep . xii . lib . I . R . E . xx . lib .
 hoc . an . tenet . Wluua . 7 reig . R . E . potuit . uende

Figure 2

Domesday entry for Ruislip

of the 20th century as shown by the large area of farm and woodlands on maps, with little development until the 1930s. Braun reported in 1934 on the extensive earthworks still remaining at Ruislip. In particular he drew attention to a large oval extending north of the village centre and church, but including within its south-west corner the Manor Farm, which was the administrative centre for the manor of Ruislip from the time of its gift to the Abbey of Bee in 1087. Braun reported that "until the widening of Bury Street and the Eastcote Road a few years ago, it was complete except for a small portion on its western side, shown with a broken line on the plan" (figure 3b). "It is a work of quite considerable scale apart from the area which it encloses, for, although the earthwork has never been properly sectioned, it is clear in some portions that the bank and ditch are at this day each six feet or more in height." Braum also observed that "the only clue as to the possible significance of this oval enclosure would seem to be the reference, in the Domesday survey of 1086, to the existence at that time, of an unusual feature connected with the Ruislip manor, that of a 'a park of wild beasts of the forest'."

It is the purpose of this document to draw attention to the fact that about half the earthwork still remains, and that the evidence

for it being the boundary of the Domesday Park is compelling, and that this rare survival should be listed as an Ancient Monument.

The Earthwork

Since Braun's report, the southern half of the earthwork has disappeared under development, but the northern portion has survived within Park Wood. Reasons for concluding that the earthwork is the Domesday Park boundary are:

- i) The curved boundary enclosed an oval area of 340 acres - a typical shape and area of a medieval park",
- ii) The bank and ditch, although eroded and with indistinct edges, was clearly massive with a width of c.30 feet, dimensions which are typical of medieval embankments and which contrasts with other banks of later date within and around the Ruislip Woods.
- iii) The roads on the east, west and particularly the south sides of the park deviate around the boundary indicating that they post-date the enclosed area. These roads are of early date. Those on the west and south cross at the old village centre and can be presumed to date to the beginnings of the village.
- iv) Other earth works were recorded by Braun. Some are still present, but none is suggestive of a park boundary.

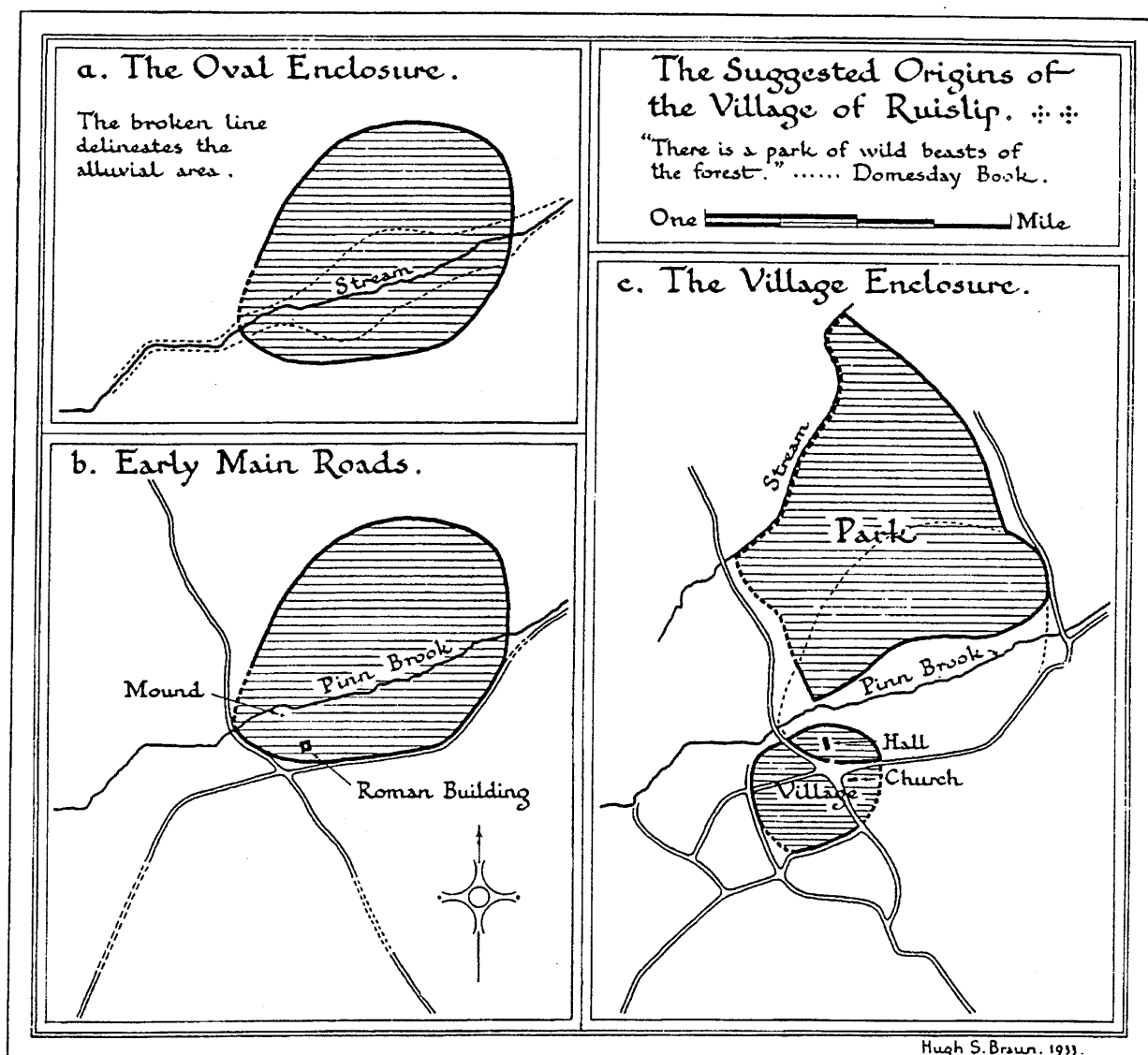


Figure 3
Earthworks recorded at Ruislip in 1933 by Braun (1934)

- v) A 1633 map of Park Wood (figure 4) shows curious sudden deviations of the boundaries on the east and west sides. These are still present and coincide with where the Park Boundary enters the wood on either side.

Postscript

Since the application for listing it was discovered that an 18 inch diameter hole had been recently dug into the bank on the north side at approximately the position marked X on figure 1. It clearly was not the work of an animal since spoil had been thrown in all directions, including on top of the bank. This illegal excavation showed that at this point the interior of the bank was of stone-free loamy clay. However, the outer layer, of

approximately 4 inches thickness, contained a layer of pebbles. Was this a deliberate part of the construction? The streams that run through Park Wood have pebble bottoms thought to derive from the pebble gravel on the high ground around Haste Hill. The bank of the earthwork was made from the soil dug to make the ditch. A conjecture is that if the ditch conveyed running water and was periodically cleaned and the spoil added to the bank it would account for the distinctive pebble layer. No pottery, charcoal or other human artefacts were found in the spoil from the hole.

THE HOIDFORD FAMILY

Working Together: the Role of local & Family Historians

by Colleen A. Cox

The study of family history is extremely popular at the present time. Often starting with accounts passed down from previous generations, people become fascinated by the task of tracing their ancestors, many doubtless with the hope of finding someone famous amongst them. Such a study is frequently of interest only to other family members but when there is collaboration with local historians, the family can be seen in a wider context and assumes more general interest.

