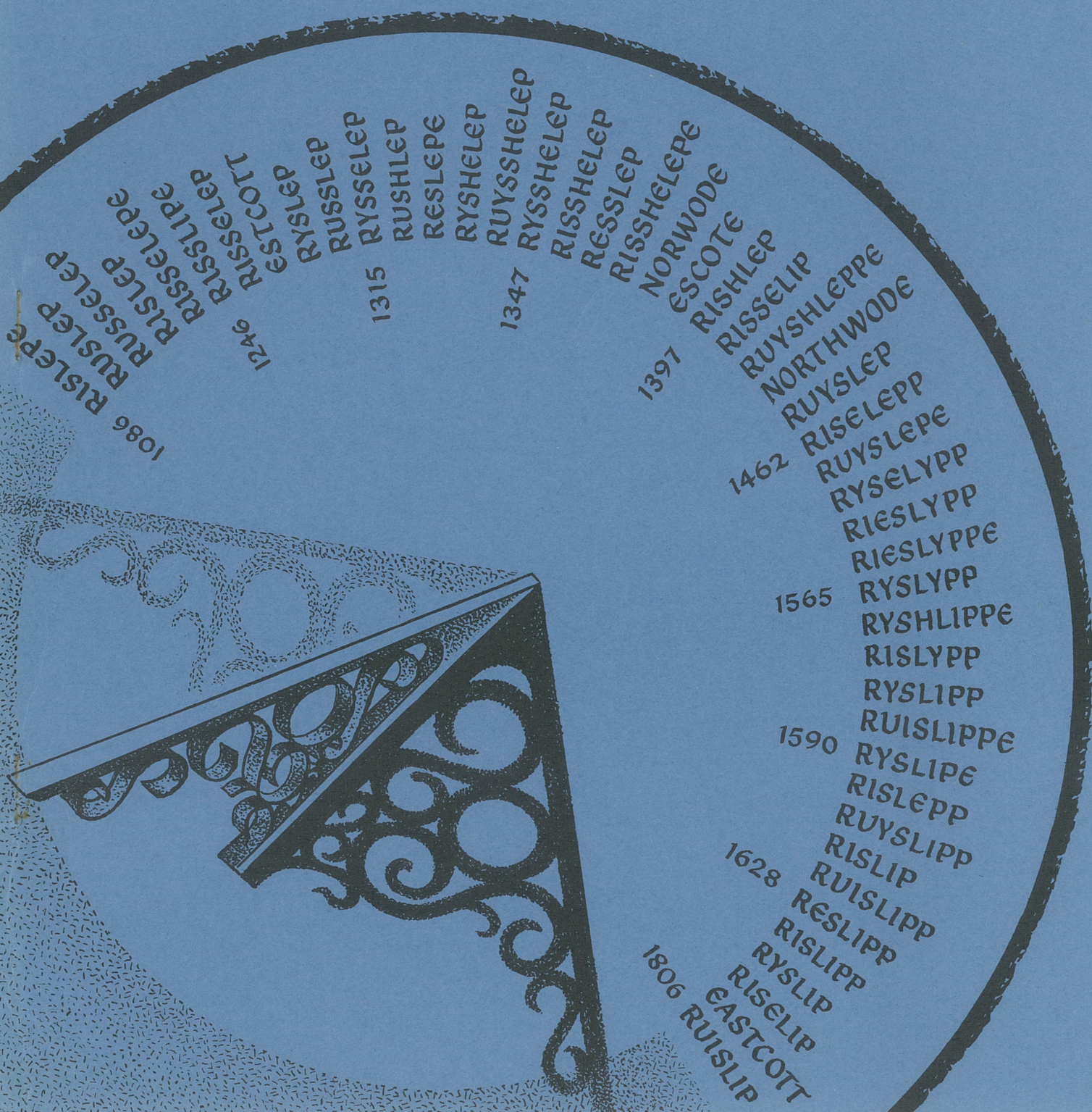


RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD
AND EASTCOTE
Local History
Society



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I have approached the task of editing this year's Journal with some trepidation. My predecessor, Celia Cartwright, achieved such high standards, that following in her footsteps will not be an easy task. Fortunately for me, many members of the Society have produced interesting reports and articles, and I hope that you will enjoy reading the fruits of their labours. I am grateful to them for all their efforts, to Celia for her helpful advice, and to Jan Rixon, our typist, for the high standards which she consistently achieves.

This year the Society is twenty-one years old, and it is an anniversary which is marked by a number of significant developments. The most obvious of these is the change in venue for our meetings. The extra space available at St. Martin's Church Hall is useful, not only because of the greater comfort it provides, but also because it affords the opportunity to increase our membership. A greater pool of expertise on which to draw, can only benefit the Society.

A further development which has occurred during the past year, has been the granting of charitable status to the Society. We are grateful to John Phillips for his hard work in achieving this.

Another significant event for the Society has been the publication of the book, "Eastcote, a Pictorial History". Its authors Karen Spink, Celia Cartwright, Len Krause and Jim McBean, helped of course by Eileen Bowlt, have achieved a very high standard of scholarship, in a book which is nonetheless easy to read and of interest to the general public. I'm told that many copies have already been sold, and it is enjoying considerable success.

In June, members of the Society organised an exhibition entitled, "Geology, Landscape and Man in West Middlesex", in memory of the local geologist, Mr S.W. Hester. We are grateful to Colin Bowlt who put forward the original idea and played a major role in the organising of the exhibition. A full account of this has been prepared by Valery Cowley. We also have an account by Denise Shackell of last year's Local History Conference at the Winston Churchill Hall. It was decided that this made an ideal venue, and by the time this Journal is published, the second conference entitled, "Landscapes of Industry" will have been held there. The success of these conferences is a result of close co-operation between neighbouring Societies.

We record with sorrow the deaths of Ella Morris and Helen Hoare, two ladies who contributed much to the study of Local History. Tributes to them have been prepared by the Chairman and by Eileen Bowlt.

Once again the Society has enjoyed a full programme of outings and meetings, thanks to the work of Denise Shackell and Sheila Ayres. I'm sure the Society will wish to thank them for their considerable efforts. We also express gratitude to Celia Cartwright and Valery Cowley who have retired from the Committee this year, and we welcome a new member, Susan Toms. Jean Brown has taken on the additional task of Membership Secretary and we hope that she will be kept busy enrolling lots of new members. Our representatives on the Conservation Panels, Jean Mitchell and Bob Bedford, have kept an ever-watchful eye on developments in the area. Recent changes at "The George" and at "Woodmans Farm" indicate just how difficult this task has become. Once again the Chairman and Secretary have worked very hard on our behalf, and I know the Society would like to thank them for all their efforts.

Finally, the Committee would welcome new ideas from all members of the Society. Suggestions for outings and possible speakers would be very helpful, and I would be particularly pleased to have comments, (however critical), concerning the Journal. The more that members play an active role in the Society, the more lively and interesting it will become.

SHEILA JONES-OWEN.

SUMMER VISITS 1984

A WALK ROUND ICKENHAM : 23rd May

Modern Ickenham took its toll of Mrs Bowl't's considerable vocal powers at the beginning of our evening walk: as she was straining to make herself heard above the raucous traffic, her voice gave way and was helped through the rest of the evening by the administering of peppermint sweets.

We began at the pump. The canopy for this was provided by Charlotte Gell, foundress of the group of cottages in Swakeleys Road. She lived at "Buntings" and in her will of 1857 left money for a well to be sunk. Mrs Bowl't sketched a picture of life thereabouts before suburbanisation. Leafy country lanes, gipsy fairs on the Thursday after Whitsuntide, (with Pettigrews' roundabout in the forecourt of the "Coach & Horses"), Mrs Wiskin's sweetshop, and a population of laundresses and labourers. One of the cottages was lived in by James Kingsnorth, who was the butler at Swakeleys. The plain brick cottage, Jubilee Cottage, was inhabited in 1871 by Mary Hibbett, a former servant, with her three sons - and Hibbetts still live there.

Mr Matthew Saich, mentioned in the 1861 census, had the "Coach & Horses" for forty years and we next met Mr Cyril Saich, Matthew's grandson and owner of Home Farm. We looked at the timber-framed building with its jettied overhang, dating from the 16th century. Mr Saich invited us inside to look at a room which had a ceiling supported by exposed wooden beams. From here, the unending traffic looked more than ever like an ill-mannered intrusion into rural quietude.

Outside the "Fox & Geese" we heard about the National School, founded in 1866, which once stood on the other side of Austin's Lane. It was pulled down in 1927. The old "Fox & Geese" stood where the road and verge are now; the present site dates from the road widening carried out in 1933. There was a smithy here, too, at one time. It had formerly stood at the "Soldier's Return", then moved from the "Fox & Geese" to the "Coach & Horses" after a quarrel with the publican. He must surely have been one of his best customers.

On next to the "Coach & Horses", first mentioned in records in 1759, but it is much older than that. The last modernisation has successfully disguised its considerable age. When Fluellen Wood had the smithy here he used to greet the newly-weds emerging from St Giles' by "firing the anvil" - that is, striking some gunpowder on the anvil and producing an explosion. When George Robinson was Lord of the Manor of Swakeleys, he bought the pub in 1818; Thomas Clarke, a later manorial landlord, held the manor courts there.

Edwardian leisure was evoked at the library, for here stood the "Orchard", a cottage with tea-gardens providing refreshments for the townees who were able to come out to Ickenham for the day after the railway reached it in 1904.

Our next stop was at Ickenham Hall, formerly known as "Sherwyns". There was a house on the site in 1415 but the present one was here by 1780 and the garden wall is listed as 16th century. John Crosier, (d.1801), left the family property to his niece Elizabeth, who married a Hilliard. The Hilliards owned this and other property in the area up to the present century. (See article on "Woodman's Farm"). The Hall was bought firstly

by the railway company in 1902, then by Charles de Winton Kit-Kat in 1904 and later by Agnes Lawrence (hence Lawrence Drive) who sold it to the Borough Council in 1948.

Our walk continued along Glebe Avenue, formerly Marsh Lane, a name that derived from the fact that it led down to the marsh and common lands. The Rectory stood here but, being too far from the church, it was let as a farm (Glebe Farm) in the 19th century. Some of the houses in the avenue are recognisably built by the same firm of Bourne and Jackson who put up the Manor Homes in Ruislip Manor.

Our walk went on across fields to Manor Farm, with a look at Long Lane Farm on the way. The latter, dating from 1700 or earlier and possibly not put up as a farmhouse, is in Hillingdon. The Dalton family bought it from the Swakeleys estate which had acquired it from the Shordiche family when it was sold to pay Michael Shordiche's gambling debts.

Manor Farm was known as Ickenham Hall when the Shordiches lived there. Parts of the present building date from the 15th century but there is also 18th and 19th century brickwork, a heterogeneous but pleasing mixture with an air of quiet seclusion which was enhanced by the gathering twilight. George Robinson bought it in 1818 from the Shordiche family. The Clarke family, who came to the area in the 18th century, seem to have been the dominant ones and they eventually added Manor Farm to their Swakeleys estate. It was sold to David Poole in 1922 but now, through marriage, is once more owned by people connected with the Shordiche family.

The group dispersed on Long Lane near the row of 18th century estate workers' cottages that stand end-on to the old road. They are on the boundary with Hillingdon and are owned by Daltons at the farm.

Total darkness, not shortage of material, brought Mrs Bowl's
fascinating walk to an end. - R. HARDMAN.

FURTHER AFIELD IN NORTHWOOD WITH COLLEEN COX : 1st August

It was a warm summer's evening on Wednesday August 1st, when a small group of members met at Northwood Car Park.

Before commencing our walk, Colleen Cox gave us an idea of how Green Lane would have been in the days of old. We learned that a farm called Green Lane Farm was situated near to where we were standing and was probably the most important farm in the vicinity. Opposite the car park there is still the remains of a track which once would have led to Green Hill Farm, and today Dene Road, with its large houses has taken its place.

We then proceeded along Green Lane and stopped opposite the London Bible College. It was about here that Knowle Farm once stood. Mrs Cox gave us an outline of the early history of the College and it was not until the early 70's that its present name came into use.

Crossing Green Lane, we stopped at the entrance to Green Close, which is now a private house, adjoining The Grange. The driveway being the original entrance to The Grange, this later property is the oldest inhabited in Northwood. Reference to it appears as early as the 13th century, when Northwood was part of the Manor of Ruislip, thus being in the ownership of the Abbey of Bec in Normandy.

The next stop was on the corner of Rickmansworth Road, opposite land

which was once used as gravel pits. Another interesting feature, a few yards down the road to our left, was the horse trough, given by the wife of the once Ambassador to Russia who lived in the area.

