

Journal

April 1983

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 1983

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SUMMER VISITS 1982

CHAWTON & SELBOURNE - NOT JUST RURAL BACKWATERS : 22nd May

Our outing on 22nd May to Chawton and Selbourne gave a coach load of members a chance to glimpse the rural background against which significant advances were marked in science and literature around the turn of the 19th century in these two neighbouring Hampshire parishes.

The first stop was at the house in the village of Chawton where Jane Austen lived with her widowed mother from 1809 and where she completed almost all her well-known novels. The house, preserved as nearly as possible in the style which Jane would have recognised as home by her Memorial Trust, gives a touching impression of the conditions in which she worked, and the social life of the county which is so sensitively portrayed in her work. The house, in an unspoiled village setting, is surrounded by an intimate natural garden which she too would surely have loved.

Some three miles away at Selbourne, three decades earlier, Gilbert White was curate where his grandfather had been vicar before him. He had spent the greater part of his life happily and quietly recording the plants, animals and historic features of an area which was to become famous when he published correspondence with two naturalist friends as the "Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne".

We visited "The Wakes", the house where he lived and created a beautiful garden from a multitude of traditional and exotic plants and trees - and from where we would look out as he did at the imposing beech clad "hanger" or cliff where he constructed his famous zig-zag path. The secret of such a rich flora and fauna lies in the wide diversity of geological features in the neighbourhood, which the path still helps present day visitors explore.

Many of us looked too at the memorabilia collected by two famous explorers of the Oates family, also housed at "The Wakes", at the 12th century parish church of St. Mary, with its great yew tree and rose-filled graveyard. The village is clearly alive, with not only several antique shops, but with real village stores, a craft shop, tea rooms - and even a gypsy museum just up the road.

- M. CARTWRIGHT.

GUIDED TOUR OF SOUTH BUCKS. : 26th June

It was mac and broolly weather as the coach left Ruislip. We crept through flood water at Eastcote and there were frequent heavy showers throughout the day. We were going to see some of the oldest vernacular timber-framed buildings in South Bucks. but there was, of course, much to see of more recent date in Northwood, Watford and Dunstable - 1930's Tudorbethan, '60's ticky-tacky and council-built semis. Our guide, John Bailey, met us at Dunstable. We wiped the condensation off the windows to see the blur of Totternhoe where a Norman castle once stood - it was far too wet to make the ascent - and then made our way to Ivinghoe and Pitstone, the wide skies over the vale of Aylesbury varying from white through stormy grey to near-black.

At Pitstone, Mr. Hawkins told us of how his ancestors acquired the land in the early 19th century (it had once belonged to the Earl of Bridgewater) and how his father restored the mill to working-order after it had fallen into dereliction earlier this century.

The mill bears the date 1627 and is the oldest surviving windmill in the country. After this, we visited the farm museum, which houses many types of

cart, (we noted the night-soil cart from Mentmore), and various 'shops' - a wheelwright's, a blacksmith's and so on: these looked as if the owners had just left them for a few minutes and never returned. Many of us bought flour that Mr. Hawkins had ground at a mill in the museum.

Back in the coach, we drove on to Thame for lunch, past R.A.F. Halton, where the flags were at half-mast, and through Ellesborough, where, we were told, Mrs. Thatcher attends Sunday morning services when she is at Chequers. At Thame, some found the church and the old grammar school while others mooched around the shops.

At Haddenham we were taken round the Wealden-type house that belongs to Mr. Griffiths and stands on the village green. It was built on the site of an earlier Norman house mentioned in the Domesday Book, and some of the party saw the vaulted Norman cellars. The house originally had a two-storey-high central hall and jettied cross-wings at either end. We saw how a floor had been inserted at a later date and a fireplace added when the house was modernised in 1580. There were remains of Tudor wall-paintings to be seen - fleur-de-lis and roses (commemorating the royal gift of the house to a Tudor owner?) - and a three hundred year old mulberry tree, leaning and laden with fruit. There was time to look at the early English church. Ducks had wandered from the pond to nestle among the gravestones.

At Long Crendon, we made two visits. The first was to the manor house to see the thirteenth century base-cruck hall with crown-post roof and later gallery. The second was to a National Trust property, the Court House near the church. This is of uncertain date. We noted the dragon-post supporting the jetties. Inside, notable features of the upper room, which runs the entire length of the building, included the stout, wide floorboards. This long room (the only part of the building open to the public) was once the village meeting place.

At Long Crendon, Mr. Bailey left us and we made our way home in brighter weather after a very full and enjoyable day. - R. HARDMAN.

VISIT TO DORNEY COURT : 12th September

On a warm, sunny afternoon a party of members of the Society visited Dorney Court, one of the finest Tudor manor houses in Britain.

Dorney Court, set in open countryside, lies about three miles across the river from Windsor, and was only opened to the public in 1981. It is the ancestral home of Mr. and Mrs. Peregrine Palmer and has been handed down in the Palmer family from father to son in unbroken succession since 1600 and is still a family home. It is built of pink brick and timber, is many-gabled, with a tall chimney and a splendid Great Hall. The layout has changed little since the beginning of the 16th century. A kingpin in the roof carries the date 1510, but some of the architecture is earlier and some more recent. It contains an extensive collection of period furniture and family portraits, with lovely panelling in the Great Hall and bedrooms. The long oak table in the Great Hall was made in the 15th century but it is estimated that the tree from which it was formed would have been growing in the time of Christ. The edges of the table bear indentations caused by the hilts of daggers pressed against the table as their wearers tucked into their bread and meat. The parlour, or drawing room, is the oldest part of the house and is immediately under the Great Chamber, now used as the principal bedroom. It contains some particularly fine furniture and a priest-hole, which has recently been uncovered during repairs. This is believed to have connected with Burnham Abbey but the secret passage has not been discovered.

"Dorney" is the ancient word for "Island of Bees", and Dorney Court is

famous for its honey to this day. It was here also that the first pineapple to be raised in England was grown - it was presented to King Charles II in 1661. Part of the estate is now a market garden, fruit and vegetables from which were on sale at the little shop, together with pots of the famous honey. Cream teas were also available at the house.

The mellow charm and idyllic situation of the house has recently provided the background for several films.

Across a small courtyard is the parish church of St. James, dating from the 13th century and still in regular use. It contains a Norman font, 17th century gallery, wall paintings and, in the side chapel, the ornate Garrard tomb.

Our visit concluded with the unexpected bonus of the sight of several very smartly equipped horse drawn carriages drawing up in front of the house. These had been competing in trials held in the adjacent grounds and all appeared to be sporting prize winning rosettes! - B.M. KINGSTON.

C O M M I T T E E 1983 - 1984

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TWO EXHIBITIONS : JULY 1982 by ELIZABETH HARDMAN

From July 11th - 24th, the Great Barn was a most appropriate setting for the exhibition to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the handing over of Park Wood by Kings College in 1932.

The Ruislip Woods exhibition dealt with the history, natural history and management of the woods. Historically, Park Wood is the oldest with a mention in the Domesday survey of "the park of wild beasts of the forest there". There have been only eight owners of Park Wood from Ernulf de Hesdin in 1086 to the present owners, the London Borough of Hillingdon. The maps in the exhibition showed clearly how it had shrunk, most noticeably in the last fifty years with the building of Park Avenue, Broadwood Avenue and other smaller roads in former woodland. The history and ownership of Copse Wood, Bayhurst Wood and Mad Bess Wood were also illustrated by maps and copies of legal documents.

In the centre of the Barn were two enormous and detailed models showing Ruislip-Northwood in 1903 and 1953. Here it was possible to trace the erosion of Park Wood by housing, the early development of Northwood along the line of the Metropolitan railway and the much later development of South Ruislip. These models aroused great admiration and interest. Many local residents could find their own house and road on the 1953 model and discover which fields and farm paths had preceded them on the 1903 model.

The younger visitors were especially interested in the management section, brought to life for them by the Borough Woodman, Mr. George Mist. Here there were photographs explaining coppicing and a display of the tools used from Victorian times to the present day; a saw-pit had been constructed indoors with the awesome, two-man saw in position; various types of cut timber were displayed: billets for chair-making, stales, lash bavin and faggots for firewood. Models of four Victorian country labourers were shown in their working clothes and bonnets making kindling and among the more unusual products of the woods which once provided the joists for the White Tower and the fencing for Henry VIII's park were wooden grave boards, a feature of this corner of Middlesex.

The highlight of a school visit, however, was the demonstration of broom- and rake-making. A nine year old visitor, Sandra Curtis, explains; "Mr. Mist showed us how to make a broom. He got some long sticks about one metre and put them in a bundle tied with wire. After that, he stripped the bark off a long stick about 1.25 metres, then he fixed the sticks to the handle which wasn't that easy to do".

The natural history section was introduced by a magnificent display of photographs showing birds, animals, insects and plants to be found in the woods by those who look carefully. Among the lesser known species were the purple hairstreak butterfly which lives and feeds at the very top of oak trees, the spotted orchid, the red poll and the tree creeper and two summer visitors, the spotted flycatcher and willow warbler. A case of moths and butterflies showed the many varieties which can be found in the woods and there was an interesting explanation of how lichen acts as a pollution indicator.