The sources most used by family historians are the parish records of baptisms, marriages and burials. The earliest records date back to a Mandate of 1538 formulated by Thomas Cromwell who ordered that every parish should have a chest with two locks with one key to be held by the vicar and the other by the church warden. In the chest was to be kept a book in which every marriage, christening and burial performed by the minister during the previous week was to be recorded by him after the service on Sunday and witnessed by the church warden. Not all the parishes kept the records in a proper manner. Many were written on loose sheets of paper that were lost before they could be transferred to a book. From 1597 it was ordered that they should be written in parchment books and that all previous entries should be copied into the new books. It is not surprising that this did not always happen. The minister was also supposed to ensure that a copy of the register was sent each year to the Bishop but not all these Bishop's transcripts have survived. In addition a third lock was to be added to the chest at this time. In 1645 there were further instructions that the date of birth and death were to be recorded as well as the date of baptism and burial.

During the Commonwealth Period (1653-1660) records were poorly kept. Although parish registrars were specially appointed they were frequently illiterate. There was some improvement after the Restoration but other difficulties arose in recording deaths during epidemics and with marriages that did not take place in church. In some parishes the records

were all kept in one book although after Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1754, marriages had to be kept in a separate book and after Rose's Act of 1812, three separate registers were kept.

Many people trying to trace their ancestors have great difficulty in obtaining information before the mid-18th century and it is often a matter of luck whether or not there are complete surviving records of the parish in which they lived. In Ruislip, registers are available from the 1690s with some years missing in the 18th century. This has not deterred one keen researcher, Arthur Holdford, whose aim is to write a history of his family and who has compiled a list of 162 lineal descendants dating from the mid-18th century and spanning eight generations.

Until the 20th century Ruislip was a small rural parish with a population of little more than 1000. There were three natural divisions with Ruislip village centred round the parish church of St. Martin, Northwood, a hamlet north of the woods and Eastcote with its three large houses and cottages along its ancient lanes. Most of the men in the village were agricultural workers living with their families in these cottages. Agricultural work was seasonal and many families were dependent on poor relief at certain times of the year. Family events such as illness, disability or the arrival of a new baby in an already large family also resulted in periods of poverty. It is not surprising therefore to find that some of the earliest references other than those in the parish records are to be found in the account books of the overseers of the poor.

The earliest descendant of the Holdford family so far identified is Robert Holdford who was born in Ruislip in 1763. By 1789 he was married to Elizabeth and the first of their five children was born (Fig. 1). This is probably the Robert Holtfoot (sic) who received poor relief in 1792 and 1799, highlighting another problem for all researchers, the different spellings of names in the various records. Robert died in 1811 and his widow is probably

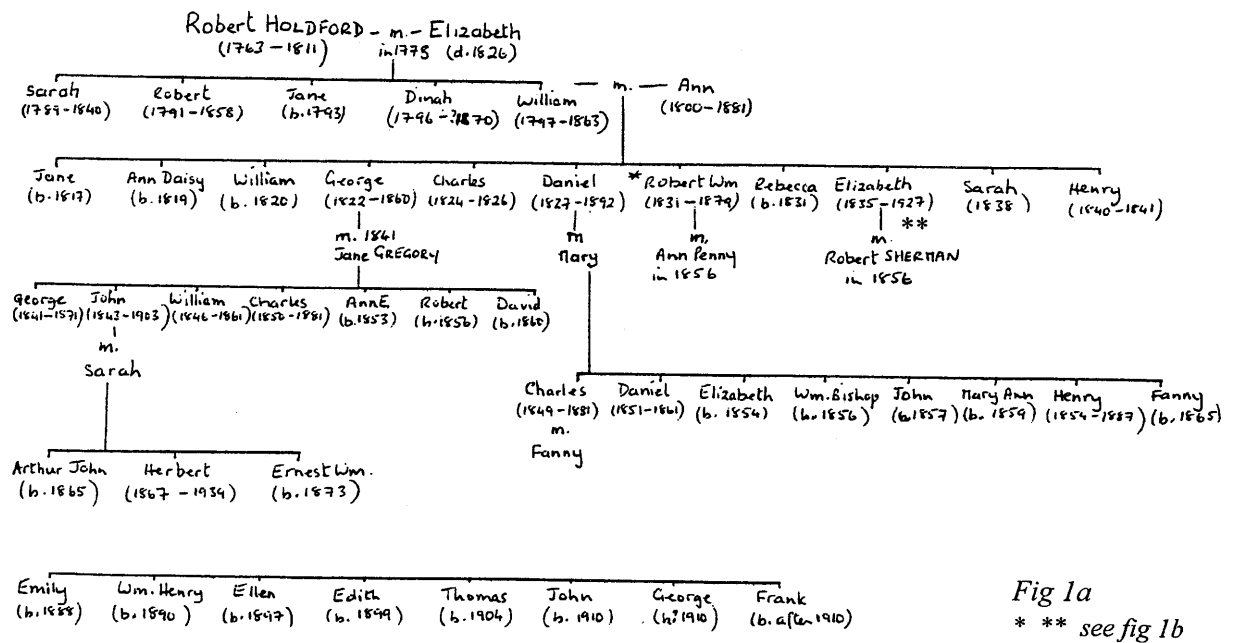


Fig 1a
* ** see fig 1b

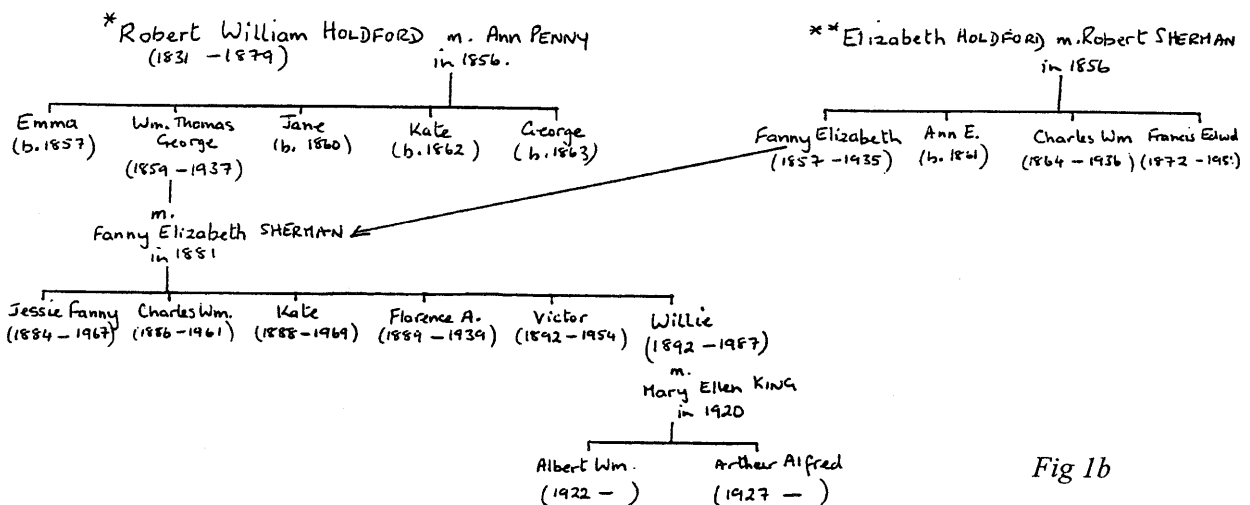


Fig 1b

Fig 1. The Holdford Family Tree
(with acknowledgement to Arthur Holdford)

the Widow Holdford who received poor relief in 1818. The family had strong connections with Eastcote, which at that time was recognised only as part of the parish of Ruislip (Fig.2).