Continuing round the corner we then entered the grounds of The Grange, which is a timber-framed building with many alterations and additions made during the past two centuries. We were fortunate enough to get a glimpse of the interior of the building. The main room is light and airy and seems to be two rooms made into one. The main decorative feature is the carvings over the doors. After walking along the passageway we were able to see another room containing a carved screen which had been brought from a church in London and erected here. We then went into the garden where a large part of the area is taken up by a huge willow tree. As the weather had been very hot the previous few days, it would have been a very pleasant place to relax in the shade. Evidently there had been many other trees of different species in the grounds, which had become too large for comfort and had to be removed.

Proceeding further up Rickmansworth Road, we stopped at the entrance to Kewferry Farm. Then, passing Rose Cottage and the Holy Trinity Church of England School (opened 1861), we stopped at the graveyard of the church and were met by the Vicar. He pointed out the most important graves, one in particular of the Ambassador to Russia who died in 1903, whose wife was mentioned earlier.

Continuing on up Rickmansworth Road, we then stopped at "The Gate" public house, which was originally a timber-framed building. Mrs Cox gave us an outline of the history of the building and also its various occupants over the ages. In the early part of the 19th century there was a toll point near the inn, as the road itself was a turnpike road.

By now it was almost dusk, so the pace quickened to enable us to finish the walk before dark. Carrying on up the hill passing Mount Vernon Hospital on our left, (and just before the border with Hertfordshire), we took the public footpath on our right (which, most unusually, is paved), across the fields, over stiles and through woods, stopping to inspect a Coal Tax post. Incidentally, there are three of these in the vicinity. This footpath finally brought us via Dene Road back to the car park, thus ending a most interesting and pleasant walk. - F & W LEITCH.

OUTING TO SOUTHSEA TO VIEW THE MARY ROSE : 16th September

"She is the noblest ship of sayle that I trow be
in Christendom" - Admiral Sir Edward Howard.

Fifty of our members went to Southsea to see the hull of the Mary Rose and the nearby museum containing artifacts recovered from the ship.

An early arrival on a balmy autumn day tempted us to take a leisurely lunch out of doors and some of us did so under the walls of the Artillery Castle, built by Henry VIII in 1510 to defend Portsmouth Harbour, the greatest naval base of Tudor times.

It was precisely here that Henry waited on a calm summer day in 1545. It wanted only a little imagination for us to join him and his court on what was perhaps the most menacing day of his reign. He had set up his battle headquarters here for he was engaged in a war with France and was awaiting the arrival of a huge French naval force which was coming to destroy his fleet, sack Portsmouth and mount an invasion of his realm.

The English fleet, consisting of about one hundred ships with twelve thousand crew and soldiers aboard, lay at anchor in the deep channel into Portsmouth Harbour and under the guns of the Castle. It was led by Viscount Lisle, Lord Admiral of England, in Henry's flagship, the Great Harry and second-in-command, in the Mary Rose, was Vice-Admiral Sir George Carew.

The Mary Rose, built in 1510, had distinguished itself in Henry's first French war two years later. It was refitted in 1536 and now had ninety-one guns. It was of 700 tonnage, length of 120 feet and a beam of 40 feet. Tiny by modern standards, it was then considered the most lethal of Henry's ships.

Sixteenth century naval powers had a problem. They wanted to increase the armament of their ships, but if more and more guns were positioned on upper decks, the danger of capsizing would increase too. So many were placed lower down in the hull, sometimes so low that the gun-ports were dangerously near the water line. A moderate heel, if not righted in time, would lead to water entering the gun-ports causing the ship to capsize.

The King had come down to Southsea to direct the coming battle. Then, as in subsequent wars, the Navy was England's first and primary line of defence. If it was destroyed, all could be lost. Henry knew this and had come to exercise caution and to curb any hot-heads among his commanders.

Whilst he waited, signals came to tell him the enemy ships had been sighted off the Isle of Wight. It was indeed a huge force - 235 ships with 30,000 soldiers aboard. Henry's strategy was to lure the French fleet towards the guns of Southsea or to the shallow waters south of the channel into Portsmouth. But a dead calm had settled on the Solent and neither fleet could move. The English ships then began to be menaced by French oared galleys, armed with heavy guns. They could manoeuvre and fire at will at the helplessly becalmed English ships.

Suddenly a breeze came from the land and saved the situation. Anchors were lifted, sails hoisted and the ships heeled to the wind and bore down upon the galleys. In the van were the Great Harry and the Mary Rose. But there was something wrong with the Mary Rose. The heel was not being righted. It increased as the sea poured into her gun-ports, open ready for firing, and soon she lay down on her side and was engulfed. All this on an almost dead calm sea.

There was no escape for those on board. Men on the lower decks were trapped and those on upper decks had no escape either. They were penned in by the stout rope netting designed to prevent boarding by the enemy. Less than three dozen out of the 700 aboard survived.

When it was seen that she was not recovering from the list, the captain of a passing ship called out to the Mary Rose asking what was amiss. Sir George Carew replied that he had on board "the sort of knaves whom he could not rule". So by negligence or knavery or both, the Mary Rose sank without firing a shot.

The battle continued with English ships driving off the galleys but they then returned to the main body of the English fleet. Henry was not to be tempted from his strong defensive position and the French decided wisely to call it a day and sailed for home.

The first attempt at recovery of the Mary Rose took place a few days after her sinking, using two large naval ships as pontoons. But she could not be moved and the only result was the salvage of a few guns and other various items. She was abandoned and gradually memories of her faded.

In 1836 the pioneer helmet divers, the Deane brothers, identified the wreck and recovered a few guns and timbers but no attempt was made to raise the ship.

It was not until 1965 that the first serious plans were made to salvage the Mary Rose. In that year Alexander McKee set up Project Solent Ships with the avowed object of searching the Solent for wrecks, but privately to find the Mary Rose. Then in 1967 the Mary Rose Committee was formed with the specific objects of "finding, excavating, raising and preserving for all time the Mary Rose". By means of sonar aids the ship was soon found and diving commenced. Years of hard work on the wreck followed and in 1979 The Mary Rose Trust was formed to plan for the housing of the ship and related materials in a museum. Between 1979 and 1982 thousands of artifacts of many kinds were found in and around the ship and brought ashore for cleaning and conservation. They included decks, cabins, guns and many skeletons. Also removed from inside the hull and around it were vast quantities of silt in which the ship had made a bed for itself.

The actual raising in the autumn of 1982 is too well known, through television, to need retelling here. We can all recall the thrill of the moment when the frame, the cradle and the hull appeared above the water. Future plans propose to replace the decks, companionways, cabins etc., and then to preserve the whole structure. This will take three years.

Our party went in to see the Mary Rose hull in small groups. We were ushered into a gloomy and cavernous building - cold - 5°C and very misty - somewhat like an English summer day we have all experienced when on holiday. Many jets of water were directed over the hull. Buried for hundreds of years in the Solent silt which had excluded oxygen and thus preserved it, to allow it now to dry would lead to rapid and irretrievable disintegration. It looked insignificant, an empty shell, a skeleton. Could it really have been one of Henry's finest ships? But our knowledge of its life and exploits, its death and long burial and then its resurrection gave it a fascination unparalleled. Even so, perhaps it would have been better to have seen the museum artifacts before the empty hull. We could then have obtained a more living and complete picture of the ship as she was.

We, however, went to the museum after seeing the hull. First we passed through a shop selling tea towels and tin trays but some good books. The museum was a wonderland of relics retrieved from the Mary Rose before it was raised.

We saw some of the armaments of the ship - its great guns, both bronze and iron, handguns and hundreds of longbows and arrows.

The Surgeon-Barber's cabin was very small - 9 feet by 6 feet and here were found the instruments of very primitive surgery - saw-handles, mallets, cauterizing irons and many bottles for ointments and drugs.

Navigational aids included compasses, a sextant and sundials and the ship's bell and an anchor were recovered.

From the galley a very large metal pot for boiling food and many cooking utensils were found. Perhaps the most macabre finds were wooden hogsheads containing pork bones with some meat still attached. These we did not see.

Scores of skeletons, many complete, were found but these were not on show. Eventually they will all be given a Christian burial.

Personal possessions were numerous and included combs, shoes, leather coats, knives, spoons, writing materials and even chess and backgammon boards.

Altogether these relics gave a vivid picture of life aboard the Mary Rose. They, like the ship itself, had been preserved in the Solent silt and upon recovery, had received careful conservation treatment.

We came away from Southsea with two impressions. First the immensity of the problems that had faced the men and women who recovered the Mary Rose. It was their dedication and long years of hard and dangerous work that achieved this. Second, their achievement enabled us to see a piece of English history come alive.

And a thank you to the members of our own committee for organising the visit. Many of us will go to Southsea again. With its ships, harbour and museums it encapsulates much of British naval history. - R.G. HUMPHREYS.

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PROGRAMME OF SUMMER OUTINGS 1985

Saturday 16th March <u>8.30 a.m.</u>	:	Coach outing to London Dockland to visit the Docks Museum. Guided tour by C. Elmers of the docks by coach. P.M. - Visit to the Tall Ships Exhibition by St. Katherine's Dock. Depart St. Martin's Approach.
Thursday 23rd May <u>7.15 p.m.</u>	:	A walk around Hillingdon led by Ken Pearce. Meet outside the Church, Hillingdon Hill.
Sunday 9th June <u>1.00 p.m.</u>	:	Coach outing to Highgate Cemetery. Guided tour by Mr. Holmes. Tea provided. Depart St. Martin's Approach.
Wednesday 19th June <u>7.30 p.m.</u>	:	A walk in Ickenham with Eileen Bowlt. Meet at the Pump.
Saturday 6th July <u>9.30 a.m.</u>	:	Coach outing to Southwark. Guided tour of recent excavations and a visit to the Beer Garden museum. Depart St. Martin's Approach.

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L.A.M.A.S. - 19th LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE : 17th November
THEME - "TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS IN LONDON".

First Speaker - Michael Robbins. "The Great Centre of Communication: Transport for London's Local Historians".

This talk presented the methods and sources available for the investigation of transport in the local areas of London. It covered docks, shipping, bridges, ferries, roads, canals, buses, trams, aviation and railways, giving the most useful literature for each topic. Several delegates felt a duplicated handout of the sources quoted would have been most useful.

Mr. Robbins concluded in hoping he had indicated the gaps in the subject to stimulate further study. Only through transport could one understand the development of London, especially in the suburbs.

During the lunch break there was ample time to view the many exhibitions set up by the individual local history societies. The majority had emphasised the theme of transport as for example, our neighbouring society at Pinner with their exhibition on 'Metroland'.

Second Speaker - Douglas Cluett. "The Role of Croydon Airport in the Development of British Civil Aviation and the work of the Croydon Airport Society".

This was a talk with slides to illustrate the development of Croydon Airport, especially between the years 1920 - 1939 when it was London's first major airport. It began as a military airport during the First World War and then became a civil airport in 1919 when scheduled cross channel trips started.

One slide showed the first control tower looking like a shed on stilts, while the departure lounge was a wooden shack with a bench outside. It illustrated very vividly how much flying has changed. Another slide showed a level crossing for the aircraft, which had to taxi across a public road.

During the Second World War, it became a Battle of Britain station, but afterwards its importance declined as London's next major airport was developed at Heston. The grass runways at Croydon were suitable only for small charter planes and in 1959 the airport closed.

Interest has been revived through the work of the Croydon Airport Society. They plan to open the 1928 terminal buildings as a museum. These will be restored to their original condition, both inside and outside, so they will form a major exhibit. Unfortunately none of the original aircraft, apart from one in a French museum, has been preserved but the Society is making a collection of similar aircraft of the period. Eventually they hope the museum will become the civil counterpart of the R.A.F. Museum at Hendon.

Third Speaker - John Clark. "Transport in Medieval London".

From the available records, John Clark deduced that medieval Londoners suffered the same transport problems as ourselves i.e. congestion, noise, accidents and damage to roads and buildings. The only aspect missing was commuting since everyone lived within walking distance of work. Walking was the main form of transport and from the slides of contemporary

illustrations we gained an impression of the narrow, dirty lanes where Londoners had to walk. One slide showed a golosh which was worn under the soles of shoes to keep mud away.

Many roads were also hazardous for carts because of the obstructions. This created problems of moving goods and tolls had to be levied at the City gates because once inside, there was the danger of losing goods on the poor roads.

Although no carts of the medieval period have survived, their appearance can be reconstructed from contemporary illustrations. The wheels were shod with iron to protect the wood but this did more damage to the roads and created more noise. The City of London tried to ban them, but was unsuccessful - shades of our modern juggernaut problems.

Rivers were also important for goods and passenger travel, but they too presented problems. Mill and fish weirs could obstruct traffic to the extent of having to wait three days for a weir to be opened.

