

DEVELOPMENT of EAST SIDE of HIGH STREET starting from Eastcote Road

Numbers 1 - 15 High Street (built 16th century) are timber-framed buildings dating from the early 16th century. They were all under threat of demolition by 1931. ^{ix} The Old Bell public house, on the north side of the lych gate, lost its licence in 1930 and the barn attached to it was demolished for road widening about the same time (Fig1).



Fig. 1 - Village centre c.1910, The Old Bell in centre

The remaining part of the premises was divided and in 2015 is occupied by a hairdresser, Priory Delicatessen and an ironing shop. Nos 7-15 on the other side of the lych gate (fig. 2) were acquired by the Ruislip Village Trust in 1931 to preserve them from demolition. Originally one building, the long range backing onto the church was divided into cottages in 1832. They were restored and converted into offices in 1964 under the direction of R. H. Jones, architect. No 7 has been an eating place for many years - Barbara's pantry, The Priory Restaurant and now a Pizza Restaurant.



Fig. 2 - The Swan and the Village Trust property 1970

**Numbers 17-23 (built 1963)
(redevelopment of the old Police Station site)**

The old police station, seen on the 1930 Picture (Fig.3), was rented by the Metropolitan Police in 1869 and purchased in 1873. The site was redeveloped with four shops and offices over in 1963, the present police station in the Oaks having opened in 1961. * The single-storey shops occupy the site of the old Police Station and the yard to the south that belonged to it.



Fig. 3 - The Police Station is the building on the right



The 1963 shops on the site

Numbers 25 - 41 (built 1912 - 33)

Beside the Police Station lay the strip of land backing onto the churchyard extension. Passers-by will probably have noticed and perhaps wondered, as have I, about the inscribed stone in the wall of no. 25 saying that it stands entirely on the Orchard Estate. There does not seem to be any connection with The Orchard (Premier Inn). It is an unsolved puzzle.



A line of shops nos 25 - 41 looking superficially alike was built along the strip by Mr James Ellis between 1912 and 1933. The first two, seen in Fig. 4, were erected in 1912 ^{x1} and appear on the 1914 OS 25 inch map (revised 1912). There was no space for any backyard and the shops were built right on the edge of the road. Therefore it is not surprising that objections were raised that he had not kept to the building line prescribed by the council. The Uxbridge magistrates agreed and the matter was taken to the High Court.



Fig. 4 - Nos. 25 to 27 in the 1920s

When making alterations in 1915 he again failed to comply with the regulations ^{xii}, but later capitulated. However, in 1920 he applied for 12 shops on the Orchard Estate ^{xiii}. Nos. 29-35 were built separately, but are of a similar pattern to 25 and 27. Nos 37 and 39 are quite different; They were designed by Gooderson and Buckley for C.F. Day Ltd. in 1933 ^{xiv}, while no. 41 appears to have been tacked on to them, having a higher roofline set further back.



Nos. 25 to 41 in 2015

Fewer than 12 shops were actually built. The rest of the strip became gardens in 1936, when gates were made in the graveyard fence and a paved path was laid from the High Street to ease the problem of access to the memorial on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday. The parochial Church Council seem to have maintained this approach until 1958 and the council since. The memorial was moved to its present position in 1976.

Numbers 43-61 ^{xv} (Built 1911-28, some rebuilding 1973 and 1978)

A substantial house and shop, known at one time as London House (**no. 43**), was built on a plot adjoining the end of the graveyard in 1911. It was given a new shop front in 1937 and was the Express Dairy Shop at one time. The Express Dairy Depot was behind, accessed from Mldcroft. The shop was divided into two units in 1962. When the photograph (fig. 5) was taken in 1969, Mignon, Art, Needlework and Wool shop occupied one half.