The natural history of the woods was further illustrated by an excellent slide film showing not only the flora and fauna already mentioned but also hornbeam coppicing and work in progress on Poor's Field which has recently been cleared of scrub and allowed to return to true heath land.

After the rather jolly atmosphere of the Great Barn with its mixture of models, demonstrations and pictures, there was an austere and erudite air to the Cow Byre exhibition. The documents on show demanded patient and careful study

to yield up their own picture of life in days gone by. The centre piece was the original Doharty map of 1750 which all members of the Local History Society must have greeted like an old friend. It was familiar and yet unfamiliar, a far more decorated and colourful document than copies and reproductions led one to expect. The church (apparently gabled along one side), the smithy, barns, pond and hayricks could all be seen in minute detail. Beside it was the bill for making the terrier and map - £42. 4s., and the list of people who rented land from the college in 1750. Familiar names among these were William Barringer and James Wilchin.

The oldest documents on show were two which went back to the Abbey of Bec period, early C13 grants in frankalmoign, citing the payments made for certain masses to be said. Both these documents were remarkable for their beautiful clear handwriting, still very dark on the parchment.

There were copies of two Royal Extents which listed all the goods in the manor of Ruislip first in 1294, then in 1324. A detailed study of these would reveal much about the life-style of the period. In 1324 the servants at the manor included a reeve, fourteen ploughmen, one swineherd, one cowherd, one woodward, one hayward and one doorkeeper. The 1294 list of goods owned by the farm ends on a surprisingly exotic note: "50 pigs, 60 piglets, 11 suckling pigs, 2 swans, 17 peacocks".

No doubt the most valuable document in the exhibition was the open letter from King Henry VI dated 10th July 1437 granting the "Manor of Ruislip with a place called Northwode" to John Somerset for life and after to the University of Cambridge. This impressive-looking document was sealed with the Great Seal of England.

Among the many other exhibits was correspondence about the vicar's right to tithes of wood in 1577. (The vicar was named John Smythe and it took over two hundred years to settle the matter). There was also an early example of a post-mark dated 1692. In those days the recipient paid the 2d. duty to the postman. Date marks were introduced in 1661 to ensure that letters would be delivered the same day in any part of London.

So, among the great documents of state and the small letters of day-to-day business, life in Ruislip over seven centuries could be deciphered, now dimly, now with a startling immediacy, from this exhibition.

RUISLIP JUBILEE DAY - 24th JULY 1982

by LEN KRAUSE
=====

Jubilee Day arrived grey and damp. As I drove through Ruislip and up Bury Street the drizzle increased to a soft rain, but as I turned into Park Wood it was quiet and dry under the trees. It was 7.30 a.m. and I found Colin Williamson and John Elsmore busy removing an old car dumped by our local vandals. The ceremonial dais was soon off-loaded from its carrier, set in position and decorated with bunting kindly loaned by Sister Carmel from St. Vincents at the other corner of Park Wood. We were ready!

I returned to Park Wood about 10.30 a.m. with Eileen and already groups of people were chatting together under the trees. Within minutes we welcomed The Mayor and Mayoress of Hillingdon, Councillor and Mrs. Keith Briggs, and almost immediately Dr. George Rylands, Fellow of Kings College and Professor Keith Hopkins of Brunel University. With a sprightliness that belied his years, Dr. Rylands

set off through the trees pointing out interesting features as he remembered them.

Eleven o'clock approached and we looked anxiously round for our musicians and there was a roll of drums from the road below and the scarlet clad figures of the Great Cornard & Sudbury Majorettes marched up into position alongside the 6th Ruislip (St. Martins) Scouts Guard of Honour. Suddenly Park Wood was transformed with life and colour.

The Mayor opened the ceremony with a welcome to Dr. Rylands and the assembled company. He spoke of the debt we all owed to the foresight and dedicated public spirit of those members of the local council and residents who had with Kings College Cambridge in 1932 preserved a priceless piece of ancient woodland as an open space for all time.

Dr. Rylands, whose urbane authority completely held his audience, spoke of his personal pleasure for this invitation to the Park Wood Jubilee. He recalled how, as a newly appointed Fellow of Kings College in the 1920's, he had worked with Maynard Keynes, Bursar of the College, on the various schemes being considered for the development of the estate. Once or twice a year they had driven round all the manorial lands in Ruislip and Northwood.

Dr. Rylands spoke of Maynard Keynes as a very kind and generous man and how pleased he was when ideas for golf courses and building estates were finally rejected in favour of the preservation of the woods. He said that Keynes would have been delighted even more by the way Ruislip people had guarded and preserved this great heritage.

In grateful memory of these events Eileen presented to Dr. Rylands, a copy of the newly published Management Report on Ruislip Woods, prepared by local societies and Hillingdon Borough Council.

Our gratitude was now expressed in a simple service of thanksgiving. Father John Smith of St. Martins, Ruislip announced St. Francis of Assisi's Hymn, "All Creatures of our God and King", appropriate not only for its eloquent word pictures, but in celebrating the 800th anniversary of his birth. We started rather tentatively with a solitary saxophone, but soon the woods echoed to the sound of 300 voices and the band. The Rev. David Batchelor of the URC Eastcote said the prayers, and Mr. Green of Ruislip Baptist Church and the Rev. John Hope of Ruislip Methodist Church read from Psalm 104 and St. Matthew Chapter 6.

It was now time to plant the commemoration trees. Three fine young oak saplings had been put into containers earlier in the Spring by Colin Roome, ready for the day. First was the Mayor Councillor Briggs and as he shovelled the soil round the tree roots with the Borough's Ceremonial "Princess" spade he paused and said "This is the first commemorative tree I have ever planted and I'm suddenly overawed by the thought that it will be growing here long after I have gone".

Next Dr. Rylands planted a tree on behalf of the Provost & Fellows of Kings College Cambridge, and Leslie Buckham planted the third tree on behalf of the people of Ruislip. The quiet simplicity of these plantings, each tree being blessed in the timeless words of the Liturgy by Father Arrowsmith of the Sacred Heart, was observed with intense interest by all present. The emotive nature of the occasion brought forth the spontaneous singing of "For they are jolly good Fellows".

The Majorettes Band struck up the National Anthem and Father John Smith

said the Blessing to bring the Jubilee Ceremony in the Park Wood to a quiet close.

The local Harriers had now arrived and Dr. Rylands was able to start the race for the 'Jubilee Cup' for runners under the age of 16, presented by the Ruislip Village Trust, and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.

It was now time for lunch in the room in Manor Farm House where the Manorial Courts were held. Eileen and I were happy to be joined by Ian Tait, Mr. A.E.B. Owen of the Cambridge University Library and Dr. David Hawksworth of the Woods Advisory Panel.

Dr. Rylands had many stories of Maynard Keynes, of his own interest in the theatre, and of the many famous people in the RSC today, who had been his students.

The warmth and friendliness of this conversation persuaded the Mayoress, Mrs. Betty Briggs, to reveal that not only was it her birthday but also that it was the anniversary of her betrothal which had taken place at Kings College Cambridge!! With these happy thoughts we drank a toast and set off to the High Street to see the Grand Jubilee procession organised by Ruislip residents.

Then into the Society's Exhibition in the Great Barn and Cow Byre, where the Secretary and dedicated members of the Society were struggling with the great influx of visitors, enquiries and sales of our new publications.

The crowds were even greater in the Jubilee Fayre at Manor Farm, where Cyril Hand and his Lions were busy as ever for charity. The Majorettes Band had come to the rescue to cover a last minute let down, and indeed they were the Heroines of Ruislip Jubilee Day with a trio of impeccable performances in the Wood, in the Procession and in the Jubilee Fayre.

The idea of celebrating the Jubilee of the opening of Park Wood in 1932 came from Eileen, who with her husband Colin Bowlt, devised the whole of this Society's contribution and so made 24th July 1982 the most important day in its history. When Eileen and I first considered what we might do, we decided that we wanted a happy day of simple celebration with the people of Ruislip and Eastcote. We wish to express our thanks for all the splendid support we had to Mr. R.W. Garson and Mr. Rhodes of LBH Leisure Services, to Ruislip Lions Round Table, Rotary, Residents Association Caledonian Society, Eastcote Conservation and Ruislip Chamber of Commerce for informed help and active participation. A happy day indeed!

Ruislip Jubilee Day.



The Mayor, Cllr. Keith Briggs plants a tree on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon.



Dr. Rylands, Fellow of Kings College Cambridge receives the gift of the Woodlands Management book from Mrs. Eileen Bowlt.

Keen local historians are always on the look-out for sources of information about their own locality. Those who attended the Local History Conference held at the Museum of London on November 20th 1982, were introduced to Parochial Assessment Maps and Records of the Courts of Chancery & Exchequer as potential sources of such information.

The first speaker, R. Hyde of the Maps and Manuscripts Department, Guildhall, reminded us that after the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, responsibility for poor relief passed to Poor law Unions and their Boards of Guardians. In parishes where no other reliable maps existed, the Board of Guardians could appoint an independent surveyor to produce a detailed map of "messuages, lands and hereditaments" so that the rateable value could be estimated. Twenty-six such maps exist for the City of London alone.