The youngest of the couple's children, William, is of greatest interest to Ruislip historians as he and several of his descendants remained in this area although Arthur Holdford has traced a number who moved to neighbouring Pinner and others who moved further afield. In a Terrier of 1837 a William Holdford is recorded as living at Old Cheyne Cottage in Wiltshire Lane (Fig.3). Described as a beershop, the cottage belonged to the Deane family. It was a timber-framed building

demolished in the 1960s. According to the rate books and the 1841 census, William and his wife Ann were still there in 1847 but by 1851 they had moved to a cottage in Joel Street with Robert, one of their eleven children. Another son, Daniel, an agricultural labourer, was living at the cottage in Wiltshire Lane with his wife Mary and their two small sons. His brother George was also an agricultural labourer, married to Jane Gregory a local girl and in 1851 living with their five children at Raisins Hill near the top of Catlins Lane. He died at the early age of 38 years. His wife Jane was mentioned in the 1861 census but then seems to have moved away from the area although her son Charles is recorded as a wood dealer living near Haydon Hall Farm in Joel



Fig. 3. Old Cheyne Cottage
(*National Monuments Record, 1945*)

Sherman family who moved to Ruislip in the mid-19th century. Thomas Sherman was born in Driffield, Gloucestershire, in 1809. In the 1851 Ruislip census he is recorded as the farm bailiff at the lodge at the entrance to Manor Farm. It is perhaps more than coincidence that Manor Farm at this time was leased by Samuel Pierce also a Gloucestershire man. Also in the 1851 census was William Sherman, born in Driffield, living in Fore Street and possibly brother to Thomas. Thomas's son Robert married Elizabeth, daughter of William and Ann Holdford, in Bushey in 1856 and their daughter Fanny, married her cousin William TG Holdford in Pinner in 1881. This couple ran The Starling public house at Pinner Green and it is their grandson Arthur, who has undertaken so much research (Fig. 1b).

It has not been possible to trace Thomas Sherman after 1851 but William Sherman stayed in Eastcote recorded as an agricultural labourer in Fore Street in 1851, a grocer in Wiltshire Lane in 1861 and 1871 and as William Stunner (sic), a fly proprietor in Eastcote High Road in 1891.

By supplementing the information from the family researcher with knowledge of the village locally, the Holdford family seems to have been fairly typical of the period. Most of

the men were agricultural labourers but adapted to other labouring work as the demands changed. Several members of the family lived in cottages rented from the Deane family, the largest landowners in the area and it is possible that they were employed by them too. The Deanes also leased Park Wood which also provided employment for local men and it has already been noted that Charles was a wood dealer and John a woodcutter. It is most likely that Herbert, the labourer in the gas works, was employed at the nearby Pinner Gas Company.

After the 1830 Beerhouse Act, any householder assessed to pay the poor rate could sell beer from his or her house on payment of a fee of two guineas and a number did. Most villages had one or two such beershops some of which later became fully licensed premises but others, such as that run by William Holdford in the 1830s, existed only for a few years.

Like others in the 19th century, the Holdfords tended to marry young, usually into local families and had a large number of children. They lived in small cottages that were often overcrowded, although not all the children lived at home at anyone time. In common with many other Eastcote families of the

period, few of the Holdford children were recorded as scholars in the censuses, probably unwilling to make the walk four times a day to the school in Ruislip next to St. Martin's Church.

The Holdfords appear to have been a relatively law-abiding family and they were not among those summonsed for various crimes and misdemeanours. Their name only appeared in the local newspaper when they played cricket for the Eastcote team, founded in 1864. During the first half of the 19th century their social life would almost certainly have depended on family, neighbours and village. It is interesting to speculate how much their boundaries would have been widened by the coming of the railway to nearby Hatch End in

1855 and to Pinner in 1885. Certainly these brought changes to Eastcote itself with the building of new houses such as Field End Villas, which were to be occupied by middle class people from outside the area. Although the lives of the Holdford family seem unremarkable in themselves, they are of interest when seen in the context of the times and village in which they lived.

Sources

Holdford, Arthur, *The Descendants of Robert Holdford* (1763-1811) & *Elizabeth* (1756-1826) *of East cote. Middlesex*, April 1998 (copy in Local History Room, Ruislip Library)
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Ruislip Rate Books
Eastcote Censuses 1841-1891

A PLACE IN TIME 1000 YEARS OF MANOR FARM by Colleen A. Cox

This was the title of the exhibition at the Cow Byre, Manor Farm, Ruislip mounted by members of the Society from July 2-15, 2000 as part of Ruislip's celebrations for the millennium. Almost 1250 people visited the Cow Byre during these two weeks with highest attendances being on July 8 and 9, the days on which Ruislip Pageant was held.

Despite the rain, there was a festive atmosphere in the Manor Farm area on Pageant days with stalls and various activities including performances of "Time Tells Tales" at the Winston Churchill Hall. This was a musical drama relating the history of Ruislip and performed by a local drama group and pupils from Bishop Ramsey C of E School.

The society's exhibition described the history of Manor Farm during the last millennium and the changes that had taken place over the centuries using maps, charts, drawings and photographs. The highlights were the three models made by Freddie Shackell illustrating the buildings at various times.

The exhibition demonstrated clearly the historic importance of the area and the comments made by members of the public indicated their full support for efforts to retain this important group of buildings and further develop the site as a Heritage Centre.

ST MARTINS CHURCH CHANCEL NORTH-EAST WINDOW

by Valery Cowley



This stained glass window, completed in 1962, is by Laurence Lee. It was installed in memory of a churchwarden, Dansie Carter. A faculty for it was obtained in 1955, and in 1957 one for the aumbry below, which houses the Blessed Sacrament.

The top light depicts the life-giving sun (signifying Christ the Son) which, in the words of Zechariah, guides our feet in the way of peace. Below are four lights with angels whose haloes are golden, like solar light, and signify the divine intelligence. The angel on the right, in purple - the colour of penitence carries the scales of judgement, as does the Archangel Michael in our rood-stairs wall-painting. The next angel, in gold - symbolising purity and divinity - carries a rod, to indicate divine authority. The angel in red holds a scroll signifying knowledge and wisdom; the angel in green holds a white lily, symbol of purity and emblem of Christ's mother.

In the westernmost main light, Mary Magdalene - with flowing, light brown hair - kneels, hands upheld in awe at the figure she sees. She is in penitential purple, lining a cloak of gold, which reflects the splendour and joy of the Resurrection. The daisies on the Greensward symbolise innocence, the 'day's eye' or sun, and so Jesus, 'the Sun of Righteousness'

In the eastern light stands the risen Christ, half hidden by a red cloak reflecting the blood he has shed during his Passion. The aureole, irradiating supernatural power, with its red cross, identifies Christ's sacrifice and glory. His cruciform sceptre is the emblem of the power of the resurrected guide and shepherd. He welcomes and offers salvation to Mary of Magdala.

Laurence Lee was also responsible for some of the nave windows in Coventry Cathedral. These use colours to symbolise the five stages of existence, Lee's red windows depicting man's struggle in life.

THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM

by Eileen M. Bowlt

The Anglo-Saxon Fyrd

From earliest recorded times landowners had a duty to perform military service in defence of the country or to keep the peace. In Saxon times the force was known as the Fyrd and was levied on a county basis, usually fighting only within its own boundaries. Alfred the Great (871-899) divided the Fyrd into two alternating parts, one ready to fight and the other resting. A glance at the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle shows that fighting in one part of the country or another was almost continuous in late Saxon times because of the Viking raids. The only known Saxon owner of Ruislip, Wlward Wit, was a thegn of King Edward the Confessor (1042-65). A king's thegn was a member of the royal household and the military elite.

