

Journal  
April 1982

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD  
AND EASTCOTE  
Local History  
Society

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JOURNAL OF THE RUISLIP NORTHWOOD AND  
EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
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APRIL 1982  
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This year has seen several important changes in the Society and the communities whose main events it seeks to record.

There have been some changes in the Committee. We learned with great sadness of the death of David Tottman in July; an appreciation of him is included later in this journal. Katie Clark decided to relinquish the post of Minutes Secretary in order to concentrate on moving house. We are grateful to her for her devotion and efficiency.

We are glad that Robert Humphreys is now much better after his operation but sorry that he can no longer continue as Outings Secretary. We extend our best wishes and record our sincere appreciation to him for all the enjoyable outings he has organised and which have stimulated the interests of so many members.

For the time being Elizabeth and Len Krause have added the Summer Outings programme to their responsibilities as Secretary and Chairman respectively, and it is only right that this Journal should record the Society's appreciation for the many hours' hard work which they devote to making our meetings so successful.

This year also sees the end of something which has become akin to an institution and certainly something which has contributed a great deal to the interest and enjoyment of local history by the residents of the area. From next autumn Eileen Bowlit will switch the focus of her popular W.E.A. classes from Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote to the parish of Ickenham.

During the six years which Eileen has devoted to researching and making more widely known the history of our area from Domesday to the present day, much valuable material has been added to the common fund of knowledge about this area. It is proposed that the impetus of this work should be continued through the setting up of a research group under Eileen's expert guidance.

One threatened change deserves comment by the Society and the continued positive involvement of our members. Concern is growing over the fate of the 100 years old St. Martin's vicarage and the surrounding land, where records show there has been an ecclesiastical dwelling since the fourteenth century.

Approaches to the Church authorities have so far failed to clarify their intentions, but fears have been expressed that they plan to demolish this interesting old building and to sell the site, which forms part of the conservation area, for housing development. A decision along these lines is influenced, it is thought, by the house having been allowed to fall into disrepair, and by the desire to purchase a more modern vicarage nearer to the church.

While it is sad that such a long association with the Bury Street location should now be broken, the expediency of such a move remains a matter for the Parish and the Diocese. What these authorities should bear in mind, however, is the amenity value of the vicarage and its grounds to the community as a whole.

Not only would we deprecate the loss of the vicarage building, but housing crammed onto this historic patch of green overlooking the Pinn and King's Gardens would destroy yet another feature which distinguishes the village of Ruislip from just any other suburb.

Besides determined local opposition, prospective housebuilders could face several practical problems. The cottage in the vicarage grounds is a Grade II building on the national list, and in theory should not be marred by adjacent modern developments. And if such development did take place, access for more two-car homes could bring chaos to this already dangerous stretch of Bury Street.

Conservationists and historians are often accused of carping without suggesting

any kind of compromise, but we believe there is a solution which could retain the general character of the area, without entailing too great a sacrifice or profit.

We propose the renovation of the old house, its conversion into flats, and the landscaping of the grounds - the kind of responsible scheme which earned the Parish so much praise for its treatment of the Church Houses.

We hope that something along these lines may be considered. Meanwhile, we are pleased to report that the Society has obtained Church agreement to an archaeological excavation across part of the Victorian vicarage garden, to examine what might remain of its Tudor, and perhaps even medieval, predecessors beside the River Pinn.

We hope very much that you enjoy this year's selection of reports, articles and research. The Editor would like to extend the Society's thanks to everyone who has contributed to the 1982 edition of the Journal. As usual we can look forward to a varied programme which we are sure will help members and their friends enjoy a deeper appreciation of the history of our surroundings.

This year's assemblage of ancient texts has been skilfully engrossed in printed form by Mrs. Jan Rixon, to whom many thanks.

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#### C O M M I T T E E    1981 - 1982

<u>Chairman</u>	:	Mr. L. Krause.
<u>Vice Chairman &amp; Programme Secretary</u>	:	Dr. C. Cox.
<u>Secretary</u>	:	Mrs. E. Krause
<u>Treasurer</u>	:	Mr. J. Phillips.
<u>Editor</u>	:	Mrs. C. Cartwright.
<u>Minutes Secretary</u>	:	Mr. R.J.H. Lightning.
<u>Members</u>	:	Mr. R. Bedford (Ruislip Conservation Panel); Mrs. E. Bowlt; Mrs. V.J.E. Cowley; Mr. R.G. Humphreys; Mrs. J. Mitchell (Eastcote Conservation Panel).



## SUMMER VISITS 1981

### VISIT TO ETON COLLEGE : 25th April

On Saturday, 25th April, a party of 60 or so visited the ancient institution of Eton College. Whilst we were waiting to commence our tour, our observation of boys dressed in their morning suits reminded us that we were visiting a living institution that has had a continuous history since its foundation in 1440 by Henry VI.

On passing through the main entrance one is confronted with the quadrangle or school yard in the centre of which is a statue of Henry VI dating from 1719. For a moment the 20th century was left behind. Lupton's Tower on the opposite side of the quadrangle and the chapel on the right were also visible reminders of the original school, although many changes have been made over the years; the clock does not strike now during the period from 10.30 p.m. to 7.30 a.m. so as not to disturb the boys; the walls of the chapel are well buttressed to combat the ravages of time; and the cobbled yard, which was grassed until 1709, is kept weed free by boys as a punishment for minor offences.

The medieval origins of the school are reflected in the cloisters and in the Lower School with its ancient wooden desks. One can imagine the primitive conditions the 70 poor scholars, who lived in the room above the Lower School, had to endure.

It is evident that the school has changed radically during the 500 years of its history to meet the corresponding changes in society; but the 70 King's scholars now forming a small minority of the school population, still live in the college, while the 'Oppidans' live in the town. Perhaps a more balanced proportion of scholars to fee paying pupils would be more in keeping with the wishes of the founder.

Busts of important political figures line the walls of the Upper School, which was built in 1665, reminding us of the school's contribution to our national history.

The continuity of Eton's history is felt most in the chapel. It is here that scholars and masters have worshipped since medieval times and where old Etonians who laid down their lives in the two World Wars are commemorated. The continuity of worship is reflected in the glories of the chapel's furnishings and paintings, ranging from the fine medieval wall paintings to the John Piper windows depicting the miracles and parables of Jesus.

On leaving the old buildings, the King of Siam's garden, created in 1929, was pointed out to us. The main feature, a statue of Perseus holding Medusa's head, seemed strangely out of keeping with what we had previously seen.

Only a short distance from here the Eton wall game is played, one of the goal posts being a dead elm. On this dull and chilly day most of us did not venture further, but we could see the figures of boys clad in cricket gear flitting too and fro in the distance. - R.H. LIGHTNING.

### VISIT TO R.A.F. UXBRIDGE OPERATIONS ROOM : 16th May

It was 1915 when a camp was first set up on the site of the present R.A.F. Uxbridge, comprising the house and land previously known as Hillingdon House and estate. Originally it was intended as a POW camp but the local population objected; so it became a convalescent camp for wounded Canadian Servicemen. The Station was later handed over to the Royal Flying Corps as an Air Gunnery School; some of the ranges are still in existence. However the hospital section continued until 1973, by which time it was not only caring for Service personnel but also helping civilian

cancer patients. Prior to the 1950's the station was known as RAF Hillingdon. Its prime function now is as a base for the Queen's Colour Squadron and the Central Band.

In the late 1930's Britain's Air Force was fast being outweighed by that of Germany. To help improve the position, Air Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding established a control structure within Fighter Command. The H.Q. was at Stanmore, with the four regional Groups each divided into Sectors. Operational control was exercised through the Ops. Rooms located at Command and Group H.Q. and at Sector airfields. In 1939 the first of the regional Groups to be established was No. 11 with H.Q. at Uxbridge. Its function was the defence of London and the Southern and South East zones of England.

The underground Ops. Room is in the eastern part of the camp and appears on the surface as nothing more than a small low hut, but once inside the door one is confronted by a long flight of steps descending down into the earth flanked by many cables and pipes for power and communications. Once down the 70-80 feet a corridor leads into the Ops. Room. The purpose of the room was to act as a nerve centre through which information was fed, evaluated and acted upon. Inside the room is a 1975 reconstruction of what the room is thought to have looked like at 1130 hours on September 15th 1940. It proved difficult to recreate it exactly as there were many changes throughout the war and later; and also because of lack of accurate information. The map on the table is of the original size and design. It shows the S.E. of England, the Channel and Northern Coast of France. The S.E. of England is divided from the rest of the country by a black line, showing the area which came under the control of No. 11 Group's Ops. Room at Uxbridge. To the west was 10 Group and the North, 12 Group. Each Group's subdivisional Sector areas had one or more airfields - marked by red circles with black spots. The Observer Corp areas were marked by green lines and Area Control Centres by green triangles.

On the map table were a number of 'plots' over the Channel, which were shown as a wooden block with a letter and numbers stuck on them. 'H' meaning hostile, with the number beside it being the Raid Number. Underneath the letter was the number of observed aircraft. Further information such as height etc. was recorded against the Raid Number on a blackboard in the left corner of the room. Other 'plots' over the land represented the defending aircraft, carrying the Squadron Number, with the number of the aircraft, and also the height. 15-25 'Plotting' personnel stood at the table moving the markers with long wooden plotting rods. Later metal holders were used, with magnetic sticks. To know what aircraft he had at his disposal the Controller referred to the 'Totaliser' on the back wall, which consisted of the names of the Sector airfields across the top, and under each a column for every Squadron flying from that airfield. In that column was a list of fourteen states which that Squadron could be in, from, for example 'released', to 'standby', 'airborne', through to 'landed' and 'refuelling'. Every state had four lights under it, each light representing three aircraft. On each column also was a white, blue, yellow and red strip, all with a bulb, which when lit up would represent the quarters of the clock; therefore indicating how up to date was the information. On a blackboard at the base was chalked up the numbers of pilots and aircraft available. On the right side of this wall was shown the state of weather at the Sector airfields and at some satellite airfields. Underneath the name of the airfield was a coloured disc representing the visibility, for quick reference. More information was chalked underneath. A lower column showed the height of cloud from 250ft. to plus 30,000ft., with a number on its left showing the density at that height.

Facing the map and totaliser was a 3ft. raised platform, with four desks. At the two end ones clerks recorded information from their respective halves of the 'tote board' and map. As this job became more complex the dais was built to house more clerks. Apart from the Shift Supervisor (Senior NCO) also on the dais was an Observer Corp. Clerk who kept in touch with the various Observer Corp. posts in the Group.

Above and behind the dais are three sound-proofed cabins. In the central

one sat the Chief Controller, who made the decisions; the right one housed the Intelligence Officer and Clerk. In the left cabin was the Army team in charge of anti-aircraft, searchlights and sound location.

The observation rooms, which still have the original glass 'goldfish bowl' shape, now house a museum of memorabilia and relics relating to the Battle of Britain. These range from a selection of gas masks, magazines, posters, to models of aircraft made out of crashed planes. Particularly interesting are the photographs of the Ops. Room and maps of the progress of the raids. The Service personnel who now voluntarily caretake the Ops. Room are anxious to receive more war relics and would be glad of any donations or loan of items.

The whole underground complex which housed 60-70 people is connected by message chutes and had its own power supply and airconditioning. To this day it creates a feeling of lonely isolation and indeed one hopes that it remains as a memorial to those glorious, yet tragic days, and is never called upon again to be brought into operational use, in anger. - JACKIE & TERRY FOOTE.

#### GUIDED TOUR OF MEDIEVAL TIMBERED BUILDINGS, BEDFORDSHIRE : 6th June

A full itinerary had been arranged for this tour and our guides were John Bailey and Alan Cartwright, members of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Society.

Our first stop was Willington, a small village where, in 1529, John Gostwick became Lord of the Manor. As he rose in the service of Henry VIII, he was able to indulge in some spectacular building. Little remains of his manor house, but we were able to see two of the farm buildings, the stables and the dovecote, now in the care of the National Trust. Both are built of stone, (probably acquired at the time of the Dissolution of Newnham Priory), and are on the scale of small churches. The dovecote, with 15,000 nesting boxes, is described as "the most magnificent of its kind". We were also able to see John Gostwick's tomb in the church, which he had a hand in re-building.

We moved on to Elstow, which was once a significant medieval town, and which still contains a remarkable number of medieval timber-framed buildings. It was also the birth-place of John Bunyan, and a museum illustrating his life and times is housed in the Moot Hall. This is a beautiful timber-framed market house of the late 15th or early 16th century. The ground floor was originally divided into six shops, whilst the upper storey consisted of a long hall, used as a meeting place for Elstow manor court.

Across the village green from the Moot Hall, lies Elstow Abbey, the remains of what was once a far larger monastic church of the 13th century. The separate bell-tower is a particularly striking feature of the abbey, and the ruins of Hillersdon Manor also stand nearby.

Our visit ended at Bunyan's Mead, a row of medieval cottages, which have recently been restored, and turned into flats for the elderly. These buildings were owned for many years by the Whitbread estate, and because very little renovation was done, many of the original features remain. It was pleasing to see such beautiful old buildings serving a useful purpose in the twentieth century. - SHEILA JONES OWEN.

#### PINNER WALK : 1st July

Like Ruislip, the historic village of Pinner was the centre of several small settlements linked by ancient lanes dating from Tudor times. These converged to form the streets of the main centre, the open fields stretching away to the South.

At the bottom of the High Street lay Pinner Marsh, a boggy area still marked by a small open space between the Pinn and the railway, and it was here that some



30 members met to be taken on a walking tour of the village by Mr. Philip Snell and Mrs. Pat Clarke from the Pinner Local History Society. And a fascinating evening it turned out to be, commencing with a perspective on the wide medieval High Street which has for centuries past provided the setting for an annual fair marking the feast of St. John The Baptist.

Pinner High Street reflects the constantly changing fabric of village life, with buildings representing every century from the 16th century Victory inn to an intimate 20th century precinct. The High Street is lined with shops and houses with barns to the rear and extensions to the side, with archways and alleyways, restaurants and taverns.