The maps frequently became a "status symbol" and in addition to measurements of streets and buildings, they often had a picture of the church and names of the incumbent and other officials - all of interest to the local historian. Wealthy parishes even had their maps lithographed and a copy was given to local householders.

Of particular interest was the map made for Greenwich by Frederick Walter Sims and presented to the Board of Guardians on July 25th 1839. Although its existence was well-documented, the map itself was missing until a few months ago when a church warden was clearing out a cupboard at St. Alphedge's Church, Greenwich. Thinking he had found an old projection screen he started to unroll it and was amazed when the outline of the Thames and map of the parish appeared, still recognisable despite its damp and dusty condition. This map has now been restored and bound in a volume exhibited at the conference. The moral is clear - no opportunity should be missed to examine church cupboards and chests. Who knows what treasures they still contain?

From Dr. Lynch's talk on "The Great North Road through Middlesex", I learned that in the 19th century the road was turnpiked with toll gates at such places as Ganwick Corner (north of Barnet), Whetstone and Tally Ho Corner. Pedestrians were allowed to pass through freely but vehicles were charged for the combined inward and outward passage. Typical charges were:-

Coach and 6 Horses	9d.
Vehicle drawn by 1 Horse	1½d.
Wagon with wheels 6-9 ins.diameter	1d. per horse.

Whetstone was a busy point and Dr. Lynch has calculated that in the 1830's one vehicle passed through each way every two minutes in daylight hours, about 200 to 300 yards apart.

Further south between Tally Ho Corner and Highgate the road crossed Finchley Common, an area notorious for highwaymen until 1797 when the introduction of paper money with its easily-traced numbered notes forced them to curtail their activities.

Highgate Hill created many problems for wheeled vehicles and various solutions were proposed including that of levelling the hill. Robert Vazie suggested that a tunnel 1¼ miles long should be built until it was realised that passengers travelling in open, unlit horse-drawn coaches would not appreciate the drive through such a long tunnel. An alternative was the proposal by John Rennie for a deep cutting and a tunnel 210 yards long. The work was financed by the Highgate Archway Company (the archway referred to being a tunnel and not a single-arched bridge) but unfortunately after 150 yards the tunnel collapsed. The final solution was a cutting spanned by a bridge to take

Hornsey Lane. The company by this time had run out of money and the road surface remained very poor until in 1837 Thomas Telford put down new drains and resurfaced it with concrete.

The road, known as Junction Road, remained a toll road until 1898 with gates at Holloway and Islington. The final stage of the Great North Road extended from The Angel following the line of St. John Street to a point near Smithfield Market from which all distances on the road are measured.

The records of Chancery & Exchequer do not immediately commend themselves as promising material for the local historian. Indeed, the third and final speaker of the afternoon, Dorian Gerhold, admitted that they had been described as "difficult to read, impossible to understand and revolting to handle", but he has found much of interest in them.

The courts of Chancery & Exchequer were used by people who had no remedy for their complaint in Common Law. The Chancery Court dealt with problems relating to individuals e.g. disputes over property, marriage contracts, apprenticeships etc. The Exchequer cases were more concerned with community problems such as common rights and manorial customs. The evidence was presented in the form of written depositions and in the lengthy accusations and counter-accusations are found many details of family relationships and the property held by those involved.

The records have the great advantage of being written in English but the disadvantages are that the various documents are held in different places and it is difficult to trace individual names and cases. Mr. Gerhold has listed where the records can be found and a copy of this list is in the keeping of the Society's Registrar. - COLLEEN A. COX.

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE : 19th February

The theme of this conference held at Harrow College of Further Education was Local Industries and Crafts.

Mr. C. Ellmers, Senior Assistant Keeper, Museum of London, talked about the development of Craft Trades common to London and other parts of the country, and their importance during the period of the Industrial Revolution, as they were modified but continued employing considerable numbers of people.

Mr. I.G. Sparkes, Librarian, High Wycombe Central Library and Curator, Wycombe Chair Museum, gave a slide talk on the history and craft of chairmaking from cottage industry to a modern factory designed product, and Mr. M. Cornell, a former chairman of North Hertfordshire branch of Campaign for Real Ale and writer of many articles on local brewery history, spoke on the development of the common brewer as a specialist trade during the medieval period, the slow growth and gradual acceleration of the tied house system and the decline from the 19th century when every village had its own brewery, to the present when the local brewer has been replaced by the regional and the national brewer.

An exhibition of relevant material was also staged. - THE EDITOR.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT RUISLIP VICARAGE APRIL 1982

by COLIN BOWLT

Documentary references to the Vicarage of Ruislip extend back to the late 14th century. The absence of maps at such an early date makes it difficult to fix the exact location of places referred to in such documents but in this case it seems reasonably certain that the Vicarage has occupied the present site on the west side of Bury Street on the north bank of the River Pinn for many hundreds of years. It was certainly there when the first detailed map of Ruislip was drawn by John Doherty in 1750. A curious feature of this position is its relatively great distance of more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Church on the opposite side of the River Pinn, which might have made journeys to and from the Church difficult in times of flood.

The present Vicarage was built in 1881, replacing a building of which no details have yet been discovered except the ground plan on the 25" O.S. map of 1865. When the Ruislip Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society realised that the Church of England had plans to dispose of the site following the departure of the vicar at the end of 1981 and knowing its great historical significance, they applied to the Parsonages Board for permission to conduct a limited archaeological excavation:-

- (a) to discover whether stratified remains of earlier occupation were still present, and
- (b) to try to establish that occupation of this site did extend back as far as the earliest references to a Ruislip Vicarage.

Excavation was confined to the south side of the present house. The ground had been made up in two or three places with some 2 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet of dark loam and gravel containing 18th/19th century broken pottery, glass bottles, clay pipes, bones and tiles. The drive to the former front door on the south side of the present house was discovered made of broken bricks from an earlier building capped with gravel. Under this dumped material was a pebble surface (probably a yard). This sealed a layer of variable thickness containing late medieval and Tudor pottery, shells, bones and broken tiles (but no pipes or glass bottles). At one place a shallow trench was discovered running north-south containing broken bricks of early date. This was either a "robbed" foundation trench or a "soak-away". Further east a spread of large flints and chalk blocks was uncovered also running north-south.

There was evidence of at least two phases of use from what appeared to be two separate drainage gullies running to the stream, which contained pottery of medieval date including pieces of Hertfordshire grey-ware of c.1300, showing that the site was indeed occupied at the time of the first written references to a Vicarage at Ruislip. The flints may have been finally used to form a gully but it seems likely that such expensive building material (dug from the chalk several miles away) would originally have formed the walls (or bases) of a substantial early Vicarage.

Work is in progress analysing the finds and data to produce a more complete account of the excavation.

10th May, 1982.

THE REVEREND CHRISTOPHER PACKE 1792-1878 VICAR OF RUISLIP 1834-1878

by EILEEN M. BOWLT

Christopher Packe was born in Edinburgh in 1792, the son of Dr. Herbert Packe. He matriculated from Worcester College, Oxford in May 1810, thus qualifying to proceed to a Bachelor's degree which he obtained in 1814, becoming a Deacon the same year. Two years later he was ordained by the Archbishop of Canterbury and began a long and varied career in the Church of England ministry. His appointments were as follows:-

1817-35	Minor Canon of St. Pauls.
1833-78	Junior Cardinal of St. Pauls.
1821-67	Minor Canon of St. George's Chapel, Windsor. From the time of his resignation in 1867 until his death he received a pension of £115 per annum from the Dean and Chapter.
1821	Preacher-in-Ordinary to Queen Caroline.
1821	Priest-in-Ordinary to the King.
1821-35	Rector of St. Michael Bassishaw.
1834-78	Vicar of Ruislip.
	Priest-in-Ordinary of St. James. ¹

It will be noted that the dates of several of the posts overlap. He wrote himself in July 1834: "I have upon various occasions ... been assailed as a great Pluralist. I grant that I am such. But ... believe me that nothing but my necessities have urged me to become such".²

Why should he with so many sources of income stand in such need and why did a man living in London and presumably in a position to mingle with persons of fashion, apply for the living of Ruislip, a remote country parish for the most part peopled by agricultural labourers and farmers? His letter of application for Ruislip to the Dean and Canons of Windsor, already quoted supplies the answers to these questions.² He had married, probably in 1821 which may account for his burst of activity in that year. His wife's Christian names were Mary Halswod (surname not known). A rapidly expanding, but alas sickly family brought mounting expenses and personal tragedy. He wrote "And I most solemnly declare and will show from my books that until this last twelve months my income (after my annual average bill for medical attendance has been discharged) has never amounted to £400 a year".² He continues "That I should feel most anxious for a home in the country you gentlemen, who are aware of the numerous losses I have sustained in my family during the eight years I have lived in my present residence in London cannot feel surprised. Five children have been snatched from me during that period and of the two remaining little ones the infant only of nine months has enjoyed health. My other little girl has been three times on the brink of the grave within the last year. But beyond all this, gentlemen, I have at the moment a sister whose safety requires that she should be in confinement, did not my poverty exclude the possibility of my placing her there".² After referring to his broken spirit and injured health he makes a reference to the summer season which provokes much sympathy in the minds of present day parents who expect their own children to grow strong and healthy during that period. "In my present situation ... the approach of summer which the Almighty seems to have appointed as a season of rejoicing for all nature by me is regarded with anticipation of misery which many years experience has proved not to be groundless. I long, God knows how I long for the pure air of the country".²

Unfortunately Mr. Packe did not put his own address on his letter, but he may have been living at the Rectory of St. Michael Bassishaw, a Wren church standing in New Basinghall Street and demolished in 1899. Child mortality in London was frequently referred to as excessively high. John Evelyn in *Fumifigium*, published 1661 claims that nearly half the children born and bred in London died under two years of age. During the 18th century about 75% of children born in London died under five years of age, according to calculations published in the *Lancet* in 1835 by T.R. Edmonds. Numerous London tradesmen put their young children out at nurse in Ruislip and similar rural parishes during the 17th and 18th centuries, believing like Christopher Packe, in the efficacy of pure air.³

Obviously Mr. Packe sought the Ruislip living for selfless reasons but it was regarded as a good living yielding £462 per annum,⁴ which he hoped would enable him to lay something by for his wife and children "... who were I now taken from them would be little better than paupers".² He concludes his letter of application with a post script to the effect that if successful he will instantly resign his London living and reside at Ruislip.

