

THE RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MARCH 1972

Owing to the fact that I have received only a few contributions plus the rising costs of printing I have been unable to produce a Bulletin since April 1971.

Since last September when we started the season with meetings held regularly at Manor Farm Library, attendances have improved on last year and we are hopeful that this will continue. We have had quite a few new members to whom we offer a welcome. Coffee and biscuits have been served at each meeting under the kind auspices of Mrs.Tenison-Collins, which has been welcomed as a break and a chance to chat to one another.

The 1971 Annual General Meeting was held on October 18th. It was with great regret that the committee accepted the resignation of Mr.L.E.Morris as Chairman and the members thanked him for all his work on their behalf. We welcomed Mr.David Tottman as our new Chairman. Similarly Mr.Tanner who has been the Treasurer for some time, also indicated that he would like to retire from that post and the Society thanked him for his work in that respect. The Society welcomed Mrs. E.W.Crane as the new Treasurer. Mr.R.A.Bedford who is our Programme Secretary has also kindly offered to act as Assistant Secretary. The Committee appointed Mrs.Eileen Lock as Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Elizabeth Krause was co-opted as Assistant Treasurer. In addition, we welcome Mrs. E.Bowlit and Mr.F.D.Veal on to the Committee.

The Committee very much regretted that owing to the power crisis the February meeting had to be cancelled at short notice and trust it did not cause any inconvenience as it was quite impossible to notify anyone individually. It is hoped to include Mrs. Davine's talk at a future date.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS IN MARCH AND AS FROM APRIL 1ST SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL NEED RENEWING. Subscriptions should be sent or given to the Treasurer, Mrs.E.W.Crane, Highmead, Cheney Street, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx. The subscription is 40p.

Mrs. Aline Tenison-Collins has arranged a most comprehensive Summer Programme which is included in this Bulletin. May I particularly draw your attention to the outing to Lambeth Palace on May 20th, as this is a very unusual opportunity. A 29 Seater Coach has been arranged and I advise an early booking. The first seats will be allocated at the meeting on March 20th and anyone else who is interested should contact Mrs.Tenison-Collins at the meeting or at 37, Chester Road, Northwood. Tel.Northwood 23219. The Society is very much indebted to all the hard work that Mrs.Tenison-Collins has put into making all these arrangements and it is up to members to support these events.

Around about Christmas time the Secretary received a letter from the "Friends of St.Martin's" Ruislip. The "Friends" has been formed to launch an appeal to raise funds for the massive restoration work that is required to keep this fine Church in good condition. As with so many such buildings the ravages of time have caused a great deal of destruction and much has to be done. There has been a Church on this site for about 900 years and the present building dates largely from 1250.

As a result of the Appeal Letter being read to the Society at the January Meeting, a collection was taken which raised £9.25. which has enabled the Society to become a corporate member for £5 and also donate the residue. Included in this Bulletin is the recent News-Letter produced by the "Friends".

Mr.R.A.Bedford who is the Programme Secretary is busy preparing for the 1972-73 season. As usual, the programmes will be sent to all members who have renewed their subscriptions, as soon as it is printed in August.

DOREEN L. EDWARDS (Hon.Editor)

OUTINGS - 1972

SATURDAY MAY 20TH

LAMBETH PALACE

This is a rare opportunity to see the Palace which is not normally open to the public. In particular the 13th Century Chapel, the 15th Century Guard Room and the magnificent Great Hall - one of the finest in London. The Library was founded by Archbishop Bancroft in 1610 and some of its treasures will be on view, including the great Lambeth Bible.

Members will go to the Cafeteria of the Festival Hall, which overlooks the river, for tea. It is hoped to return by way of Southwark Cathedral, stop for a short visit, and then see some of the lesser-known but very interesting parts of the City on the journey back to Ruislip.

A coach has been booked which will leave opposite St. Martin's Church, Ruislip (St.Martins Approach) at 1 o'clock and will return about 6.30.

Coach Fare 50p, to be paid on booking.
Entrance to Lambeth Palace 30p.
Tea - self-service.

MONDAY JUNE 19TH

A WALK IN OLD UXBRIDGE

Mr.Pearce, who is Chairman of the Uxbridge Local History Society, has very kindly agreed to take members on a walk to see the interesting and historic parts of Uxbridge. These will probably include the Old Market House, St.Margaret's Church and the canalside.