At the top end of the street we saw some of the ancient shops, a pharmacy still in use, a butcher with slaughterhouse attached which operated still into this century. There was Sir Ernest George's Haywood House, built originally as Victorian temperance rooms. And the church, with its churchyard raised by centuries of interments.

We branched off alongside the church and our guides pointed out several Georgian and Victorian facades which hide ancient timbered structures, both humble and on a grander scale. Then we found ourselves at Tooks Green, or more properly Nower Green, a satellite settlement which demonstrated how dangerous were the 1930's and 1950's for the more historic houses of Pinner.

We followed Park Lane to look out over the medieval deer park which stretches still down towards Harrow Weald. Enclosed originally in 1545 for the Archbishop of Canterbury, then the Lord of Harrow Manor, short stretches of the double hedge are still visible.

But it was not all quite as old as that. Our route next took us past The Fives Court, a splendid Edwardian villa built in 1905 for the Heal family of furnishing fame and past White House Cottage, home of novelist Howard Spring.

We followed our guides to East End Lane to see perhaps the oldest surviving inhabited house in Pinner - the cottage at East End Farm, which dates in part from 1450. A tall house with cross wings, it shows 15th, 16th and 17th century modernisations. East End was the centre of a working farm complex until Pinner was swallowed by suburbia in the 1930's.

Then we turned back down Paines Lane past the cemetery with its grave of Lord Nelson's daughter Horatia Hamilton Wald, the striking Edwardian United Free Church, and so back to the High Street via Church Farm House, another tall house of 15th or 16th century date, farmed until 1906 by the Hill family whose land stretched away towards Rayners Lane.

Elm Park Road, now the main shopping thoroughfare of Pinner was developed in the 19th century, led us up towards the Victorian Police Station and the Oddfellows and Unity Place, the oldest artisan cottages in the parish. Around this area too, a variety of ancient buildings with chequered history like Orchard Cottage - formerly a barn, then three tiny cottages, and now in single occupation.

- M. CARTWRIGHT.

#### VISIT TO LAVENHAM AND STOWMARKET : 18th July

The day was sunny, although cool for July, when we made a prompt 9 a.m. start on our journey to Lavenham and Stowmarket.

After a short stop near Abington, we were soon passing through the south-west corner of Suffolk enjoying the sight at Duxford of a prototype of Concorde, followed by the attractive timber-framed buildings in the villages of Clare, and the thatched cottages of Cavendish. Mr. John Narracott, who had lived in Suffolk

for many years, provided us during the journey with interesting anecdotes of the places we passed through, thus adding to our enjoyment.

About 12 noon we arrived outside the beautiful church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Lavenham, built between 1485-1530. The exterior is very impressive; so too is the interior, built in perpendicular style and of cathedral-like proportions. After a short interesting talk on the history of the church, we were free to wander around to discover and admire for ourselves the incredibly rich carvings of wood and stone, both inside and outside.

After lunch we were able to stroll around the village and admire the wealth of medieval houses, virtually unchanged since they were built. Some were leaning at unbelievable angles.

The beautifully mellowed, half-timbered Guildhall (built about 1528) which dominates the market-place was our next rendezvous, and we learnt that originally it was the Town Hall but through the years it had served many purposes; at some time a prison, a workhouse and, more latterly, a British Restaurant! It is currently used for public meetings and social activities, while the upper floors house a fascinating collection of local historical items. There was much to see but, alas, time ran out and we had a schedule to keep to, but many of us resolved to return another day.

The Museum of East Anglian life at Stowmarket is well laid out and provided us with two hours of pleasure wandering among artefacts of the past, from carts, carriages and caravans to a typical smithy, a water wheel, a village school, and a fascinating display of Victorian/Edwardian household articles many of which were remembered (by some of us) as having been seen in our grandparents' houses.

Thanks were expressed to Robert Humphreys (who unfortunately was unable to be with us) for providing such an entertaining programme, and to Laurie and Marjorie Benge for planning a very scenic route. Our thanks too, to Jean Mitchell who stepped in to "shepherd" us around and "count heads" so successfully during the day.

- KATIE CLARK.

#### GUIDED TOUR OF HAREFIELD : 9th August

A lovely hot sunny afternoon in August - that was how it should have been - instead about 30 members met on a chilly dull afternoon on the Green at Harefield for our walk-about.

The Green was originally called Harefield Heath and covered over 100 acres on which in 1813 sheep and horses grazed.

We walked to Breakspear House passing on the way the old workhouse built in 1782 (the inmates being required to wear a large "P" on their arms) 5 ponds and several large farms, including Knightcote Farm now under the jurisdiction of the G.L.C. In 1699 the population of Harefield was about 500.

Breakspear House is in a wonderful setting amongst trees and sloping lawns. It has some interesting coloured glass windows and was built about 1600. Today it is a home for elderly folk.

The Dovecote standing behind the house was very interesting; the old bells are still to be seen in the small tower and probably there was a clock in this at one time.

Walking back along the drive there was a plaque commemorating the fact that Capt. A.R. Tarleton, the owner of Breakspear House, who donated the horse driven fire engine, had turned the first sod of the drive to the house at this point.

We climbed over a stile into a field where horses were grazing - over another stile and into the woods - rather damp after the awful downpour on the previous Thursday - and then we were skirting the wall of the churchyard.

St. Mary the Virgin is a beautiful Church set in the middle of lovely woods and fields: most serene inside with many interesting and elaborate memorials especially the monument to the Countess of Derby 1636, of marble and plaster work.

The Breakspear Chapel or Australian Chapel is a reminder that 100 men and women of the Australian Forces died at the hospital during the first world war and their graves are a lovingly tended part of the churchyard.

We climbed the hill and after a short walk passing the old Almshouses, arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ashby - no relation of the Ashbys of Harefield who are commemorated in the Church - where we were provided with a magnificent tea. Mr. and Mrs. Ashby have only been in the house for a couple of years but have already carried out major restoration of roof and damp courses etc. The house is over 200 years old, has walls 2 feet thick and heavy wooden shutters inside the windows.

Mrs. Ashby collects and displays costumes from former times and showed us part of her collection, including a Suffragette costume of 1912, a crinoline of 1850 and a bustle outfit of a slightly later date.

After tea we made our way back to the cars just before the rain came. We had had a splendid afternoon and learnt a lot about Harefield and we extend our thanks to our guide Mr. Tim Ashby, who was so patient and answered all our questions. - EVE PLYMEN.

#### CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM : 27th September

Almost a year to the day since our visit in 1980 saw twenty or so Society members and their friends back at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newland Park near Chalfont St. Giles - only this time it was not for a special open day, for this splendid venture is now regularly open to the public on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2.00 - 5.30 p.m., throughout the summer.

The work of reassembling groups of historic Chiltern buildings, rescued from the threat of "re-development", is gathering momentum on this picturesque area of totally wooded countryside. The medieval cruck-framed Arborfield barn, on which the thatcher was still working last year now only awaits its wattle and daub wall in-fills.

The Rossway Granary has its wooden cladding, the Iron Age House reconstruction is complete with a smoky central hearth, and the Didcot Cart Shed is now the Museum's workshop and store.

New work has commenced - the foundations for High Wycombe Toll House and for a Victorian farmstead. Many other buildings are stored awaiting the attention of The Chiltern Society's volunteers, and a new project has begun for the renovation of historic farm machinery which will lend authenticity to the country landscape.

This time most of us also took the opportunity to explore the Museum's intriguing nature trail, which proved most rewarding. Clearly, as the number of exhibits grows, this adventurous project will build into a really worthwhile record of life in bygone times among our neighbouring Chiltern Hills. - M. CARTWRIGHT.

#### A MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION : 20th June

The Walled Garden of Eastcote House is in the Eastcote Conservation area and is a Grade II listed site. It's walls are officially dated from the 17th and 18th centuries. The walls afforded protection from the weather and from straying animals. They enclosed both decorative and scented plants, and provided an area for growing



fruit and vegetables.

In 1978, when the brickwork had seriously deteriorated, restoration of the walls was submitted by The Eastcote Village Conservation Panel as a scheme for money from the Hillingdon Borough Lottery. £9000 was allocated and renovation was begun by a team of Council building apprentices in 1980.

It was to mark its completion that the Conservation Panel held a Midsummer Celebration on the 20th June 1981. The Mayor of Hillingdon who, as local ward Councillor, had shown particular interest in the scheme, re-opened the garden gateway to the public. Councillor Sullivan also planted a horse-chestnut, adding to the wide variety of species already listed in the 'Brief History & Tree Guide.'

The re-opening ceremony was followed by Morris dancing by the Whitethorn ladies' and the Herga men's teams from Harrow, and by a display of Tudor dancing by Eastcote School of Dance and Drama.

The eighteenth century Dovecote which adjoins the Garden is thought to replace an earlier structure, since records show the Hawtreys family obtained a licence in 1601. The building was open and well lit for the occasion, revealing the gallows-like potence against which a ladder could be propped to collect the eggs. Did this gruesome word, borrowed from the French, give rise to local rumours about stern measures which might be taken to protect the nesting birds?

Also on display in the tower-like building were two models showing development in the old Ruislip-Northwood Urban District from 1903 to 1953. Mislaid when Haydon Hall was demolished in 1968, the models had been re-discovered in the Great Barn some eleven years later and restored over almost a year by Mr. Lambert and Mr. Heasman.

Until the mid-1930s, Eastcote House was set in farmland. The partly sixteenth century Park Farm in Field End Road was probably the home farm for the estate. Great oaks still stand in St. Lawrence Drive, and trees lost have been replaced and augmented by others. Long Meadow, part of an open area once called Well Green, which was allotted to Eastcote House under the Enclosure Act of 1804, is now linked to the gardens by a bridge. The grounds also contain Sarsen stones and the circulating walk still partially exists, mainly on the north side.

The Eastcote Village Conservation Panel are to be congratulated on their continuing efforts to preserve this delightful amenity. Despite the demolition of Eastcote House in 1964, it still evokes so vividly the years when the Hawtreys were landowners and lessees of much of the area. With the replanting of herb beds in the Walled Garden it also calls to mind that earlier house called Hopkyttes, which Ralph Hawtreys from Chequers inherited about 1525, on his marriage to Winifred Walleston of Eastcote. - V.J.E. COWLEY.

#### LOCAL HISTORY COACH TRIP : 4th July

We left the Manor Farm area at 10.30 a.m. This has been the chief administrative centre for Ruislip from probably the Middle Ages and is now the community centre for Ruislip. The Tudor farmhouse is used for various meetings, the Great Barn for exhibitions, jumble sales and flower shows. The Little Barn was opened as a public library in 1937 with a modern extension added in 1963, for the children's library. Various outbuildings are used for youth activities and the rebuilt cow byre is another exhibition centre.

The coach took us along the High Street into Ickenham Road, past the site of Poplars tea garden. This was owned by the Weedon family and catered for cyclists and Sunday school parties in the twenties' and thirties' of this century. The next building of note was Sherley's Farm, a 17th century farmhouse now known as The Barn Motel. At the junction of West End Road and Wood Lane we passed the Station Masters House, built when the railways first came to Ruislip.

The coach continued along West End Road to Sharvell Lane, which forms the boundary for Ickenham Ruislip and Northolt. We left the coach and walked along to Downbarns Farm. The farm is said to be on the medieval site of Downbarns Manor and possibly was used as a camp in Roman times. We saw the moat which is fed by an underground spring.

The next part of the journey was through Northolt and Eastcote to the grounds of Eastcote House, where we saw the Dovecote and Walled Garden. Unfortunately Eastcote House owned by the Hawtrey family, was demolished in 1964, but the grounds are used as an 'open space' and are well tended by the Eastcote Preservation Society and the local council. We also went across Eastcote Road to the site of Haydon Hall. This was built for Lady Alice dowager Countess of Derby for her movable possessions. This house was demolished in 1968, but until then, there had been a house there from the 14th century. The Haydon Lodge is still in the grounds and it is interesting to note that this was built with Arches underneath the building for protection from flooding of the River Pinn. We saw the site of an ice well in the grounds. There are still quite a number of 16th century cottages and farm houses around this area, in Wiltshire Lane, Joel Street, Fore Street and Eastcote High Road,

After a picnic lunch, we made our way by coach to the Grange at Northwood. This house is part 15th century with more modern additions at one end, and is said to be the oldest inhabited building in Northwood.

From here we walked along to Holy Trinity Church, where we were fortunate to find that the annual flower festival was being celebrated. Sir Robert Burnet David Morier, Ambassador in Russia during the reign of Queen Victoria is buried in the churchyard. Inside the church, on a wall near the altar, is a piece of marble from the reredos of St. Pauls, London. The reredos was damaged by enemy action in 1940.

We boarded the coach once more and travelled past 'The Gate' Public House, along Ducks Hill Road to the 'Old Workhouse'. Mrs. Hobday, the present owner kindly allowed us to look around the garden and ground floor area of the house. After this back along Bury Street to the Manor Farm where we arrived about 4.15 p.m.

A very sincere 'thank you' to Mrs. Bowlt and Miss Hoare for a most enjoyable and interesting day. - M.K. BURTON.

#### Some Notes About Buildings Still in the Ruislip Northwood Area

The White House, Sharps Lane. - Mr. White the aviator lived here in 1910.

Northolt Airport - was once known as Hundred Acre Farm.

Glebe Farm & Priors Farm, West End Road. - Once owned by Lord Hillingdon.

Park Farmhouse in Field End Road. - Once known as Brick Place. Owned by Thomas Weatherley in 16th century, who paid tithe to Kings College in bricks.

Case is Altered, High Road Eastcote. - Was originally a farmhouse. Became a beer house in 1840. Has connections with the Bedford family whose descendants still live in Ruislip. The Eastcote Mummers used to practice in the forecourt of the beer house.

Southill Farmhouse in Southill Avenue. - was once part of a 55 acre farm.

Tudor Lodge in Field End Road. - Now a hotel, but was used as a hospital in the first World War.

The Gate Public House, Northwood. - So named because there was once a toll gate there. A farmer is said to have carried his horse through to avoid paying a toll.

The Six Bells Inn, Ducks Hill Road. - An inquest was held here on a farm lad who was murdered in the nearby woods. - M.K. BURTON.