The talk conveyed well the bustle and discomfort of travelling in medieval London.

Fourth Speaker - Chris Ellmers. "The Port of London in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries".

This talk was familiar ground to the members of our Society as he was the guest speaker at our September meeting.

During the 18th century the Port of London became more congested with the huge increase in cargo to be unloaded. It became obvious that enclosed wet docks with warehouses were needed to ease congestion and protect the ships and their cargoes from losses through pilfering.

The 19th century saw a massive programme of dock building with the first to open being the West India Dock in 1802, followed by the London Dock at Wapping in 1805. These huge engineering projects involved major alterations to the environment. For example, the building of St. Catherine's Dock entailed the demolition of 1,500 houses.

In the 1860's the Royal Victoria Dock was built for the larger steam ships. It was the first dock with hydraulic lifts. Previously muscle power was used to work the treadmill cranes. Nevertheless, at the end of the 19th century, the Port of London was still congested, since London had become the 'warehouse of the world'.

To preserve this period of London's history, the Museum of London is in the process of collecting material for a proposed Museum of London Dockland. This will be in a disused warehouse in the dockland area.

The talk certainly whetted our appetite for the proposed Society outing to this new museum.

- SUSAN TOMS

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE : 31st March

More than 150 delegates representing many local history societies and W.E.A. classes attended the conference, which was held for the first time at the Winston Churchill Hall. There was a medieval theme, relating to estates, manors and woodlands, typical of the ecclesiastical holdings in the area.

After the introduction by Mr. P.J. Snell, Chairman of the British Association for Local History, the first speaker, Dr. J. Blair, Fellow of Queens College Oxford, spoke on "Multiple Estates and Local Manors". He traced the origin of the local manor from the Normans, who established the manorial system. Prior to that, the Saxons had been free men, although, in the Anglo-Saxon period, there was a structure of King, Lords and then peasants, who worked in a system to benefit the Lords.

During the lunch break, there was time to look at the exhibitions arranged by the societies represented at the conference. There was also the opportunity to buy a variety of local history books published by these societies.

In the afternoon, Dr. P. Bigmore of Middlesex Polytechnic gave a talk on "field systems". He explained how the medieval field system evolved, giving as examples Laxton in Nottinghamshire, Braunston great field system in Devon and Sowermin in Cambridgeshire. He talked of the relationship between field tenure and society. Before the 10th and 11th centuries, little is known about the field system and how it worked. By the 15th and 16th centuries, however, documents were more common. The sharing of waste land dates back to Saxon or pre-historic times.

The last speaker was Dr. Colin Bowlt and his subject was "Ancient Woodlands of Middlesex and South Hertfordshire". He posed the question, "What are Woods"? and defined them as "groups of trees, not a plantation, on ancient land which has never been cultivated". Windsor has a relict of ancient woodland, a defined area, set aside for hunting. Forest was wood with open fields, where deer were of first importance. Trees were left, and the grass was for the deer.

Before the Norman conquest, there were parks such as the Ruislip Park which was mentioned in the Domesday Book. They were enclosed by an earthwork, on top of which was a paling, to keep in the deer. All wooded areas were of vital importance to the local economy. Ruislip Common was originally subject to rights of common grazing, although the practice of grazing alongside woodland can cause damage to trees.

After the 11th century, it became common to fence woodland, and low coppicing became possible. Some grazing was allowed seven years after the trees had been coppiced. There was far less woodland in the 11th century than was originally thought.

Dr. Bowlt ended his talk by posing several questions concerning the future of woodlands, in order to provoke discussion of issues which are of particular concern to Ruislip.

- DENISE SHACKELL.

EXHIBITION : GEOLOGY, LANDSCAPE AND MAN IN WEST MIDDLESEX.
COW BYRE, JUNE 24th - 30th 1984. IN MEMORY OF S.W. HESTER, M.B.E.(1901-1982)
A MEMBER OF R.N.E.L.H.S.

A Fellow of the Geological Society, Sydney William Hester died on April 28th 1982 at the age of eighty-one. Before his retirement at the age of sixty, he had been General Assistant in the Geological Survey and at the Geological Sciences Museum, and Technical Assistant in the Palaeontology Department. His obituary, from the Proceedings of the Geological Association, of which he was an Honorary Member and for which he worked in various official capacities, described his early interest in fossil collecting and how he helped with the palaeontological exhibit for the 1924 Wembley Exhibition. He published papers (many on display) on millstone grit and fossils and he

contributed to a book on fossil plants; his last publication (1980) was on the Moor Park area. He was a founder member of the Ruislip and District Natural History Society and several of his articles, maps and diagrams relating to local geology were exhibited, as well as the auger he used during survey work. During his retirement, Mr. Hester assisted members of this Society who undertook the graveyard survey at St. Martin's, by identifying the various kinds of stone.

The exhibition, which Colin Bowlt suggested as a fitting tribute to Mr. Hester, demonstrated the immense variety of investigation he could inspire and contribute to. In one case were finds from the Holloway Lane excavation at Harmondsworth, with its evidence of pre-historic and Romano-British occupation, which included carbonised hazel nutshells, evidence of the use of wild plants in the diet of our ancestors. There were on display Neolithic and Iron Age implements as well as Celtic, Roman and Saxon artefacts found in West Middlesex. A section on Local Stone included a survey of the development of the axe in N.W. Middlesex and featured a Mesolithic (ca. 5 - 6,000 B.C.) tranche axe from Ruislip, exhibited for the first time. The survey of Imported Materials included a late Bronze Age axe-head recently found in Hayes. The importance of geologists, archaeologists and botanists working together was thus made apparent.

Local brick and tile making was demonstrated by photographs and examples such as a rare alphabet tile and an 'Eastcote' stamped brick. Sand, loam, clay and chalk are vital factors in such activities, so local pits, chalk mines and kilns were featured, together with samples of, for instance, wattle and daub from the ditch at the bottom of Manor Farm orchard. The use of thatch and slate for roofing was also illustrated. So man changes the landscape by making use of its geological features.

Farming's especial reliance on geological factors was exemplified by wall displays about King's End Farm and a survey of agricultural methods from medieval shots and sellions to the Enclosures and beyond. Open common fields were shown in relation to geology. Ruislip, with its hills, woods, wastes and marlpits, was shown to differ from flat Ickenham, which is almost entirely on London clay, and from the "upland" parish of Harefield which is on London clay, Reading beds, chalk, gravel and alluvium.

Many maps, drawings and photographs had been assembled to reveal fascinating facts: for instance, the palaeolithic site at Yiewsley is the third richest for stone tools in Britain and probably the fifth in Europe, most being found when the gravel was dug by hand. Recent archaeological excavations at Sipson suggest that the traditional view, that the lighter soils (drift) in the south were occupied first and that only from Saxon times were the clays of the north cleared and ploughed using improved techniques, may have to be modified.

There was a separate section on Drift Deposits with maps showing the stages in the development of the Thames, identified by different gravel terraces. A wall display showed, in simplified diagrammatic sequence, the formation of strata, with one of Mr. Hester's horizontal sections showing Eocene formations in the Ruislip area. Specimens from these strata were displayed to illustrate this classification, ranging from alluvium and preserved wood from the flood plain of the River Pinn to Hertfordshire pudding-stone.

The educational value of the exhibition was enhanced by a most enjoyable fifteen minute audio-visual presentation, compiled by

Colin Bowlt, with commentary by Colleen Cox, on the geology, natural history and landscape of the Ruislip area. The interdependence of these factors was thus conclusively demonstrated and I am surely not the only non-geologist to have learned a great deal from my visits to this worthy commemoration of a local expert and enthusiast. - VALERY J.E. COWLEY.

THE RESEARCH GROUP REPORT

This year the librarian at Ruislip library has allocated more space for the storage of local history reference books and materials for which the Society is most grateful. The Research Group have been actively engaged in re-arranging and re-cataloguing materials so that these are more readily available for research.

Work has continued throughout the past year on long term projects of extracting information from local newspapers, St. Martin's Parish magazine and the census returns. The tape recording of local residents' early reminiscences has also been continued and some of these recordings were taken to a conference on living memory, held in London.

More information has been added to the studies commenced in the previous year, of the Kingsend area, St. Catherine's Farm, Sunnyside and the Eastbury estates. The photographic essay of Northwood High Street has been expanded through research into the history of the buildings and their changes of ownership over the years. The fruit of the Group's researches may be seen in articles in the Journal and in the recently published Eastcote book, with which some members were closely involved.

The successful "Fifty Years of Manor Homes" exhibition produced a welcome response from the public. A number of people were prompted to volunteer information and the Group followed this up and were able to interview several residents with interesting wartime memories of the area. The Group have been involved in preparing some further exhibitions. At the Local History Liaison Conference on "Medieval Woodlands and Agricultural Systems" held in March 1984, the Group displayed an exhibition on Ruislip Woods, at the Society's stand.

In July 1984, the Society was invited to take part in Haydon School's Summer Fair, whose theme "A Londoners Day Out" reflected the popularity of our area in the earlier part of this century, with daytrippers from the Metropolis. The Group mounted an exhibition including several photographs which have since appeared in the Eastcote book, as well as a pictorial representation of the Poplars tea garden, and this aroused much interest.

A small exhibition was also mounted at the L.A.M.A.S. conference on "Transport and Communications In and Around London" held in November 1984.

The Group is now looking to 1986, when the 900th anniversary of the Domesday book will be celebrated and it is hoped that it will be possible to put on a commemorative exhibition.

The Research Group would like to place on record their thanks and appreciation to their leader Eileen Bowlt, for her encouragement, assistance and not least her expertise in directing members to likely sources of information.

The Group meets every two months at Ruislip library on the Monday following the regular Society meeting. New recruits will be most welcome.

THE RUISLIP NON-ECCLESIASTICAL CHARITIES

by ROBERT STEEL

In 1981 as a member of Mrs Bowlt's W.E.A. local history class, I found myself researching the Ruislip Cottagers' Allotment Charity, and my report was later accepted for publication in the book "Ruislip Around 1900". The report concluded with the words "it has now led me to a further minor research - another local charity - the Ruislip Non-Ecclesiastical Charities. Ever heard of it? Well that's another story!"

My research involved visits to the Charity Commissioners' Office, the GLC archives in County Hall and the GLC Record Office, but none of these proved a fruitful source of information. Imagine my amazement then, when I attended an exhibition in St. Martin's Church hall and found exposed, as an exhibit, a copy of the 1895 "Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Trusteeship of the various parochial charities, as affected by the Local Government Act of 1894", together with a letter from the Charity Commissioners dated 21st May 1895. This was exactly the sort of thing I had been searching for.

Summary of the Salient Points of the Charity

The earliest review of the charities I came across was when the Churchwardens and Overseers of St. Martin's were summoned by two Charity Commissioners, appointed in August 1820 under acts of Parliament, to appear before them with details of the Ruislip charities, at the White Horse Inn, Uxbridge at 2.00 p.m. precisely on 20th August 1822. This summons was dated the previous day so there was evidently at that point some urgency about something.

However, it was not until the early part of 1895, some seventy three years later, that a Committee of the Parish Council was appointed to consider the Trusteeship of the various Parochial Charities as affected by the Local Government Act 1894. On the 7th February the Committee reported to the parent body.

The charities to be considered were eight in number, viz. 1. Cogg's, 2. Bright's, 3. Lady Franklin's, 4. Rogers', 5. Hawtrey's, 6. Howards, 7. Lady Campbell's and 8. The Cottagers' Allotments.

The specific provisions of the charities were examined and detailed at length in the Report, and references may be found in the Borough Status Application 1953 (Local History Library), the Victoria History of Middlesex (Uxbridge Library) and W.W. Druett's "Ruislip Northwood Through the Ages 1957".

To avoid over-burdening this article with too much detail, I give overleaf a copy of a "Summary of Endowments" of the final six charities with which the present Hon. Clerk to the Trustees of the Non-Ecclesiastical Charities, Mr E.S. Saywell, furnished me. He said that this Summary was prepared by his predecessor Mr R. Arthur Godman, who served as Hon. Clerk and later Trustee for more than 30 years.

RUISLIP NON-ECCLESIASTICAL CHARITIES

Summary of Endowments

1. Coggs Charity Founded 1717

Consists of 3 acres 1 rood 26 poles land in Fore Street and

£128.10.8. Consols.

$\frac{2}{3}$ income unto such poor families and single persons
as are inhabitants of Parish of Eastcote.

$\frac{1}{3}$ income unto such poor families and single persons
as are inhabitants of Parish of Westcote.

2. Brights Charity Founded 1721

Income £6. per annum paid by Leathersellers Co.

10/- per annum payable to Vicar of Ruislip for
Ecclesiastical Charity.