The Rectory of Ruislip had been bestowed upon the Dean and Canons of Windsor in 1422 by John Duke of Bedford as one of a group of parishes, formerly the property of the Abbey of Bec.⁵ The right to collect the rectorial or Great Tithes had been leased out from the 15th century,⁶ to the Hawtreys of Eastcote House and their descendants the Deanes from 1532.⁷ When a living within their gift fell vacant it was customary to offer it to the Minor Canons in order of seniority and only if all declined to bestow it elsewhere. The flood of applications received by the Dean and Canons each time a living became available, even though there was only the slightest chance of any other than a Minor Canon being a successful candidate, reveals the indigence of many 19th century curates who struggled to support the appearance of a gentleman on pathetically small stipends.

As a Minor Canon, Mr. Packe had some hope, but clearly he was not the most senior. The letter above quoted was dated 11th July 1834 and was a second application,² as a Mr. Champris had been offered Ruislip but declined it early that month.² However, his brother Charles Champris then Vicar of Wraysbury-cum-Langley, wrote to Windsor on 13th August considering exchanging his present place for Ruislip, but by the 18th August had decided to remain at Langley.⁸

Meanwhile the people of Ruislip were becoming impatient at the long period without a vicar. Ralph Deane wrote to Windsor from Boulogne on 11th September pointing out that the previous vicar Mr. Daniel Carter Lewis had died on 21st March nearly six months before, and offering to nominate "a most exemplary clergyman" to supply the vacancy.⁹ His offer was not accepted.

Christopher Packe was appointed in the autumn. His name appears in parish registers as incumbent at the beginning of November. He lived in Ruislip for the rest of his life and had at least five more children born here, one of whom died young. His family compiled from baptismal registers of St. Martins,¹⁰ graves (Nos. 82 and 83 graveyard survey)¹¹ a monument in the north aisle of the church and the censuses of 1851, 1861 and 1871,¹² appears to have been as follows:-

Herbert	born 1822	died Nov. 1871	aged 49
Christopher	" 1824	" Feb. 1851	" 26
Five children who died young before July 1834.			
Mary Elizabeth	born 1832	died 1870	
Julia	" 1833		
Rosa	" 1835	" 1934	
Charles Lewis	" 1837		
Ellen Maria	" June 1838	" Nov. 1841	
Francis	" July 1840	(but not baptised until May 1841)	
Elizabeth Frances	" May 1842		

Some of the ages and dates given on the graves are inconsistent with the monument inside the church, the Census information and the burial register. Herbert is said to have died in 1874, but he was buried in 1871 according to the registers and a letter written by Christopher Packe in January 1872 refers to his son's death. The grave says that Mary Elizabeth, wife of Surgeon-Major Hunter M.D., was 53 at the time of her death in 1870, but her age was given as 18 in the 1851 census returns and her parents were apparently not married in 1817. When Christopher Packe wrote of his two remaining little ones in 1834 he must have been referring to Mary Elizabeth and Julia and disregarding Herbert and Christopher (named after their grandfather and father?) who would have been twelve and ten and therefore "big". Several of the children seem to have disappeared without trace. Most predeceased him. Only two followed his coffin at his funeral in 1878, Rosa married to Major-General Bowen, and Lewis.¹³

It is difficult to assess the character of Christopher Packe. He showed a spirit of Christian resignation in the face of his bereavements. (His wife died in 1874 aged 75). The monument in the church says, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed is the name of the Lord".

Several references in Vestry Minutes suggest that in common with many clergymen, he regarded drunkenness as a great evil. In 1835 he suggested that someone should patrol the ale houses and report the names of all paupers (i.e. receiving parish relief) found tippling in Public Houses. Four years later he referred in the Vestry Meeting to the immoralities of drunkenness and gambling with other prophaneness on the Sabbath Day.¹⁴

He was probably zealous in his ministry. He headed a petition for a Chapel-of-Ease to be set up in Northwood in 1837, stating that "very few if any of the labouring part of the population attend any church at all"¹⁵ as St. Martins was four miles distant by road. He trusted that a new place of worship would promote "the efficacy and stability of the established church and the Salvation of Souls may thereby be promoted".¹⁵ He was prepared to set aside £10 per annum chargeable upon Glebe lands for a repairing fund.¹⁵ Methodism was a threat to the established church at the time. Adam Clarke at Haydon Hall was sowing the seeds in Eastcote and a Chapel was opened at the bottom of Field End Road in 1848. The Chapel at Ruislip Common opened in 1852.

St. Martins, described as being "in a disgraceful state of neglect and dilapidation" in 1848 by J.H. Sperling in his "Church Walks in Middlesex" was completely restored under the direction of Gilbert Scott in 1869. The new west window includes the Packe coat of arms.¹⁶

Towards the end of his long life (86 years - the grave says 88!) he became unfit for the business of the parish. The Rev. J.J. Roumieu, his curate from 1870 was virtually in sole charge. Many people, including Lady Hume Campbell of Highgrove hoped that Roumieu would succeed to the vicarage. She referred in a letter to "our poor old vicar Mr. Packe".¹⁷ The local paper reporting his funeral which took place in June 1878 said that he had kept his house for the last four years because of ill health, but had been much respected and was spoken of in a kind manner in the neighbourhood.¹³ His successor was not Mr. Roumieu but Thomas Marsh-Everett, a Minor Canon of St. Georges, who quickly made his mark in Ruislip by demolishing the old timber framed vicarage and building the handsome brick building whose fate is now in the balance (1983) between 1881 and 1882.

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Novum Repertorium | : | Geo. Hennessy 1896.
Harrow Civic Centre Library. |
| 2. | St. George's Chapel | : | XVII 38 8 Letter 11th July 1834. |
| 3. | Here Lyeth ... | : | Ruislip W.E.A. 1979 p.38 |

4. Local Paper : 8th June 1878. p. 5. Uxbridge Library.
5. St. George's Chapel : X. 4. 1.
6. St. George's Chapel : XV. 31. 65.
7. St. George's Chapel : XV. 31. 73.
8. St. George's Chapel : XVII. 38. 8. Letters 13th August 1834.
18th August 1834.
9. St. George's Chapel : XVII. 38. 8 Letter 11th September 1834.
10. G.L.R.O. : DRO 19 A1/3.
11. Graveyard Survey : Manor Farm Library, Ruislip.
12. Census Returns 1851, : Manor Farm Library, Ruislip.
1861, 1871.
13. Local Paper : 15th June 1878. p. 5. Uxbridge Library.
14. G.L.R.O. : DRO 19 C1/6.
15. St. George's Chapel : XVI. 1. 81.
16. Journal R.N.E. Local : K.W. Holmes. p. 18.
History Society 1980.
17. St. George's Chapel : III. K.3. Letter 16th June 1878.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Chiltern Open Air Museum

Sunday opening April 3rd 1983 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.
Adults 70p. Children 30p.
Then every Sunday and Bank Holidays until
September 25th.

Special Events

Sunday May 22nd. Stationary Engines
August 21st. Archery
Sept. 17th & 18th Arts & Crafts

Park Lodge Farm Centre,
Harvil Road, Harefield

Open Weekend. June 11th/12th 1983.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIETY & LOCAL BOOKSHOPS

The Story of Northwood & Northwood Hills by W.A.G. Kemp reprinted by the
Society 1982.

Ruislip Woods:

Eileen and Colin Bowlt.

Ruislip in Times Past:

Celia and Martin Cartwright
Valery Cowley.

Ruislip Around 1900:

Published by the R.N.E.L.H.S. Research Group.

RUISLIP MANOR METHODIST CHURCH - ORIGINS

by ROBERT STEEL

In its historical notes on Ruislip-Northwood 'Protestant Nonconformity' the Victoria History of Middlesex (1971) casually mentions, among other considerable facts, that 'other Methodist Churches' were opened in Ickenham Road (1923), Torrington Road (1937) and Queens Walk South Ruislip (1951).