LAMAS Local History Conference : 28th November

The London & Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) was founded in 1855 to promote research into the history and archaeology of the London region. The Society organises two major conferences each year on archaeology and local history respectively, the latter being the responsibility of the Local History Committee, formerly the Middlesex Local History Council.

The venue for the 1981 Local History Conference was the Museum of London where a wide range of exhibits had been assembled by the many affiliated groups. The Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote contribution being an interesting pictorial exhibit on the history and reconstruction of the almshouses at St. Martin's Church, Ruislip.

Three interesting lectures featured in the afternoon's programme. Mrs. B. Shearer, talking on the "History of the Population of London", gave an insight into how the 16th Century population continued to grow inspite of the problems presented by the plagues in 1563 and 1603, when deaths rose to 10,000 per year, and the great fire of 1666 in which 13,000 houses were destroyed. During these times infant mortality was 30% in first year of life. The speaker indicated how much information could be gleaned from such sources as the 1801 Population Census, 1664 Tax Assessment records and Parish Baptismal registers from 1538 onwards. It was said that parish baptismal records varied considerably in quality, but our local church of St. Giles, Ickenham, was noted for the fact that it is one of the few to have kept detailed records of godparents.

Trent Park, the present home of Middlesex Polytechnic, was the subject of a talk by Dr. S. Dore. The history of the building and the extravagant lifestyle of some of its occupants, notably Mr. Philip Sassoon in the 1920's, proved to be an interesting story.

Few can fail to have been intrigued by the "History of The Crystal Palace" recounted by Mr. K. Kiss. Designed by Joseph Paxton, Crystal Palace was erected in Hyde Park to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. It was later moved to Sydenham, where it was reopened by Queen Victoria accompanied by Prince Albert and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Lavish reconstructions of Egyptian, Spanish and German architecture were included in the building.

Over the years the Palace was to witness extravagant firework displays by the Brock's Firework Company, the 1911 Festival of the Empire, and concerts by a Handel Choir of 5000 voices. Ninety one million people were to visit Crystal Palace during its 82 year reign which was terminated by fire on the 30th November, 1936.

- JOHN PHILLIPS.

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE : 13th February

More than one hundred delegates, representing nearly thirty societies, classes, colleges and council departments, registered for this year's Local History Conference, held once again at Harrow College of Further Education, Hatch End.

The relevance to local interests of the Conference subject, "Market Towns", was illustrated with an audio visual presentation by the first speaker, Elizabeth Cooper, who traced the growth and importance of Uxbridge, Watford and St. Albans. The R.N.E.L.H.S. contribution to the series of displays complemented this item, featuring as it did the background to the development of Uxbridge and focusing on the town's ancient Market Hall.

The rest of the programme took a more general look at the development of market towns. Mr. John Clark, Senior Assistant Keeper in the Museum of London's Medieval Department traced the origins of market towns in the period after the Roman imperial system collapsed, and the Anglo Saxon Kings' attempts to control the profit from



the natural growth of centres of supply and trade.

He described the strategic as well as commercial functions associated with the new towns established by King Alfred and his successors, and highlighted the importance of documentary evidence which reflects the tight control by civic and regal authorities of the day-to-day business conducted in late medieval markets and fairs. He illustrated them from archeological, pictorial and documentary records the geography, lay-out and structure of these market buildings and stalls, as well as the goods and produce sold by merchants and craftsmen.

After lunch, Rosemary Weinstein, Tudor and Stuart Department Keeper at the Museum of London took up the story with a look at the physical structure of Tudor towns, their buildings, and the everyday life of the inhabitants which the markets served. This was a transitional period, and examples were given from the Market Towns of Tudor Essex and from Faversham in Kent - where there remains much to see that serves to illustrate the rich and complex structure of society in which our historic market towns played a crucial part. - MARTIN CARTWRIGHT.

#### CIVIC TRUST AWARD FOR COW BYRE

Ruislip's Cow Byre, on the Manor Farm complex, has been awarded a commendation by the Civic Trust in their 1981 awards, sponsored by the Midland Bank. The Cow Byre, formerly a grade II listed building, was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire. It was designed by Hillingdon's Director of Building Design and Construction.

The Civic Trust commended the way the Cow Byre was 'rebuilt from almost complete ruin in a pleasantly straightforward way' and has incorporated 'the best of modern design and detail within a traditional context'.

The Cow Byre has been in regular use this year and among the many exhibitions held there were two of particular interest, one was entitled 'Local Inns and Taverns' and to coincide with this a new pictorial sign for the 'George' was unveiled. The other was on Heraldry and organised by Mr. K. Hogan a member of this Society.

PROGRAMME OF SUMMER OUTINGS 1982

- Saturday : Coach outing to Chawton and Selborne visiting The Jane Austen  
22nd May and The Gilbert White and Oates Museum. Depart St. Martin's  
9.00 a.m. Approach.
- Saturday : Guided tour of South Bucks. visiting Historic Houses, Churches  
26th June and Archaeological Sites. Coach leaves St. Martin's Approach.  
8.30 a.m.
- Sunday : Visit to Dorney Court Nr. Eton, Bucks. A fine Tudor Manor  
12th September House and Church. Depart St. Martin's Approach.  
2.00 p.m.

Full details of these outings from the Secretary.

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RUISLIP JUBILEE DAY 1982

by L. KRAUSE

In 1982 we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Park Wood and Manor Farm. This major act of Conservation was the result of intense effort by dedicated members of the Residents Association and others to retain for posterity a priceless part of our heritage.

July 24th 1982 will be a day of commemoration which will reflect the enthusiasms and activities of Local Societies and Organisations with Music, Drama, the Visual Arts, Sports & Dancing. As a centre piece our Society is mounting exhibitions in the Great Barn & Cow Byre to illustrate the History & Natural History of Park Wood. This will be supported by a Shopping Week, Procession through the High Street and Fete for The Old Folks Association at Manor Farm.

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"A History of Ruislip." L.E. Morris

Price : £1.20  
=====

"Archeological Discoveries from  
Ruislip & Northwood". R.M. Derricourt  
(Occasional Paper No.1)

Price : £0.75  
=====

It was a great shock to hear of the sudden and premature death of David in July last and it was with feelings of sorrow and privilege that I accepted the invitation of the Editor to write a short article of appreciation of one who had been a friend, guide and supporter for so many years, both in Society and personal affairs.

David had been an original committee member of the Society since May 1964 and from 1971 to 1979 was Chairman. Although in 1979, due to pressure of outside and professional activities he felt unable to continue as Chairman, he still remained associated with committee activities by assuming the office of Registrar.

It would be difficult to exactly evaluate the work and time that David did and gave on behalf of the Society over these 17 years. As a student and teacher of history, his knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject was invaluable in committee deliberations and on the occasions when he gave talks to the Society. He only missed committee or Society meetings on rare occasions - I can remember a committee meeting at Sir Christopher Cowan's house when David arrived for and continued with the meeting even though he had been involved in an accident in his car outside the gates.

David was a highly motivated self made person but had not reached his high level of achievement at anyone else's expense, but rather by seeking abilities so that he could help others. Born in 1939, he attended Acton County School where certain personal abilities became evident by his obtaining the Senior and Edwards Memorial Prize for Spoken English for two years. During his time at the school he was not only a member of the school dramatic society but also developed an interest in music which ranged from traditional jazz to modern classical styles.

Having been senior prefect for some years he left Acton County with A levels in Literature, History and Geography and took a two year training course at Cullum Teacher Training College. He specialised in Geography and History with Art as a subsidiary subject and qualified in 1960 as a teacher at primary and secondary levels. He then took a supplementary history course at Sunderland Technical College and developed an active archaeological interest by participating in digs at Monkswearmouth. From September 1961 to August 1965 he taught history at the Greenway School at Uxbridge but then transferred to Abbotsfield School as Assistant Teacher in charge of History teaching, becoming Head of Department in 1967. As if this did not sufficiently occupy his time, he studied part time from 1962 to 1967 for his External B.Sc. (Econ) degree.

The personal dedication he felt necessary to offer beyond his formal obligations to a job showed clearly in his work at school, and appreciation of this has been shown by the numerous letters which have been received by David's parents from present and past students and colleagues. Over the last eight years he had been concerned in extra curricula activities as Teacher Governor of the School, teacher representative on the Joint Consultative Committee of the Education Committee and has acted on the Advisory Panel for C.S.E. studies.

As mentioned earlier, it is impossible to evaluate David's contribution to the Society and community and we can only express thanks for the activities and time we have shared with him over the years.



## LITTLE KING'S END by EILEEN M. BOWLE

The area at the junction of Wood Lane, Sharp's Lane and Ickenham Road has been called King's End since at least the 16th century. In the 1565 Terrier<sup>1</sup> the western portion of Sharps Lane was called Kings End Street and led to King's End Green at the point where the road bends to the east to run down to the High Street. The northern portion of Sharps Lane at that time was called New Street Lane. Most of the lands lying between New Street and the Pinn and between King's End Street and Clack Lane and at the top of Wood Lane were said to lie at or near King's End. Later a distinction was made between Great King's End at the top of Wood Lane and Ickenham Road and Little King's End at the northern end of Sharps Lane. Doharty's map<sup>2</sup> of 1750 marks both names. The modern avenue called King's End leading from Ruislip Station to the Wood Lane junction was laid out in 1905 across fields which had formerly been Demesne pastures named Wythy Crofts, later corrupted to Widdicuts.

### Little King's End in the 16th Century

The Terrier<sup>1</sup> shows that six people, John Walleston, John Sanders, William Walleston, Margery Priste, Elizabeth Baylye and John Flye owned Little King's End. There were two cottages and two more described as ruinous. The cottages are still standing, one belonging to John Walleston is now the Old Orchard. It was modernised and extended in late Victorian times, probably by Walter Morford<sup>3</sup>, General Manager of Swan and Edgars, who lived there about 1900 when it was called The Laurels. In 1565 six acres of pasture were attached to it in the form of four closes. The other cottage is Hill Farm now on Orchard Close. Margery Priste, a widow owned it and five acres of meadow and pasture close by, with eleven sellions in the common fields of Westcote.

John Walleston's ruined cottage lay within a close called Barrengers, now the area occupied by Southcote Rise west side and Orchard Close east side. The Sheltered Housing Barrenger's Court is named after the close called Barrengers but stands further east. John Flye had the other ruined cottage called Michels Green roughly where Glenhurst Gardens and Heathfield Rise meet.

Two other names are given: William Walleston's field Thatchers and Elizabeth Baylye's two closes called Clack. Thatchers now has Field Way and Field Close built across it and Clack is the field at the back of Glenhurst Gardens, leading to Clack Lane. When the Council estate was developed there in the 1920s it was known as Clack Village.

### Enclosure 1806

By the time the Enclosure Map<sup>4</sup> was drawn in 1806, most of Little King's End had become part of Hill Farm. The map shown Old Orchard and two other buildings near at hand, possibly outbuildings. The house, appurtenances and two closes belonged to Edward Hilliard, Senior, fourth largest landowner at the time. Hill Farm also shown belonged to T.T. Clarke of Swakeleys.

### Title to Hill Farm

Research at the Greater London Record Office has revealed a sheaf of documents<sup>5</sup> which traces the ownership of "the Customary Messuage standing in King's End, with the barns, stables and other edifices thereto belonging" back to 1661. The field names given tally exactly with an 18th century map of Hill Farm kept at Uxbridge Library, proving that the "Customary Messuage at King's End" is Hill Farm. A copy of the map was published in the 1978 edition of this Journal in an article entitled James Ewer's Diary.

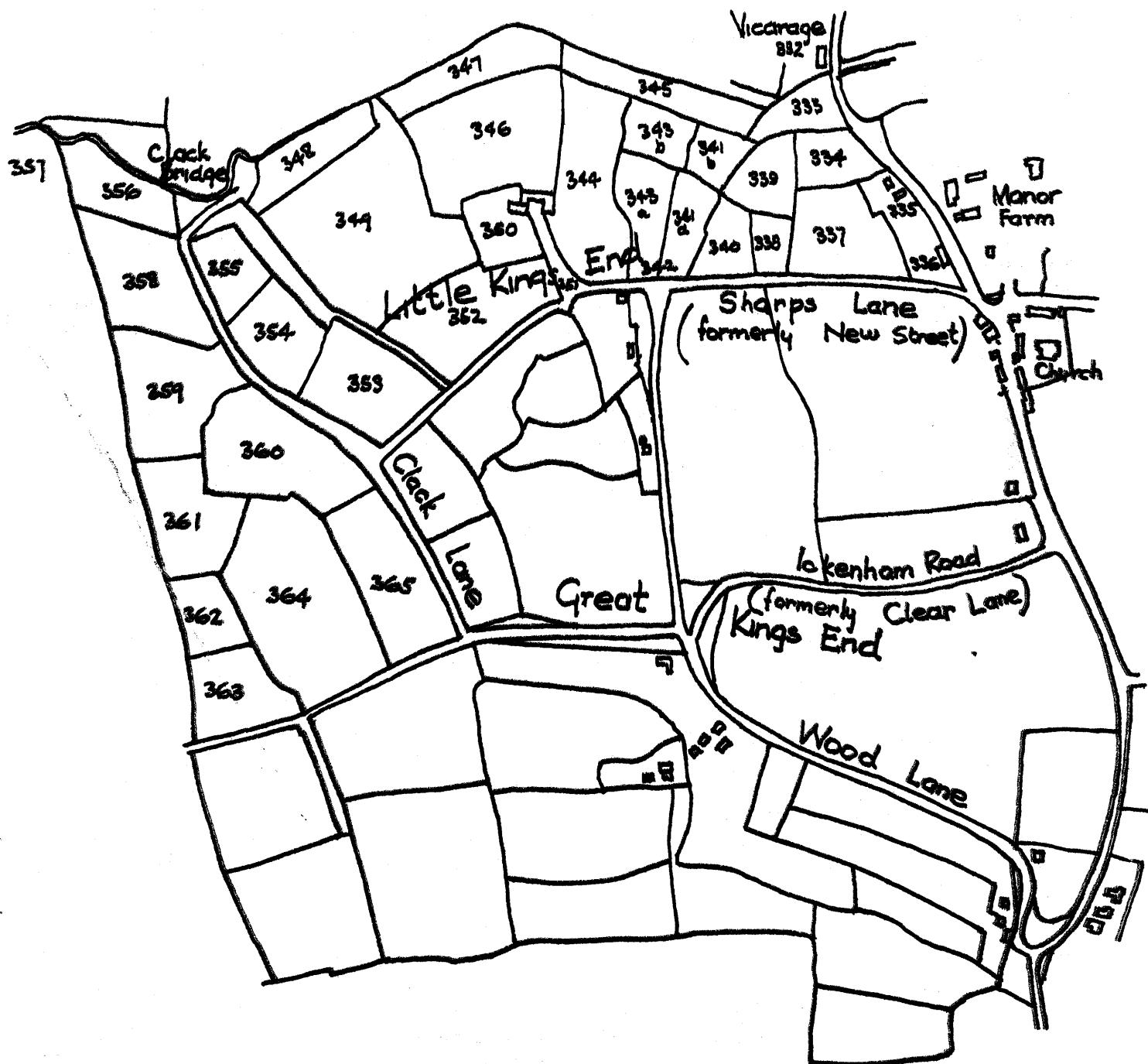
The earliest date in the Abstract of Title, 7th September 1661, refers to the