£5.4.0. for loaves every Sunday to 12 of the poorest
labouring people inhabitants of Parish of Ruislip.

6/- for loaves yearly to 12 such poor persons.

3. Hawtreys Charity Founded 1725

£266.13.4. Consols.

Income for the poor of Parish of Ruislip.

4. Rogers Charity Founded 1802

£580.16.4. Consols.

£2.2.0. to Vicar of Ruislip to preach sermon Good
Friday morning.

Balance among poor persons resident in Parish of
Ruislip preference to be given to such as shall
most frequently attend Ruislip Parish Church.

5. Howards Charity

£160. Consols.

Interest of £100 to purchase on Christmas Eve beef and
loaves for 25 poor families of Eastcote.

Interest of £60 to purchase New Years Day, blankets
for 6 families of Eastcote.

6. Lady Campbells Charity Founded 1886

£333.6.8. Consols.

Income to purchase coal among such of the poor families
in Eastcote as Vicar shall deem most necessitous and
deserving.

R. ARTHUR GODMAN
Hon. Clerk.

The two additional charities included in the 1895 Report were the
Lady Franklin Charity and the Cottagers' Allotments Charity.

In their Report, the Committee tentatively expressed opinion on each
of the charities in turn (except the Cottagers' Allotments Charity which
had already had a special Scheme set up on 4th April 1882) as to whether
it could be regarded as Ecclesiastical or Non-Ecclesiastical. The rule
of thumb measure appeared to be "was it specifically for the benefit of the
poor, or was it basically for the benefit of members of the church?" - the
general principles having been laid down in the Local Government Act of
1894. The Committee had some doubts as to the exact classifications, and
because of those doubts referred the matter to the Charity Commissioners

on the 5th March 1895.

The Commissioners replied on 21st May, provisionally suggesting that as the question as to the actual Trustees, as distinct from the administration, of the several charities appeared somewhat involved, the Parish Council might consider the propriety of applying to the Commissioners for a Scheme for all the charities except the "Ecclesiastical Charity of Franklin, the modern charity of Lady Campbell (1886) and the Allotments Charity which had been dealt with".

At this stage the Commissioners were apparently of the opinion that five charities might qualify for inclusion in a joint Scheme. However, in the final Scheme, Lady Campbell's was included, making six in all.

The Commissioners letter of 21st May pointed out that the Bright and Rogers charities were "partly ecclesiastical and partly non-ecclesiastical and parochial", so the final decision was evidently somewhat difficult.

On the 6th June 1895 the Parish Council resolved that the Committee's Report, and the text of the Commissioners' letter of 21st May, should be printed and published for supply to the parishoners at cost price. The price was three pence.

Income and Distribution

The basic objects of the original charities were to provide sundry small comforts to the poor of the parish. The Trustees over the years since 1895 will have experienced changing times in social conditions in the Ruislip Eastcote Northwood area, and, as I noted in my earlier memorandum on the Cottagers' Allotment Charity, with a vastly expanded local population, it is not easy to indicate deserving individuals or assess their needs.

Mr E.S. Saywell (one time Clerk of the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council) is, as mentioned above, the present Hon. Clerk to the Trustees of the Non-Ecclesiastical Charities. He kindly favoured me with the following note in 1982 on the income and distribution.

"The Trustees distribute the income every other year (it used to be every four years but it is convenient to distribute earlier, particularly as most of the Trustees are also Trustees of the 'Cottagers' which does meet every other year). The payments are made to the Vicars of Emmanuel Northwood, St. Martin's Ruislip, St. Lawrence Eastcote, St. Paul's Ruislip Manor and St. Mary's S. Ruislip.

The dividend interest is only £42.68 per annum and there is a rent from the Fore Street land (Coggs Charity) bringing in a net sum of some £60 although this sum has now increased following a Court action under which the Trustees obtained a possession order for the eviction of a trespasser".

To get some indication as to how these distributions were dealt with subsequently, early in 1983 I asked the Vicars whether they themselves dealt with them, or whether they were dealt with by their Parochial Church Councils. Four vicars courteously replied. In each case they were handled personally, not by the P.C.C. and instances were given of the small additional help they had been able to give by reason of the Charities' distribution. I did not get any reply from the former vicar of the fifth church. Upon reflection, it was perhaps intrusive on my part in asking the question at all, so I appreciated all the more the courtesy of the

other four.

As a final footnote, I would mention for completeness the Lady Franklin Charity, excluded from the Non-Ecclesiastical scheme. The proceeds of that charity were to be applied to the supply of clothing for poor widows placed in the Church Houses, who were "of the Communion of the Established Church of England". The status of the Church Houses (Almshouses) changed over the years and eventually, in 1980, they were substantially rebuilt. They are now a housing unit associated with the Harding Housing Association. (St. Martin's Church Magazine "Outlook" October and November 1980). The small income from the investment of the Lady Franklin bequest of £100 in 1732 is received direct by the St. Martin's Church Treasurer, and is accumulated in the accounts of the Parochial Church Council. It appears under the heading "Trust Funds and Accounts".

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF LADY BANKES' SCHOOLS, RUISLIP MANOR
by SHEILA JONES-OWEN
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In October 1934 "The Middlesex Gazette" recorded that a new school had opened in Ruislip Manor and that it would "fill a long felt need in the new district, where many children have been unable to go to school for several months". Fifty years later the same paper reported the golden jubilee celebrations of what are now the two Lady Bankes' Schools (Infant and Junior), and the children have been conducting their own investigations into the history of their schools. Taped interviews have been conducted with former pupils, and many letters have been received giving details of life at the school, especially in the period of the thirties and forties. In addition, parties for the children and gatherings of ex-pupils and teachers have been held, and the children have experienced lessons that would have been familiar to their grandparents.

Of particular interest are the reminiscences of the war years. One pupil remembers chanting tables and singing songs in the air raid shelters. Shortages of paper involved pupils in using the paper four times - writing on the lines in pencil and then in ink, and between the lines in pencil and finally in ink. A former teacher remembers working a shift system, six days a week during the war, so that the building could also be used by pupils of Ruislip Gardens School, which was dangerously close to Northolt aerodrome.

The first Lady Bankes' School (which did not receive its name until 1936), opened in Victoria Hall. Former pupils remember the large hall divided into classrooms by partitions, which apparently did little to ensure effective sound proofing. Examination of the school's admissions register emphasises how much recent settlement there had been in Ruislip Manor. The register shows the previous school attended, and many of the children had been at school in inner London areas, such as Willesden, Westbourne Park and Paddington. Many other pupils had been attending local schools, some considerable distance from their homes, such as Cannon Lane in Pinner, Bourne in South Ruislip and Bishop Winnington Ingram.

Two years later, the school moved to its splendid Dawlish Drive site. One former teacher remembers the pupils transferring books from Victoria Hall to the new building. In an interesting essay on the architecture of Lady Bankes' School¹, Keith Knight relates that in November 1933 the Middlesex County Council bought 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land facing Dawlish Drive for

£2,975, with a view to building "Council School No.173". The 1930's were a time for experiment in new school designs. The financial crisis of 1931, when Britain finally left the gold standard, led to the introduction of economies, which encouraged architects to consider less expensive building styles. The cost of building schools was being forced down, at a time when demand for school places in the suburbs was expanding dramatically. Between 1931 and 1939, the population of Ruislip Northwood grew from 16,042 to 47,760, and while the new Lady Bankes' School was being built, plans were laid for extending the original design. Extra classrooms were built, so that a quadrangle was formed.

The horizontal lines and flat roof of the new building must have seemed very modern and perhaps out of place in the developing suburb of Ruislip Manor, where cottage styles and pitched roofs were very popular. And yet, nearly fifty years later, the building seems to have mellowed. Its matured gardens help us to accept what, for the 1930's, was a pace-setting design among Middlesex schools.

The golden jubilee of Lady Bankes' Schools has given children the chance to recreate part of their own history, and in so doing they have revived memories, most of them happy, among many ex-pupils and teachers, who have known the school during its fifty year history.

Reference

- 1 Keith Knight. Serial No. L900 1158. Oct.1981. Uxbridge Library.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to Mr.E.A. Halling (Headmaster) and Mrs. H. Hopper (Deputy Head) for their help.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

Archaeological Discoveries from Ruislip and Northwood, Middlesex	R.M. Derricourt
Ruislip-Northwood: An Early Example of Town Planning and its Consequences	D. Tottman
The Story of Northwood and Northwood Hills	W.A.G. Kemp
Ruislip in Times Past	Celia and Martin Cartwright and Valery Cowley
Ruislip Around 1900	Members of the Research Group
Eastcote - A Pictorial History	Celia Cartwright, Karen Spink, Eileen Bowlit, Len Krause and James McBean

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES FOUND IN RUISLIP

by R.H. LIGHTNING

In recent years clay pipes have assumed greater importance to the archaeologist as more post-medieval sites have been excavated. As with coins, the find of a pipe of known date in an undisturbed layer indicates that material in higher layers could not have been deposited before the date of the pipe's manufacture.

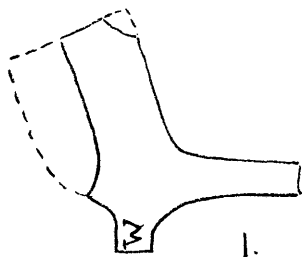
However, as far as the amateur archaeologist and local historian is concerned the subject of pipe recognition and dating is fraught with many dangers, so that an article such as this can only scrape the surface of a very interesting subject. The primary aim of this article is therefore to list the pipes and pipe fragments that have been found in Ruislip in recent years, and to relate them in a very tentative way to the findings of experts in the field. Although few hard and fast conclusions can be drawn, perhaps further study will be stimulated.

Pipe making was not carried out in Ruislip, and in local records there are no references to pipemakers. Thus it can be assumed that pipes found in the Ruislip area were brought in either by individuals or merchants. Oswald says that in general the distribution of maker's pipes would be some twenty to thirty miles from the point of manufacture, although, as he points out, coastal or river trade may increase the area distribution.¹ His range of twenty to thirty miles is an estimate of the range of a pack horse, so he seems to be thinking in terms of pre-19th century travel. This range would bring Ruislip within the ambit of London, which was one of the main centres of pipe manufacture, and Uxbridge, where some pipe making was carried out, possibly in the vicinity of the Pipemakers Arms on the Slough Road.²

It is interesting to note the localities of the various find sites in relation to the period during which these pipes were deposited, roughly 1650 to 1900. Clay pipes were rather brittle and were therefore soon discarded as rubbish. During the greater part of this period Ruislip was a small rural parish, developing only towards the end of the 19th century, and then mainly in Northwood. With the possible exception of the South Ruislip site all the sites were situated in old settlements.

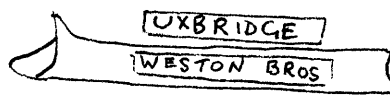
The pipes from the back gardens of Kingsend and Wood Lane can be regarded as coming from a single site being near the junction of the two roads, both properties being post-war developments. Kingsend did not exist as a road until the early years of the 20th century and the area enclosed by Wood Lane and Ickenham Road was agricultural land. The White Bear at the top of the hill was the centre of Great Kings End and Rocque's map of 1754 shows the hamlet. The proximity of the White Bear is significant, for people would buy their pipe of tobacco as well as beer there. Broken pipes would be thrown out as rubbish and scattered over the fields. Similarly, householders would throw out rubbish onto the land at the back of their houses. St. Martin's churchyard is also situated behind a former public house, The Bell. Several sites are situated along Bury Street. The vicarage site has been continuously occupied since 1390. Bury Street Farm and 114 Bury Street are in what was the hamlet of Silver Street Green, mentioned in the Terrier of 1565, and are near the Plough Inn. Cannons Bridge Farm is named after Roger Cannon who is mentioned in the Customal of 1248. Finally, 89 Mount Pleasant, South Ruislip is situated in a modern residential area and is built on what was agricultural land.

* (Numbers in Brackets i.e.(No.3) refer to the Illustrations).

