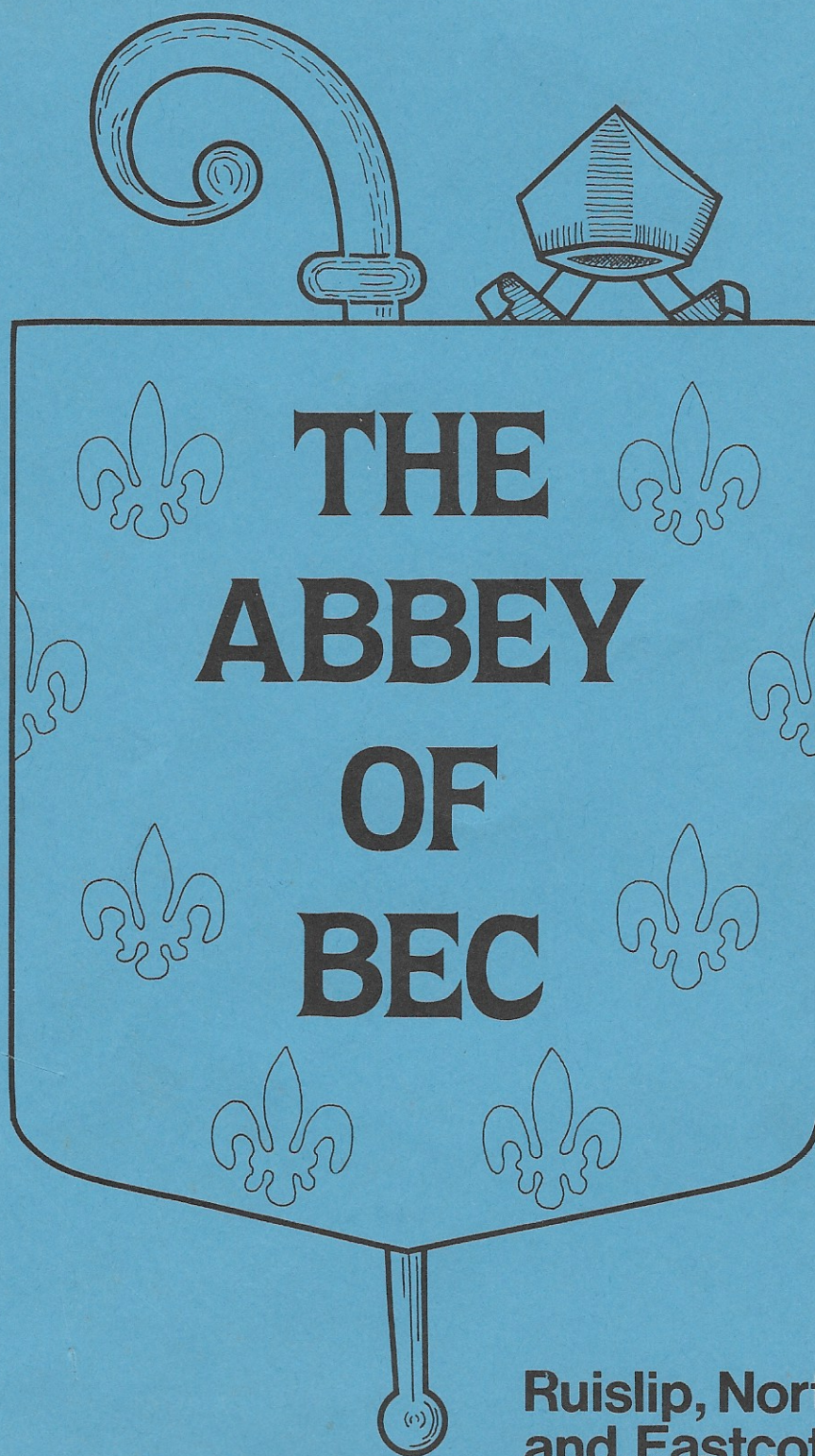


# **RUISLIP**

## **AND**



**Ruislip, Northwood  
and Eastcote  
Local History Society**



# RUISLIP & THE ABBEY OF BEC

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CHAIRMAN : Leonard Krause

SECRETARY: Mrs Elizabeth Krause • 29 Eastern Ave. • Pinner • ( 01-868-9040 )

EDITORS : Eileen Bowlt • Colleen Cox





apple harvest; from a medieval manuscript



## RUISLIP AND THE ABBEY OF BEC

Ernulf de Hesdin, the Norman lord who owned Ruislip in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century, gave the manor to the Abbey of Bec. The exact date of his gift is not known, but as the whole of Ruislip was still in Ernulf de Hesdin's hands when the Domesday Survey was being made in the middle of 1086 and, as the gift to Bec was confirmed in a general charter of William I dated not later than September 1087, the change of ownership probably took place early that year.

The Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society commemorated the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Abbey of Bec's acquisition of Ruislip, by holding an exhibition entitled "Ruislip and the Abbey of Bec" in the Cow Byre at Manor Farm in June 1987.

The material for the exhibition was extracted from a number of documents and books (listed at the end of each section) by members of the Research Group: Eileen Bowlt, Celia Cartwright, Colleen Cox, Irene Furbank, Derek Jacobs and Susan Toms. Denise Shackell directed the art work. Karen Spink and Jim McBean drew maps. George Camp did the photography. Two models aroused a great deal of interest, a Benedictine monk created by Elsa Glover and dressed in a habit kindly lent by Ealing Abbey and the Manor Farm area, as it was described in two Extents dated 1293 and 1324, made to scale and painted by Freddie Shackell.

Aylesbury Museum and the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket, lent working models of a windmill and a watermill.

King's College allowed us to exhibit some documents, one of which was The Extent of 1323, and we were grateful for pictures of the Abbey as it is today from the Archivist of the Abbey of Bec & Madame Paulette Sharman of Beauvais.

The Society is extremely grateful to these bodies for their assistance.

The exhibition told a coherent story of Ruislip in the years 1087 - 1414, when the manor was owned by the Abbey. For about half of that period, Ruislip was the main house of Bec in this country and achieved a prominence which it has not had since.

This Occasional Paper presents the same material in book form for easy reference.