**KEY TO MAP OF BOTTOM OF BURY STREET, LITTLE KINGS END AND  
CLACK LANE. (Based on Section of Enclosure Map).**

No. on Encl. Map.	Owner - 1806 Enclosure Award.	Owner - 1865 Terrier	Names of fields & houses from various sources.
333	Vicar		
334	James Ewer Sen.	John Sanders	Mill Pond Close
335	" " "	" "	Mill House
336	Mrs. Heath	Ralph Hawtrey	Old House
337	James Ewer Sen.	John Sanders	Gt. Field
338	" " "	John Walleston	
339	Vicar	John Sanders	
340	James Ewer Sen.	John Walleston	Hop Ground
341a	Edward Hilliard Sen.	" "	
341b	Vicar	John Sanders	
342	Edward Hilliard Sen.	John Walleston	White House/Old Orchard
343a	" " "	" "	
343b	Vicar	John Sanders	
344	T.T. Clarke	John Walleston	Barrengers (ruined cottage)
345	" "	" "	The Neats
346	" "		Hawkins Long
347	" "	John Walleston	The Neats
348	" "	Elizabeth Bayley	Lt. Clack
349	" "	John Fly (Michels) John Fly (Green )	Gt. Clack & Michels Green (ruined cottage)
350	" "	Margery Prie	Hill Farm
351	" "		Cart Track to Hill Farm
352	" "	William Walleston	Thatchers
353	Benjamin Wilshin		
354	Edward Hilliard Sen.		
355	" " "		
356	Thomas Pitt		
357	" "		
358	" "		
359	T.T. Clarke	John Walleston	Murdons (ruined messuage)
360	" "	" "	"
361	Edward Hilliard Jun.	" "	
362a	" " "	" "	
362b	Richard Brabant	" "	
363	" "	" "	
364	Edward Hilliard Jun.	" "	
365	Wm. Anderson	" "	

Owners given for 1806 can be taken to be correct.

Owners given for 1865 are more conjectural.



BOTTOM OF BURY STREET, LITTLE KING'S END AND CLACK LANE.

(Based on Section of Enclosure Map)

Probate of the will of Ralph Timberlake, Yeoman of the Parish of Ruislip, who left all his copyhold lands in the Manor of Ruislip to his cousin, George Timberlake. Cousin George was succeeded in the property by his own son, George, while the latter was still a minor in May 1679. His mother, Elinor was appointed Guardian of his person and estate. By 1682 he was apparently of age as he enlarged his farm by fourteen sellions, twelve bought from John Ewer and two in Aldershearne from William Turner. The two in Aldershearne abutted onto the way leading to Brookmead Bridge (West End Road) probably where Crosier Way stands now.

George Timberlake sold his property in May 1713 to a London Druggist, Thomas Serocold. I have been unable to trace any connection between the Timberlakes and the Serocolds but know that some members of the Timberlake family were Surgeons which would put them in touch with Druggists. On the 6th May 1694, Ruislip Vestry ordered that Ezekial Timberlak "should have a gine for the cure of Richard Grove's leg when it is cured".<sup>6</sup>

Thomas Serocold's new acquisition is described as follows:

" A messuage at Little King's End, with barns, stables, gardens, Orchards and one pigtle lying between two orchards, 2 acres, 9 closes, meadow and pasture viz:

Hawkins Laig	6a.	Porters Slip	2a.
Pear Tree Close	3a. 2r.	Lt. Clack	2a.
Barringers	5a.	Michaels Grove	3a.
Neats	4a.	Thatchers	5a.
Gt. Clack	6a.	Murdons	4a.2r.

25 sellions and 1a pasture and arable in the common fields of Ruislip on the Westcote side".

Eight years later Thomas's son John Serocold was about to marry Elizabeth Bumsted. A settlement made at the time gave the farm to John for the term of his life, then to Elizabeth for the remainder of her life and afterwards to their joint issue. By 1745 both John and Elizabeth appear to have died for their elder son, John was admitted to the premises at a Manor Court held in Ruislip on 26th April. John sold the property to the Rev. Mr. Clarke of Swakeleys "at a long price" in January 1758.

### Leases

The Timberlakes, Serocolds and Clarkes all held Hill Farm as Copyhold tenants of the Manor of Ruislip, which means that although they all purchased the property and therefore owned it they had to be admitted tenants officially at Manor Courts and thereafter had to pay a very small rent to King's College annually. This Quit Rent as it was called freed the copyholder from performing customary services for the Lord of the Manor. Services had been gradually commuted to rent during the later medieval period. A series of Copyhold Acts in the late 19th century enabled manorial tenants to enfranchise their property by paying a lump sum made up (in Ruislip at any rate) of one years ratable value plus 28 years Quit Rent. The Quit Rent of Hill Farm in 1721 was £1. 3s. 5d., but I have been unable to find the date of its Enfranchisement. Quit Rents were finally abolished in 1922.

The Manor Court could license Copyhold tenants to let out property on lease. The Serocolds were licensed to lease Hill Farm for 21 year periods. Thomas Townsend was the tenant in 1744 when William Bishop signed a lease which was to take effect from Lady Day 1745 for a twenty year period at a rent of £84 and £5 per acre of pasture ploughed.<sup>5</sup>

A portion of the house was excepted from the lease: "the Hall and Parlour Chamber and Garrets over it. The Necessary House, the Cellar and Gt. Parlour at the other end of the house, the pond in the orchard, the six stall stable and rooms and the timber and the lop of such trees as have not been lopp'd". The tenant covenanted to repair and to spread the manure made in or about the premises on the

land, to leave the last year's dung in the yard and to let a subsequent tenant enter upon the fallows before May Day and the rest of the arable at Michaelmas before the end of the term.

#### Hill Farm part of the Swakeley's Estate 1758-1922

The Rev. Thomas Clarke, Rector of Ickenham from 1747 to 1796 and owner of Swakeleys, purchased a great deal of land in Ruislip Parish in the second half of the 18th century including Hayden Hall, bought about 1763. His son Thomas Truesdale Clarke owned 116 acres in this parish when the Enclosure Map was drawn in 1806: Hill farm; Old Barn House, Eastcote; land near High Grove; the Case is Altered (then only a cottage, not an inn); the Grange, Eastcote High Road; a property no longer in existence which stood opposite the bottom of Catlins Lane; Cheyney Street Farm<sup>4</sup>. Hayden Hall had been sold to George Woodroff some time previously. Of all this land and property Hill Farm was the only portion retained by the Clarkes throughout their tenure of Swakeleys.

Messrs. Humbert & Flint auctioned Swakeleys and the nine farms and nineteen cottages belonging to it in July 1922 on behalf of Thomas Bryan Clarke-Thornhill. Hill Farm was Lot 4. The plan accompanying the Auction Catalogue shows that the enclosed land near the house was virtually the same as that named in the Abstract of Title and shown on the map in Uxbridge Library, except that Thatchers had been sold to R.N.U.D.C. for Council houses, Field Way now being on the site. Instead of the 25 pre Enclosure sellions there were now 86 acres in West End Road (now Roundways and the Ruislip Gardens Estate.<sup>7</sup>)

The house is described as a "picturesque old farmhouse built of brick, half timbered and tiled and containing Dining Room, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Scullery and Pantry with sink and copper, Four bedrooms, bathrooms and W.C.; Coalshed and Cellars."

The whole farm was occupied by James Ewer on a yearly tenancy at a total rent of £227 per annum. James Ewer purchased the farm for £3000 at the auction and lived there until 1932.

#### The Ewers and Hill Farm

In a previous article "James Ewer's Diary" published in this Journal in 1978, I mentioned the connection between James Ewer and Hill Farm believing then that a James Ewer had gone to live at Hill Farm in the middle of the 18th century, and that five generations of James Ewers had lived there successively until 1932. I made this assumption because "James Ewer, Hill Farm" is the only address which appears in the Diary and Rate Books and Censuses show that the Ewers were living there in the 19th century. Further study of the Rate Books from 1771 onwards (the earliest still extant) show that the farm belonging to T.T. Clarke valued at £203 per annum (early Rate Books do not give any names of farms) was not occupied by a James Ewer until 1814, a year after the elder James Ewer had died. The previous tenant had been John Dean.

This finding means that the references in the Diary to repairs to the house in the 1780s and early 1800s refer not to Hill Farm but to a house owned by James Ewer himself. The Enclosure Map and Award shows this to have been Mill Farm. The Senior James Ewer's will proved in May 1813 leaves Mill House to his son Henry. After Henry's death in 1825, James Ewer of Hill Farm became the owner of Mill Farm.

Footnotes: 1. 1565 Terrier : King's College Muniments R.36

2. Doharty's Map : Copy - Ruislip Library.

3. Street Directories : Uxbridge Library.

4. Enclosure Map : G.L.R.O. MR/DE/RUI. Copy at Ruislip Library.

5. G.L.R.O. Acc. 85/4/274, 313 & 316.

6. G.L.R.O. DRO 19 E4/1.

7. Swakeleys Estate Auction Catalogue 1922. Private possession.



FATHER TOOVEY VICAR OF ST. MARTIN'S RUISLIP 1970 - 1981

by HELEN M. HOARE

With the coming of a new vicar to a parish there must always be some speculation and so it was when Fr. Toovey came to be the Vicar of Ruislip in 1970. It is worth noting a remark passed by one of his former parishioners from Teddington, at the social gathering after Fr. Toovey's induction, when she said "You don't know just how lucky you are in Ruislip and how sad we are in Teddington". And now it is Ruislip's turn to pass on this remark to the people of St. John the Baptist, Greenhill, Harrow.

First and foremost Fr. Toovey is a caring parish priest and secondly a family man. The parish owes a great deal to his family who have backed him up so well enabling him to work whole-heartedly for the parish. So many people will remember him for his quiet compassion and understanding during times of stress and have been strengthened by it. Wherever there has been a need, there he would be found. People who do not belong to the congregation of St. Martin's will testify to this.

Fr. Toovey made frequent visits to the hospitals in the area and one thing which he with others have achieved after working for it for a long time is the appointment of a Chaplain solely to serve at Mount Vernon and Hillingdon Hospitals.

When Fr. Toovey arrived in Ruislip in 1970 it did not take him long to get to know the people of St. Martin's and with his cheerful and outgoing manner he soon knew all by their Christian names and so helped to weld the congregation into what he called the Family of St. Martin's. Week by week and year by year this closeness grew and St. Martin's found itself a much more friendly community - friendliness is infectious and it stems from the top.

To run a parish of the size of Ruislip in an efficient manner would be practically impossible without help, and this Fr. Toovey would be the first to admit, has readily been given by the several curates who have served under him. Nevertheless the added responsibility of being Rural Dean and having two Church schools in the parish took much of his time. The formation of the Bishop Ramsey School in itself created much correspondence and attendance at meetings. It is his regret that for the first time in his Ministry he is no longer in a parish with a Church school. Many of his happiest times have been when involved with the school children and mothers with pre-school age children were encouraged to bring them into Church - even the dear little very noisy ones! Their place too is with the family of St. Martin's. Not only the young children, but the Scouts, Guides and other parish organisations have been helped. When the Scouts and Cub Scouts have been camping beside Mad Bess Woods, he has been up there early on a Sunday morning to hold an open air Communion Service in the Memorial Chapel in Mad Bess Woods before carrying on his duties at St. Martin's.

Despite the foregoing it would not be right to give the impression that Fr. Toovey is allwork and no play. His interests are wide. His love for St. Martin's Church with all its history was apparent in that he was always happy to welcome visitors who came to see the building and he readily gave permission for parties to be shewn over the Church and to see its treasures.

During the time Fr. Toovey was Vicar, Ruislip has been privileged to see transformation of the derelict Almshouses into the beautifully restored building that it now is, and so has been preserved the only little piece of Ruislip village which has kept its identity with times past.

Also during Fr. Toovey's time the old parish hall in Bury Street, affectionately known as 'the old in tab', after protracted negotiations was eventually sold. It

had served its purpose in many ways over the years but had become an eyesore.

Perhaps Fr. Toovey's social nature came to the fore at the various parish Christmas parties, the harvest suppers and other social gatherings in connection with the various organisations - and from reports it would seem that the Men's Society's Beer and Poetry Reading evenings at the Vicarage were enormously successful.

Unlike most people, his one day off each week was frequently encroached upon by parish duties which could not be denied. This he accepted cheerfully, if regretfully, had he planned to go to Lords to see a cricket match which was real enjoyment for him.

And now the people of St. Martin's and many other friends have said farewell to a loved and very humble Vicar and all wish him well in his new parish. How better can these notes end than by the reiteration of the words which he himself so frequently used - THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU !

#### SACRED HEART DIAMOND JUBILEE 1921 - 1981

by EILEEN M. BOWLT

The first post-Reformation Roman Catholic Church to be built in the old parish of Ruislip was opened on 25th September 1921. It stood on Ruislip High Street on a site now occupied by Lyttons & Linen Chest. The land was bought and the Church largely built by Miss Eleanor Warrender of Highgrove. For the story of the Church and its subsequent move to Pembroke Road, see this journal 1972 - Bowlt - "Golden Jubilee of the Sacred Heart Church".