Fig. 5 - No. 43

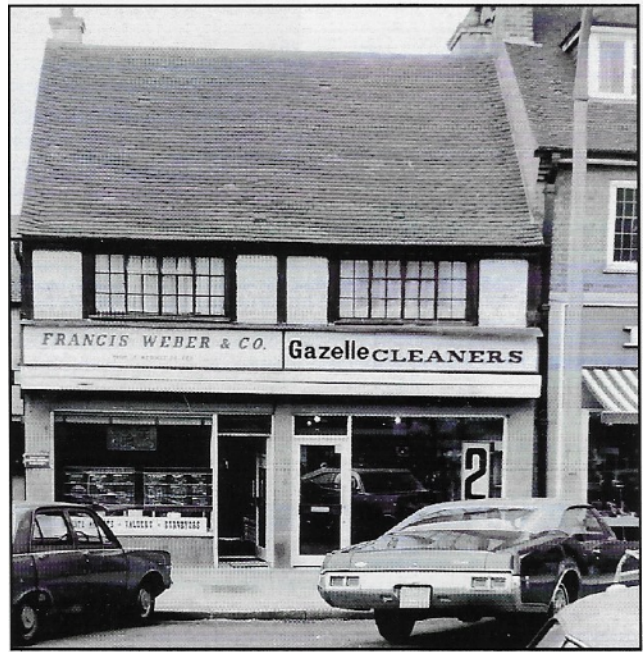


Fig 6 - No. 45

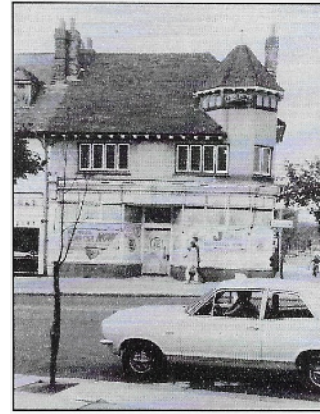
London House (**43**) and **45** High Street were both replaced by Cromwell House with its dormer windows, reminiscent of London House.



Cromwell House, the Hillingdon Health Authority offices above and shops at ground floor level, replaced numbers 43 and 45 (Fig. 6) in 1973. 2015: the offices have been converted into flats.

London House stood isolated for some years, until the plots as far as the new road, Midcroft, were built upon between 1922 and 1928. The corner shop, (nos. **59** and **61**), was built in 1922 for Howard Transom Button, the grocer, who traded as Howard Roberts. He had purchased the plot from Jason Wilson back in 1912 ^{xvi}.

Mr Prowting was the builder. Large windows opened onto both roads and a decorative tower dominated the scene. Towers were popular and one or two may still be seen in King Edward's Road. Mr Fabb, formerly butler from Highgrove, ran a restaurant above the shop in the 1930s.



Nos. 59 and 61 shortly before demolition

Next door (no. **57**) was McKenzie's garage, also built by Prowting, dating from 1923 reflecting the growing popularity of cars. It had been taken over by J R Inwards by 1929. Inwards later expanded into the shops on the left (nos. **53** and **55**, see Fig. 7). A number of "motor sheds" were being added to houses from before the First World War and the council imposed a speed restriction of 10 miles per hour on traffic passing through Ruislip from Ickenham Road to the National School on Eastcote Road (junction with Manor Way) in 1920 ^{xvii}.

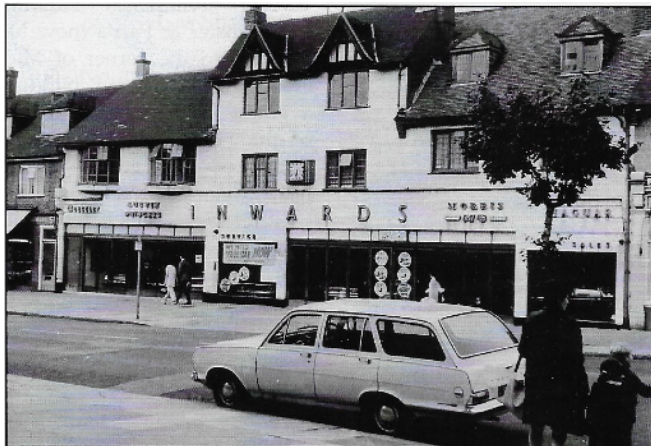


Fig. 7 - Inwards had expanded into 53 and 55 formerly independent shops

The other shops in this group (nos. **45 to 51**) were all built by 1928. Bowleys shoe shop, Marshall Bros, ironmongers, and a dry cleaners were all trading there in the 1950s ^{xviii}, and some accommodation above was being used as offices by solicitors and others.



Numbers 47,49,51 - Wm Bowley, Boot Repairer was at 47 by 1937

Jebsen House replaced nos. **53 to 61** about 1978.



Jebsen House on the right, built 1978, keeps to the three storey rule. Sharps, Madcap Books and Halifax Building Society are on the ground floor. Notice the white column that was at the end of Inward's premises still attached to Elements Funeral Shop.