Some interesting underlying details of the origins of the Torrington Road, Ruislip Manor Church, have, however, been related to me by Mr. Ernest Knight, one of the two survivors from the early efforts which led up to the present small, but internally rather beautiful, church of today, and it has seemed worthwhile recording them.

On 12th May 1934 the initiative was taken by two members of the Ickenham Road Methodist Church, Mr. Roy Lloyd and Miss Connie Warner (later Mrs. Lloyd) to get together a small group of young people, recently settled in Ruislip Manor, who thereafter met each Sunday in the foreman's hut belonging to a Mr. George Ball, whose building firm was developing an adjacent housing estate. The hut was at that time on a plot of land roughly where Woolworths now is, near to Ruislip Manor station. The sole survivor of that early initiative is Mrs. Mabel Stokes, still living in Ruislip Manor at the age of ninety.

When the building work came to an end in 1936 the then Ruislip Minister, the Rev. Ley-Peake, actively supported the initiative and the new Committee arranged for the purchase of the hut, its dismantling, and re-erection on the site in Torrington Road, already acquired from Mr. George Ball. The hut then became known as 'The Hall'. A Trust Deed had been executed and The Trustees, with co-operation from the Central Methodist organisation, proceeded with proposals for the erection of a more adequate Church Hall and classrooms.

In January 1937 the foundation stone of the Church Hall was laid by the Superintendent Minister of the Harrow Methodist Church, and the new building was completed and formally opened on 29th March 1937. From then onwards the new Church Hall was used by all sections of the Church's organisations including Sunday schools, also social activities; and Services were held morning and evening every Sunday.

Pressure on space led to the provision of a smaller building on the western side as an annexe, and a minor extension of the classrooms on the eastern side, which eventually became a corridor to the new church.

Early in November 1937 the old builder's hut was accidentally burnt down. It was supposed at the time that this had been the result of a mischievous firework placed in a dustbin which was close up against the hut.

The present church was dedicated and opened on 18th March 1978. The Minister was the Rev. John Hope, and the Chairman of the North West London Methodist District, the Rev. Richard Kaye, and the Superintendent of the Harrow Methodist Circuit, the Rev. Howard Booth, both took part in the proceedings. In keeping with the ecumenical spirit of the time, the Rural Dean of the Church of England, and Vicar of St. Martins, Ruislip, and the Vicar of St. Pauls, Ruislip Manor, and also the Minister of the Ruislip Baptist Church, joined in the ceremony.

Arrangements are now going ahead for the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations to be held in 1984.

As a footnote to the history of the Church itself, a brief mention may be made of that of the site of the Church.

'A History of Ruislip' (1956) by the late Mr. Laurence E. Morris gives considerable detail of the early ownership of Ruislip before Domesday up to the year 1437 when Henry VI granted the Manor of Ruyslepe to John Somerset, his Chancellor of the Exchequer, for life. There were subsequent grants, cancellations, restitutions under Henry VI and Edward IV but in 1462 "Edward regranted the Manor of Ruyslepe to the provost and scholars of the College of S.S. Mary and Nicholas, Cambridge" and "from that date until our own times the Provost and Fellows of Kings College remained securely in possession of Ruislip and although they have sold all their land in this district within the last two or three decades they are still the titular lords of the manor".

In 1930 the Provost and Scholars of the Kings College of Our Lady and St. Nicholas in Cambridge sold land in the environs of Ruislip Manor to Southern Park Estates, and in due course, after subsequent transactions, the plot of land on which the Methodist Church and ancillary buildings now stand was sold by the developer Mr. George Ball to the Trustees of the Church on the 30th May 1935, for a sum of £900. The title deeds and other relevant documents are held in the circuit area by North Harrow Methodist Church.

Haphazard, Eastcote.

From the Middlesex Advertiser of October 16th, 1880:-

Sudden Death: On Friday, 8th instance an inquest was held at Haphazard Cottages, Northolt Road before Dr. Diplock, coroner, touching the death of Noah Botwright ... We understand the deceased had been employed on Bourne Farm the property of F.H. Deane for the past 49 years and had been a most trustworthy and valuable servant.

Before this report came to light Mr. and Mrs. Hoare of Ruislip had already made enquiries of various "oldest inhabitants" as to the whereabouts of the locality known as Haphazard and concluded that it was an area of Field End Road lying somewhere south of the Clay Pigeon Public House. The newspaper report is the first reference to this very odd name applying to a particular property.

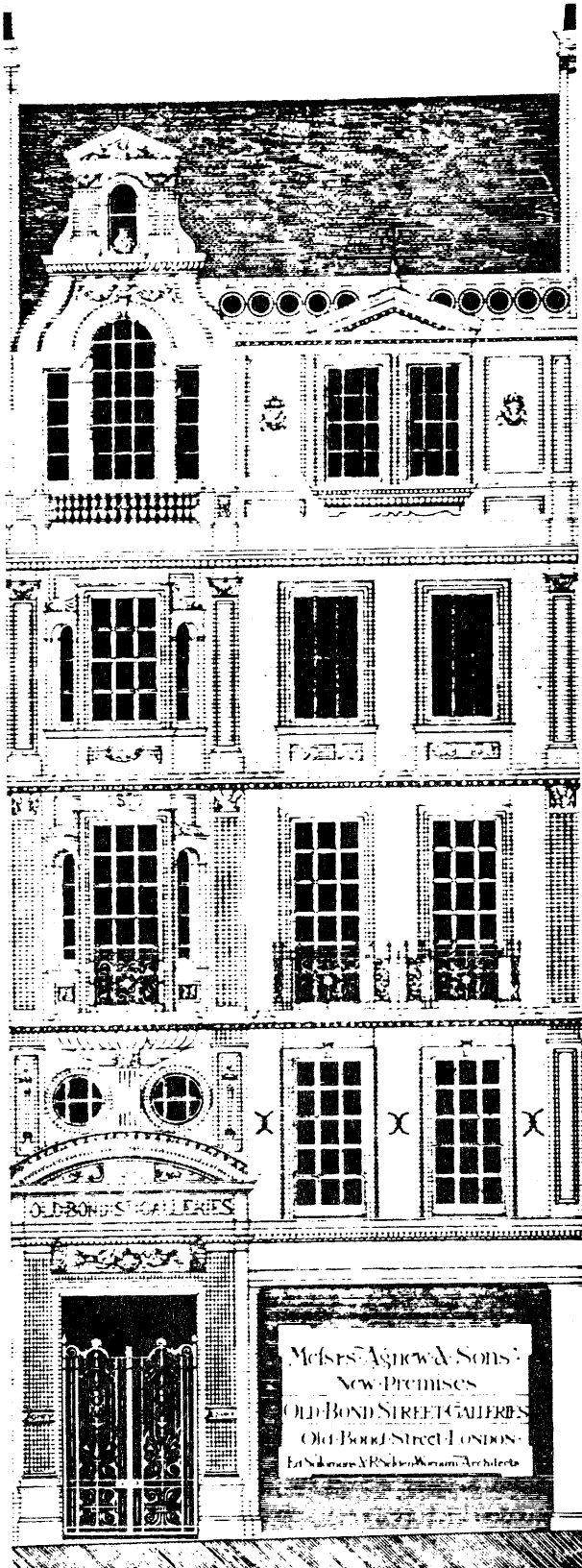
There were at one time an isolated group of cottages known as Bourne Farm Cottages at the junction of the farm track to Bourne Farm with Northolt Road now the junction of Long Drive with Field End Road. It seems likely that these are the ones referred to in the newspaper report as Haphazard Cottages, tying in with the information given to Mr. and Mrs. Hoare and with the fact that Noah Botwright was employed at Bourne Farm.

The cottages would have been sited too far from Ruislip to be considered part of that district; not really related to Northolt, and a fair distance from Eastcote village and a stranger might well have considered their siting to be haphazard. Is this the origin of the unusual name?

The worthy Noah Botwright is buried in St. Martins churchyard - his headstone still stands and his name is recorded in the churchyard survey.

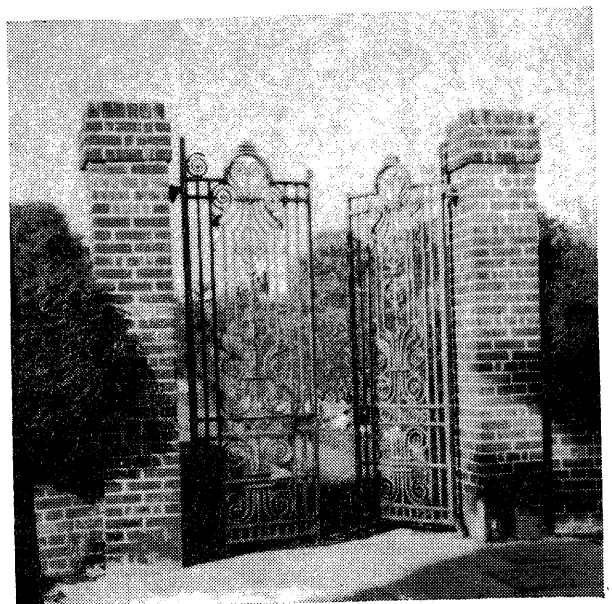
It was most unusual for an inquest to be held at a private house.

K.J. McBEAN.