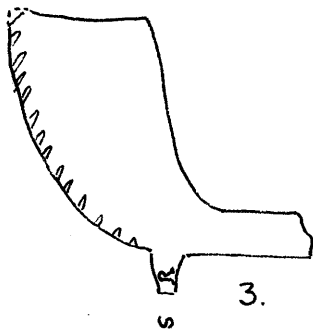


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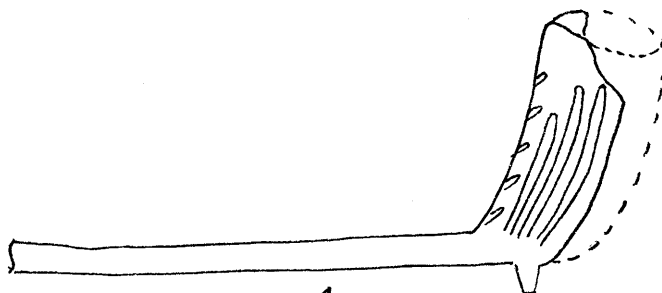


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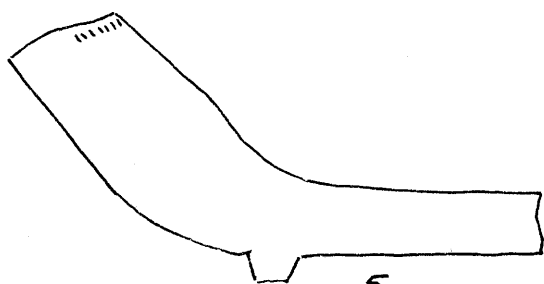


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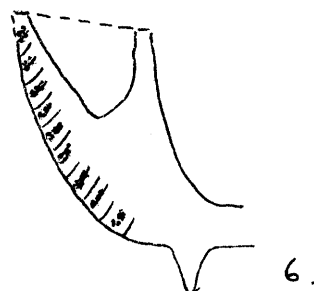
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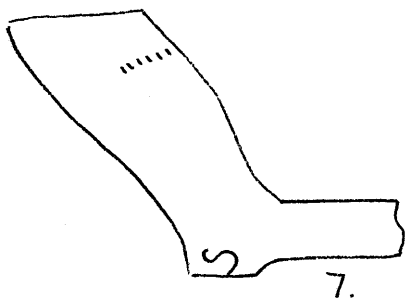
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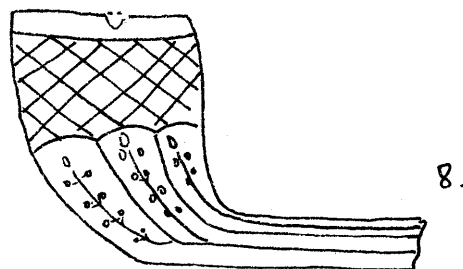
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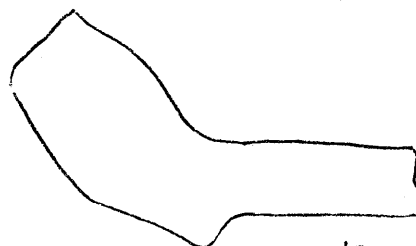
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SCALE: 1/1

The remains of two pipes found in Wood Lane point to Uxbridge as being a link in the source of supply. The first pipe has WESTON BROS. stamped on one side of the stem and UXBRIDGE on the other. Eric G. Ayto's researches have revealed that the firm of Weston Bros. are listed in a directory for 1903 as Wholesale Tobacconists of 6 Windsor Street, Uxbridge. Mr. Ayto argues that the fine quality of these pipes suggest that they were probably made in Brosely, Shropshire, which was an important centre of pipe manufacture in the 18th and 19th centuries. Thus it can be inferred that the pipe found in Wood Lane is a late 19th century pipe, possibly manufactured in the Midlands for distribution to businesses in a common mould and stamped with the customer's name and town.

The second pipe fragment (No.1) has a square shaped spur at the base of the bowl with the initials of the manufacturer, W.P., in raised relief on either side of the spur, the initials having been incorporated in each half of the mould. It was usual for the Christian name initial to be on the left hand side of the pipe when the bowl is pointing away from the body, although there are exceptions to this rule.³ Oswald says that mould imparted marking on the spur starts in London in about 1670, and that initials can be upright with the axis of the bowl or parallel with the plane of the stem.⁴ On our pipe the initials are upright with the axis of the bowl. Initials parallel with the plane of the stem are common in the earlier examples, so it is likely that this is an 18th century pipe. This conjecture is strengthened by the finding of pipes bearing the initials W.P. among late 18th and early 19th century pipes unearthed at the High Street end of Harefield Road, Uxbridge during the developments of the early 1970's⁵, and also during excavations at Nos. 19-25 High Street, Pinner in 1977.⁶ Although the maker of these pipes has not yet been identified it can be inferred that the Ruislip, Uxbridge and Pinner examples had the same place of origin.

A pipe bowl (No.3) found in St. Martin's churchyard in 1980 has a slightly tapered spur with the initials R.S. impressed on it in the mould. The bowl, which is very thin, also has a primitive moulded leaf pattern on the front and the back. Like the Wood Lane example the initials are in line with the axis of the bowl. The shape of the bowl and its upright angle in relation to the stem suggest that this is a 19th century pipe. Also, between 1800 and 1830 the spurs tended to become more pointed in London pipes as in our example.⁷ It is interesting to note that Oswald lists R. SMITH in an Uxbridge directory of 1839⁸, so it is possible that he was the maker of this pipe. The 1977 Pinner excavation also uncovered a 19th century bowl type bearing the initials R.S.

Two other pipes found in the churchyard have spurs, but do not have initials moulded on them. The first is similar in bowl shape to the one described, but is smaller and more delicate. The second (No.4) has a raised fluted design on the bowl as well as having a leaf design on the back of the bowl. Fluted designs were used in the 19th century and Oswald has an illustration of one from Ipswich dated 1810-1853.⁹ They were also common in Surrey at this time.¹⁰

Several pipes unearthed at Cannons Bridge Farm, (No.5) is an example, are older than the ones so far described. Tentative dating to the late 17th century is based on the bowl typology set out in Atkinson and Oswald's London Clay Tobacco Pipes.¹¹ In these pipes the angle of the bowl to the stem is more oblique; they have milling round the rim of the bowl, a common feature in the late 17th century; and they all have spurs, except one, which has a flat heel at the base of the bowl. The pipe stems also tend to be thicker. There are subtle shape variations within this group which would require the eye of the expert to sort out.

An exception in this group is a bowl (No.6) which is considerably later than those already alluded to. It has a spur and a leaf design moulded on the front and back of the bowl. The leaf design is more sophisticated than those so far described, being rather like ears of wheat. The bowl shape and design points possibly to a mid-19th century date.

A fragment from Kingsend (No.7) has a long bowl and a rather flattish spur with the initial S. moulded on one side, the other initial having been obliterated. It also has milling at the back of the bowl. The angle and shape of the bowl suggest possibly a late 17th century date. Another fragment from this group is similar to a complete bowl from 184 Bury Street. The more complete bowl (No.8) has a criss-cross pattern surrounding the upper part of the bowl with a fluted stem. The design of the bowl end of the stem terminates with a leaf design which extends up the bowl to the criss-cross pattern. The design and the absence of a heel or spur indicates that this is a 19th century pipe.¹²

Apart from the pipe just described the bowls unearthed at 184 Bury Street fall into two groups. The first group has flat heels, and the second has a small spur; both have milling round the top of the bowl. The best example of the flat heeled group (No.9) according to the Atkinson and Oswald typology can be dated to 1660-1680.¹³ An identical one was found at Bury Street Farm in 1980.

The pipes with the small spur would appear to be difficult to date, but might well be contemporaneous with No. 9, as pipes with degenerate spurs occurred during this period.¹⁴

The pipe remains excavated at the Old Vicarage would appear to be mainly 18th century and consist largely of stem fragments. One can infer that the stems with the larger diameters are earlier than the others and, on the evidence of two of the fragments, can be dated to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. These stems are marked with the name RICHARD AYER whom Oswald lists as having signed the Oath of Allegiance in about 1696 as a Journeyman, London.

One of the stem fragments found at South Ruislip is of great interest as it proves positively that Brosely pipes were used in Ruislip in the early 19th century. This fragment is inscribed OUIHORN & CO. BROSLV > SALOP. The damaged inscription should probably be SOUTHORN & CO. The Southorn family were prominent in pipe making from 1802 to 1876 in Brosely and judging from Oswald's listing this particular fragment could be the work of William Southorn whose dates are given as 1802 to 1841, for the "& CO" was used during this period.

LIST OF RECORDED CLAY PIPES FOUND IN RUISLIP

<u>Site</u>	<u>Bowls</u>	<u>Stems Plus Frag. of Bowl</u>	<u>Stem Fragments</u>	<u>Date Found</u>
184 Bury Street	6	4	33	1978
Bury Street Farm	1	-	1	1980
St.Martin's Churchyd.	2	1	1	1980
Kings End	1	4	5	1979
30a Wood Lane	-	2	4	1980
Cannons Bridge Fm.	8	1	9	1979
Vicarage, Bury St.	11	-	57 small dia. less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " 45 large dia. $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{3}{8}$ ".	1982
89 Mount Pleasant	-	1	2	1980

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2. Eric G. Ayto, News Bulletin of the Middle Thames Archaeological Society, Vol.3 No.17 1972, Vol.3 No.19 1974
3. Oswald, P.71
4. Oswald, P.71
5. Ayto
6. P.J. Snell (Editor), A Pinner Miscellany, Pinner Local History Society Vol.VI 1980 PP.35-37
7. David Atkinson and Adrian Oswald, London Clay Tobacco Pipes 1969, P.18
8. Oswald, P.184
9. Oswald, P.99
10. Peter Davey (Editor), The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe VI, Pipes and Kilns of the London Region, BAR British Series 97 1981, P.221
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12. Oswald, P.96
13. Atkinson and Oswald P.9, No.13
14. Atkinson and Oswald, P.7 -----

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		3 Elmbridge Close, Ruislip.	71.37134
<u>Ruislip Conservation</u>	:	Mr. Robert Bedford,	
		14 Arlington Drive, Ruislip.	71.37396
<u>Eastcote Conservation</u>	:	Mrs. Jean Mitchell,	
		5 Grangewood Close, Eastcote, Pinner.	71.73396

WOODMAN'S FARM, SILVER STREET GREEN, BURY STREET

by EILEEN M. & COLIN BOWLT

Evidence of Occupation

During 1983 the barn at Woodman's Farm was demolished and preparations made for building houses and garages within the grounds. Now, (Dec.1984) several of the new houses are occupied and the old farmhouse is dwarfed by them.

While the foundations were being dug and the barn area cleared, the site was examined for artifacts of any kind. A number of potsherds, pipestems and bowls were found. The pottery was Hertfordshire /Middlesex Greyware c.1300; Surrey White Ware 14th - 15th century, some with a green glaze; Tudor Green Ware 16th century; Salt-glazed stoneware, 17th century and modern. The pipes dated from the 18th century. All these finds were unstratified, but suggest that the site has been continuously occupied since c.1300.

Silver Street Green

The portion of Bury Street in which Woodman's Farm stands was known as Silver Street in the 16th century. The roadside waste in front was called Silver Street Green. The Kings College Terrier shows that there was a small hamlet of seven cottages there in 1565¹. They were a cottage belonging to John Barrenger on the plot of land on which Bury Street Farm (demolished 1980) later stood; a messuage belonging to John White which is now the Plough; two cottages belonging to John Waller, one of which is Woodman's Farm; and three more cottages owned by Brian Atkinson, William Winter and James Fearn. One of the latter is probably the house now called The Berries. Four of the Silver Street cottages were held freely from the Manor of Southcote, the estate within St Catherine's, which lay in a moated site north of Ladygate Lane.