Meet at 7.30 at Uxbridge Station Booking Hall.

MONDAY JULY 17TH

MOOR PARK

Mr.Cornwall, who gave us such an interesting talk on the history of Moor Park some time ago, will be taking members to see the Mansion and describe its treasures and history.

Meet at the house at 8 o'clock.

MONDAY AUGUST 21ST.

ST.LAWRENCE CHURCH, LITTLE STANMORE

Sir John Betjeman described this Baroque church as 'not just one of the churches of Middlesex, it has one of the most splendid interiors in England'. The Rector is arranging for us to have a guide to take us round this lovely little church. There is the Mausoleum of the Dukes of Chandos, one of whom was Patron to Handel from 1717 to 1721, during which time he must have played on the church organ and composed the Chandos Anthems. The organ case is carved by Grinling Gibbons and there are other examples of his work in the church. The walls and ceilings painted by Louis Laguerre, Verrio, Francesco Slater and Brunetti are being restored but very interesting to see.

Meet at the Church at 8 o'clock. (The church is in Whitchurch Lane between Canons Park Tube Station and the Edgware Road).

W.A.G. KEMP

An Appreciation

As members of the Society are aware, the Society and the district suffered a serious loss by the death last summer of Mr.Kemp and the Committee thought it proper to record an appreciation of his work in the field of local history.

Mr.Kemp had been a resident of Northwood for most of his life and there was very little of its twentieth century development that he was unfamiliar with. Lest it be thought that his interest was guided by manuscript and statistics it should be made clear that Mr.Kemp was concerned most of all with his fellow men for whom he had the greatest affection. To him history concerned people. The events arose from the people, and this was the order of events in his studies.

This aspect of Mr.Kemp's researches is made clear to any who read "The Story of Northwood and Northwood Hills Middlesex" and "The History of Eastcote Middlesex" for Mr. Kemp did not wish to accrue knowledge purely for his own personal satisfaction - he wished others to know of the human happenings which had preceded us. His whole approach was centred on the people who had lived in these districts and in his researches he uncovered a host of detail which will be of inestimable value to the social historian of the future. Much of this detail was obtained by the painstaking method of seeking out those who remembered and who were able to give him the type of intimate material which very rarely graces our more formal history books.

When the idea of forming a local history society for the area was first mooted Mr.Kemp was one of the first I approached and his response was typical - any help or assistance he could give was available freely to the proposed project.

As a consequence he not only became a founder member but also a member of the original committee. As the years passed he found himself unable to give the time to committee work and the Society made him its first Honorary Life Member. He was a prolific contributor to the Bulletin as well as giving great help to individual members of the Society.

It may not be generally known that Mr. Kemp was also a poet of no mean quality and in 1946 published a collection of verses dedicated to those who flew with the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. I can do no better than quote from the foreword to this book - "Men Like These" - which was written by Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding. 'I am no poet nor judge of poetry; I only know that parts of Mr. Kemp's verses have moved me as I should wish others to be moved, when they remember this epic period in our dear Island's history.'

R.G. EDWARDS

THE STONE HORSE TROUGH

RICKMANSWORTH ROAD, NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX

Now that horse drawn vehicles have given place to motor vans and cars, a horse trough is a rarity in an urban area, but one still stands in Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, Middlesex, adjoining the Gravel Pits Open Space, at the corner of Copsewood Way.

Rickmansworth Road came into existence under the Inclosure Act of 1814. Prior to that time it was part of Ruislip Common, which extended three miles from east to west and two miles from north to south. The boundaries were approximately along Bury Street, Ducks Hill Road, Green Lane, Pinner Hill, Cuckoo Hill to Fore Street Eastcote, and along the River Pinn to Ruislip. Under the Inclosure Act a cart track along the Common from Pinner in a north-west direction to Northwood was to be constructed of a breadth of 40 feet and to be named Rickmansworth Road. This road provided a more direct route from London and Pinner to Batchworth and Rickmansworth as the highway hitherto had been via Potter Street Hill and Green Lane.

Benevolent persons provided water troughs along these country roads for the benefit of horses. It is such a trough that still stands in Rickmansworth Road and reminds us of the changes in transport and of a notable family that lived in Northwood.

Upon this trough is an inscription, now somewhat worn.