During the past ten years a fourth Parish Priest has taken charge, Fr. Adrian Arrowsmith who came in February 1978. He has re-modelled the High Altar, decorated the Church and restored and beautified many paintings and statues.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations began on a light-hearted note with a cricket match between Sacred Heart and St. Martin's, which may well become an annual event. Sacred Heart won.

The Jubilee week was marked by a mixture of solemn and purely festive events. Bishop Mahon concelebrated mass on 18th September (the 32nd anniversary of Miss Warrender's death), and Cardinal Hume concelebrated on the 25th. Practically every parish organisation arranged some kind of show around that week. The choir gave a Concert, the Scouts had a Barbecue, the Family Group had a barge-trip; there was a Youth Club Disco, an Over 60's party, and a Childrens' Party & Disco. There was an exhibition of the history of the Parish in the side room of the Hesdin Hall. The list is endless, but the whole week ended with a grand parish party attended by the Cardinal following mass on 25th September.

THE SAGA OF OAK GROVE BRIDGE OR THE RIGOURS OF SUBURBAN LIFE AT  
EASTCOTE by ALAN A. JACKSON

When the Metropolitan Railway constructed its branch from Harrow-on-the-Hill to Uxbridge in the first years of this century it operated through its statutory subsidiary, the Harrow & Uxbridge Railway Company. That company was party to an indenture dated 23rd October 1901 with Henry Charles Lawrence, the then owner of the land immediately west of the present Eastcote Station. This agreement related to the severance of Lawrence's land by the railway and an undertaking by the railway company to link the two areas by what is known as an occupation bridge. The bridge (Bridge No. 10) was duly constructed as part of the new railway and for many years it saw only occasional farm traffic.

Before 1914 Lawrence's land was acquired by the British Freehold Investment Company Ltd. who prepared an estate plan for housing development along what were to become Myrtle, Acacia, Elm, Linden and Beech Avenues and Oak Grove, the latter to pass over the occupation bridge. The lines of these roads were staked out and plots for houses were sold singly or in groups to builders and others. Construction of houses proceeded very slowly at first, but around 1925 Elm Avenue was made up and taken over by the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council and by this time some houses had been erected south of the railway in Linden Avenue and Oak Grove. The only access to the latter was over the farm bridge and the lorries and carts carrying heavy building materials soon began to churn up the soft surface of the approaches and the bridge itself.

In February 1926 a letter arrived at the Metropolitan Railway General Manager's Office from Mr. Thomas Morrow of "Brambles", Linden Avenue, complaining about the deplorable condition of the bridge and approaches. Mr. Morrow reported ruts a foot deep and crevices an inch wide in the brickwork at the sides of the bridge. He feared a serious accident, both to pedestrian users and to trains passing underneath as "the wall has every appearance of collapsing". This was followed by a letter early in March from a plot owner on the south side of the railway, making similar complaints and suggesting slyly that if the Metropolitan Railway put the bridge into good repair, it would be a sound business move on their part, as it would encourage more housebuilding on the south side of the railway.

But Robert H. Selbie, the General Manager of the Metropolitan Railway, was not one to spend his shareholders' money lightly. The structure of the bridge itself was of course the railway's responsibility, and its repair was seen to that year; the roadway and approaches, were not, Selbie suspected, a liability of the railway company, and this was duly confirmed by the railway's solicitor after he had examined the indenture. The two correspondents were then told it was for the landowners to see to the roadway.

This was easier said than done, with land ownership now split into many small packets and no co-ordinating organisation. So it was that another year passed and early in 1927, R.A. Brown of "L'Abri", Oak Grove, was complaining to the Council about the condition of the bridge, which he said formed the sole communication with the outside world for the 200 or so people now living south of the railway. By his assessment, the ruts, obviously aggravated by more intensive building and other traffic during 1926, were now 18 inches deep. He also mentioned very large pools of water all over the approaches either side. There followed a dramatic description of his attempts to push a perambulator with two babies in it over the bridge, an exercise which could not be achieved without "really hard work and a great deal of danger". His letter was passed by the Council to the Metropolitan Railway on 18th February 1927 but the Council were sharply told that the railway company had no legal obligation to maintain the road surface of the bridge and its approaches.

Life for the mud and rut-beseiged community south of the railway continued without relief for some long time after this. Late in February 1929

the Council was again complaining to the Metropolitan about the bridge, but were quickly reminded of the earlier correspondence.

This little piece of modern Eastcote history was found in Metropolitan Railway files deposited in the Middlesex Record Office. The papers end with the 1929 exchange just mentioned. Possibly a reader may be able to supply the date when the bridge was finally made up for all-weather use.

Present day commuters from Eastcote station may think their life is hard, but they should spare a thought for those who came before; those who had purchased houses south of the line, relying on the smooth promises of estate agents and others that the Metropolitan would soon be making up the road over the railway, only to find that for three or more years, every journey they, their wives and children made to the station, to school, to the shops, to church or cinema, exposed them to risk of sprained ankles, soaked feet, or muddy footwear, as they negotiated the hazard of Bridge No. 10.

SOME NOTES ON CLAY PIPES FOUND IN A BACK GARDEN IN  
WOOD LANE by R. LIGHTNING

During the summer of 1980, I found the remains of two clay pipes in my back garden. One of them had the initials W.P. on the spur at the base of the bowl. The second pipe did not have a spur but had the name UXBRIDGE on one side of the stem and the name WESTON BROS. on the other.

It was the second pipe which prompted me to visit Uxbridge Central Library to see if there was any information available on local pipe making.

The following information was gathered from two short articles by Eric. G. Ayto. He notes that the firm of Weston Bros. first appears in a directory for 1903 as Wholesale Tobacconists of 6, Windsor Street, Uxbridge. He goes on to argue that the fine quality of these pipes suggests that they were probably made by a Broseley pipemaker.

Mr. Ayto also records that pipes bearing the initials W.P. were among late 18th and early 19th century clay pipes which were found at the High Street end of Harefield Road, Uxbridge during the developments of the town in the early 70's., but the maker had not yet been identified.

Mr. Ayto thinks that the Pipemakers Arms situated in the Slough Road, Uxbridge was at one time a clay pipe manufactory. However, pipes similar to the ones I found in my garden have not been unearthed there.

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Eric G. Ayto.

News Bulletin of the Middle Thames Archaeological Society Vol. 3 No. 17 1972  
Vol. 3 No. 19 1974

## THE HEYDAY OF 'THE SHIP', EASTCOTE

by JAMES McBEAN

### Introduction

An enquiry into the history of the brewing of ale soon shows that it is as old as agriculture itself and was certainly carried out long before Roman times. The Romans, in establishing their road network in this country, built posting houses i.e. inns, and the common alehouse soon followed. Ale was the staple brew consisting of malted cereals, usually barley, mixed with water and made alcoholic by fermentation with yeast. The introduction of hops (and thus beer) did not occur until the idea was imported from the continent at the beginning of the 15th century.

Legislation in respect of brewing and alehouses starts early, perhaps the earliest instance, dated 1189, is an Order of the City of London dealing with precautions against fire in alehouses; Magna Carta of 1215 dealt with the standard measures of wine and ale and the Assize of Bread and Ale is dated 1266. This provision took account of the fact that bread and ale were essential food and drink and made sure there was no overcharging by giving the authorities power to fix its price adjusted to the current market value of wheat, malt etc. The Manorial Court Leet kept a watchful eye through the constable and ale-taster and there is a record of a case in 1394 where John Haidon and John Cok, brewers, were amerced (fined) by the Ruislip Court for breaking the assize. The fixing of ale prices seems to have faded out by about 1650. However, it is interesting to note the standard wording of 19th century licences as for example, at the Middlesex Justices of the Peace Session held on 4th March 1822, when Robert Blencowe and Thomas Truesdale Clarke issued a licence to Mary Gregory of the Black Horse, Eastcote:-

... if the said Mary Gregory do and shall keep the true  
assize in uttering Bread and Beer Ale and other victuals ...

In 1495 Justices of the Peace were empowered to suppress common ale selling and to take sureties but the more important Act was that of 1552 when they were given the power and duty to control the establishment of alehouses by licence - an authority which exists today modified by the Act of 1729 which established Brewsters Sessions.

Locally there are numerous references to ale and alehouses, for example a Middlesex Sessions Register of 1617 tells of the punishment meted out to Richard Godson for abusing the constable:- "sett in the stocks at Ruislippe before the alehouse dore" and in 1684 the Ruislip Vestry made a payment for Goody Carber's children when their mother was in prison for selling beer without a licence. In 1732 the entire Ruislip Vestry assembled at the Black Horse in Eastcote for the "giving up ye Accompts" (the subsequent festivities cost 12/6!). It has to be remembered however, that by far the greatest amount of ale brewed outside the large towns was brewed in the home for domestic purposes. An inventory made of Eastcote House in 1593 by John Hawtrey refers to a brewhouse and as late as 1802 the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers of the same estate specifically lists her brewing utensils in her bequests.

### Licensing Records

Since the Act of 1552 the names of licensed victuallers are to be found in the Sessions of the Peace registers and books but they are among much other business and their extraction and identification is a study in itself. It is not until the 18th century that information becomes readily available in the form of Registers of Victuallers and Certified Lists and Recognizances. The earliest so far as Ruislip



is concerned is the Register of 1722 but this merely states that Joseph Fuller and Robert Jemmett are registered without stating the premises. Informative references start with the Certified List of 1747 and the Registers which start in 1759.

The 1747 list at once gives rise to a puzzle since it shows the existence of a Leather Bottle (Mary Stevens), a Red Lyon (John Watson) and a White Hart (Samuel Wells) while the 1759 Register adds the Three Horse Shoes (John Gale) which also appears in the rate book of 1771. All these signs are unfamiliar today and their whereabouts unknown although by a comparison with parish records it is possible to assert that the Red Lyon was the cottage identified by Eileen Bowlt in her article on The Ruislip Park Estate (Journal 1981) as Byeways in Ickenham Road. It reverted back to a cottage in 1809.

The signs which have survived since 1747 are the Plough, Six Bells (transferred to Ducks Hill but originally Breakspear Road), the Swan, the Black Horse and the Ship. A notable absentee is the George. It is possible that old established pubs existed under other names and there are several precedents for this. For example, according to the 1851 Census the One Bell became the Bricklayers Arms for a spell apparently because the tenant William Doughty was a bricklayer; the Ruislip (St. Catherine's) Enclosure Award of 1769 refers to a Six Bells in the position now taken by the Woodman in Breakspear Road; the present Six Bells in Ducks Hill Road took the place of the Black Potts which lay further back near the crematorium fence. A repair schedule of 28th February 1837 is headed "Six Bells or Black Potts" giving a clue to the date of the changeover. The Ship in Joel Street evolved from the Sun, the Sun and Ship, the Ship and Sun to the Ship.

The difficulty of identifying some of the 18th century alehouses is repeated in the 19th century because of the Beerhouse Acts. In an attempt to combat the bad effects of wide spread spirit drinking, the sale of beer and cider was positively encouraged by the Acts whereby any householder could obtain an Excise Licence to sell beer without the need to apply to the Justices. The result was a rash of small beerhouses all over the country. A check through the Ruislip rate book for 1847 (a year taken at random) shows the existence of fourteen properties variously labelled public house, beerhouse or beershop of which only ten can be identified as recognised pubs. Of the remaining four, one was a beershop in the hamlet of Tile Kilns by Clack Farm and one a beerhouse at Kings End behind the White Bear. The other two were in Eastcote one of which might have been Old Cheney Cottage in Wiltshire Lane since Kemp in his book on Eastcote says he was told it had been a beerhouse. There are doubtless many other examples in other years. The Beerhouse Acts did not work well and in 1869 licensing was restored to the Justices.

### The Ship

The Ship in Joel Street, Eastcote is one of the alehouses appearing in the earliest Certified Lists of 1747 under its original name of the Sun. John Seymour was the landlord in 1759 and he and then his widow were there right up until the turn of the century, a remarkable record of nearly 50 years - almost matched by the Gregorys, man and wife, at the Black Horse, from 1799 to the 1830's - too long perhaps in the latter case to judge by the note at the end of the 1837 repair schedule referred to above:-

"This house and outbuildings are going fast to decay, the present tenant has been in it 40 years. Three rooms in the house are shut up."

Other landlords of the Ship were Daniel Matheson related to the enumerator of the 1851 Eastcote census; George Tagg in 1891, a retired policeman of

sufficiently sound reputation to hold the position of Coroners Officer, and Harry Silvester, landlord for twenty four years from the beginning of the century who did much to promote the pub as a place for the entertainment of visitors. For some time the Ship, like most other alehouses, was privately owned and was part of the Hayden Hall estate. This situation altered however when by the end of the 18th century the relationship between alehouse keepers who either brewed their own ale or got it from a common brewer of their own choice and the brewer, located in nearby towns, began to change and more and more alehouses were acquired by brewers. The Ship passed into the hands of a brewer in 1827. This was a Mr. Fernly, a brewer of Abbots Langley whose family later intermarried with the Whittingstalls descendants of a Hitchin miller who had amassed great wealth in the Napoleonic wars, and became the Fernly-Whittingstalls with a brewery in Watford. In 1862 this firm became Sedgwick's and the sign "Sedgwick's Watford Ales Stout and Porter" can still be faintly seen painted on the side of the building. In 1924 the firm became Benskins and then Ind Coope in 1957.

A different brewer was connected with the Black Horse. This was a Mr. Salter who owned it in 1790 having arrived in Rickmansworth in 1721 and established his brewery of Salter & Co. His son married the daughter of the Earl of Essex of Cassiobury Park whose family name was Capel and for a short period the pub is recorded under the ownership of Capel & Co. before reverting to Salter & Co. In 1920 this became Cannon brewery and then Benskins and then Ind. Coope.