Knight Service

After the introduction of the feudal system by the Normans, tenants-in-chief held their lands directly from the king in return for military service, usually the provision of a specified number of knights equipped and ready for action. They were normally on duty for forty days a year in peacetime and as needed in time of war. This came to be known as Knight Service and great landowners such as the Abbey of St Albans, for example, passed on their obligation to their own tenants. The Aignel family who leased the Manor of the More (Moor Park) from the Abbot of St Albans in the thirteenth and fourteenth century owed Knight Service. Henry I (1100-35) permitted landowners to pay *Scutage* (a Latin word meaning 'shield') to avoid military service. The money was used to hire mercenaries. These feudal levies served with the king in foreign countries and were separate from the ancient fyrd which was a national militia, fighting only locally.

Assize of Arms 1181

Henry II (1152-89) organised the defence system in a business-like way in the Assize of Arms of 1181. The Sheriff of each county was made responsible for raising a levy of fighting men and the strength was agreed by justices and juries in each town and hundred (division of a county). Ruislip was in the Hundred of Elthorne. The Assize also stipulated the equipment necessary for each knight, freeman or burgess (a landowner in a town such as Uxbridge). Knights were to have a hauberk (coat-of-mail) and helmet and as many shields and lances as he had soldiers under him. Freemen should have chattels/cattle or money to the value of 16 marks (£10 13s 4d), hauberk and helmet, shield and lance, or chattels/cattle to the value of 10 marks (£6 13s 4d) and an iron cap and lance. The burgesses needed greaves (leg armour), an iron cap and a lance.

The Assize of Arms, in effect, recreated and rearmed the ancient force, which would have been more reliable than the mercenaries bought with scutage money. The Assize of Arms was renewed and expanded by succeeding sovereigns and administered the Militia.

In the thirteenth century unfree men became liable for military service as well as freemen. The distinction was that the unfree had to perform labour services for the Lord of the Manor and the free did not. The unfree, however, were not necessarily poor. The Customal of Ruislip dated c1245, which tells us the names and amount of property that tenants held from the Abbey of Bee, shows that only seven people were free and that their landholdings were smaller than those of some of the unfree.¹ However, two of the free tenants, Roger de la Done and Roger de Southcote certainly had land outside the Manor of Ruislip and the others may also have been larger landowners elsewhere.

Sir Roger de la Done was Constable of the Tower and Lord of the Manor of Down Barns. The Customal mentions John Bradefer, an unfree man, who owned a croft of land for which he paid 1s 012d a year rent and was liable to work on the lord's demesne three days a week *'before his military service'*. Maybe John, whose surname means 'arm of iron', was Ruislip's representative in the levy raised in Elthorne.

The town of Uxbridge was liable for supplying 60 footmen under three officers in the year 1335².

The Militia in Tudor & Stuart times

The Militia was run by the Lord Lieutenant of each county and his deputies, with local constables raising the levy from all able-bodied men aged between 16 and 60 who were recorded in the Muster Rolls, compiled by officials known as Commissioners of Array. In 1595 Ralph Hawtreu (1570-1638) of Eastcote House was ordered: *"to put in redynes one good and sufficient trotting or rackinge geldinge or horse for a light horseman ...and a meet and sufficient person to ride upon him ...to defend the Queen and realm against the foreign invader ...at the musters at Bednall Green [Bethnal Green] on Friday the 17th October 'by eight of the clock in the forenoon' . 'Whereof fayle you not as you will answer to the contraye at your perill this iiii day of October 1595.,,3*. The horse's 'furniture' was specified as a light Morocco saddle, three girths, a holster with leather and a buckle to stop the dagger hurting the horse, a staff with a socket, a French pistol, a sword one yard long, a cuirass (body armour) and mail sleeves.

Depending upon their position in the social scale, men on the muster could be required to provide anything from a coat of armour, helmet and longbow, to 16 horses, 80 suits of armour and pikes and weapons. General musters were held at least every three years so that weapons and equipment could be inspected. The Lieutenancy of a county was a temporary appointment in time of

emergency, but became more frequent in the turbulent sixteenth century and Lieutenants were made responsible for training bands to defend the locality in case of invasion or local unrest. Acts of Parliament, passed soon after the restoration of Charles II, gave each county a permanent Lord Lieutenant from 1662, with powers not only to raise a force, but also to levy a rate to provide arms. The accounts were certified by the Justices of the county, meeting in Quarter Sessions.

Militia Act 1757

Under the terms of the Militia Act of 1757 Lords Lieutenant received their commissions from the king and had full authority to assemble, arm and command the Militia. They could appoint 20 or more Deputy-Lieutenants, each of whom must own property valued at £400 or more per annum. Estates of lesser value were sufficient for officers. Lists, surviving at the London Metropolitan Archive, of the names of applicants, include local landowners. The Revd Thomas Clarke gave his *'Mansion at Ickenham in which he lives'* (Swakeleys) which was worth £100 and upwards and *'Chisleton Farm [later Ivy House Farm] at Ickenham in the occupation of William Poole as tenant'*, as his qualification for being Deputy Lieutenant c1790⁴. Godfrey de Burgh was qualified to act as Deputy-Lieutenant *'by reason of his estates of Colham, Phi/pot Bridge with the Manor of Colham in the parish of Hillingdon'* in Aug 6 1803⁵. Baker John Sellon of Gt Stanmore, Sergeant at Law, who owned Pinner Hill House and land on the Ruislip side of Potter Street Hill, also qualified as a Deputy Lieutenant by virtue of *'a dwelling house and 95 acres meadow, all but 8 acres freehold situate in parishes of Pinner and Ruislip'*,

Stephen Ford, who was seeking to command a company in 1813, had one hundred a year landed property near Uxbridge, and two houses in Craven Street, Strand which were rented out at £120 per annum each. He had been twelve

years a Lieutenant in the Royal West Middlesex and had served as a Captain in the Line.⁷

Members of the Hilliard family, who were great property owners in north-west Middlesex, were prominent in the Militia. In 1787 Edward Hilliard of Cowley House put forward farms in South Mimms and Whetstone as his qualification for being Deputy Lieutenants. He had gained Cowley House through his marriage to Elizabeth Stafford Crosier in 1779. By June 1807, their second son, Edward Hilliard jun Esq was applying to be Lt Colonel in the Eastern Regiment of the Middlesex Militia on the basis of farms which he owned in Ickenham, valued at £600 and upwards.⁹ He actually owned three farms in Ruislip: Wilkins Farm (Woolworth's now on site), Woodman's Farm in Bury Street and South Hill Farm, Eastcote, as well as Home Farm and Hill Farm and other property in Ickenham, all of which he had inherited from his great-uncle, John Crosier of Ickenham Hall (now the Compass Theatre) in 1801. The third son of Edward and Elizabeth, George Hilliard Esq, cited farms in Ruislip, valued at £200 in July 1807, in support of his right to be a Captain in the same regiment.¹⁰

The Lord Lieutenant and the Deputies formed a General Meeting, which was served by a Clerk. The meeting issued orders to High Constables of the county to provide lists, which had to be renewed every three years, of all men aged between 18 and 50, from whom recruits could be drawn to bring the Militia up to strength in time of peril. The quota for the Middlesex Militia was 1,160, rising to 1,600 early in George III's reign. When numbers were low the Deputy Lieutenants allocated a quota to be provided by each parish. The names on the lists were put into a ballot and the number needed was drawn out. The General Meeting was divided into Divisional Meetings corresponding with Petty Sessions areas over which Deputy Lieutenants presided. The business of the Divisional Meeting included hearing

appeals from men claiming exemption from service. Not until 1848 did membership of the Militia become voluntary.