IN MEMORY OF VICTOR ALBERT LOUIS MORIER
ERECTED BY HIS MOTHER

There is no date on the trough but it was probably provided in 1892 or 1893, for in Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, is a brass memorial on the north wall of the Sanctuary. The wording is in Latin, but one is indebted to the Guide Book of the Church for a translation as follows:

This tablet commemorates

V I C T O R A L B E R T L U D O V I C K

only son of Robert and Alice Morier, who returned from the uttermost ends of the earth both North and South with the highest praise, soon he was sent to Africa as an officer for the purpose of describing the boundaries, but while still a young man in the middle of the ocean he passed away.

He lived twenty-five years. In this short space of time he experienced many sufferings and disasters. Many times also in unknown and inhospitable parts he fought bravely and with distinction. No one soon to return to Africa had ever roused such a longing among his contemporaries. He was endowed with a simple, modest, and spirited nature, with a handsome build and pleasantness. He was very popular.

What limits could his parents put to grief when the bright hope was snatched away from them. He was born on 18th February 1867. He fell asleep in Christ on 27th May 1892.

Proverbs, 16.33. "the lot is cast into the lap: but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord."

His parents, Sir Robert and Lady Alice Morier lived at Batchworth Heath House, Northwood.

Sir Robert was born on 31st March 1832, and died on 16th November 1893, a little over a year after his son Victor. He served as Minister to Portugal from 1876 to 1881, Minister to Spain 1881 to 1884, and Ambassador to Russia from 1884 to 1893.

Sir Robert's diplomatic service overseas was at a time of great events in Europe. In 1875 Disraeli had achieved the purchase of the Suez Canal shares providing control of a more direct sea route to the East, and in the following year Queen Victoria was proclaimed "Empress of India". A revolt by the Bulgars in 1876 was suppressed by the Turks with much bloodshed leading to Russia declaring war on Turkey. In 1878 the Russians had reached Constantinople. A British Fleet moved up to the Bosphorous and also occupied Cyprus. Then followed the Congress of Berlin which Disraeli claimed brought "Peace with Honour". Further trouble occurred on the borders of India in 1879 and 1880, and in South Africa, with the Zulus and the Boers.

The appointment of Sir Robert Morier, as Ambassador to Russia was in the days of Imperial Russia. Alexander II (born in 1818) had succeeded to the throne in 1855 on the death of his uncle Alexander I. On 13th March 1881 Alexander II died, and was succeeded by his son Alexander III (born 1845). This Tsar was a man of great energy and physical strength, a dedicated autocrat, ruthlessly stamping out revolutionaries. He had married Princess Dagmar, daughter of King Christian IX of Denmark, a younger sister of our Queen Alexandra, the wife of Edward VII. She was known in Russia as the Empress Marie Fedrovna. Their son Nicholas, born in 1868 became Tsarvitch on the death of his elder brother.

It was in this atmosphere of princes, palaces, peasants, poverty and persecutions that Sir Robert represented Great Britain from 1884 to 1893.

The Tsarvitch Nicholas, married in 1894, Princess Alix, daughter of Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, who was the daughter of Queen Victoria. This ill-fated Prince succeeded to the throne of Russia, as Nicholas II in 1894, a year after Sir Robert Morier left Russia. Nicholas had four daughters and one son, the Tsarvitch Alexis, born in 1904, who suffered from haemophilia. To cure this disability the monk Rasputin was brought to the Russian Court. During the Bolshevik Revolution the Tsar, his wife and five children were all shot at Ekaterinburg on the 18th July 1918.

So passed the last of the Tsars of Russia, but a stone horse trough and a brass memorial remain to remind us of the connection of Northwood with the stirring events in Europe of those times.

CHRISTOPHER A. COWAN

GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMEMORATION

The Catholic Church in Ruislip

"Hesdin" Hall

How many newcomers to the parish have wondered why the adjoining hall is called the Hesdin Hall?

William the Conqueror's Domesday Survey made in 1086 says that Ernulf de Hesdin held the Manor of Ruislip, which had previously belonged to Wlward Wit, a Saxon Thane in the days of Edward the Confessor.

Apart from Domesday Book, (1) the "Gesta Pontificum" of William of Malmesbury and the "Liber Monasterii de Hyda" give varying information about Hesdin's life, but are agreed that he made a journey to the Holy Land circa 1096.

"Bec" Club

Before setting out on his pilgrimage (according to William of Malmesbury) or on Duke Robert of Normandy's Crusade (Liber Monasterii de Hyda), Ernulf de Hesdin made a gift, which included his Ruislip lands, to the Benedictine Abbey of Bec in Normandy.