At the entrance to Warrender Park, Eastcote, from Lime Grove are a pair of ornamental wrought iron gates. The gates were made in the 1870's for the entrance to the new galleries of the famous art dealers Thomas Agnew & Sons at 43 Old Bond Street. The premises were designed by Edward Salomons and R. Selden Wornum, architects, and drawings of the street elevation clearly showing the gates were exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1878. In 1935 the entrance to the galleries was recast and the Eastcote Association fortunately took the opportunity of acquiring the gates and arranging for them to be set up at Warrender Park.

Messrs. Agnew have kindly supplied a copy of the 1878 drawing and this and other photographs and details have been added to the local history collection.



THE LONG FAMILY OF EASTCOTE by COLLEEN A. COX

My interest in the Long family was stimulated by a request for further information from a descendant living in Canada. By the end of the 17th century the family were already well-established in the parish, quite possibly in the Eastcote area. Baptismal Registers of the time giving father's name, indicate that between 1691 and 1710, children were born to Richard Long, Richard Junior, Ralph, Charles, John and Henry Long. These fathers were variously described as poor, very poor, poor labourer and poor broom man although an entry in the Marriage Registers mentions Richard Long as a fidler who married Mary Thompson in 1702.

The largest single family was that of Richard Long Junior shown below:-

Richard Junior							
Robert	Daniel	Henry	Edmond	Avice	Charles	Edmond	Ralph
Dec.7	Nov.29	June 12	Nov.23	Aug.2	Mar.18	Jan.26	Nov.21
1693	1696	1698	1701-03	1703	1704	1706	1708

The recurrence of a name as with Edmond in this family, indicates the death of the original holder. An even more tragic example (and a reflection of the high infant mortality) was that of three successive children named Henry born in 1706, 1708 and 1710 to Henry Long a labourer. Richard was by far the most popular boys' name in the family, with Mary and Elizabeth the favourites amongst the girls, but a few unusual ones occurred such as Avice and Bethia.

The early Longs married local girls and in common with at least half of those in the registers at the time they were unable to write their own name. Thus a picture emerges of poor, unskilled and uneducated people who lived, married and died in the same small locality.

The first member of the family to establish himself in the community was the Richard Long born in 1755, who married Susannah Bugbeard in 1777 and was a church warden from 1795 to 1797. His son Edward, born in 1784 was almost certainly the man about whom very little was known according to Kemp.¹

What we do know is that in 1806 he married Ann Bedford, was an overseer of the poor in 1825 and 1826 and a church warden in 1827 and 1828. In 1832 he occupied four small farms. One of these, owned by Richard Robinson, can be identified as St. Catherines Farm on Catlins Lane which he still occupied at the time of the 1851 census. Another owned by Mrs. Hatchett, was Cheney Street Farm occupied by Edward's son Daniel from the middle of the 19th century.

Two other Long families were mentioned in this census. Another of Edward's sons, Richard, an agricultural labourer aged 40 years, lived with his wife Jane and their six children in one of the cottages near the Black Horse on Eastcote High Road. James, a master carpenter, with his wife, three unmarried children and two grandchildren occupied a cottage near the Shooting Box on the High Road. His connections may have been in Pinner as another carpenter, Edward Long, was mentioned in all the Pinner censuses between 1851 and 1881.

The entry for Daniel and his family in the 1851 census is shown as follows:-

<u>Cheney Street</u>			Age in <u>1851</u>	<u>Born</u>
Daniel Long	Head	Married,	38 yrs.	Middx.Ruislip.
			Farmer occupying 55 acres employing 2 labourers.	
Mary	"	Wife	" 39 yrs.	Wilts.Grittleton.
Francis	"	Daughter	13 yrs.	Middx.Ruislip.
Elizabeth	"	"	12 yrs.	" "
Daniel	"	Son	10 yrs.	" "
George	"	"	5 yrs.	" "
Benjamin	"	"	4 yrs.	" "
Mary	"	Daughter	2 yrs.	" "

We do not know how Daniel met his wife but it is possible that Mary moved to Ruislip perhaps to go into service in the district. In 1861 this Daniel and his family were the only Long's mentioned in the Eastcote census. Still living at Cheney Street Farm the two older girls had left home and there had been two more children, Maria aged 9 and William aged 6 years. The occupation of the older boys was given as "farmer's son" and presumably they helped their father on the farm; the three younger children were recorded as scholars.

An indication of the improved status of the family was the appointment of Daniel Long as surveyor of the highways and as such his name appeared regularly in the local press* from 1861 onwards. The surveyor was an official appointed by the Parish Vestry whose job it was to inspect the roads three or four times a year, to organise labour to carry out any repairs and collect rates from local landowners to pay for them. Although originally unpaid, by the 19th century he received a small salary.

In 1871 Daniel Senior was also the census enumerator for Eastcote. This entailed distributing the schedules to each household, collecting them after completion and transcribing the information into the special Enumerators Book. He was the enumerator again in 1881 but by 1891 this job had passed to his son William. In the 1871 census Daniel Senior was still living at Cheney Street. His wife Mary was absent from home on the census night but his sons George, Benjamin and William and his daughter Mary were there. The farm size was now recorded as 34 acres. Previously 54 acres, perhaps the missing 20 were being farmed by his son Daniel Junior now married to Emma White and living at the neighbouring Horne End Farm.

In "Long Shadows"² an account written by Marjorie Budd (nee Long) and her sister Phyllis, Daniel Junior is said to have "enjoyed a social life common among unattached young men of the era which included hunting and related forms of recreation". The Whites, who were of Scottish ancestry, were active in St. Martins Church and in 1851 lived at South End Farm (in Southill Lane). Marjorie Budd continues, "Emma became governess to Robin, son of Nathaniel Montifiore of Ealing. She also shared her father's love of good reading and the performing arts". It is said that George White, who was not impressed by the fun-loving Daniel, called his daughter to his study and asked her to choose between a gold watch and Daniel Long. Rebellious Emma chose Daniel and George gave his daughter in marriage at Christ Church, Ealing on November 2nd 1864.

The 1871 census revealed that Daniel Junior and Emma had two children, Olivia aged 4 years and Daniel George, two years. Their third child Augustus

* Bucks Advertiser and Uxbridge and Middlesex Journal.

Benjamin was born later that year. By 1875 the family had moved to Ruislip Village and Daniel Junior had become a butcher. This account from the local paper suggests that he still enjoyed a lively social life.

Bucks Advertiser January 9th 1875

Ball. On Monday evening last this usually quiet little village was enlivened by a ball given by Mr. and Mrs. D. Long Junior at The George, Ruislip. The company numbered upwards of fifty from Ruislip, Eastcote, Northwood, Pinner, Uxbridge, Ealing and London. The band under the management of Mr. J. Walsh of Uxbridge played a good selection of dance music. Mr. Long obtained a special licence for the occasion until 5.00 a.m.

The good times did not last however, as Daniel died of tuberculosis the following year at the age of thirty-five leaving Emma to bring up three small children. Entries in the local street directories of 1877 and 1878 indicate that she became the licensee at The Swan Inn, Ruislip. Soon after she moved to Crawley where with the help of her father-in-law and her former employers, the Montifiores, she purchased a house which was converted to a training school for servants

"One bedroom was large enough to be converted into a dormitory for about eight girls. Some of the girls were sent to Emma by the Salvation Army, some were 'fallen girls', and some chose to become domestics. The discipline was strict and a rigid system of seniority was established. The girls were instructed by a senior servant and their progress was supervised by Emma. They wore black dresses and hose, white tea-aprons and a tiny white cap worn high on the head. They were responsible for domestic work and they waited on the family table. During this time they enjoyed picnics on their time off; they were obliged to walk in order of seniority until out of sight of the house. Upon completion of their training Mrs. Montifiore placed them in positions".²

Emma was not the only member of the family to be widowed at an early age. The Eastcote section of the street directories for 1878 refer to a Mrs. Julia Long who was the licensee of The Black Horse. She was a widow still living there with her nine year old daughter in 1881. It is possible that she had been married to Benjamin (Daniel Senior's fifth child) who died aged twenty-five in 1872 and was buried in St. Martins Churchyard.

The Cheney Street household in 1881 comprised Daniel Senior and his wife Mary, son William now aged twenty-six years and Penelope Weatherley a sixteen year old girl born in Pinner who acted as a general servant. The Longs appear to have been a sober and law-abiding family and no mention of them has been found in the local press indicating drunkenness, careless driving or family disputes (unlike a number of families in Eastcote at that time). However in the Bucks. Advertiser of July 1st 1882, Mr. Freeman, Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances reported that he had received a complaint from Mr. Inglis of Eastcote about manure deposited in Cheney Street by Mr. Daniel Long!

Newspaper reports suggest that the surveyor's job was not an enviable one with demands from the public on one hand and resistance from the landowners on the other. At the Easter Vestry meeting in 1882, Inspector Bloomfield of the local police asked the Vestry to instruct Mr. Long either to fill up the culvert crossing the road between Ruislip Common at the Breakspeare Arms or fix a barrier at each end for the purpose of stopping traffic. Notices warning persons of the dangerous nature of the road had been posted. The Vestry replied that they could not instruct Mr. Long to interfere as the liability to repair the road was a matter of dispute between the Parish and Sir C.H. Mills Bt.(later Lord Hillingdon).