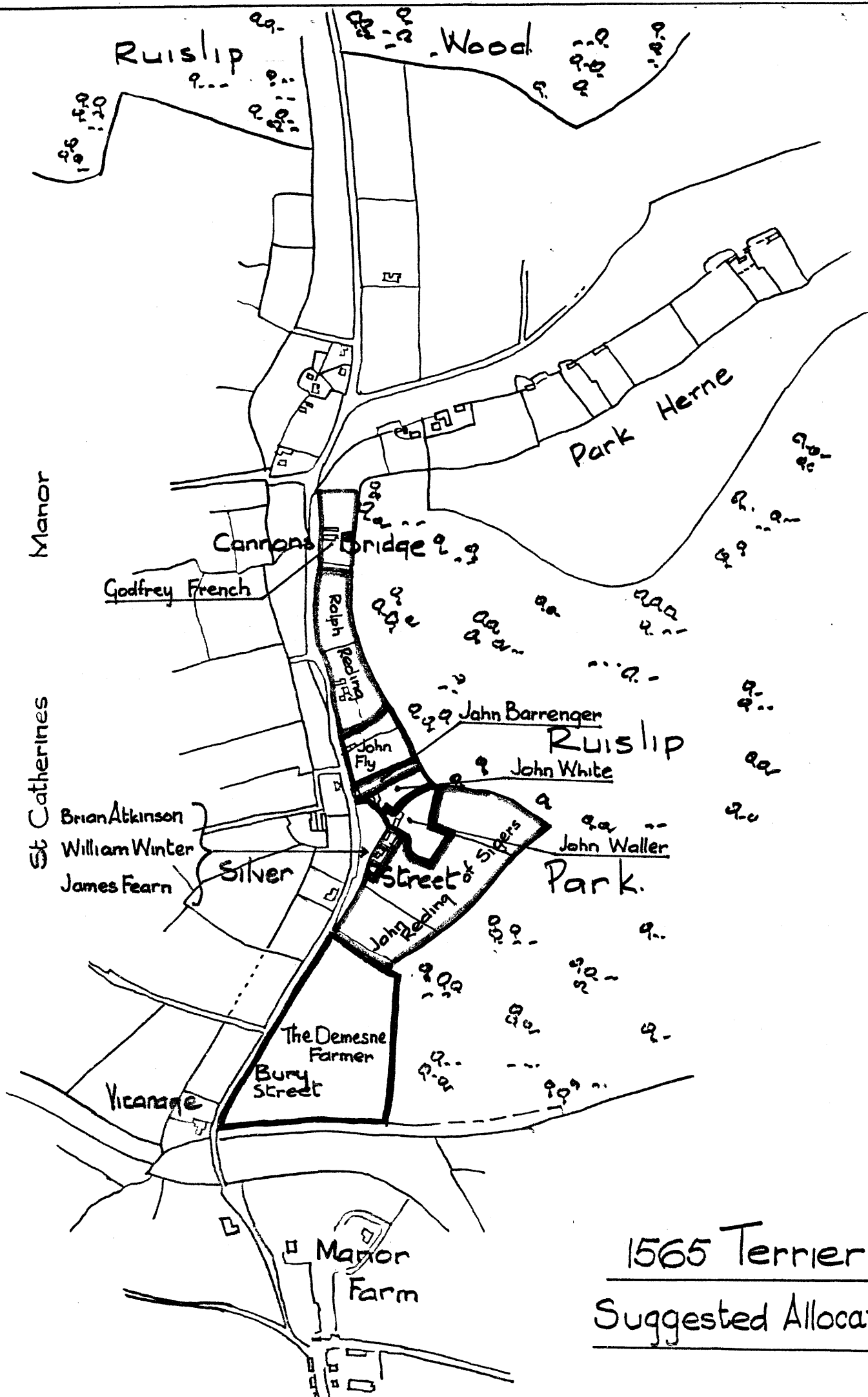
The land between the cottages and Park Wood (on which Keswick Gardens and St Edmund's Avenue now stand) was enclosed fields. John Redinge of Sigers was the tenant in 1565. It formed a bite into the woodland which was probably cleared when the sites were first occupied. The enclosed lands were bounded on the south-east by the ancient earthwork surrounding the Park "for wild beasts of the forest" mentioned in Domesday Book, which in fact points to an early date for the clearance, before the remaining outwood as far north as Park Hearne was taken into the Park in the later medieval period².

John Doharty's map and survey of the demesne lands of the Manor of Ruislip made in 1750, shows only five buildings at Silver Street Green (then labelled Berry Street)³. They were: Mrs Roger's cottage, 1r. (later Bury Street Farm plot); Mrs Nelham's homestead and orchard, 2r. (The Plough); a cottage called "Peter's Free", 1a.1r.22p. (Woodman's Farm); Mr Fern's free, 2r. (The Berries) and Henry Arnold's cottage, 2r.⁴

The land behind belonged to Job Charlton who died that year.

Crosier & Hilliard Families

So far Woodman's Farm had been a cottage with rather more land than its neighbours, but not obviously more important. This situation was about



1565 Terrier
Suggested Allocations

to change. Between 1750 and the Ruislip Enclosure Award 1814, all the enclosed land became attached to Woodman's Farm making a small estate of 11a. 0r. 30p. The roadside waste at Silver Street Green was enclosed. 1r. 24p. was allotted to Woodman's Farm and became the long garden in front of the house⁵. The whole had been acquired by John Crosier of Ickenham from John and Emma Kinchant and Charles Sergeant sometime towards the end of the 18th century⁶. John Crosier died in 1801, leaving his lands to his great-nephew Edward Hilliard Jnr. John Crosier had lived at Sherwyns in Ickenham, the house beside the Compass Theatre which is now called Ickenham Hall. He was a large landowner with lands in Amersham, Little Missenden, Iver, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Ickenham, Ruislip and Pinner, amounting to about 1000a., some 280 of which were in Ruislip: Woodman's Farm, Wilkin's Farm, The Poplars (then called Randalls) and South Hill Farm⁷. Crosiers appear in Ruislip records from the 15th century. Another branch of the family owned Sherley's Farm, Primrose Hill Farm, Field End Farm, the White House (Sharps Lane), Kiln Farm, Northwood and Knowles Farm, Green Lane (in grounds of London Bible College). All these latter farms were made the subject of a trust in 1779 when Elizabeth Stafford Crosier, daughter of William Crosier of Cowley and niece of John Crosier of Ickenham, married Edward Hilliard⁸. She died in 1800. Her husband had a life interest in the lands and is the Edward Hilliard Senior of the Ruislip Enclosure Award. Edward Hilliard Jnr. was her second son.

In 1807⁹ Woodman's Farm was called the "Messuage in Berry Street", and comprised:

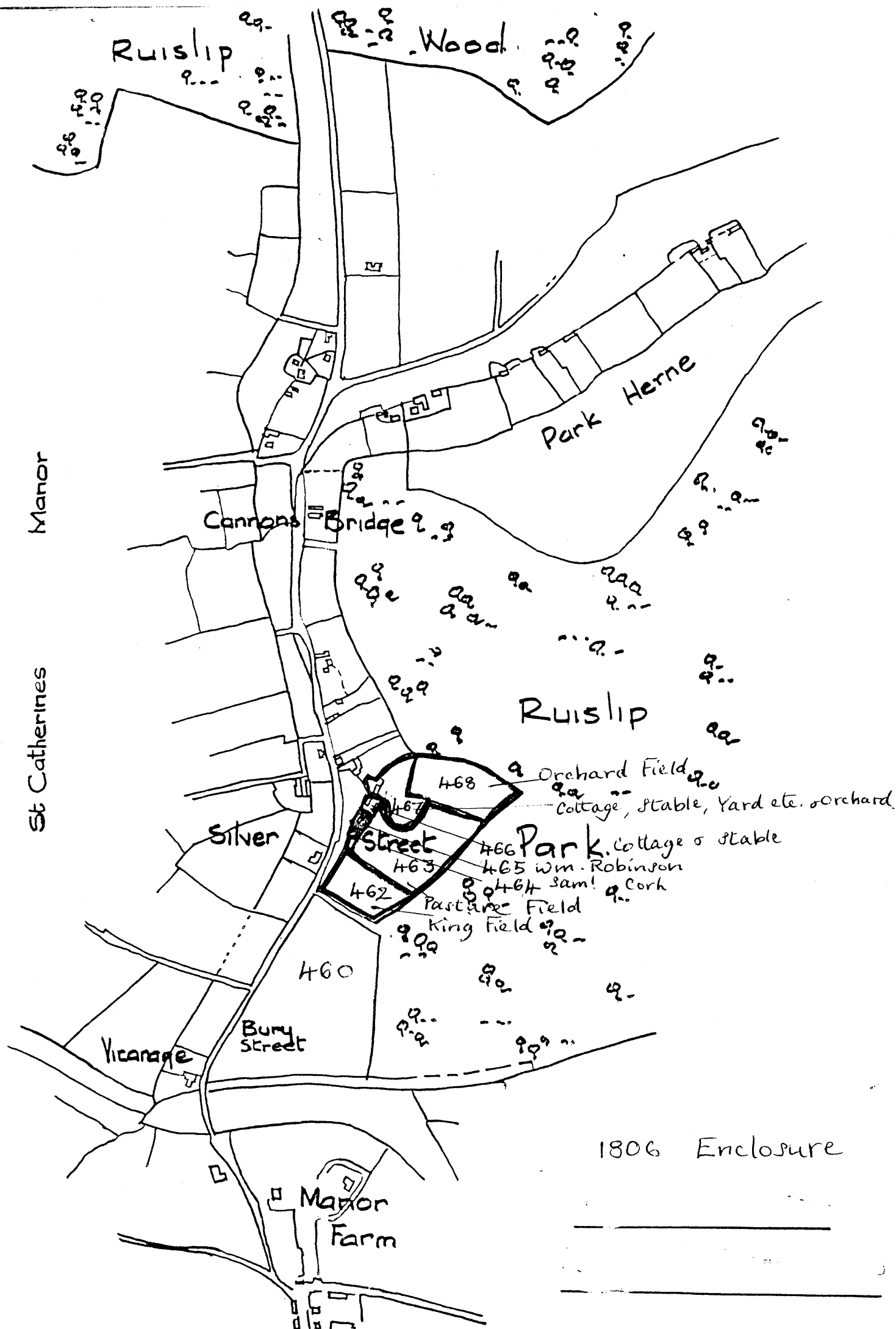
Cottage and Stable			26p.
King Field	2a.	1r.	38p.
Pasture Field	4a.	0r.	37p.
Cottage, Stable, Yard,			
Orchard	1a.	3r.	35p.
Orchard Field	2a.	3r.	14p.
An Allotment		1r.	24p.
	11a.	2r.	14p.

The cottage and stable on 26p. of land seems to have been on land south of the drive to Woodman's Farm. The stable was possibly the barn that was demolished in 1983 and the cottage appears to have been a very small building tucked away behind. Two other cottages are shown on the Enclosure Map, belonging to William Robinson (The Berries) and Samuel Cork.

Edward Hilliard Jnr. died 19th June 1811. From 1806 the Rate Books¹⁰ show him as the occupier of Woodman's Farm. Perhaps it was now considered suitable to be a Gentleman's residence. Edward Hilliard Jnr. was succeeded by his younger brother George. Woodman's Farm continued in the Hilliard's possession until this century. Between 1812 and 1850 several of the tenants are described as gentlemen; John Nicholl, Esq. 1820, Mr Gassel 1827, Messrs. Pearce and Stone 1845. It is possible however, that they were not true occupiers, just paying the rates and sub-letting. At the time of the 1851 census, a gamekeeper, Thomas Howell, lived there with his wife, six children, a servant and an under-gamekeeper.

The Woodmans

Woodman's Farm took its name from Henry Woodman who had moved in by 1855. He was still living there in 1902 and his son Arthur was there in 1916¹¹. Henry Woodman was born in Uxbridge and his wife Margaret in Harefield. They had at least thirteen children, mentioned in census returns



1806 Enclosure

from 1861-81. In 1861 they were aged 36 and 29 respectively and had seven children aged from 1 to 10 living with them. In 1871 there were 10 children from 3 to 19, two of the 1861 group no longer being mentioned. By 1881 9 year old Emily had been added to the family. Six children from 9 to 25 still lived at home.

Henry Woodman was a Wood Dealer. In 1871 his wife, daughters Mary 19, Charlotte 15 and son William 16 were assistants in the business. Thirteen year old Elizabeth was said to be a National School Teacher, surely a Pupil-Teacher! By 1881, Charlotte 25, was a Wood Cutter (kindlewood) and three sons, Jason 20, Arthur 17 and Joseph 14 were general labourers.

The Woodmans were one of several families employed in making kindlewood during the second half of the 19th century. The firewood sold readily at 1/4d a bundle on the London market. The trade employed women, children and elderly men who were said by Roumieu, Curate of Ruislip (1875) to contribute more to the family income than the main bread-winners, usually agricultural labourers, sometimes unemployed because of the change from arable farming to hay which had taken place since Enclosure.

The Wood Dealers and Kindle makers were mainly centred on Ruislip Common and the fringes of Park Wood. There were eight dealers in 1851, fourteen in 1861, twelve in 1871 and only six in 1881. Numbers employed as kindle makers declined sharply between 1861 and 1871. Possibly less suitable coppice was available during the last years of the Deanes' lease of the woods from Kings College. The Woodman family carried on the trade throughout the period. A photograph in the Local History Collection shows some of the Woodmans in working clothes outside the barn.

Mr W. Bray bought Woodman's Farm.

The Building

The house is basically a three bay timber-framed building with a clasped purlin roof. A construction date in the second half of the 16th century seems most probable. The outshot and the two-storied turret structure at the rear appear to have been added at a later date.

The centre bay was built essentially to house the brick chimney and is therefore smaller than the bays on either side. The chimney is of original thin Tudor bricks and is one of the best features of the house. Indeed, the house appears to have been constructed outwards from the chimney judging from the positions of the scarf joints in the purlins and wall plates and of the carpenters numbering of the floor joists.

All the upper-floor joists are original and in their initial positions as can be seen from the consecutive matching series of carpenters marks on the floor joists and bridging beams viewable in the ceilings of the ground floor 'reception' rooms. Inspection of the chamfered moulding on the bridging beams show that these two rooms are the same size as built. The present position of the front door is likely to have been original (the lobby entrance against the chimney - characteristic for this type of house plan).