The monks of Bec had many lands in England which were administered by two officials with the rank of Prior. One residing at Ogbourne in Wiltshire dealt with the western lands, while the prior of Ruislip was in charge of those in the east. Although there was a Priory at Ruislip, and 13th Century inventories and valuations show it to have been well furnished and provisioned, there is never mention of more than one other monk here. He and the Prior carried out the secular duties of gathering in tithes and produce and attending to their conveyance to the mother house in Normandy. The buildings

included a Hall, Guest House, Counting House, Stables, Barns and a Private Chapel. Therefore, St.Martins was always a Parish Church, quite separate from the Priory. (2)

Archeological evidence shows that the Priory stood within the moat at Manor Farm, a little west of the present house (which is early 16th Century in parts). A letter dated 1613 speaks of the demolition of the "Friar's (sic) Hall at Ruislip". (3)

The flints around the central flower bed of Manor Farm today were dug up at the end of the 19th Century, when the flint foundations of the Priory were uncovered.

"Herlwyn" Avenue

Bishop Herluin or Herlwyn founded a Benedictine Abbey at Bonneville Appetot in 1034, but finding the site subject to flooding, moved it 3½ miles to Bec, in 1040.

Intermittant wars with France during the 14th Century led to English lands of foreign Abbeys frequently being sequestrated by the Crown, and eventually Alien Priories were suppressed by an Act of 1414. By that date the Bec lands in Ruislip were already in the hands of John, Duke of Bedford, third son of Henry IV, and when he died childless in 1436, they reverted to the Crown. The pious Henry VI was then king and in 1451, he granted the Manor of Ruislip outright to the College of St.Mary and St.Nicholas, Cambridge (King's College) which he had founded ten years earlier. The connection lasted until 1932 and even today King's College remains titular lord of the manor.

St.Martins

In Domesday Book a priest is said to hold ½ a hide of land, (a hide was a measure of land supposedly sufficient to support one family and varied from 80 to 120 acres in different parts of the country), from which we can reasonably assume that there was a church in Ruislip in early Norman times.

The present building is largely 15th Century, but dates in part from the 13th. The right of presentation to the living and the right to gather rectorial tithes, were both granted to the Dean and Canons of St.George's Chapel, Windsor, in 1422 and they are still the Patrons. They leased out the Rectory to the Hawtrey family in 1532 at £18 rent, in whose hands it remained until the 19th Century. (4)

As yet no research has been done into the history of the Ruislip Church at the time of the Reformation, but a list of the recorded vicars has some gaps at the relevant period. A George Whitehorne was deprived of the living in 1554, the year when Mary I ascended the throne and attempted to restore Catholicism, but he reappears early in Elizabeth's reign. Presumably he was a Protestant.

"Rumours of a Church to be Erected...."

The "Advertiser and Gazette" of 5th March 1920 carried an advertisement that a "New Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery will shortly be commenced" - Contractor A.E.A. Prowting - Architect A.S.G. Butler.

On the 19th March it reported, "The work of making the foundations for the church took place this week, the site being in the High Street opposite the 'Poplars'." (The "Poplars" were a popular tea gardens at the corner of High Street and Ickenham Road).

More definite information appears in the issue of 4th February, 1921, when the Foundation Ceremony is described in detail and Miss Eleanor Warrender of High Grove, Eastcote, is named as the Benefactress. "Some twelve months ago rumours gained currency concerning the probable erection of a church in the district, and now it has leaked out that Miss Eleanor Warrender has, by her generosity and in conjunction with the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, agreed to fulfil a long-felt want by providing the site."

The Foundation Ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Canon Moyes D.D. from Westminster Cathedral, accompanied by ten other clergy, mostly local, and assisted by servers and sisters from St.Vincent's. Miss Warrender subsequently gave a reception for the clergy.

Eleanor Warrender

High Grove⁽⁵⁾ was originally called Hale End and was occupied by the Hale family when a Customal of the Manor was made in 1248. They were still in occupation in 1565, when they are mentioned in a Terrier of Ruislip. Not until 1761 was part of their land absorbed into the High Grove estate. It changed hands several times during the next 74 years until occupied by Lt.General Sir Joseph Fuller. His daughter and heiress died without issue in 1886, leaving the property to her husband, Sir Hugh Hume-Campbell. Upon his death in 1894, the estate was directed to be sold and divided among his grandchildren, children of his daughter by his first wife. Miss Eleanor Warrender was one of these grandchildren and eventually she, her sister Alice, and at least one brother, made High Grove their home.