In March 1889 also at a Vestry meeting, Mr. Long reported that he had collected all the rates except one which amounted to 2s. 1d. He was reappointed as surveyor for a further year but when he asked for an increase in salary, the idea was not entertained! This seems to have been his last year in office and he died in 1892 at the age of seventy-nine years. He too is buried in St. Martins Churchyard in a grave not far from that of his son Benjamin and a daughter, Anna Maria.

William Long followed in his father's footsteps both as surveyor and census enumerator. Between 1887 and 1909 he was a member of the Oddfellows Society, one of the early Friendly Societies with a number of members in the district. He was also on the committee which organised the local celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, in 1897. According to the street directories he was still living at Cheney Street Farm at the beginning of this century, although the last entry in 1913 gave his address as Chestnut Cottage, Wiltshire Lane.

It has not yet been possible to trace other members of the Long family but we know that the widowed Emma and her three children lived for a number of years in Crawley. Like their father they grew up to enjoy a full social life. "Olive, 'Gus and (Daniel) George attended the elegant balls held at The George Inn at Crawley. In contrast the boys enjoyed the boxing matches held at the Inn and George participated as a light-weight boxer much to his mother's chagrin. Both boys played cricket and they belonged to Crawley Cycling Club (penny-farthing)"².

On leaving school at 14, George was apprenticed and worked on the Crawley newspapers for six years until he developed a cough. Because of the family history of tuberculosis he was advised to lead an outdoor life and "at the age of twenty he departed for Canada and his luggage included his cricket bat and gloves and his dancing slippers"². In Canada he worked first as a labourer on the Canadian Pacific Railway and later hewing trees at a lumber camp. Three years later in 1891 he was joined by his brother. For a while the brothers worked together until Gus found a clerical job in Vancouver.

Olive stayed in Crawley with her mother and was married in 1892 but died in 1893 shortly after the birth of her son Albert Norman. Emma helped care for the baby assisted by Linda Atkinson the daughter of a cousin, who lived with her. A few years later Emma decided to join her sons in Canada and accompanied by Linda she arrived on May 23rd 1895 and settled in a farm with a comfortable house which had been acquired by her sons. She made many friends in Canada and enjoyed the last few years of her life. After her death in January 1901, Linda stayed on and married George.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to Marjorie Budd and Phyllis Long for allowing me to quote from their family recollections "Long Shadows".

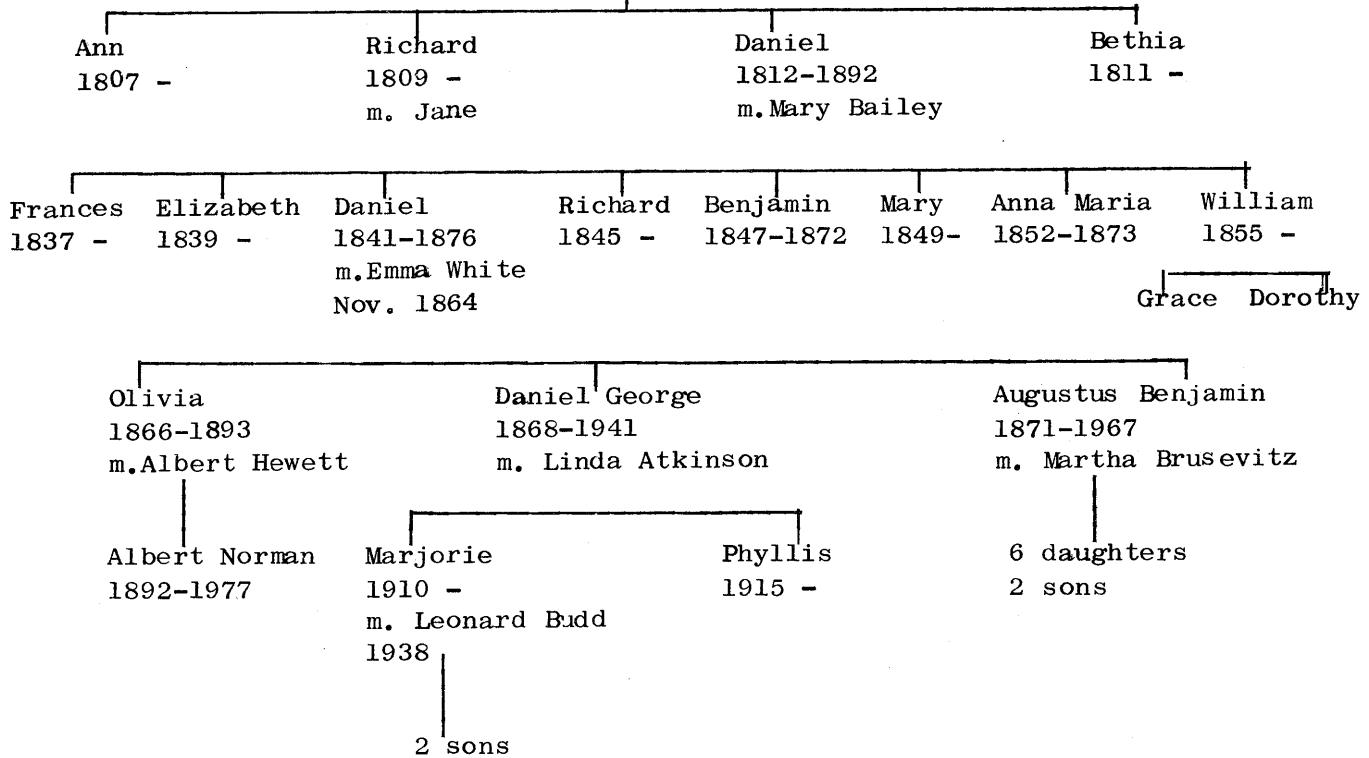
I would also like to thank Eileen Bowlt for providing the information from the early registers; Ken Kirkman (of the Pinner L.H.S.) for information on the Pinner censuses and the Oddfellows Society, and members of this society and the former W.E.A. Class for reports gleaned from the local newspapers.

References

1. "The History of Eastcote, Middlesex by W.A.G. Kemp. 1963
2. "Long Shadows" by Marjorie Budd and Phyllis Long. Personal Communication.

THE LONG FAMILY TREE

Edward 1784 - 1855
m. Ann Bedford
Oct. 11, 1806



PROGRAMME OF SUMMER OUTINGS 1983

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Saturday
14th May.
<u>9.00 a.m.</u> | : | Coach outing to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, then to Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds. Depart St. Martin's Approach. Details from B. Bedford. 71-37396. |
| Saturday
18th June.
<u>9.00 a.m.</u> | : | Coach outing to Ewelme, Oxon, to visit the medieval model village, to Fairford to see the stained glass in the church and returning via Mapledurham House. Cost £4.00 plus entry to Mapledurham House. Depart St. Martin's Approach. |
| Sunday
2nd October | : | Visit to Southside House, Wimbledon Common, and the Red House, Bexley Heath. |

Further details from Mrs. S. Ayres (Outings Secretary).

THE HOGS BACK AND HUNDRED ACRE FARM, NORTHWOOD HILLS

by JAMES McBEAN

Introduction

Potter Street Hill in Northwood Hills, still has a rural atmosphere in spite of the building which has taken place, and a walk up the hill, visiting the Hogs Back on the way, is a pleasant Sunday afternoon exercise. At the top of Potter Street Hill is a high plateau and from this there is a downward sloping finger of land pointing south towards Northwood Hills and ending in a bump which is the Hogs Back. It is a true Hogs Back with steeply sloping sides and it is possible to stand on the highest point and see St. Marys Church, Harrow on the Hill in one direction and the heights of Mount Vernon on the other. Near the top of Potter Street Hill is Potter Street House built by Charles Gilbert Felce a reputed millionaire, and now St. Johns Preparatory school. This high standing, wide white building with its pillared garden front is something of a landmark seen to advantage from the lower level across the fields of Joel Street Farm and to be seen across the valley from Haste Hill.

It is a pity the Hogs Back has been largely built over but a small area of the highest part has been kept as a pleasant open space with miniature glades, stands of hawthorn and an open area at the top. Early on the local authority were urged to acquire the whole estate of 18 acres but it was not found possible to come to terms with the owners. How the present, lesser, area came to be acquired in exchange for an area of Poors Field in Joel Street developed as Tolcarne Drive, is explained by Laurence Morris:-

At some time in its history the Cottage Allotment Charity had been able to add 5.4 acres to its 18 acres in Joel Street. When Northwood Hills station was opened in 1933 the 5.4 acres ... immediately became quite valuable and in 1935 this plot was exchanged with Southern Estates Ltd., for 9.4 acres of the Hogs Back ... These transactions were approved by the Charity Commissioners ...

The open space is administered by the Local Authority.

Maps

The high ground of our district lies to the north, particularly along the County boundary at the top of Potter Street Hill. Early cartographers in their maps of Middlesex almost all indicated relief on the flat surface of their map. Saxton (the father of English map makers) in 1575 and John Norden used a series of "mole hills" shaded on one side to give substance and this rather inexact method was followed until the 18th century. This way of representing hills is nevertheless useful because it makes high ground instantly recognizable and is still used in present day diagrammatic maps appearing, for example, in newspapers.