When the house was first built it is unlikely to have had other than ladder access to the upper floors and this may have been in the position now occupied by the staircase but the details which would check this are obscured. A good guess is that later the turret was constructed at the rear to house the staircase.

The upper rooms may originally have been open to the roof as is suggested by the south room reaching into the roof space as high as the collar beam. Also the roof truss between the middle and northern bays is covered with oak lathes and mud/straw daub to form a wall in the loft where it now serves no useful purpose. The lath and plaster work, inside the loft at the north end and the older plaster on the outside rear wall of the original building but now viewable inside the outshot loft, is probably 18th/19th century.

The positions of the original windows (probably unglazed) could not be ascertained, apart from the window in the southern upper room now looking into the outshot which could be one of them.

Much of the timber studding has been replaced and certain features are obscured by plaster, making it difficult to establish the details of the original structure. There are also several enigmas such as the fact that the timbering on the outside of the southern end wall doesn't match that on the inside of the wall. The inside is the original cross-frame, so why was the outer wall added? Also, although some are obscured by plaster, the main posts do not appear to have the thickening at their upper ends called jowls. This would be unusual for such a building since they were necessary for the construction of the characteristic joint which mutually joined the principal rafter, wall plate and tie-beam together (tie-beam lap dovetail assembly).

The wide oak floorboards in the southern upper room are surely original and are a fine feature of the house.

The Other Cottages At Silver Street Green¹²

The Green itself was enclosed 1806-1814 and formed the front gardens of all the cottages. The later history of only two of the other cottages has been traced with any certainty, Bury Street Farm and The Plough.

The cottage which preceded Bury Street Farm descended from Mrs Elizabeth Rogers of Eastcote House, the owner in 1750, to Ralph Deane who succeeded to all her estates. The Doharty Map shows the cottage in the north west corner of a narrow plot, 1 rood in area. The southern edge of the plot was marked as a woodway into Park Wood. The Enclosure Map confirms this position. The next map in chronological order is The O.S. 6" map of 1866 which shows a barn on the site of the original cottage and the Bury Street Farm building across the woodway. The date when the new building was erected is uncertain. From its style and slate roof the house was probably built about 1840, which also fits with the assumed date of Northwood Farm built on Kings College land leased by Ralph Deane.

The Deanes continued to own Bury Street Farm until this century. A number of Hay Dealers lived in it, John Churchill about 1850 and George Martin in the 1870s and 1880s. Charles Lavender lived there in the 1860s and farmed 62 acres on Ducks Hill.

James George Collins, a Hay and Chaff Dealer, moved in about 1912 and stayed until his death in 1955. His widow, Mrs Florence Collins (the former Miss Boyle of Priors Farm) died in 1978 aged 95. After her death the house and barn were demolished and Laburnum Grove built on the ground.

The building now called The Plough continued as a cottage until after the Enclosure, at which time it was owned by William Wyatt Grange. From

1807 until at least 1840 it was owned and occupied by John Woodman. By 1847 it had become a Beerhouse. James Stint was the Publican and a Hay Dealer. The house is named as The Plough in the 1851 census and Henry Hill Esq. of Ruislip Park was the owner. Charles Woodman was Beer Shop Keeper and Hay Dealer in the 1860s with A.B. Smith as owner. Thomas Watkins was dispensing beer there in 1871 and his widow Emma continued there until the end of the century, during which time the Thatchers owned it. Mr Paradine was Publican at the beginning of this century.

Oddly enough, there was a licensed house called The Plough in Ruislip from 1748 - 1775, but its provenance is unknown and seems to have no connection with the 19th century Beer House.

The cottage south of The Berries was demolished in the 1930s.

Silver Street Green in 1984 still has three of the buildings mentioned in 1565, The Plough, Woodman's Farm and The Berries (greatly extended), but their environment has been completely destroyed by the extremely crowded Laburnum Grove and Plough Farm developments. Which ancient building is the next due for "sympathetic" redevelopment and how long will the majority of the residents of Ruislip permit the Planning Department to destroy our heritage unchallenged. The Local History Society does its part, but seems to be a lone voice crying in the wilderness.

Acknowledgement: K J McBean for map of area 1565

References

- 1 Kings College Muniments R36.
- 2 Bowlt and Bowlt "Ruislip Woods".
- 3 Doharty Map - Photocopy - Ruislip Library.
- 4 Mrs Rogers' Terrier - Typescript - Ruislip Library.
- 5 Enclosure Map and Award - Photocopy and Typescript - Ruislip Library. Original - G.L.R.O. MR/DE/RUI/2/t2.
- 6 G.L.R.O. Acc. 398/18.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 G.L.R.O. Acc. 289/51.
- 9 G.L.R.O. Acc. 398/18.
- 10 G.L.R.O. DRO. 19 E2/1 - 60. and Uxbridge Library.
- 11 Street Directories Uxbridge Library.
- 12 Information from Rate Books, Street Directories and Census Returns.

OUR PUBLICATIONS IN 1984

Ruislip-Northwood: An Early Example of Townplanning

1984 was the appropriate year for David Tottman's paper to appear for he quotes from George Orwell who took a very jaundiced view of suburbia. It is a fine study of what an informed and caring local authority, residents and developers accomplished half a century ago, now alas, being degraded by the insidious infilling generated by today's greed.

Eastcote - A Pictorial History

Our first Eastcote Book became a legend overnight and has already been reprinted. Five members worked on it and one of them - Karen Spink - designed and produced it. Her skill in presentation was a big factor in the book's success. Very exciting also, is the amount of original material which has come in, so that we can write a second Eastcote History from an entirely different point of view.

THE CHAIRMAN.

THE RUISLIP PARK ESTATE FROM 1870 ONWARDS

by VALERY J. E. COWLEY

In Eileen Bowlt's article in the 1981 Journal, we find that, according to the 1871 Street Directory, R. Parnall was the owner of Ruislip Park House, life in and around which I attempted to trace in "Ruislip Around 1900" (R.N.E.L.H. Research Group 1982). From 1878 - 1888 Park House (now the Royal British Legion Club in High Street) is not mentioned in these Directories but recently documents have come to light which help us to reconstruct what was happening to the house and its estate.

On June 30th 1882 Messrs. Debenham Tewson & Co. sold the estate by auction to James Ellis of The Poplars, Willesden Park, Middlesex for £7,500 (£750 deposit). However, this deposit was forfeited, as James Ellis failed to comply with the conditions of sale. In January 1885, Robert Parnall died and his will and codicils were proved by his executors on May 6th. His wife, Elizabeth of Addison Road, Kensington, was appointed a Trustee and, together with one of her husband's legatees, David James, she sold the estate to Mrs Fanny Rosina Thompson for £5,000. Thus it is not surprising that in 1889 C. Thompson Esq. appears in the Directories as the occupier of Park House.

The north east corner of the estate, from The Swan to The George, (Sullivans) and the south west corner (The Orchard and its car park) were excluded from the sale. The particulars, confirming the details on the earlier maps and plans, mention a vinery, stores, outbuildings, yards, stables, fishponds, plantations, etc. and they include a messuage or cottage with garden, orchard, yard, barn and outbuildings in "the occupation of ----- Allen", and "another with stable and outbuildings being in the occupation of H.M. Commissioners of Police" (Bye Way Cottage).

In "Ruislip Around 1900" I described my discoveries about the next occupant of Park House who is recorded in 1890. In fact, George Barton Kent died in July 1889 but his wife, Julia, whose address is given in St. Martin's Burial Register as 206, Cromwell Road, S.W., and "late of Ruislip Park", did not die until February 1897. In 1893 however, the Directories show H.F. Craggs Esq. J.P. in occupation of Park House but in 1899 C. Thompson is recorded again. We now know that, by Mrs F.R. Thompson's will of 1898, she bequeathed the estate (Manor House, park, The Poplars, baker's shop and two cottages at the corner of the park) to her husband, Cornelius Thompson, during his life, and in trust for her grandson, Francis Ian Gregory Rawlins at twenty-five years old. After adding three codicils, Fanny Thompson died on April 28th 1900 and the will was proved in December. From 1904 to 1912 Park House is not mentioned in the Directories. However, in July 1905 Cornelius Thompson died without remarrying and in 1906, the estate was sold.

At the public auction on May 4th 1906 (details of which appeared in the earlier articles) Walter Morford was the highest bidder at £9,500 and he promptly sold to Henry Thomas Dickens, Stonemason and George Cowdrey Welch, Draper, both of High Wycombe, to be held in fee simple, for £10,500.

I now trace in outline the fortunes of two of the lots included in this sale.

On March 25th 1907, Dickens and Welch sold Lot 19 for £110 to Alice Mary Kirkby of York Street, Westminster, whose husband was a builder and

decorator. The division of the estate into building plots was under way and Church Avenue was planned as a 40' wide road. The schedule to the Deed gives details of the houses, to be built on fenced plots, with no separate water-closets. Values were stipulated: the houses on Lots 17-21 were to cost £500, or £900 for a semi-detached pair. Tiles or grey slates were to be used on the roofs. The footway and half the road were to be maintained by the purchaser until adopted by the Local Authority. There were restrictions on cutting timber and removing gravel, sand, clay or earth.

Lot 19 was sold again in September 1923, to Arthur E.A. Prowting of Beaulieu, West End Road, Ruislip, for £225. In August 1925, with "the messuage recently erected thereon", and with a frontage to Church Avenue of 55' and a side length of 224', the property was bought by Hugh Samuel Martin, Journalist, of Queen Alexandra Mansions, Judd Street, for £1,650 with the help of a mortgage paid off at £8.17.6. a month. The house known as "Tall Oak" was sold to Miss Constance Mary Irons of Notting Hill in September 1933 and she lived there until her recent death.

The history of another plot in Church Avenue can also be traced from documents now lodged in Manor Farm Library. In July 1912, Dickens and Welch sold it to Harry Edward Clark of New Oxford Street, with rights of passage specifically excluding traction engines! No house of less than £500 value was to be built in King Edward's Road, or £400 in Church Avenue, or £350 in Manor Road or Sharpes (sic) Lane. Thus the parkland was divided.

In 1920, this plot with a 50' frontage to Church Avenue was sold by Harry Clark to Thomas William Moore, Architect, of The Cottage, King Edward's Road, for £120. The Lords of the Manor of Ruislip retained the mining and mineral rights. Just over a year later the plot was sold to Edwin Batten, Builder, of Regents Park, for £127. The copy stipulations from the 1921 Deed specify park fence, wall or quick hedge, 4'6" high at the minimum and 6' at the maximum, at the side. There was to be no advertising, nor nuisance or injury to adjacent property. Not more than one house was to be built and no brick-making was to take place on the plot. The Indenture plan of 1921 shows only a plot marked "Wallis" in Manor Road; "Dean House" (A. Moon Esq.) now flats, and "Rosslyn" in Church Avenue; and "Dulce Domum" and an unnamed house two plots away in King Edward's Road. The house which Mr Batten presumably began to build was to be known as "St. Valery". In October 1922, this property was conveyed to David Newport Kilner, an Insurance Official of Colville Square for £1,000. Metro-land was indeed being created.

Acknowledgement:

Thanks to Ian Tait and Malcolm Lunt for providing information used in this article.

FROM HORSENS TO RUISLIP COLLEGE: THE STORY OF
BATTLE OF BRITAIN HOUSE by CELIA CARTWRIGHT

August 17th 1984 saw the demise of another of Ruislip's historic houses. Visitors to Ruislip coming from Northwood via Duck's Hill must have been intrigued by the sign post to Battle of Britain House which lay hidden among the trees and wondered how it got its name.

At the beginning of the Second World War, the house was occupied by a Mrs Hertog who was related to the Albert van den Bergh family of margarine magnates. Because of her German origin she was compelled to move from the vicinity of Northolt and other local war installations. The Ministry of Works took over the premises, licensing the American Secret Service to use the house and grounds for the rest of the war. Here G-men Commandoes were trained in the house and barbed-wire enclosed grounds, for their specific parts in the major operations of espionage and destruction on the Continent.

At the end of the war the Ministry of Works surveyed the house and repairs were carried out by Messrs. A.E.A. Prowting in 1946. Just as the house was derequisitioned, the Battle of Britain House Appeal Committee was launched. Its purpose was to purchase Franklin House (as it was then called) from Kings College Cambridge and open it as a youth centre in memory of the R.A.F. pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain.

The idea had emanated from Mr Hunt who was a flight-lieutenant in Eleven Group at Uxbridge. The Appeal failed to reach its target of £10,000 by public subscription and representations were made to Middlesex County Council who purchased the house for £9,500 on June 30th 1948. The money collected locally contributed to the library and furnishings.

