

## FROM ICKENHAM ROAD TO KINGSEND

### Ownership of the frontage

The corner of Ickenham Road was occupied by The Poplars Tea Gardens and the rest of the land as far as no. 154 was part of Wilkins Farm. The bottom end of the High Street was part of the demesne meadows called Withycrofts, attached to Manor Farm. The PELM group ( Prowting the builder, Ewer the owner, Lee the solicitor and Mansford the architect) was responsible for the buildings on the Wilkins Farm land.

### Numbers 86-104 <sup>xxxiii</sup> (built 1930)

These eight shops with flats above were built in 1930 after the closure of The Poplars Tea Gardens. With their mock Tudoresque appearance, they reflect the type of house beginning to be built in Ruislip in the early 1930s, a period when the Arts and Crafts details on the earlier parades on the High Street and houses on the Park Estate were going out of favour. they make a handsome statement as they sweep around the corner into Ickenham Road, the chimneys being particularly effective.



In the photograph, the shops ahead (nos. 86-104) replaced the Poplars Tea Gardens in 1930. The adjoining shops to the right are numbered as part of Ickenham Road.

On the left a vehicle drawn up to the pavement is being filled with petrol at Inwards.

### Numbers 106-120 <sup>xxxiv</sup> (built 1931)

Following a similar pattern, these eight shops were being built at the same time. the timbered gables above oriel windows and the half-hipped gables over plain windows surmounted by arches filled with decorative brickwork, greatly enhance the street scene.



The shops in the photograph (Nos. 106-120) are very similar to shops on the corner of Ickenham Road, but there are subtle differences between them. Can you spot them?

**Numbers 122-130 <sup>xxxiv</sup> (built 1934)**  
**Woolworths and Ruislip Garage and Workshop**

Woolworth's Multiple store and Mr Brown's 'Ruislip Garage' were built on the site of Wilkins Farm House in 1934. Petrol was sold from the front of the garage to cars that parked alongside the kerb. The attached workshop was at the back and to the left. The garage part was replaced by the Job Centre Employment Office and the workshop by the Borough of Hillingdon's Housing Office and Social Services Department about 1978. The Job Centre is now Coopers Estate Agents and the Housing Office is being converted into flats.



Mr Brown's petrol pumps can be seen on the left edge of the pavement with the awnings of Woolworth's building just beyond.



Tesco and the Job Centre building (now Cooper estate agents) on the site of Woolworths and the Garage in 2015. Woolworths closed just before Christmas in 2008 and Tesco opened a convenience store there. The Woolworths building is interesting because the back portion has two storeys, but as can be seen through the upper windows, there is nothing behind the elaborate facade.



No. 130 High Street on the site of the Garage Workshop



**Numbers 132-140 <sup>xxxvi</sup> 1935, 142-4 (Astoria Cinema 1934)**



The shops in the picture were completed in April 1936 and erected on small plots in front of the Garage Workshop. Looking somewhat neglected in 2015, they spot a brick parapet at eaves level, with stone dividers between each shop standing proud in contrast.



The Astoria cinema <sup>xxxvii</sup> next to them on the left had been built a year or so earlier.



Iceland, MacDonalds and Linen Chest on the cinema site

**Numbers 146-152 <sup>xxxviii</sup> 1934-5**



In the photograph, the four shops on the other side of the cinema starting with the Foto shop (146) and finishing with the Michael Sobell Hospice (152) were built to the same plan, but Number 152, completed in September 1934, differs from the other three which were finished in January 1935 and have a parapet at eaves level as well as a dormer window.



## Numbers 154<sup>xxix</sup> -164<sup>xl</sup>, 1927-8



In the photograph, Nos. 154 - 164 are the shops to the left of the gap. 154 was designed by F.H.Mansford for Mr C. Bedford in 1928. It is joined to and similar to the other five that were planned a few months earlier by Lawton & Wright, Surveyors of Wembley for F.W. Wright of Watford. These were the earliest shops in this section of the High Street. The dormer windows and rectangular chimneys add interest to the roof.

## Numbers 166 -170 (1937) and 172-176 (architect R.J.Sargent, built 1938) <sup>xli</sup>



There was no more building at this end of the High Street until 1937-8 the two groups of shops looking remarkably similar, (as seen below) filled the space between number 164 and the Daily Mail Cottage site at the bottom of the High Street.

In the photograph, the two groups of shops are between No 164 (Fashion Tree) on the right and Quilters at far left.

## Numbers 178-182 High Street <sup>xlii</sup>

The Daily Mail Cottage, exhibited at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia in 1908 was re-erected at the corner of Kingsend. It had great charm and was very much in the Arts and Crafts tradition. Mr Dicky, the first owner 1908-10, was involved in filming. Later owners, perceiving the commercial value of the corner site, demolished it in the mid-1930s, intending to sell for commercial development. This plan was thwarted for several years by objections from the Kingsend residents who claimed their amenities would be spoilt. Planning permission was granted in 1954 and two shops were built, one being Quilters, which was extended in 1959.



**Southern end of Ruislip High Street at junction of Kingsend (left) and Pembroke Road (right) before development.**  
Nos. 97-113(1935) and 115-127 (1925) can be seen in the centre).



**After development, showing Quilters occupying site.**

## References

The RNUDC Planning Applications each have a number and are kept at Uxbridge Civic Centre on microfiche. They may be seen by appointment.

The numbers of those consulted are given in the notes below.

- i JRNELHS 1986, *Early Ruislip Memories*, Hugh Mansford
- ii Tottman, David; *Ruislip-Northwood An early example of Town Planning and its Consequences*, RNELHS Occasional Paper No 2, June 1982
- iii Bowl, Eileen M.: *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex*, 1989, pp 214-18
- iv Civic Centre: Microfiche, RNUDC Planning Applications, 114 (hereafter, numbers only are given)
- v 454, 464
- vi London Metropolitan Archives (hereafter LMA): Acc 238/2nd dep/3687
- vii LMA: Middlesex Deed Registry Memorials
- viii 325
- ix LMA: Middlesex Licensing Minutes, Volume VII, p56
- x 20572
- xi 518
- xii Uxbridge Library: RNUDC Minutes 31 May 1915
- xiii 967
- xiv 4158
- xv 451, 2421, 2181, 1391, 1085
- xvi LMA: MDR 1920 12 554-6
- xvii Ibid 12 Jan 1920
- xviii Kemp's Directory of Ruislip-Northwood 1956-78
- xix 1232 and 1263
- xx 12445/6
- xxi 1644 and 1745
- xxii 487, 523, 638
- xxiii 4660
- xxiv 2256
- xxv 1317
- xxvi 1238
- xxvii 504 and 1239
- xxviii 1239
- xxix 3523
- xxx 3357
- xxxi 4093
- xxxii Skinner, James, *Hillingdon Cinemas*, Tempus Publishing Ltd 2002
- xxxiii 3057
- xxxiv 3522
- xxxv 4423 and 4444
- xxxvi 5199
- xxxvii 4430
- xxxviii 4430
- xxxix 2520
- xl 2343
- xli 6298, 7333
- xlvi 13040

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