Exemption and substitution

Exemption could be granted on grounds of physical disability, or if a man were married with five or more dependent children. Men who had no legitimate reason for exemption sometimes paid poorer men to substitute for them. The rates varied wildly from £3 to £30 or more, depending upon whether or not call out were imminent. Militia Clubs were formed where members contributed to a fund to cover the cost of a substitute if one of their number were drawn.

In times of peace members of the Militia simply had to train for one or two days each month, but absentees were reported to the Justices and fined. When danger threatened it was embodied and called out into actual service anywhere in the kingdom in case of riot or fear of foreign invasion. At such times the men were paid in the same way as regular soldiers. Justices could order carriages to form baggage trains for them and parish officers had to provide billets.

Among Ruislip parish records there is a list of people living on the Eastcott side of the parish who had paid the Militia Rate of 1d in the £1 based on the rateable value already assessed for the poor rate in 1780¹¹. The rate was not paid by those who had already served three years in the Militia either in person or by substitute, nor by those actually serving.

Financial benefits

From 1803 families of men who were away in the Militia, could automatically receive an allowance from the poor rates of the parish for which the man was serving. If he were substituting for a man in another parish or a different county, the money had to be transferred. His commanding officer gave him a certificate to say that he was on duty and his wife got an order from a

Justice for payment of relief. The two documents were given to the Overseers of the Poor who paid the relief to the family, then sent the certificate and order to the County Treasurer, who refunded the money and claimed it from the Overseers of the parish for which the man was serving.

Examples of the system at work appear in Ruislip parish records. On 22 March 1811 Charlotte Long was examined by Thomas Truesdale Clarke (of Swakeleys), a local Justice. Her husband, Daniel Long, a private Militiaman, was serving in the Surrey Militia as substitute for Joseph Stevens of Lambeth and was *'now ordered to march'*. Mr Clarke ordered the Overseers of the Poor of Ruislip to pay her 2 shillings a week, *'the said weekly sum to be reimbursed to the parish of Ruislip by the Treasurer of the County of Middlesex'*¹². She had a copy of a certificate which said that her husband had been enrolled at Horsemonger Lane on 24 August 1810 and that he had joined the Regiment on the 29 August at Playdon Barracks.

Sarah Chilton's husband had enrolled in the West Middlesex Regiment of Militia in October 1804 as a substitute for Joseph Wheeler of St Pancras. In November 1805 the Militia was embodied and called out into actual service and ordered to march. She was living in Ruislip with her two children, William who was 'about 2' and John who was 11 weeks, and was too poor to provide for them. William Perry the examining magistrate ordered the Overseers of the Poor of Ruislip to pay her 4s 6d a week backdated to the 20 September.¹³ The St Pancras Overseers were to reimburse Ruislip Overseers quarterly. In 1812 she was examined again, this time by George Woodroffe (of Haydon Hall), and again received help. By that time William and John had a baby brother, Phillip, who was seven weeks old¹⁴.

From 1807 clerks to the meetings, constables and officers were paid expenses authorised by Justices.

The French wars 1793-1815

During the long period of war with Revolutionary France and Napoleon, extra Militia Regiments were raised, known as Supplementary Militia, and additional local groups of Provisional Cavalry, and *Fencibles*, which were generally short



*Edward Baylis as a member of
the Duke of Cumberland's Sharpshooters
1785-1867 of Hedgerley*

lived. In September 1803 the West Middlesex and Westminster Battalions were below strength, and had not recruited a single man for the Supplementary Militia. Noting that the East Middlesex Battalion had been successful in gathering men by sending recruiting parties to Norwich, the Westminster commanding officer decided to send recruiting officers to Birmingham on the excuse of rounding up deserters. At this time Middlesex with

its Supplement should have had 4,500 men. Apparently all but a single man were substitutes. The Middlesex quota was raised to 12,162 by 1812, when the war in the Peninsular was taking its toll.

An Act of Parliament of 1795 provided for the raising of men to serve in the navy. The county of Middlesex had to supply 451 men divided between the hundreds. In the Hundred of Elthorne Ruislip and Harefield together had to supply one man. John Crosby, a stay-maker, volunteered and received a bounty of £21, which came from the parish rate ¹⁵.

Volunteers

Volunteer regiments did not come under the Lords Lieutenant, but were raised by enthusiastic amateurs in times of emergency, who formed committees of subscribers to organise them. However, at the time of the American War of Independence (1775-83) rather more official Middlesex Volunteers (in addition to the Militia) were raised by a committee of Deputy Lieutenants and Justices under

the chairmanship of the Lord Lieutenant. From 1794 volunteers were exempted from service in the Militia.

Local volunteer forces were formed in Uxbridge, led by the local gentry and generally did their training in Uxbridge Moor and Uxbridge Common. Sir Christopher Baynes of Harefield Place (where the Australian War Cemetery is now) formed the Uxbridge Volunteer Yeomanry and Cavalry in 1797, with Gregory Way, son of Benjamin Way of Denham Place as his lieutenant and a timber merchant, Thomas Osbome, as comet ¹⁶. It was disbanded after only four years during the short-lived cessation in fighting brought about by the Peace of Luneville and Treaty of Amiens. When war broke out again in 1803 the Loyal Uxbridge Infantry Volunteers was raised with J.G. de Burgh of West Drayton as captain. This force also disbanded before the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

But both were to be called into existence again in 1830, not to repel a foreign



Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry uniform 1879

invader, but to be available to prevent or put down any rioting that might be caused by the general depression in farming. Tenant farmers found it difficult to pay their rents and agricultural labourers faced a winter of short commons and in some cases near starvation. No rising occurred locally, but food and money had been demanded with menaces at Iver in Buckinghamshire, which was near enough to alarm the tradesmen and gentry of Uxbridge. The revived Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry consisted of 80 horsemen and 18 officers. They wore a long double breasted coat of dark green with large gilt buttons emblazoned with UY and heavy brass epaulettes. Black trousers with a red seam were worn in winter and white duck trousers in summer. The hat was a chaco of heavy leather and felt with a horsehair plume fitted in front. Giles Hutson declared that '*nothing could have been designed more hideous as a military uniform*'.¹⁷

Although the corps was put on stand by at the time of the presentation of the great Chartist Petition in 1848, there was no trouble locally. The Yeomanry seems to have been a pleasant social gathering, with evening drills and annual training, its most onerous duties being to escort royal processions as they passed through Uxbridge. On the pretext of exercising the horses, an annual race-meeting was held, first at Harefield place, then on Harefield Moor and later at West Drayton. It was said to have attracted a crowd of 10,000 in 1846.¹⁸ Their Headquarters was at the Chequers at Uxbridge.

From 1859 Volunteer Companies were more tightly controlled and from 1863 had to be part of a body such as The Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, (which had been raised

in 1803 as the Duke of Cambridge's Sharp Shooters). The whole corps was supervised by the Lord Lieutenant and he recommended officers for appointment. The Crown took over control of Militia and Volunteers in 1871 and the Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry became the Middlesex Yeomanry Cavalry with four companies instead of two. This change was in response to the Franco-Prussian War. The headquarters moved from The Chequers to London in 1878.

The later militia

The West Middlesex Militia was lost in a reorganisation of 1848, but the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry was raised in Uxbridge in 1853. The barracks were near the Greenway in Enfield Place, which may take its name from the rifles used. There are several other reminders of the troop nearby: the public house called the Militia Canteen, Villiers Street (named after the first colonel), and the Drill Hall in Whitehall Road. The headquarters moved to Hounslow in 1879. The Royal Elthorne Light Infantry Militia became a battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment, which was formed in 1881.