### The Heyday of the Ship

It may be supposed that unlike the Swan or the George in Ruislip and the Black Horse in Eastcote which must have been true village pubs patronised by the village blacksmith, carpenter, baker etc. and, in the case of the Black Horse, by the servants at the big houses, the Ship is likely to have been a country alehouse catering for the small yeoman farmers but mainly for the agricultural labourers from the fields and commons in the vicinity of Joel Street.

The atmosphere of this period of the late 18th century has been admirably caught in the paintings of George Morland (1763-1804) whose pictures frequently featured alehouses and are stated to be faithful reflections of humble life in England. It was however in the late 19th century that the Ship must have seen its heyday after Londoners had discovered the countryside, a situation taken full advantage of by Harry Silvester as shown by a unique brochure in the possession of the present landlord, Mr. Roy Churchill, and dated to about 1906-1908. This extols the virtues of the Ship as a place of entertainment in the countryside and points out, firstly, how conveniently situated it is for a Volunteer's "march-out". These part-time soldiers originated in the mid 19th century as the result of fear of a Napoleonic invasion and they flourished for 50 years until 1908 when they became Territorials. They were a well established feature of the life of those times, sometimes the subject of satirical cartoons. Enlistment was viewed by most of the young recruits as an opportunity for recreation and the information that the Ship was visited by the London Scottish Volunteers based in Buckingham Palace Road, a fair 16 mile slog along the dusty roads, comes as no surprise.

The second feature of the Ship of this period was as the County Quarters for the numerous cycling clubs who are listed in the brochure and include Elgin, Kensal Rise, Paddington and the like. From a tentative start through bone-shakers, bicycling suddenly became a Victorian phenomenon springing into prominence in 1880 with the invention of the Ordinary and the penny-farthing and progressing to the safety bike. Cycling suddenly gripped the imagination of the public and led to a boom becoming from about 1890 highly fashionable and hugely popular. The Cyclist Touring Club recorded the enormous membership of 60,000 in 1899. The effect was that townsmen such as H.G. Wells' Hoopdriver - a London draper's assistant - were liberated by the bicycle from the cities and invaded the countryside. Clubs were formed and were looked after by such peoples as the

proprietor of the Ship. Flora Thompson has a description of just such an invasion of Candleford Green and the Cycling World Illustrated of June 10th 1896 in its series Picturesque By Ways refers to Ruislip as "a very picturesque little place clustered round the crossroads with a church said to be the finest and handsomest village church in all Middlesex".

The brochure encouraged walkers to take the train to Pinner, go up Chapel Lane and walk along the footpaths crossing Cuckoo Hill, Catlins Lane to Joel Street and the Ship.

But the Ship benefited most from the Londoners favourite form of a days outing and this was to form a party and hire a brake to drive out into the countryside. The centenary magazine of Northwood College has a delightful picture (1906) of just such a four horse brake (not, of course, headed for the Ship!) showing that there was room for about 20 to 30 trippers. A person who many years before witnessed these activities gives an account in a local newspaper:-

The Ship ... with the horse trough outside ... set in spacious meadows, it was the rendezvous for countless parties out from London. Its pleasant grounds and swings leading to delightful tea gardens. In those days it was a common sight to see eight or ten four-horse brakes pulled up outside ... we used to have dancing in the pavilion at the back.

A somewhat dilapidated remnant of the pavilion still exists and the brochure contains a rare tinted photograph of the original handsome seven bay building with its white painted trellised verandah. In a description of Eastcote written by Mrs. Hartley in 1932 she says: "My brothers parents-in-law told us that in their courting days they often came to Eastcote by some sort of vehicle to a jolly evening at a ... pavilion ... which stood at the side of the Ship - well out in the country miles from anywhere. "

Visitors were well catered for with Ladies Afternoon Teas at 6d.(2½p) a speciality and a standard Cut from the Joint (hot or cold) with Two Vegetables, Pastry, Bread and Cheese at 2/-. The same price was charged for an Ordinary on Sundays served at 2 p.m. Mr. Churchill still has a dinner plate and gravy jug bearing the sign "The Ship, Eastcote" and this reminder of the attractions of our district to the Londoners takes its place with the tea set of the Poplars in Ruislip and a small vase marked "Present from Eastcote" which is thought to have come from the Pavilion formerly located in Field End Road.

A staff outing to the Ship by the London newspaper referee is commemorated by a group postcard photograph dated 1923 - all eminently respectable, stiff collars and watchchains much in evidence.

The Ship, alas, is no longer "well out in the country and miles from anywhere" but has become one of our cheerful and friendly "locals".

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I am grateful to Mr. Roy Churchill for the loan of the Brochure referred to in this article and to the Curator of the Watford Museum for the help and information she has given.

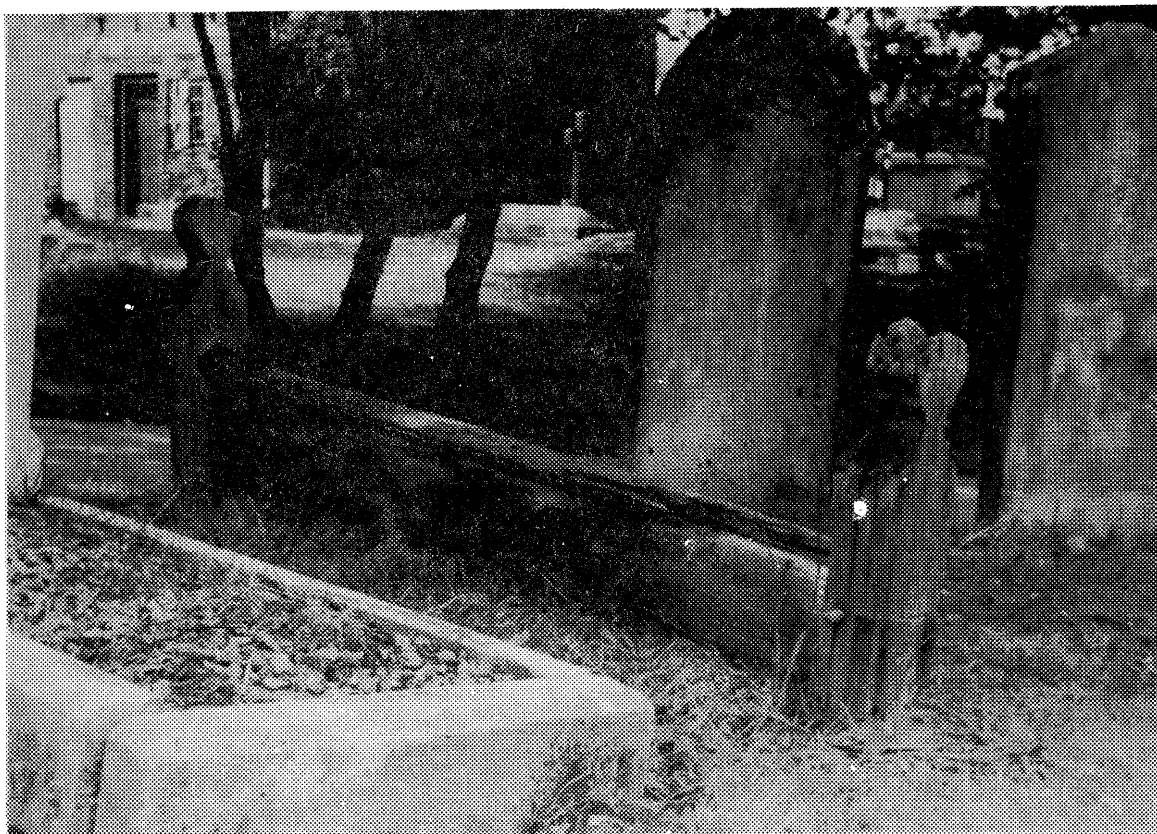


Figure 1      Wooden graveboard, St. Martin's Churchyard.

Figure 3      Finial of wooden graveboards, St. Martin's Churchyard.

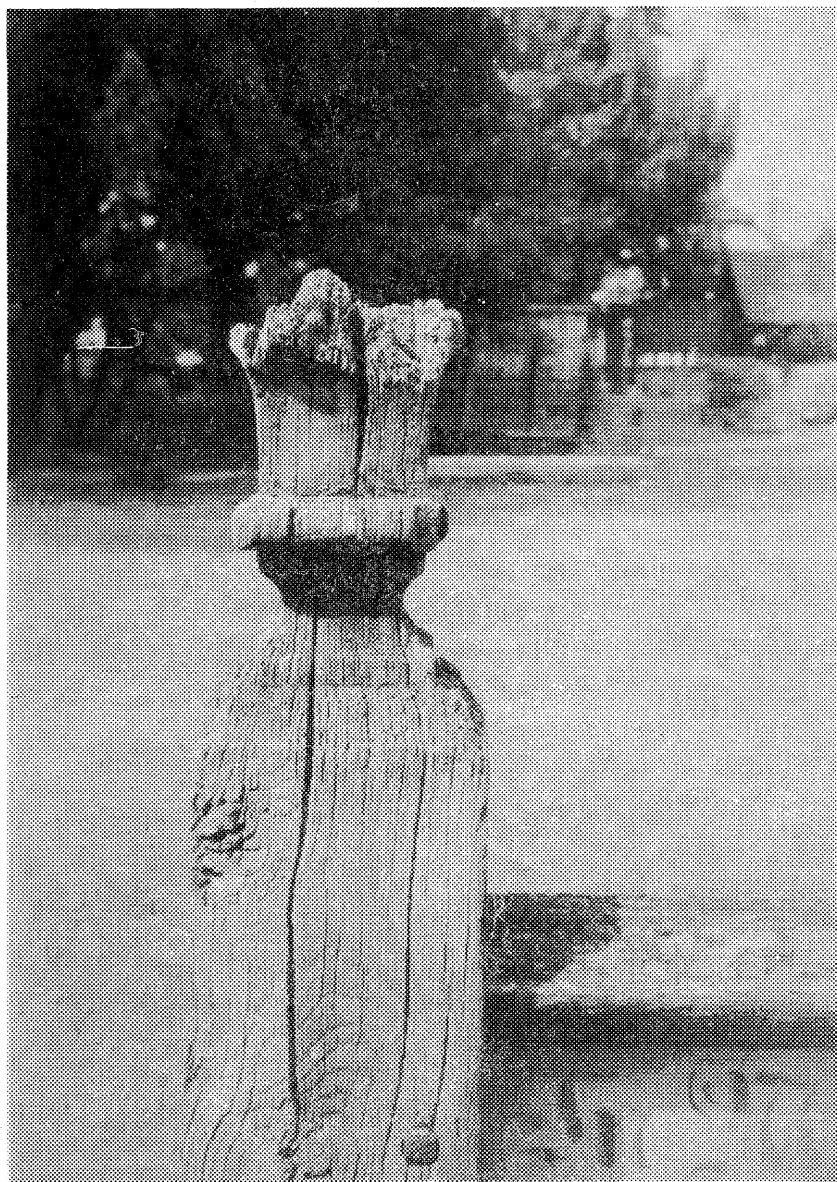
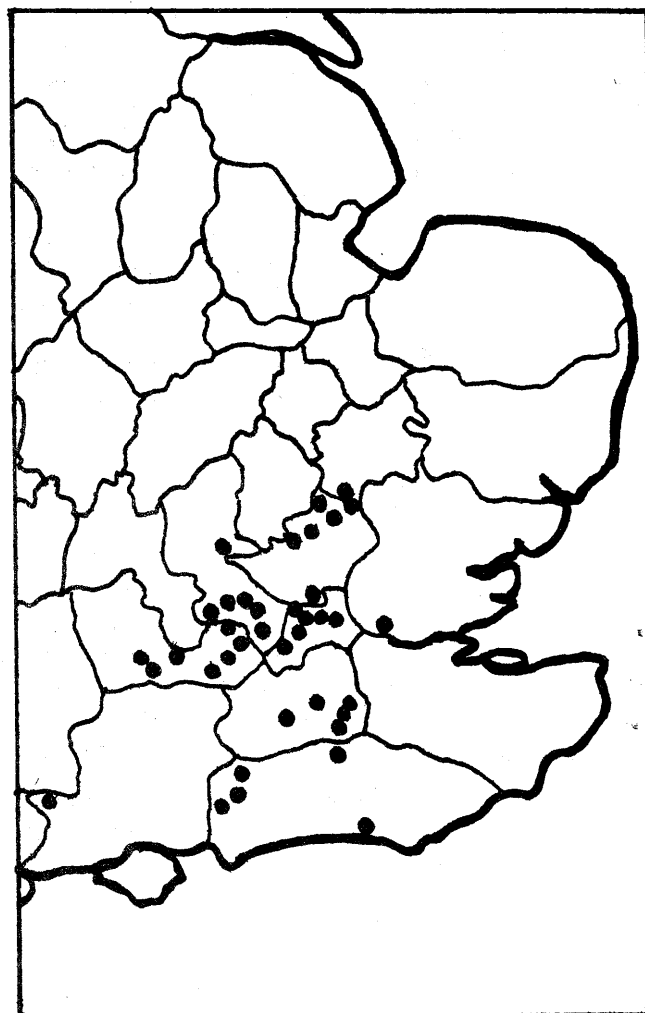


Figure 2      Sample survey of the distribution of wooden graveboards.



## WOODEN GRAVEBOARDS

by COLIN BOWLT

### Local Examples.

Standing in the churchyard of St. Martin's, Ruislip, are three wooden graveboards. Two are rather decayed and weatherbeaten but the third, close by the north door is in better condition and its painted inscription is clearly legible. They consist of a post at either end of the grave supporting a board on which is painted the inscription (figure 1).

The graveboards at Ruislip were mentioned by Mr. James McBean in his chapter\* on the memorials in Ruislip Old Churchyard. He comments that because of their material they quickly rotted and were now something of a rarity well worth conserving. The bottoms of the posts are usually the first to deteriorate. It is interesting to note that several of the posts at Ruislip have been replaced at some stage. Rotting is not the only hazard connected with wood. Until just before Mr. McBean's survey Ruislip churchyard possessed another board on its east side. Apparently this was burnt underneath a bonfire during the felling of the three old elms killed by Dutch Elm disease. Old photographs show a total of at least twelve but no doubt there were many more not covered by the views. (Roumieu's 'Ruislip' 1875 frontspiece shows seven on part of the north side).