There must have been some uncertainty about this as the Parish Magazine of St.Martins for 1894 records: (6)

- April 1894 - High Grove estate advertised to be sold by auction.
- June 1894 - High Grove estate to be let furnished, having been withdrawn from sale.
- July 1894 - High Grove estate to remain in the hands of Sir Hugh Hume-Campbell's successors.

Eleanor Warrender served with the French Red Cross throughout the First World War, coming home on leave like the soldiers. (7) She qualified as a nurse in France before 1914, because she was over the age for nurses in England. On 6th August 1915, she received the Croix de Guerre (1st Class) from General Hely d'Oiseul.

Having become a Catholic, she devoted much time and money to establishing the church in Ruislip, the one whose anniversary we celebrate this year.

The 1921 Church

During the first 30 years of this century, King's College sold off parcels of land in Ruislip, to such bodies as the Metropolitan Railway and to builders and speculators. Miss Warrender purchased a piece fronting onto the High St., which had originally been part of Hook Lane Piece in Church Field, in the days when all the land between Eastcote Road and South Ruislip had been open arable fields, divided into shotts. Brickwall Lane was called Hook Lane until the 19th Century and indeed the hook-like bend is still clearly to be seen.

She bought the land, built the Presbytery and provided enough land to build onto the church if required. She further sold a good deal of her jewellery to provide the church plate and held at least one garden fete and sale in the grounds of High Grove to raise money to furnish the church. The bell which she gave had been brought from abroad by Mr. Hugh Warrender. Although other members of the Warrender family never became Catholics, it is obvious that they assisted their sister in her efforts.

It was her wish that the first Parish Priest, Fr. Austin Oates should remain at Ruislip during his lifetime.

The Church of the Most Sacred Heart, which seated 100, was opened and blessed by Fr. Oates on Sunday 25th September 1921 and the first post-reformation Mass was celebrated. Six years later it was consecrated, on 18th July, 1927, by Bishop Butt, auxiliary of Westminster. After the ceremony Miss Warrender was presented with the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, granted her at the petition of Fr. Oates, and by the favour of the Cardinal, by his Holiness the Pope.

A small wooden hall was attached to the church and a sister from St. Vincents started a small massage clinic there, forerunner of the clinic now in South Drive.

In 1933, when Ruislip was rapidly extending as the area around Ruislip Manor Station was developed, a curate Fr. G. Eldridge was appointed. Sisters from St. Vincents also helped with parish work. The Children of Mary and Guild of St. Agnes was started and a baby clinic held in the church hall to keep the young mothers together.

Monsignor Sutton

Fr. Sutton was appointed Parish Priest in 1933 and as Ruislip continued to grow particularly southwards and eastwards, Fr. Canham came as curate, in 1936. The church became uncomfortably small for the enlarging numbers of parishoners and land values, particularly in the middle of an increasingly busy shopping centre, rocketed. Burtons the Tailors made so substantial an offer for the site of the church in the High Street that it was possible to demolish the old church, buy a new site in Pembroke Road, build the new church there, and still have enough left to partially pay off the debt on the Sacred Heart School, built in 1937.

The decision to de-sanctify consecrated ground could not be taken lightly and Cardinal Hinsley sought permission from Rome. The Pope advised that the parish should be provided with the church necessary to its size.

It was a lasting sorrow to Miss Warrender when the High Street church was demolished. The site is now occupied by both Burtons and Lyttons. The latter already had a small shop on the High Street but were pleased to be able to extend into larger premises. Their original plans, which were turned down, were for a shop with a restaurant and dance hall above. Modified plans were later accepted by the council.

The Present Church

So it came about that the foundation stone of the present church was laid by Cardinal Hinsley in March 1939. The foundation stone beneath the ambo now used as a pulpit speaks of the munificence of "the holy lady Eleanor Warrender".

The church was opened, and having no debt, consecrated on the same day, 15th June 1939 by Bishop Myers, Auxiliary of Westminster. The "Advertiser and Gazette" described the building in glowing terms, speaking of its "simple beauty" and "cathedral-like acoustics". The Bishop spoke of it as Monsignor Sutton's "dream church".