Whenever the line regiments were on active service, at such times as the Crimean War (1854-6) and the Indian Mutiny (1857) the Militia Regiments were embodied to provide home defence. In 1908 the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act formed a special reserve after which time the Militia was not called out in the United Kingdom, although the Militia Acts were not repealed. When local men joined the Home Guard during the Second World War, they were following a long and honourable tradition.

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THE CHAPEL OF EASE AT NORTHWOOD

by Simon Morgan

Holy Trinity Church was consecrated in January 1854, creating the new parish of Northwood. Previously, most of Northwood had been in the parish of Ruislip, and therefore served by St Martin's Church, 3 miles away. For the previous 15 years, however, Northwood residents had been spared the walk to Ruislip on Sundays by the provision of a local 'chapel of ease'.

Such chapels were not parish churches, but were run as outposts by the parish clergy. A more famous local example is that of Uxbridge, which was not a parish in its own right until 1842. Before then the church of St Margaret's (also known as *The Nave*) was a chapel of ease of the parish of Hillingdon.'

Very little is now known of this Northwood chapel. Its exact location is subject to conjecture, so it is not certain whether it still stands. We do know that it was situated on the estate surrounding The Grange.

The Grange stands on a site with a long history. The present structure has been dated to the 15th century, but habitation of this site is thought to go back to the earliest records of Northwood. The most noteworthy of the 19th century occupants was undoubtedly Nathaniel Soames the younger of Gravely, Hertfordshire, who married his cousin, Rebecca in 1831². Over the years he built up a major landholding of some 220 acres. He was very active in local church and civic affairs being both a churchwarden and overseer of the poor at various times from 1831.

Soames was the main proponent for a chapel for Northwood. He first offered a one-acre plot of land and £100 for a chapel to be erected in 1837.⁴ Two years later Soames submitted a petition to the Bishop of London for a licence to perform divine service in a building he had purchased and converted at his expense.' It is in the formal clerical language of the day and was probably drawn up by a professional clerk. Other petitions give the name of the priest involved, but this one refers to the *Rector of the Parish of Ruislip*, with *Rector* crossed out and *Vicar* substituted. Clearly neither Soames

nor the clerk were sure of his correct designation. Intriguingly, the actual location of the chapel had been left blank by the clerk. There is one description in pencil, overwritten by another in ink, but in different handwriting from the copper plate of the remainder of the document. This section has been analysed both under ultra-violet lighting, and by a computer technique that attempts to remove the overwritten text. Neither procedure gave a definite interpretation of the pencil, but it may include the words "*near to the property and? of Nathaniel Soames Esqr.*" The overwritten ink text, probably in Soames' own hand, gives the location as "*near to Northwood House in the occupation of Nathaniel Soames Esqr.*" (Appendix 1).

The petition is undated, but on 7 June 1839 the licence was granted and recorded in the Vicar General's book6 (Appendix 2).

The Two Houses

The estate contained two houses of significant size, whose lands had been amalgamated by previous owners in the early 19th century. There is some doubt as to which house Nathaniel Soames actually lived in. When he first purchased the estate (in separate land parcels between 1830 and 32), both houses had tenants: The Grange (known then as Grace's Farm) was occupied by John (or Jonathan) Grace and The Fells (known as Northwood House) by Edward Empey.⁷ By 1832 Empey was still in residence, but Grace had moved out, leaving Soames as both owner and occupier of The Grange. Empey did not leave The Fells until late 1836. Soames became registered in the rate books as owner and occupier of both houses from early 1837. Soames could not therefore have lived at The Fells when he first moved to Northwood in 1831. Did he move house within his estate and if so when?

A complicating factor is that the name Northwood House could refer to either building, or indeed to the whole estate. A conveyance of 1864⁸ uses the name 'Northwood House' for The Fells, but is also refers The Grange as Grace's Farm. John

Grace had occupied The Grange for only 15 years, and by 1864 he had been away for 35 years. Names do persist but it seems unlikely that Grace's Farm was still the current name in 1864. It is the nature of conveyances to recite past transactions to establish historical title, so these names were probably simply copied from earlier documents. It is therefore unlikely that these were the current names for the two buildings in 1864.

Also in 1864, Ordnance Survey was surveying the first edition of its 1:2500 scale map. When this was published the following year, it showed Northwood House as the only name for both properties, but with the text placed

by 1864 The Grange was considered the more important house, so why might he not have always lived there? Firstly, there is a strong local tradition that Soames lived in The Fells. This probably emanates from Gladys Nash's recollections of local talk in the 1890's - a mere 30 years after Nathaniel Soames left the estate and probably within the living memory of the Nashes' neighbours. Pechc", who refers to the Nash letters, says that Soames lived in The Fells for 'most of the time' - thus implying that he had access to an additional source of information. Secondly, we have the 1861 census in which Soames' address is given as Northwood House, a name which we know was earlier applied to The



*The Grange (left) and Green Close (right) in 1998
The party wall is at the centre of the four dormer windows.
The bay behind and to the left of the beech tree
was added in the early 19th century to join two earlier structures.*

next to The Grange. This may have indicated the more important of the two houses, or may simply have been the most convenient position cartographically.

The most likely conclusion is that after Soames' acquisition and occupation of the estate, the name Grace's Farm was dropped and Northwood House gradually became accepted to mean the whole estate. By implication whichever of the two houses was the principal one would also be called Northwood House.

We know that Soames must have started his Northwood residency in The Grange, and that

Fells. As discussed above, however, this tells us only that whichever of the two houses Soames occupied in 1861 was given the name Northwood House.

Does it really matter where Soames and his wife lived? It is important for two reasons. The first is to help understand and date 19th century building works carried out on both houses. Changes to the main residence would have been to enhance and possibly enlarge; changes to the lesser property would have been to simplify and convert. The second reason is to help establish the location of the chapel, which could not have been in the same house that Soames occupied.