The only other local existing examples I know are at Harefield, Hayes, Harmondsworth, Harrow and Stanmore. The single board at St. Mary's, Harrow-on-the-Hill is in fact a replica - a forlorn reminder of the large number the churchyard is known to have possessed at one time. Harmondsworth Church is less appreciative of its two genuine boards, which were being used to retain the compost heap when last I saw them.

The parish church of Hayes has a single example with a rusted spiked metal strip along the top of the board and which seems to have been restored at some time.

Harefield Church probably has one of the largest remaining collections left in England with eight boards. Two of these have been propped up against the wall for some years and are becoming covered over with ivy. An interesting feature here is that one of the boards is in the new graveyard but judging from its condition (including the apparent removal of the finials from the tops of the posts) it appears to have been re-used.

### Distribution in England.

Just how widespread their use was is impossible to judge from the few remaining examples since many churches have probably lost all. Wooden graveboards do not appear to have been remarked on in the past but in many cases they have been unconsciously recorded in old prints, drawings and photographs. It is realised that the fact that graveboards are not shown on a picture does not mean that they were not used in that particular churchyard - they may have been out of view or simply not 'put in' by the artist (photographs are better in this respect).

Conversely it is possible that some artists (particularly of prints) may have added some for effect where none existed. However, from a perusal of pictures of churchyards from many parts of England it becomes clear that they were mainly, if not only, confined to south-east England (figure 2), though so far I have found no examples in Kent and only one in Essex (Upminster). This distribution is probably partly related to the lack of suitable local store but this is clearly not the whole story since it does not account for their apparent absence from East Anglia and most of the south coast.



## Styles and Usage.

Most graveboards seem to have been of the type still existing at Ruislip but a few taller examples are shown with the board some three times as high off the ground such as those in a photograph in the church guide to St. Lawrence, West Wycombe and in a 1790 print of the parish church of St. Giles at Stoke Poges which depicts both types. Mr. McBean comments that 'no doubt the work of local carpenters, the tops of the supporting posts (figure 3) display differing local styles in various parishes! Ruislip has two styles of finials but at Harefield they are all of the same design (though different from those at Ruislip).

Over what period of time boards were in fashion is difficult to judge. They were certainly much used about two hundred years ago as can be seen from a number of prints of the 1790's. One of Harrow churchyard in 1789 shows at least twenty (the maximum number found so far). However, a woodcut depicting scenes during the Great Plague in 1665 seems to show graveboards in the distance in what must be a London churchyard. This fact is interesting since I have found no other examples from London. They appear to have died out of use about the turn of the century - Harefield has an example from 1899.

What class of people were likely to have wooden graveboards? One might guess them to be the not so rich (who used stone) or the not too poor (who probably had nothing). This seems to be supported by the information extracted from the 1851 Census for me by Mrs. Colleen Cox about Mistress Olive White of Eastcote whose inscription is the only one still legible at Ruislip. She died in 1854 aged 54 years, the wife of George White of Southend Farm in Wiltshire Lane. He farmed 55 acres and employed 1 labourer and a fourteen year old girl servant.

## The Final Fling

The use of the vernacular style wooden graveboards appear to have been discontinued about 1900. An interesting final flourish is to be found in Hampstead churchyard which contains four 'fancy' graveboards erected during the period 1909-1915. These are of oak throughout and with varying amounts of carved decoration and copper sheeting to keep off the rain. The ultimate development is seen in the graveboard to George Du Maurier, the artist and writer, and his wife, in which the posts are replaced by boards richly carved with Saxon style designs and the simple finials replaced by Celtic crosses. I have no evidence that Hampstead had traditional wooden boards within the last hundred years and it is perhaps best to regard these fancy boards not as the final development of a continuing tradition so much as plagiarism by the wealthy of a humble memorial.

\* 'Here Lyeth' ... 'Life and death in Ruislip 1700-1900.'

### THE STORY OF NORTHWOOD AND NORTHWOOD HILLS

by W.A.G. Kemp

The permission - readily given - by Mr. Nigel Kemp to reprint his father's book enables the Ruislip Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society to pay tribute to a greatly respected member from its formative years. We have added the author's portrait as frontispiece and from his original papers an old print of Northwood Hall. Financial support from The Ruislip Village Trust, and Society members have made the project possible.

Available April 1982.

Price .... £3 : 50.

## BISHOP WINNINGTON-INGRAM SCHOOL

by MONICA STEVENSON

On July 15th, 1931 Bishop Winnington-Ingram School came into being when it was dedicated by the then Bishop of London, Dr. Arthur Winnington-Ingram. It must have been an impressive occasion, judging by the account given in the local paper of the time. After a service in St. Martin's Church the Bishop was met at the North west door of the Church by the R.A.F. Band (Ruislip). The report goes on as follows:- "Singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers' the procession made its way to the schools, where a guard of honour of brownies, cubs and schoolchildren awaited it. The Bishop cut the cord at the entrance of the school and, having accepted the keys from the Archdeacon of Middlesex, he unlocked the door and blessed the building".

The school had been re-built on the site in Eastcote Road of an older school known as the Ruislip C. of E. School. This, with the Headmaster's house, had occupied the site since its purchase from Kings College, Cambridge in 1862.

However, the history of a Church School in Ruislip goes back even further, and 1981 could be said to be a 170th anniversary, as its true beginning seems to date from a meeting of the vestry (which at that time represented both lay and clerical sections of the community) on September 14th 1811, at St. Martin's Church.

At that meeting the provision of education for poor children was discussed, and a committee was set up to make arrangements. After two more meetings the Committee announced a plan to give education to about 50 children. Thomas Gregory (the vestry clerk) offered to teach 20 children for £20 a year, and Mrs. Seymour and Miss Goulding each undertook to teach 15 for £13/10/-.

There is a possibility that a school had existed even earlier, for the 1812 meeting of the vestry committee speaks of "making fit for reception of a certain number of children a room called the Schoolroom situated in the Churchyard." On 6.10.1812 it was noted that "the schoolroom should be immediately repaired". Mention of a school in Ruislip in 1655 is made in the Victoria History of Middlesex (vol.4), but this school had disappeared in the next century. Certainly, continuous education can only be traced from that small beginning in 1812, in wooden buildings in the grounds of St. Martin's Church.

The early years of the school are an intriguing exercise in detective work, as few records exist. An early Post Office directory tells us that a Mrs. Phillips was teaching a free school for girls in 1833 and the 1845 directory lists a William Chevalier Phillips and Mrs. Phillips as teaching 81 boys and 41 girls respectively. This is confirmed by the National Society's Church School enquiry of 1846/7, which gives the Ruislip School as 76 boys and 35 girls, taught by a Master and Mistress. Their salaries were £40 and £15/12/- p.a. respectively, and the total cost of running the school was £59 p.a., raised by subscriptions and the childrens pence.

The Phillips were still in charge of the National School in 1851, when the census of that year shows them as having four children of their own, and two boarders. Mr. Phillips was also a receiver of posts (his house would act as a delivery and receiving point for mail), and his wife is listed as a sempstress. They must have been very busy people! The census also tells us that William Phillips was one of the few local people born outside the village - in fact he was born in the West Indies. How, in those days of limited communication, one from so far away should ever have come to settle in the rural isolation of Ruislip, is another mystery.

The 1861 census does not list a National schoolmaster at all, although schoolmistresses are recorded in Eastcote and Ickenham, who may have been running the Ruislip School - it was the only one known in the district at the time. By

this time the National Society (the controlling body of C. of E. Schools) had decided to erect a permanent building to house the school, and the Eastcote Road site was acquired. The new school was officially opened in 1864 and records of the Manager's meetings of that year show that in July the annual school treat was arranged - a visit to the Zoological Gardens for the older ones, and tea and cake for the younger children.

The local directory for 1865 shows a Mr. & Mrs. Lavis as Master and Mistress of the school. Mr. Lavis was also organist at St. Martin's (as was Mr. Phillips) and he appears in that capacity in records for 1868 and 1870.

The census taken in 1871 records that the school-house built in 1862 was then occupied by a Miss Ann Clark, aged 38, who was listed as National Schoolmistress. Also living there were her mother, Mary Ann Clark, aged 65 (also a teacher) and a younger brother, whose occupation is given as "artist". Quite an interesting household, particularly as in the 1871 directory the National Schoolmaster is listed as a Mr. Crump - where does he fit in the picture?

The next available directory (1874) shows Mr. & Mrs. Taylor as being in charge of the school. Mr. Taylor is mentioned in W. Kemp's History of Eastcote, as he was a musician, who took part in the concerts arranged by the Rev. Everitt. This well-loved Vicar of Ruislip was extremely fond of music, and had the schoolroom licensed so that monthly lectures and musical entertainments could be held. Incidentally, Mr. Taylor's grandson, Mr. G.W. Burrow, now lives in Eastcote, and he tells us that Mrs. Catherine Taylor died whilst at Ruislip, and is buried in St. Martin's Churchyard.

By 1875 the school building was too small and it was enlarged at a cost of £158, and an Infant Mistress, Miss Eliza Bedford, was appointed. The next year another appeal was made to build an Infant Room, and this was opened in June 1876 at a cost of £170. In 1878, because of an increase in the number of children in the parish, outside admissions were refused. Parishioners paid 3d. - 6d. according to jobs; outside parish children were charged 9d.

All the initial building costs and subsequent enlargements were paid for by the generous response to constant appeals in the parish.

The children paid weekly amounts, and in 1878 these were as follows:-  
Labourers, journeymen, etc. 3d. for one child, 5d. for 2, 6d. for 3, 7d. for 4  
8d. for 5, 9d. for 6. Tradesmen, 6d. per child. School pence continued until the Act of 1891, when they were replaced by the Fee Grant - 10/- per year per child, based on average attendances for the year. The main Government grant, started in 1862, depended on the number of children each year considered to have reached a "fair" standard of education. H.M.I.'s inspection at an annual visit decided who had or had not. Known as "payment by results", it lasted for 30 years.

These fragmented records from various sources are all that is available until the school log books were retained. These date only from 1890, but they make fascinating reading, as they unwittingly re-create the whole picture of village life at the turn of the century. True, the Headmasters seem unduly obsessed with attendance figures, but as their salaries and, indeed, the whole existence of the school depended on the number of attendances made by children, perhaps this is hardly surprising.

The advertisement for the Head in 1890 reads "Master/Organist/Choirmaster. Joint salary for man & wife £110 - £120, according to qualifications. House and garden. Good disciplinarian. No large family. Loyal to Church. Monitors 14 up to be trained."

On April 14th, 1890, Mr. James Garrett records that he "commenced duties as

Master of Ruislip Schools, my cousin, Mary Jane Chandler taking Infants and Needlework." The next day he examined the school and found "Arithmetic weak throughout the school. Writing - bad. Spelling - weak. Reading - fair. Discipline - about as bad as it can be." Hardly an encouraging start. However, by the following year Mrs. Garrett had joined the staff and a pupil teacher (unqualified) also assisted. Also in 1891 the school was again enlarged.

The state of the roads of the time can be judged by the fact that heavy rain invariably meant that children from the Eastcote district found the roads impassable and were unable to come to school. On days of stormy or severe weather the Headmaster often reports closing the school owing to poor attendance. There were other hazards to full attendance as well. On September 29th, 1891, Mr. Garrett writes "Attendance falling off. A good many children picking up acorns. Acorns are a 1/- a bushel. I have just heard of a family having sold 17 bushels at 1/- a bushel." Haymaking, harvesting, gathering mushrooms and blackberrying were all excuses for non-attendance, and events such as visits of a circus to Uxbridge, Pinner Fair, or even a Jumble Sale at Eastcote, meant that the school was closed for lack of pupils.

By 1896 the log book records "Weekly average attendance 141. This is the best weekly average since I have been Master of the School." This was near the end of Mr. Garrett's reign as Head and on August 31st. 1896, Charles Radcliffe and his wife Jane took over. They stayed for only three years, and he seemed disgruntled from the start. In September he reported "Marching to music has been introduced with good effect. There is still a tendency to stamp - perhaps not always accidentally." In January the next year he writes in the log book "The bad effects of previous training are still very apparent in this school. Self-control, application to work in the absence of the teacher, general pride in self-culture and even an anxiety to answer questions and take interest in the work were conspicuous by their absence. The only ready way of getting work done here is to drive the children along". His entry in 1898 is even more desperate. "Personally it is a real and poignant grief to me to see the system of so-called education so utterly fail to produce even decency. Teachers have so little power, - parents are so lax and the authorities do nothing, that the case is hopeless, I fear."

Shortly after this there is the entry "Uxbridge Circus Day. On roll 184. Present 128. Not quite 70% present. It will be worse this afternoon. Such is the appreciation of our people of the advantages of education. It is enough to dishearten a millstone."

In 1899 the school re-opened after the Christmas holidays with Mr. Ratcliffe taking 68 children, and his assistant teachers 44 and 49. He must, by then, have given the school up as a bad job for on January 6th he notes that he has handed in his resignation. "This I do entirely of my own accord, as I am leaving the profession for a time".

Mr. & Mrs. Youens were appointed in April to bring the school up to standard and, by April 28th Mr. Youens was able to write in the log book "Mrs. Youens and Miss Copeland now have the Infants under reasonable control" - the mind boggles at the thought of tiny nineteenth-century St. Trinians.

The school continued to grow and to outstrip its accommodation. It was again increased in size in 1899, when the Headmaster's house was also enlarged. It then had two sitting-rooms, a kitchen, back kitchen, and four bedrooms. A record of the school dimensions shows the main classroom as  $52\frac{1}{2}' \times 19\frac{1}{2}'$ , with another classroom  $19' \times 19'$ . The Infant rooms were  $20\frac{1}{2}' \times 19\frac{1}{2}'$  and  $15' \times 15'$ . With the roll then creeping up to 200 perhaps it was just as well that attendance was still not as high as it should have been. In June 1901 Mr. Youens was writing "Attendance bad this week, owing to tea-parties at Ruislip Common, Eastcote and Ickenham, and the usual day or two to get over it (parental weakness)".