The site on Pembroke Road included a house which was turned into the presbytery and linked to the church by a passage. No other earlier building had stood upon the site. It lay within the Shott called Marl Pit Gate Piece, in Marl Pit Field, which had stretched from Brickwall Lane to the Yeading Brook (half way down Victoria Road).

The statues of The Sacred Heart, Our Lady and St. Joseph were brought from the old church. The Lady statue has only recently been replaced and the original is now in the Sacred Heart School. The Calvary, which was so prominent a feature of the High Street church, was fixed to the wall on the garden side of the new one.

Hugh Warrender's bell was taken from the old belfry and hung upon the chimney at the back of the present church. The Council then stepped in and said that there was a bye-law forbidding the ringing of new bells in the area. After some argument it was conceded that the bell was not new and had been rung regularly for some years, and could continue to be rung. But the electric mechanism for doing this frequently failed and, in fact, the bell has scarcely ever been rung in the present church.

Under Monsignor Sutton⁽⁸⁾, Chapels of Ease, or at least Mass centres, were established at Harefield, Eastcote and South Ruislip; all being served by the Ruislip Parish Priest and curates. By 1941, five priests, Monsignor Sutton, Fr.T.Daniel, Fr.G.Groves, Fr.C.MacLean and Fr.A.Wells, all lived in the presbytery. Mass was first said at Eastcote in the house belonging to the Grail, formerly Field End House Farm, in 1937. A little earlier Mass had been said at Harefield, in the Hospital Chapel which was shared by the Anglicans and Catholics. At South Ruislip, Mass was said in the lounge of the Deane Arms, every Sunday. This was intended to be a temporary measure for six months, but the Second World War intervened and the custom continued for seven years. For a short time Mass was said in the British Legion Hut at Ickenham, but the loss of one of the curates made its continuation an impossibility.

The Hesdin Hall built in 1964 was the last work of Monsignor Sutton and its first public use was on the occasion of his funeral.

Fr.P.Geraerts is only the third Parish Priest in Ruislip in fifty years, and has continued to develop the School and extend the Hesdin Hall.

EILEEN BOWLT

- References:
1. L.E.Morris "A History of Ruislip".
 2. "An extent of Manors belonging to Alien Priories" 1293-4 British Museum.
 3. Letter from Provost William Smyth of King's College to his Bailiff.
 4. Lease - among archives of St.George's Chapel, Windsor.
 5. Much of the information on High Grove and the Warrender family is taken from an article by Sir Christopher Cowan in the Bulletin of the Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society, June 1970.
 6. Information gleaned from St.Martin's Parish Magazine, by Mr.R.G.Edwards.
 7. Information from Mrs. V.Lyon, niece of Miss Warrender.
 8. Information from Fr.T.Daniel.

SOME NOTES ON EARLY PORCELAIN

by Aline Tenison-Collins

The first porcelain to be made was Chinese and this very fine material was brought to Europe by travellers, where it was very much admired and sought after. At first the Europeans could not discover the secret of porcelain and copied it, as best they could, by tin-glazing earthenware and painting on the white surface this provided.

True porcelain is a mixture of Kaolin and petunse fired at a very high temperature and is translucent when held up to the light. Pottery or earthenware is special clay fired in a kiln, but as the result is a reddish-brown material has to be covered with a tin glaze to give a white surface for decoration.

Many Europeans were trying to discover how to make porcelain and in the early 18th Century Augustus the Strong, Elector of Saxony, employed a chemist called Johann Friedrich Bottger to find the secret. In March 1709 he was able to report to the King that he had found 'a material of many colours which surpasses the hardness of porphyry and is

something entirely new in the world, as much on account of its brilliant polish as also for its everlasting durability'. This is now known as 'Böttgers Stoneware' and is a beautifully hard and polished material of terra-cotta colour. The objects made from it were taken from the silver shapes and not from Chinese porcelain.

In 1710 Augustus the Strong established the Meissen Porcelain Factory as a result of the secret discovery of 'porcelain in the Chinese Manner' by Böttger who had now found how to make hard-paste porcelain, but it was not until after 1720 when Johann Gregor Herold was appointed to take charge of the painting that a range of enamels to equal the Chinese, although of different tones, was discovered.

Johann Joachim Kaendler was chief modeller of the Meissen Factory from 1731 to 1775 and was the first great master of this kind of porcelain art. The figures and groups were originally meant for table decoration to replace the earlier ones made of wax or sugar.