The position of the "mole hills" indicating the Potter Street heights tended to shift according to the whim of the cartographer. John Ogilvy in 1672 places the hills south of the boundary and represents a miniature alpine scene while Robert Morden later in the century shows much gentler slopes but placed them on the Hertfordshire side of the boundary.

John Rocque in his Middlesex map of 1754 seems to be the first to use

hatchuring as a method of indicating relief and he shows the Hogs Back itself by this method. Kemp in his book on Northwood draws attention to Pringle & Greenwoods large scale map of 1819 which rather curiously gives prominence to the Hogs Back as a free standing hill and calls it Wyatts Hills. The first one inch scale Ordnance map uses hatchuring and although an improvement on the old method, is not always easy to follow. Nowadays precise contouring is used to indicate levels and the Hogs Back can be exactly pinpointed.

Location

The Hogs Back is contained in a rectangle of land bounded by Potter Street, the Pinner-Rickmansworth Road, Northwood High Street, (formerly Half Mile Lane) and a boundary formed by the backs of houses on the north side of Hillside Road running from Gateshill Farm to the dip in Potter Street Hill. Prior to the Enclosure of 1804, all of this rectangle was common land and formed the north-east limits of the areas of common extending from Ruislip Woods and including the whole of Northwood Hills. The north-east boundary which still exists in part is historically significant since it not only formed the boundary of Ruislip Common but it also formed the southern boundary of the intrusion into the manor of Ruislip of the lands of the Manor of the Moor. The land lying along the west side of Potter Street Hill, now mostly the playing fields of St. Johns Prep. School were originally the old enclosures outside the common and it is good to see that they are part of the green belt in the recent Northwood Plan. One of these old enclosures owned by J. Baker Sellon, Serjeant-at-law, bit into the rectangle.

Following the Ruislip Enclosure of 1804 a strip of the common, 18 acres in extent, along the east side of Northwood High Street was allotted to Edward Hilliard and subsequently Hilliard Road was built on it. Small areas were allotted to John Forbes and Henry Price Martin. The remainder of the rectangle amounting to 100 acres and including the Hogs Back was set aside by the Enclosure Commissioners as one of the areas to be sold to meet expenses. It was auctioned on Wednesday, 23rd October 1805. The purchaser was Jeremiah Steel.

Owners

Jeremiah Steel paid £3,350 for the hundred acres and his receipt is dated 25th December 1805. At that time he was the owner of Harrow Weald Farm and from at least 1799 had a town house in the well-to-do neighbourhood of Cross Street in Islington. He died in 1809 and is buried in the parish church of St. Mary Islington. In his will he gave instructions for his estate to be sold and in the same year the hundred acres was bought by John Rowe.

John Rowe who owned Northwood House (now the Grange) from 1809 to 1830 and lived there for a period, held the post of Clerk to the New River Company from 1780 to 1811. This was the enterprise of bringing a supply of fresh water to the City of London the 27 miles from Ware in Hertfordshire carried out by Sir Hugh Middleton in 1609. During the Gordon riots of 1780 the water supply was threatened by the mob and John Rowe records how the Company entertained the military detachment sent to Clerkenwell to protect the supply. He was succeeded as Clerk by his son John Paul Rowe who retired to one of the exclusive villas at Clapham Park developed by Thomas Cubitt. As well as the hundred acres at the Hogs Back and the Grange, John Rowe is shown in the parish records as owning a further 65 acres in Northwood. Following his death the Hogs Back site was sold in 1834. The purchaser was Nathaniel Soames.

Nathaniel Soames married Rebecca Gainsford Soames (probably his cousin) at Pinner on 9th August 1831 and about this time moved into Northwood House. She was the daughter of George Soames who had married into the family of Daniel

Willshen and took over the family home of Pinner Green Lodge on Daniel's death in 1822. The large block of flats at the top of Elm Park Road in Pinner is on the site. On moving to Northwood, Nathaniel Soames almost immediately took up his public duties and appears at a meeting of Ruislip parishioners on 12th January 1832 and was nominated as an overseer of the poor on 30th March the same year, leading one to believe that he was already known and respected in the district. He was aware of the inconvenience suffered by Northwood people having to journey to St. Martins, Ruislip to worship and in 1839 he took steps to obtain a licence from the Bishop of London for church services to be held in a building at Northwood House capable of holding 150 people which he had purchased and equipped himself. It will be remembered that shortly before, Dr. Adam Clarke had done something similar at Haydon Hall for the Methodists. Soames was the first Vicar's churchwarden at the new Holy Trinity Church built in 1854. He was a considerable landowner including the Hogs Back site which he held until the early part of the year 1858 when it was sold. The purchaser was A.W. Tooke.

Arthur William Tooke lived in Pinner Hill House and was the owner of a large number of properties. He died in 1871 and was succeeded by his son William Arthur. When he in turn died in 1884 his executors, two years later, were dealing with an impressive list of estates in Northwood and Eastcote quite apart from the land in his home area of Pinner. The estates included Joel Street Farm, Haydon Hall Farm and Hundred Acres Farm including the Hogs Back.

At the turn of the century Hundred Acres Farm and all the other properties had passed to Arthur Helsham-Jones, another Pinner man, brother-in-law to W.A. Tooke and living at Pinner Hill House.

The Farmhouse - Hundred Acres Farm

The dating of the original farmhouse is uncertain. As common land there were, of course, no buildings at all on the site up to the Enclosure Award and the first mention of a dwelling positively linked with the hundred acres is in 1845 where it is referred to as a cottage. There are several photographs of the former farmhouse and these show a sturdy but unpretentious two storey building which could well have been described as a cottage. The 1864 Ordnance map confirms the existence of a small dwelling which was still there in 1920 but had been replaced by 1932 by the present house on the site and existing as No. 74 Pinner Road. A comparison of the maps show that No. 74 is exactly on the site of the original house and a close look at the brickwork shows that quite a large part of the original building is incorporated in the new. There is also a substantial brick shed at the back which is clearly 19th century.

Hundred Acres Farm at Northwood Hills is not to be confused with the farm similarly named which existed in West End Lane, Ruislip and was absorbed into Northolt Airfield. An important farm owned or occupied by people well known in Northwood, it figures in most accounts of the area. Tenants include Kempton (in the 1851 Census), Joseph Herridge from about 1866 to 1878, Ben Golding from 1881 until he died at the farm in 1910, and perhaps best known, Charles Martin Robarts whose occupation spanned the two wars and who owned several dairy shops and at one time had a payroll of over 60 workers.

The Present Century

The break up of Jeremiah Steel's hundred acre rectangle inevitably followed the spread of suburbia to our district and is remarkable only in that it was not part of the huge area covered by the Carnegie/Carew land sale of 1887 which began the development of Northwood. The layout of building on the hundred acres was foreshadowed by the 1914 Town Planning Map which laid down "planning"

roads along what is now Northwood Way and Hillside Road. The first house appeared in Northwood Way in 1931 but before that land behind Hilliard Road had been acquired for the housing schemes of Addison and Acre Way. Between the latter site and the farmhouse, the Northwood and Pinner District Hospital took its original site in 1919 at a cost of £400. The site was enlarged in 1924 and again in 1946.

Memories of Hundred Acres Farm have faded but at least it is possible to stand on the Hogs Back and believe one is at the top of one of Saxton's "mole hills".

Acknowledgements:

Laurence Morris.	Article in Ruislip Natural History Society Journal. July 1962.
W.A.G. Kemp.	The Story of Northwood & Northwood Hills.
R.V. Tooley.	Maps & Map Makers.
Thames Water Authority.	New River Head, Roseberry Avenue, EC1.
Vicar Generals Book.	Guildhall M.S. 9532/18
G.L.R.O.	MLR 1834. Bk.4/700; DRO 19/E2 various.
Christopher A. Cowan.	History of Northwood Hospital.

Woodmans Farm, Bury Street.

Woodmans Farm is the black and white timber framed building next to the Plough in Bury Street. It is listed as 17th century or earlier and it possesses two unusual features.

Although the front of the building is the usual two storeys, at the back the roof is brought down to a low single storey level. A cursory examination seems to indicate that this part of the farmhouse may be contemporary with the main timber frame and if this is so it is the only example which can be called to mind of an out shot extension among the timber framed buildings of our area.

The second feature is also at the back of the building. Leading out of a corner of the main room of the farmhouse, no doubt originally the farm kitchen, is a large cupboard, perhaps built as a walk-in larder and there is a corresponding space on the floor above. Both had external windows. The unusual feature of these two cupboards (or perhaps store rooms) is that they are housed in an elaborate timber framed structure which although measuring no more than about 8 feet by 4½ feet is fully two storeys in height with a gable and pitched and tiled roof, projecting from the south-east corner of the building and looking like a giant sentry box. Here again it is difficult to recall any similar structure in the neighbourhood. One of the end girth timbers overlaps part of the structure showing that part, at least, is original.

Woodmans Farm would seem to be a worthy subject for a detailed examination.

K.J. McBEAN.

Woodmans Farm, Bury Street.



Rear view, showing how the roof slopes down to a single storey.



Side and back view from the south showing the unusual two storey projection and massive chimney.