Accidents in school seem comparatively rare, but must have caused much confusion when they did happen. In February 1903 there is the following entry in the log book "Henry Shard fell and badly cut his head. The Vicar, whose advice was immediately sought, came and bandaged the boy's head". A little later in the year a girl who strained her foot in the playground was carried home by two other girls. The next serious accident was not recorded until 1911 when Willie Frewin was knocked down by a motor-car - a very early road accident victim.

Questions of discipline are not often referred to, but Mr. Youens does note in April of 1913 "H.K. sent home for refusing to wash his celluloid collar, which was very dirty". The Punishment Book from 1913 - 1931 is in existence, and this shows a use of the cane which seems unduly harsh by modern standards. The same names recur regularly, particularly the numerous Lavender family, whose various members were caned 21 times over a period of 4 years. The individual record must be held by one unfortunate Fred Hart, aged about 12, who was caned 18 times in as many months.

Some of the offences listed seem trifling:-

Shouting on coming in from play.  
Whistling.  
Not attempting to sing.  
Refusing to read.  
Making a fire near the hedge at dinner-time.  
(that was one of Fred Hart's lesser misdemeanours)  
Temper when spoken to.  
Disturbed drill by jumping out of place with intent.

The most bizarre reason given was in 1925, when a boy was punished for "Lying down in the road when he knew a motor was coming". He was probably lucky to live to get his caning. Changing attitudes are reflected in the fact that the cane was used 51 times in 1914, and only 19 times in 1929.

The years 1914 - 1918 passed with very little reference to the war in the life of the school. In 1915, 7 pairs of socks from School Needlework were sent to Head Office for the use of the Middlesex Regiment, and also in that year one of the assistant teachers, Miss Swyer, was allowed part of the morning off to say farewell to her brother leaving for the front. Another teacher, Miss Clough, had time off to visit her brother in Aldershot before he left for the Dardanelles. She is also reported as having left teaching to work in munitions in 1918.

By 1919 the school must have been enlarged again, for the accommodation is listed as follows:-

Room A	35' x 19'	64 children
B	18' x 19'	34 children
C	19' x 19'	36 children
D	19½' x 19¼'	36 children
E	15' x 15'	24 children

In that year Mr. Youens retired after 20 years service and was replaced by Mr. John Chester. He inherited a school which was overcrowded, a hotch-potch of additions, and its general condition may be judged by an entry in March, 1924. "A hole was discovered in the floor of Classroom A near the fire-place at mid-day today. Apparently a bucket of red-hot cinders had been placed there by a cleaner. The floor is burned through, and it is a source of wonder to me that the whole school did not catch fire ... the cleaning of the school leaves nearly everything to be desired". No wonder that the National Society tells us that the school was "blacklisted" towards the end of the 1920's.

The condition of the building was not reflected in the children. In 1922 it



was reported as "the only school in the district without a dirty child" after a head inspection. Apart from its good academic work, the school formed cricket, football and netball teams and, in 1924, the netball team was one of the top two teams in the School league. A good spirit must have prevailed at the school as in 1925 there was a gathering of past and present girls, and an attempt was made to form an old girls association.

Mr. Chester resigned at the end of 1925, and his place was taken by Mr. Arthur Smith. By now a council school (the Manor Secondary school - now Bishop Ramsey) was being built in Eastcote Road, and after Easter in 1927 Mr. Smith was appointed as its first Head. The senior children from Ruislip Church School were also transferred to this new school. Miss Beatrice Grist was appointed Headmistress of the depleted school - the first and only woman to hold the post. She had started as a member of staff in April 1910, as an assistant in the Infant Department, and stayed until the opening of the new school in 1931.

At the time of her appointment it seemed that the school would have to be taken over by the local authority. The building was old and inadequate and the National Society was not willing to take on its renewal. A diocesan inspection was held on June 24th, 1927 by the Rev. O.R. Roxby who reported "It is a great pity that this school is likely to be lost to the Church as there is admirable work being done on the best lines associated with Church schools. The tone of the work and the spirit of the children are impressive."

Ruislip "Outlook" reports a large audience assembled in the Church Rooms, presided over by the Vicar, at a meeting to discuss ways and means to raise about £1,000 or alternatively, to accept the generous terms offered by the Middlesex Education Committee for the take-over of the school. It was decided that, as funds could not be guaranteed, the transfer should be agreed.

However, waiting in the wings was a lady who was afterwards referred to as the "fairy godmother" of the Ruislip Church School. A history of the school, compiled by Rosalind Page and lodged in Uxbridge Library quotes several letters from this benefactor the first of which, to the then Vicar of Ruislip, is worth quoting in full:-

Thrigby Hall, Great Yarmouth.  
August 3rd. 1928.

Dear Canon Cornwall Jones,

I write to tell you that without fail I shall be able to arrange for the full great scheme for your "Church Schools and Church Hall" during the coming winter and spring, and all that is necessary now is that you hold them fast against any idea of "transfer". I was profoundly thankful to learn that the trust, etc., makes it impossible for a transfer of that valuable site! I am acting in close co-operation with both the Bishop of London and Prebendary Thicknesse, and am giving my honorary services to them both in September when I shall be able to get all the preliminary arrangements made for carrying out Mr. Clifton Davy's excellent plans in due course.

I write this to beg you to assure the Managers that their unfortunate resolution of July 19th, 1928 need not be considered at all, as this valuable site and school will be excellently developed as a good Church School and Church Hall (as planned) and must on no account be separated from the Church. I will take (and do take) the full responsibility (in touch with my great leaders! as above!) all I ask is that you will all help me a little - taking no responsibility; and this letter is to make sure that in no way is the property either "transferred" or separated from the Church in any way! I shall very shortly be coming to Ruislip and I shall carry the preliminary arrangements through in September.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Helen Sawbridge.

This intriguing lady, with her addiction to underlining and exclamation marks, did, indeed, wave her magic wand and transform the situation. The story that lies behind her appearance on the scene is as yet unfathomed, but she apparently signed the following undertaking on 29th September, 1928:-

I undertake that I will be responsible for finding the full sum required for the complete restoration and improvement of the Ruislip C. of E. Schools, including architect's fees, rood charges and such sum as is due to the Middlesex Education Committee for emergency work already done ...  
That I will secure architect's plans immediately to meet the requirements of the Board of Education and the Middlesex Education Committee, and will sign the contract as soon as it is prepared. Laura H.T. Sawbridge.

On October 16th 1928 the application for a transfer was withdrawn and the school therefore remained safely under the control of the Church. Ironically, the Council school which had taken its older pupils is now also a Church school (Bishop Ramsey).

Work now commenced on the building of the new school. A proportion of the cost was financed by the local community, as a Church Hall was to be incorporated in the new plans.

A final twist to the mystery of Miss Sawbridge lies in the report of the opening ceremony, when thanks were given to the Local Education Authority, Canon Maplesdon, the Archdeacon of Middlesex, and his Diocesan Schools Appeals Fund and to "Miss Sawbridge, whose liberal and anonymous friend she had interested in the venture (for whom prayers for his recovery from illness had been asked at the Eucharist that day)".

It was 1931 - "the hungry thirties" - and when the post of Headmaster was advertised there were 206 applications. Mr. T.W. Wilkinson was appointed, and the children were transferred to the new building on May 11th, 1931. The first school concert took place on December 8th of that year, and one of the pupils who took part - Audrey Wickham (now Mrs. Baxter) was able to provide photographs and press cuttings of this for the Jubilee display.

Almost from the beginning the school was full, and by 1933 extra accommodation was already being considered. Nevertheless the high academic standard did not fall, and in July 1933 a merit holiday was awarded re successes in the examinations for secondary schools - 25 children of the 94 who sat were awarded places.

Two new classrooms, the Everitt and Gray rooms, named after former Vicars of Ruislip, were built in 1934, with a grant of £200 from the National Society and £200 from the Diocesan Board. The numbers of children admitted continued to increase and by 1937 the roll was 399, with 7 of the 8 classrooms containing 50 children in each.

1939 came, and the school was closed at the outbreak of war. On September 12th all parents were visited by members of staff to see how many pupils would attend if the school were re-opened, and 269 promised attendance. As a result, emergency tutorial classes for pupils over 7 were started on October 16th. By March of 1940 an internal shelter had been completed to accommodate 340 children, although in April, when five-year-olds were admitted, the roll was 383. On August 27th the first night raid is recorded in the log book, and the Battle of Britain comes to life in its pages as the Headmaster notes each time spent in the shelter.

Between August 30th, 1940 and February 21st. 1941 the children spent 66 periods

in the shelter. On September 17th they were there for 40 minutes in the morning, and from 2.15 - 6. p.m. in the afternoon. Mrs. Rosemary Stevens, one of the school's present staff, who was herself a pupil at the time remembers sitting for endless hours in the re-inforced corridors which formed the shelter. She writes "I wonder how many old girls of the 1940-45 vintage remember contributing to the war effort? We knitted!! I remember some girls knitting scarves and pullovers and those of us who, at the ripe old age of ten and eleven, could knit on four needles knitted sea-boot stockings with oiled wool and no heels. They were called comforts for the troops, and this puzzled me for years, as to how those great thick shapeless things could be comfortable."

The grim realities of life at the time are reflected in the entry for November 18th 1940. "Mrs. Green absent - house destroyed by enemy action." The flying bomb period shows up when Mr. Wilkinson records 18 sirens between June 16th and July 13th in 1944.

After the war the school settled down to a period of steady progress, although the "new" school was already proving too small for its purpose, and the provisions inadequate. The administration side of the school was enlarged with the appointment of a clerical assistant in 1950, and a welfare assistant in 1955. The excellent academic work of the school is typified in the results for 1950, when 27 Grammar places were awarded to an age-group of 49 children.

Mr. Wilkinson retired at the end of 1956, having been Headmaster for 25 years, and Mrs. Lemmings became Acting Head for a time. She had first joined the school as Miss Marchant in 1927 and, although she left after her marriage, she later rejoined the school, first as a supply teacher and then as a member of the permanent staff. On April 30th 1957, Mr. R.H.Jennings took over as Headmaster.

By the 1960's the shortcomings of the school building were becoming more and more apparent. Any heavy rain invariably produced a leak somewhere in the roof, and buckets were always kept at the ready to be placed in strategic spots in the classrooms. The toilet block out in the playground was difficult to keep clean and, one memorable winter, froze up completely for about a week, which meant almost continuous queues for the few lavatories housed in the main building.

Once again, a new building was badly needed and, as before, local people rallied round to support the project. Many members of community worked hard to get things moving, and a Parents Association was formed in 1966. In September of that year the strain on the accommodation was eased a little when two classrooms at the Manor School were taken over - just as they had been in the last days of the previous school.

During this time the school was fortunate in having a long settled period with few staff changes and, in December 1967, Mr. Jennings notes that Mr. Cottrell was away sick - his first absence in 15 years!

The last years of the old school saw the retirement of two teachers each of whom had literally given a lifetime of service to the school. Miss Mitchelhill, who was appointed in 1938, had been with the school for 29 years and, as Head of the Infant Department, had laid for foundation for much of the good results obtained by the B.W.I. children. Mrs. Lemmings had an even more unique record, for her service spanned a period of 40 years, and she is also the only member of the original staff of the school in 1931 to be able to attend the Jubilee celebrations of 1981. Mrs. Battersby was another long-serving teacher to leave after 21 years, in December 1972.

The new school in Southcote Rise was commenced in 1967, and it opened on September 19th 1968, the Bishop of London conducting a Service of Dedication on November 16th. The modern building, with its much larger playgrounds and a school playing field, was a great improvement on the old school and, as an example of the

latest ideas in school construction, it received a number of visitors in its early days. On the 40th anniversary of the founding of B.W.I., the Bishop of Willesden, Leonard Graham, visited the school and conducted the morning assembly.

On July 23rd. 1971 Mr. Jennings retired after 14 years service. It is interesting to note that the present Headmaster, Mr. D.E. Knowles, is only the third Head in 50 years. In December, Mr. C. Wilson retired after 18 years service, and the following year Mr. J. Cottrell retired after 24 years 2 terms. Mr. Cottrell was a talented artist, and many examples of skill at cartoon drawing, and his delightful sense of humour, appeared in Punch.

1973 saw a visit by the Mayor and Mayoress of Hillingdon on March 27th and, during that year, work commenced on the site of an extra classroom built as an annexe at the front of the Infant block. Once more accommodation was proving inadequate, and the magnificent efforts of the Parents Association resulted in the provision, not only of an extra classroom, but storage space in the shape of a Banbury garage and, later, another room to be used for small groups, and named the Clifford Littler room, in recognition of Mr. Littler's invaluable work as a school manager.

The activities of the school were also expanding. Visiting teachers were giving music instruction in various wind and stringed instruments, school journeys in England and France were instituted and clubs for Gymnastics, Chess, country dancing, etc., were started as after-school activities. In 1977 the school was host to a visiting football team from America - the Pittsford Mustangs. At a farewell party they presented the school with the flag which flew over the Capitol building in Washington on July 4th 1976 (Bi-centenary day). Miss May Hall, who had replaced Miss Mitchelhill as Head of the Infant Department had been with the school for twelve years when she retired in 1977.

Like the rest of the country B.W.I. celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a special "Jubilee Day", and entered a float in the Ruislip Jubilee Procession, depicting Queen Victoria's Jubilee and that of Queen Elizabeth II.

With the school's own Golden Jubilee in sight, it has been enlarged once again by a two-classroom block provided by the energetic Parents Association, and its opening by the Bishop on Jubilee Day was a fitting climax to the 50 years of the school's existence under its present name.

1981 also saw the resignation, in April, of yet another teacher who had given invaluable service to the school for many years. Mrs. Jean Rocklington, who joined B.W.I. in 1964, and had been Deputy Head for 8 years, left to take up a Headship in West Raynham, Norfolk.

Thus, the little school for 50 poor children of the Parish has grown into the thriving modern primary school of the present time and, in so doing, mirrors the development of Ruislip from a sleepy country village, isolated by bad roads and poor communications, into a busy London suburb.

#### Sources

School log books.

The National Society.

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- 1851, 1861, 1871 census records.

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Information supplied by Mr. G.W. Burrow.

(Grandson of Headmaster Mr. William Taylor).