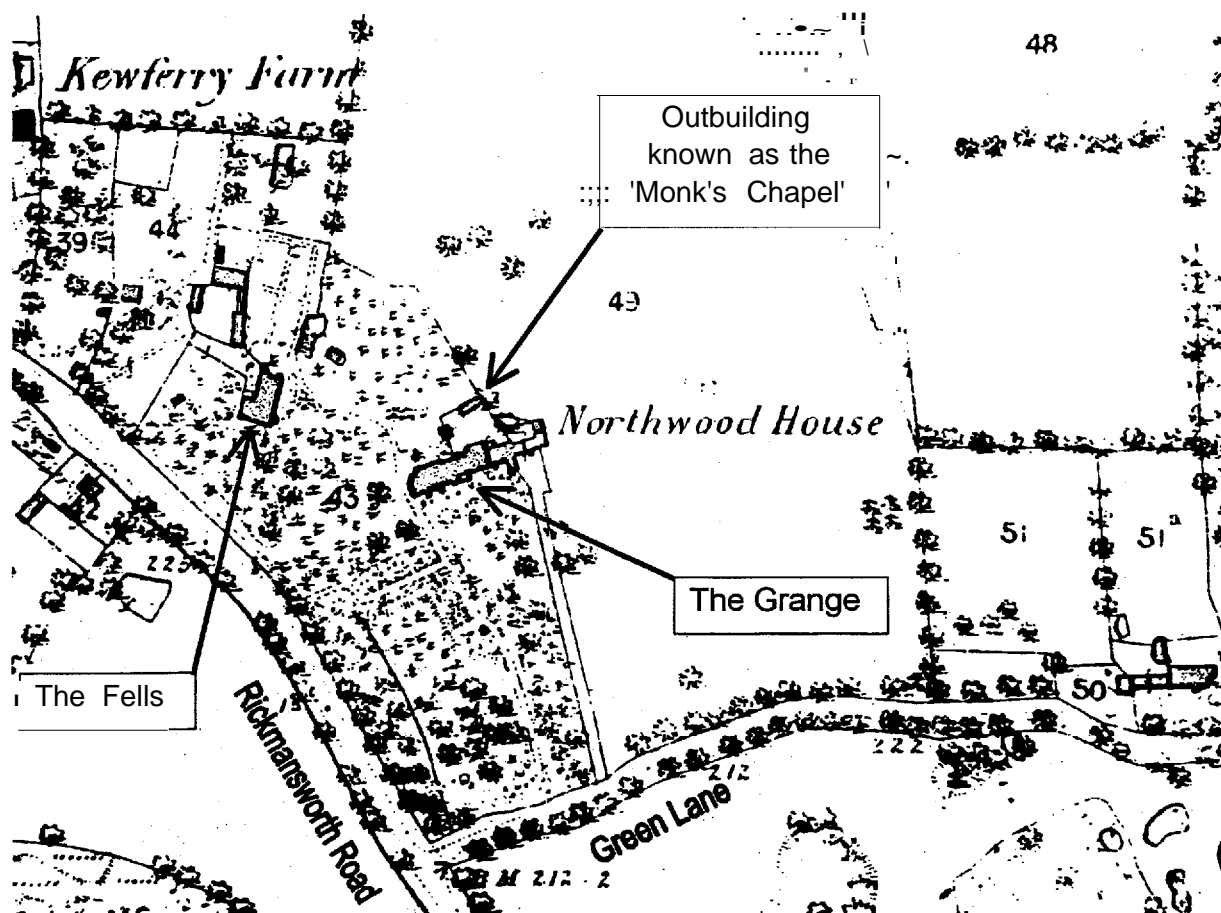
Where was the Chapel?

There are three main candidates for the chapel: The Grange (including Green Close which was then probably part of the same building), The Fells, and the small outbuilding north of The Grange. The Nash family, who owned The Grange in the late 19th century, referred to this outbuilding as the 'monks' chapel'. According to Gladys Nash, it was the location of a foliated cross.

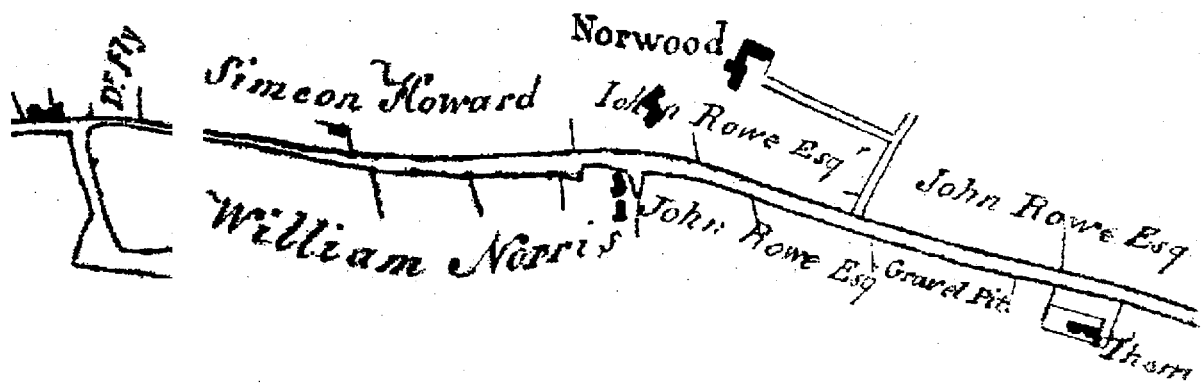
The chapel of ease can be traced in the poor rate books at various dates between 1842 and 1855. In February 1855, one of the two separately rated properties on the estate is described as *Cottage, barn and sheds* with a pencil note: *Building late a chapel*. Two months later a similar entry is partially erased but appears to say *the late chapel next rate as cottage*. Prior to 1855 the same property was also described as *Barn & sheds* - it seems that the chapel element did not incur a poor rate, although the rateable value remained £7 throughout even after *cottage* had been added to the description. This same building was described as a house or cottage both before and after its period as a chapel. An outbuilding or

stable was not separately rated from its associated house, so this entry refers either to the whole of The Fells or to the whole of The Grange. This is confirmed by the fact that there is only one other entry for a house owned by Soames which could be on this site. The chapel was therefore the main use for one of the two houses: whichever one was not lived in by Soames. Since The Fells was definitely called Northwood House in 1832 and seven years later we are told that the chapel is *close to Northwood House*, this seems to rule out The Fells itself as the chapel and leave only The Grange and its associated buildings.

It would solve the mystery completely if the property referred to in the rate books as the chapel could be traced either backwards in time to a terrier taken in 1837, or forwards in time to the particularly helpful rate book of February 1857. Both these documents list the owners and occupiers of each dwelling and farm by reference to the field numbers of the Enclosure, thereby forming a definite link with the plots of land on the ground. Unfortunately, there are discontinuities in the way the properties are rated and subdivided in both



Ordnance Survey map of 1865 with author's annotations



*Detail from the Sudbury to Rickmansworth Turnpike Road map of 1823¹⁵
The Grange is next to the 'd' of 'Norwood' and The Fells is below the 'w'.*

1837 and 1857. This prevents the correlation of properties across these years, despite extensive work trying to apportion the total rateable value and total land area of Soames' Northwood estate.

Examination of the order of the census records for 1841 to 1861 has also failed to yield definite evidence of Soames' choice of residence during this period. Unfortunately there are very few addresses or descriptions of properties - over 95% of entries for this area simply give the address as 'Northwood'. The enumerator did not always enter the properties in the same order at each census. The analysis did show that no tenant lived in either The Grange or The Fells, although small cottages with low rateable values were occupied by tenants. There is an indication, but nothing more, that Soames may have moved from The Fells to The Grange between 1851 and 1861, judging by the changing number of entries between his and that for Kewferry Farm to the north and the Vanderplank's farm in Green Lane to the east. The Fells had its entrance on Rickmansworth Road, but The Grange was approached from Green Lane.

Further evidence for the location of the chapel comes from the demolition of The Fells and the outbuildings of The Grange in 1933-34 and from the correspondence this redevelopment generated in the local paper. A foliated cross was found embedded in an ivy-covered buttress and a belfry was 'discovered' having presumably been hidden previously". Both these embellishments suggest an ecclesiastical flavour to one or more of the demolished

structures, thereby detracting from The Grange itself (which was left undisturbed) as the location of the chapel. The foliated cross appears to have come from the long, narrow 'monks' chapel' outbuilding.