For forty years from its start in 1710 Meissen kept its secrets and its only rival was the Vienna Factory which started through a leakage in 1718. There were further leakages after 1750 and more factories were started. One such was at Nymphenburg, started by Elector Max III Joseph of Bavaria, which owes its fame to the special gifts of its chief Modeller Franz Anton Bustelli from 1754 till his death in 1762. He created a graceful spiral movement which makes the figures effective from all points of view.

When the Meissen Factory was occupied by Prussian Troops during the Seven Years War, it lost its lead and never wholly recovered. The Royal Sevres Factory in France, which was state-owned, then took the lead. It was particularly famous for its beautiful coloured grounds, which although started at Meissen, never reached the standard of the Meissen examples.

ENGLISH FACTORIES

One of the earliest English factories to start was at Bow and called itself New Canton. This factory did not produce very sophisticated products but was one of the earliest to use bone-ash in the paste. There is a record of a factory at Bow in Defoes 'Tour of Great Britain' 1748....'the first village we came to is Bow where a large manufactory of porcelain is lately set up. They have already made large quantities of tea-cups, saucers etc. which by some skilful persons are said to be little inferior to those which are brought from China...'

After 1760 the Bow pieces became far more flamboyant, as did the taste of the time, the groups had bocage (flowering hedge) backgrounds and were raised on scroll feet. These pieces were sometimes marked with an anchor and dagger and were not as heavy as the earlier pieces. In 1776 the business was bought by Mr. Duesbury of Derby.

The most famous English factory is probably Chelsea, which was started in 1745 by Nicholas Sprimont, a Huguenot silversmith. His products were always of the best quality and expensive. They had a French sophistication about them and many of the wares were modelled from his silver patterns. The Chelsea paste when held

up to the light shows 'moons' and the enamel colours sink into glaze rather than sit on top of it as happens with Meissen pieces.

After 1756 Chelsea turned to Sevres for its inspiration, then the leading factory, and the famous and elaborate gold-anchor period started.

Early in 1769, the proprietors held an auction of their stock 'having recently left off making the same' and the works and stocks were bought by James Cox, but sold again to William Duesbury of the Derby Factory the following year, who used the place mainly as a decorating establishment.

The early history of the Derby Factory is very vague, but the start of the 'Crown Derby' factory can be said to be in 1756 when William Duesbury and John Heath built their factory on the Nottingham Road and traded as W.Duesbury & Co. Their early pieces are seldom marked but the figures can often be identified by three unglazed patches on the base where there have been pads to support them in the firing.

In 1770 William Duesbury bought the Chelsea factory and from then until 1782 it is known as the Chelsea-Derby Factory. William Duesbury died in 1786 and was succeeded by his son, also William, who carried on the factory until 1810. He used the crossed swords and crown mark, first in puce and then in red. In 1810 the factory was sold to Robert Bloor, who was not very successful, and the firm declined until its closure in 1848. A group of former workmen then started up their own factory in King Street and this factory continued to make the traditional patterns and figures until 1935.

In 1878 a new company was formed and started production at the factory in Osmaston Road. In 1890 this new company was appointed 'Manufacturers of Porcelain to Her Majesty' and from then on has been known as 'Royal Crown Derby'.

The other important English Factory which is still in existence is, of course, Worcester. The first record of Porcelain in Worcester is in the Partnership Deeds of the 'Worcester Tonquin Manufacture' dated 4th June 1751 between Dr. John Wall and William Davis, and the first record of porcelain being sold in Worcester is in 1752. It is very probable that this new factory took over the Lund's Bristol Factory of soft-paste porcelain. The Worcester paste is green when held up to the light and the glaze does not usually reach to the edge.

Worcester decorated many of its wares with coloured grounds, like Sevres, and also with the very popular scale-grounds.

In 1783 Dr. Wall sold the concern to his London Agent, Thomas Flight who bought it for his sons. The well-known crescent mark was continued but smaller. After a visit by George III and Queen Charlotte in 1788 a crown was added and the business known as The Royal Worcester Porcelain Company.

When John Flight died in 1791, his brother took Martin Barr into partnership and the two families ran the business until 1840 when it combined with Chamberlain's factory and the new business traded as Chamberlain and Company. Chamberlain was succeeded by Kerr and Binns in 1852 and the present 'Royal Worcester Company' was formed in 1862.

Hard-paste Porcelain is made from a mixture of china-clay (Kaolin) and china rock (Petunse) and is glazed with a preparation of petunse, and the body and the glaze are fired at a high temperature usually in one operation. The hard paste porcelain is resistant to a file.

In simple terms, English soft-paste or artificial porcelain was originally ground glass stiffened with white clay to give the mixture stability. It can be marked by a file. It must be fired in an unglazed state and then at a lower temperature for the glaze and successively lower ones to fix the overglaze enamel decoration. This was improved from time to time by the addition of soap-rock, bone ash and feldspar. (Worcester, Bow and Spode and Coalport).

Soon after 1790 Spode introduced a refined bone china body, capable of being thinly turned or moulded and formed an admirable ground for decoration. This soon became standard amongst the leading manufacturers and remains so down to the present day.

FRIENDS OF SAINT MARTIN'S

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 1972

Welcome....

The response to our idea to form "The Friends of St. Martin's has been marvellous. May we thank you for your support and interest in our ancient Parish Church. It is gratifying to know that in this modern age people are still concerned in the preservation of old buildings.

May we invite you....

On Tuesday 21st March....

to a Coffee evening in the Church Hall at 8.00 p.m.

It is hoped to show you some interesting documents belonging to St. Martin's and to tell you about our proposed Restoration programme.

On Monday 24th April.....

to a tour of the Church at 8.00 p.m. to show you some of the work needed to be done. Coffee will be available in the Church Hall afterwards.

Please keep these dates free - we will be there to welcome you and your friends.

"Mr. (later Sir) Gilbert Scott, the famous Victorian architect undertook some restoration of the church in 1869/70. His schedule of work to be done is among the documents we hope to show you at the Coffee Evening. It is the disintegration of some of his work that is among our problems now - no criticism of him is intended - after all 100 years is quite a long time

for plastering, rendering, etc. to endure the rains and frosts of the Ruislip climate. Good building stone was difficult and costly to transport to Middlesex and use had to be made of rather soft stone from Reigate, Surrey. Further restoration was carried out in the 1890's, 1920's, 1950's and 1960's, (including the costly work on the Tower and Aisle roofs).

The responsibility for the upkeep of the Chancel is that of the Church Commissioners and we are most grateful for the work carried out in recent years. Before the 19th Century the Chancel was looked after by the Patrons of the Living - The Dean and Canons of St. George's Chapel, Windsor."

Now for the present:-

It was necessary to have the following work carried out as quickly as possible.

1. Main water pipes to be overhauled.
2. The complete reinstatement of the Lady Chapel window.
3. Overhaul of the roof tiling.
4. Repairs to the buttresses.
5. Repairs to the East End of the Nave.
6. Replace Wire Guards to all windows.

Items 3 and 5 were not too expensive and so in June 1971 the 'go ahead' was given for them to be completed. The total cost was £150.

In July 1971 it was decided to proceed with the repair work to the buttresses - particularly the tablings, the work was extensive as it was important to ensure that water did not penetrate through the tablings. New stone was needed and the cost involved was:-

4 buttresses at over £200 each	
3 buttresses at	£100 each
and 4 buttresses at	£ 50 each

The buttresses on the North side were in a very bad state of repair and cost over £1200. The total cost was £1579. The contractor very kindly repointed some of the upper stages of the flint work at no extra cost to the Parish.

In November 1971 work started on the Lady Chapel Window. Profiles of the window were cut in zinc and the mouldings were agreed by our Architect.

This work was a little difficult because of the extreme deterioration of the stone and the extensive repair carried out in the Victorian time in Roman Cement and so some assumptions had to be made.

The window was taken out and the stained glass returned to the studio and entirely re-lead, broken glass was replaced. The glass was then thoroughly cleaned and copper ties fitted and refixed after the completion of the repairs by the stonemason.

The total cost for this work was £2055. It has been possible to carry out this work through the generosity of a parishioner who donated £2000 to the Restoration Fund.

Another parishioner has promised to help with item 6 - the replacing of Wire Guards.

Work will commence shortly on the West Window in the North Aisle through the donation of £500 to the Restoration Fund by another parishioner.

These donations are a great help towards the enormous sum that is needed to restore our Parish Church.

It is hoped that the "Friends of St. Martin's" will be able to raise enough money each year so that the Restoration work may continue.