Mr George Beckford of Edmonton had worked as a carpenter at The Grange for Dr Nash. He recalled that, during the 1890s, *"the chapel bell, which bore some sort of inscription, was mysteriously stolen and never heard of again",*¹²

In 1932, the local paper interviewed 79-year-old Mc E Brill of 157 High Street, Northwood". He stated that he was born at The Grange. He may have meant the actual building or somewhere on the estate. His father had been coachman to Nathaniel Soames, and *"his mother used to look after the private Chapel in the house. Services were held there on Sundays and the public were allowed to be present."*

The following week Mr .G.A. Sanford responded with a letter to the paper¹⁴. He had purchased The Firs in Green Lane in 1889 when The Grange was unoccupied, Mr Thacker having recently vacated it and Dr Nash having not yet arrived. He remembered that the chapel *"had a flight of wooden steps leading up to it from an outbuilding"* and his wife recalled *"a stoop just inside the room used as a chapel."* He had been told by several of the older inhabitants that *"an occasional service was held there."* Both these testimonies imply a private, rather than a public, chapel. Were there perhaps two

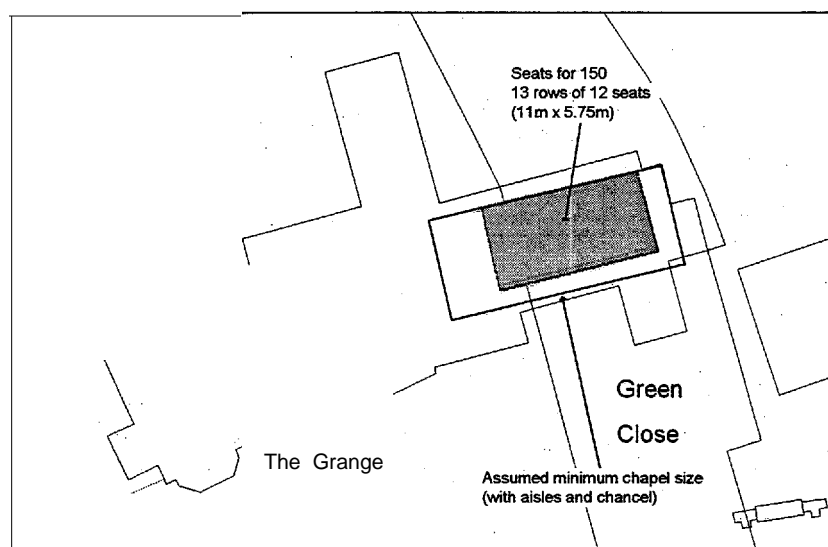


Diagram showing the difficulty of fitting a chapel seating 150 into the ground plan of Green Close

chapels at different times: the 'public chapel of ease and a private chapel for the house occupants? This might explain the numerous ornaments of ecclesiastical flavour.

If the chapel was up some steps from an outbuilding, the 'monks' chapel' seems too small (only 3.5 metres wide) to have had an upper story, and certainly not one capable of holding 150 people. It remains, perhaps, the best contender for the conjectured separate private chapel.

Until now, the Green Close (east) end of The Grange has been assumed to be the location of the chapel. This was on account of the ecclesiastical appearance of Green Close's porch and the adjacent matching entrance archway, which seem to have been added in the mid-19th century. It is material to this discussion whether Green Close was a separate building at the time in question. The Enclosure plan of 1809 and the plan accompanying the 1864 conveyance both show The 'Grange and Green Close as two separate buildings.' The first 1:2500 scale O.S. map, which was surveyed in 1864-5, shows one continuous range, apparently dating the alteration to 1864. However, the map of the Sudbury-Rickmansworth turnpike road¹⁵, which is undated but, can be tied from other evidence to 1823¹⁶, also shows one range. I have argued previously¹⁷ that the 1864 plan was based upon a considerably earlier survey, as it has much more in common with the

Enclosure map of 1809 than with the following year's O.S. map. It cannot therefore be taken as indicative of the building outlines in 1864. We may therefore conclude that the buildings were joined between 1810 and 1823, during the occupancy of John and John Paul Rowe.

Even when the two structures were separate, they did not merit individual entries in the rate books, one being considered the outbuildings of the other. The rate book entries which mention the chapel seem to imply that the whole of one of the two dwellings was used as such, except for one in March 1842 which refers to *House & Sheds adjoining the chapel* with the rateable value of £10.

If Green Close and The Grange were already joined, the Green Close embellishments may simply have created an entrance, with the chapel itself lying in the main (west) range of The Grange.

The evidence against Green Close alone being the chapel does not rest solely on whether or not it was joined to The Grange at the relevant date. We know that the chapel held 150 people, but even the whole of the present Green Close would be somewhat cramped for such a congregation. The Grange itself was a substantial and recently inhabited property. If it was not used as the chapel, why was it not let to a tenant? (Or alternatively, if Soames lived in The Grange, why was The Fells not let?)

Finally, we have the evidence of Mrs May Garrett (nee Rowland Brown) who purchased most of The Grange for church and community use. She and her husband had undertaken some local historical research. In her speech at the opening and dedication ceremony in 1934, she alluded to church services having been held there before 1854 and how she was glad that the property had reverted to its religious use." She was clearly referring to the part of The Grange she had purchased, i.e. the west end which excluded Green Close. Was there still certain knowledge of the location of this chapel 80 years after it had closed, or was this assumption on Mrs Garrett's part?

Conclusion

No one theory fits all the evidence, but The Grange itself seems by far the most promising candidate for the chapel. The discovery of any further source material or the accurate dating of the 19th century structural changes might one day help to confirm this.

This implies that Soames lived first in The Grange and moved to The Fells in 1837. With the opening of Holy Trinity Church in 1854 the chapel was no longer needed. It is likely that the Soames family moved back to The Grange between 1855 and 1861, taking the name 'Northwood House' with them, and perhaps creating their own private chapel in the outbuilding to the north of the house.

Appendix 1

The Petition for the Chapel

To the Right Honorable and Right Reverend Father in God Charles James by Divine Permission Lord Bishop of London &c &c.

The humble petition of the ~ Vicar of the Parish of Ruislip in the County of Middlesex and Diocese of London and also of Nathaniel Soames Esquire of the same Parish.

Sheweth,

That in the Hamlet of Northwood in the said Parish there are upwards of Two hundred persons resident four Miles from any parochial Church or Chapel and by reason thereof great inconvenience is experienced by them.

That in order to remedy such inconvenience your Petitioner the said Nathaniel Soames has at his own expense purchased a building situate near to Northwood House in the occupation of Nathaniel Soames Esqr in the said Hamlet capable of holding One hundred and fifty persons and has converted the same into a Chapel which he has fitted up as such and furnished with all things necessary and proper for the performance of Divine Service according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the United Church of England and Ireland and it is proposed with the sanction of your Lordship that the same should be used by the Inhabitants of the said Hamlet as appears for

Divine Worship according to such rites and ceremonies and also that the Sacrament of the Lords Supper should be administered therein.

*Signed C Packe MA Vicar
N Soames*

Appendix 2

The Licence for the Chapel

Charles James by Divine permission Bishop of London to the Vicar of the parish and parishioners of Ruislip in the County of Middlesex and within our Diocese and Jurisdiction or to the curate or minister officiating for him as such and to all others to whom it may concern Greeting.

Whereas it hath been represented unto us by a Petition under the hands of you the said vicar and of Nathaniel Soames Esquire of the said Parish.

That in this Hamlet of Northwood ...
[the text of the petition is restated here]

And whereas the Petitioners have humbly besought us to grant our Licence accordingly as by the said Petition now remaining in the Registry of our Consistorial and Episcopal Court of London (more fully and at length appears). We therefore taking the Premises into our consideration and being willing to comply with the prayer of the said Petition so

by these Presents and in virtue of our authority ordinary and Episcopal and as far as by Law we may or can Give and Grant unto you the vicar of the said Parish and to your curate or the Minister officiating for you as such Our Licence and Authority for the performance of Divine Service according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the united Church of England and Ireland and also for the Administration of the Lords Supper according to the usage of the said united Church in the said Building in the Hamlet of Northwood aforesaid during our will and pleasure. In Testimony whereof we have caused the seal which we use in this behalf to be affixed to these Presents. Dated this seventh day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine in the eleventh year of our Translation.

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