A full account of the opening ceremony on March 1st is given in the "Advertiser and Gazette" for Friday March 4th 1949. Air Chief Marshal Sir James M. Robb unveiled a plaque in the dining-room which read: "This tablet is erected to the memory of the officers, men and women of the Royal Air Force, Victors of the Battle of Britain 1940, and commemorates the acquisition of this house by the Middlesex County Council for the service of youth, towards the cost of which generous grants were made by the Kings College, Cambridge, and the Battle of Britain House Appeal Committee, 1948. 'Never has so much been owed by so many to so few'." - Churchill".

Mr Victor Stanyon B.Sc. became Warden in April 1948 of what was now Battle of Britain House and his account of the early years of the house is to be found in the Ruislip Natural History Society Journal for 1961. His appointment as President of the R.N.H.S. was significant for this Society since it was as a result of a meeting between the Committee of the Natural History Society, R.G. Edwards and Cliff Morrell that the Ruislip Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society grew out of the local History section of the Natural History Society and was inaugurated in 1964¹.

A copy of an early brochure (see illustration) shows the sort of courses that were held there. Note the fees! When the courses changed in the 1960s from the more Liberal Arts to the Business Management and Industrial Relations type of course which were more lucrative, Mr Stanyon retired early. This use continued until August although four years ago, the house, by this time renamed Ruislip College was saved from closure

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chief Education Officer : C. E. Gurr, M.Sc., Ph.D.

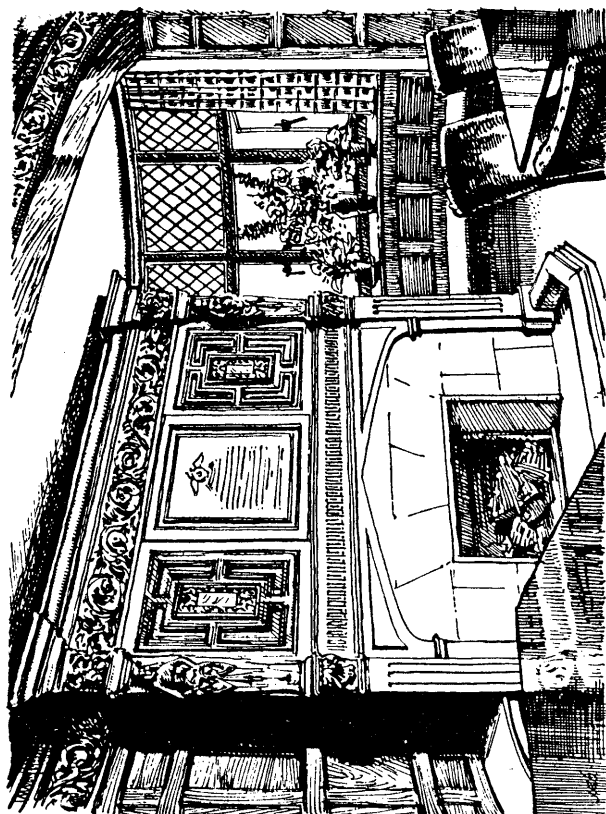
Battle of Britain House

NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX

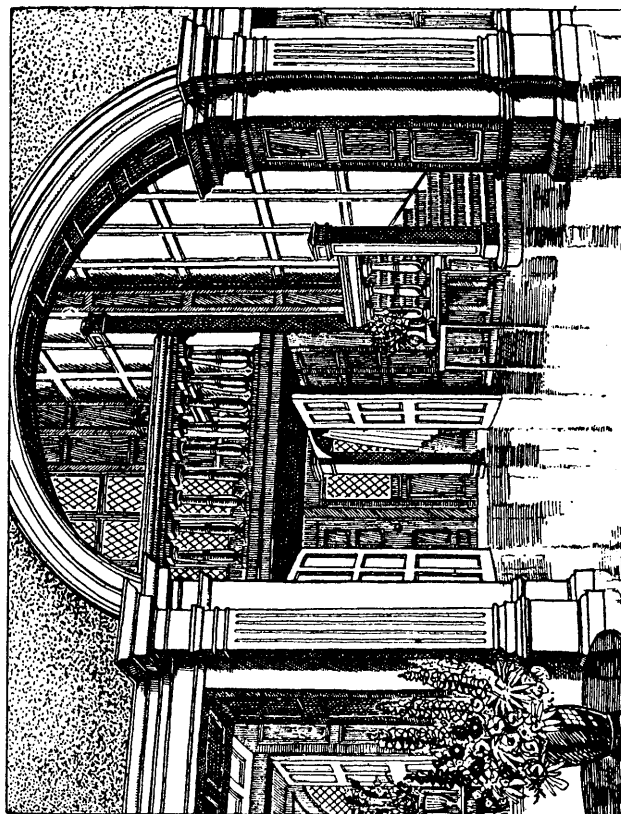


A CENTRE FOR RESIDENTIAL COURSES

WARDEN: Victor Stanyon, B.Sc.



The Dining Room, with the Memorial Panel.



The Main Staircase and Entrance Hall.

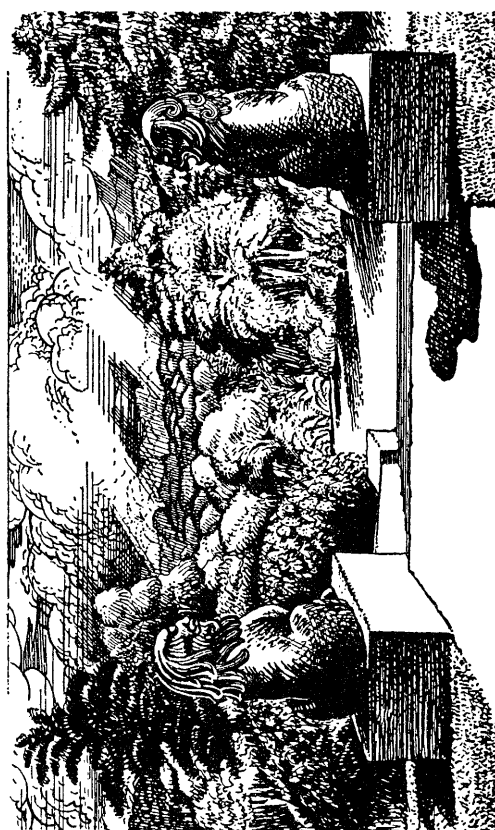
BATTLE OF BRITAIN HOUSE, opened in April, 1948, as a centre for residential courses, was to have been a memorial youth centre and the County Council, on purchase, agreed to retain its commemorative name and to give special attention to training courses for leaders and members of youth clubs.

Courses covering a wide range of interests are now held throughout the year and are a means by which many people are able to broaden their knowledge and outlook, pursue a hobby, revive an old, or discover a new interest. Week-end University Extension Courses of a cultural, sociological or scientific nature are held each month; there are courses for teachers and open courses related to horticulture, beekeeping, natural history, music and the arts. Room is found during mid-week for parties of schoolchildren on "school journeys". Delightfully situated on the fringe of Cope Wood, Northwood, the house has sleeping accommodation for thirty students in small dormitories, no single rooms being available.

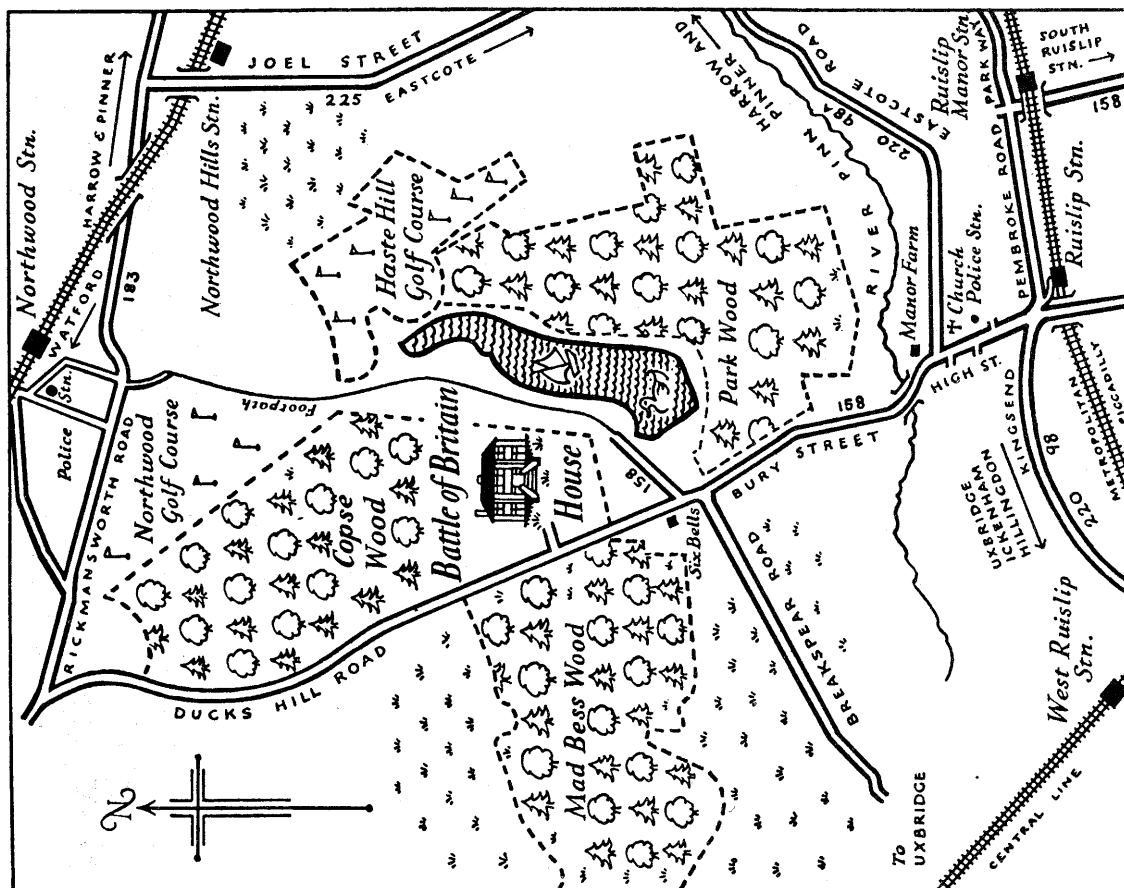
Inclusive course fees vary from 15s. to £1 5s. od. for a week-end course rising to £3 13s. 6d. for a week's course. For most courses an extra charge is made to persons living outside Middlesex.

Details of current programmes are available from the resident Warden, who is always prepared to consider suggestions for courses from interested individuals, groups and organisations.

Telephones: Northwood 2734 (Warden) & 2735 (Students' call box).



Panorama from the Southern terrace.



There is no direct bus service from Northwood and the house is reached from Ruislip by 158 bus (marked "Ruislip Lido") to request stop at Breakspear Road. Travel to Ruislip Station (Metropolitan and Piccadilly Lines) or South Ruislip Station (Central Line).

Leaflet design and drawings by Ealing School of Art.

KING AND HUTCHINGS LTD., PRINTERS, UXBRIDGE

by Mr J Seal. Hillingdon Council leased it to him, rather than sell it.

To return to the earlier history of the house: the move of the occupant in 1940 mirrored events at the beginning of the First World War when Josef Conn and his wife Emily lived there. In 1905 he had been granted a 99 year lease of Duck's Hill Plantation and a message called "Horsens" for the purpose of building a house. This was built by local labour employed directly by Mr Conn and its structure was later criticised. Being German Mr Conn was suspected of alien sympathies and interned, but soon released and he moved away from the house. From 1916 Mr, later Sir, Howard Button of Uxbridge lived there. He owned the grocery chain Howard Roberts and Button which later was associated with Budgens.

In July 1920 Mr Meyer Franklin Kline took over the lease of "Horsens" and renamed it "Kokyo". When Franklin D Roosevelt became President of the U.S.A., Mr Kline changed the name to Franklin House. A colourful character, Mr Kline made his name in shipping and the house contained furniture from a state room of a Kline ship.

The fire in August was spotted by an off-duty policeman who quickly raised the alarm. Fire fighters came from Hillingdon and Harrow to fight the blaze which occurred after an exceptionally dry summer but the house was so extensively damaged that demolition workers had to move in the next day to tear down the ruined remains.

Reference

- 1 R.N.E.L.H.S. Journal 1978

ELLA MORRIS 1910 - 1985

== by THE CHAIRMAN ==

The death of Ella Morris on 9th January 1985 broke the last link with our founder members. Ella took the liveliest interest in the affairs of the Society and had been our Outings Secretary. Middlesex born and bred, she was active in the life of St. Martin's Church and the National Trust. In her younger days in the Guides, Ella came to know Eleanor Warrender for whom she had the greatest respect and affection and in consequence, she was a mine of information when we started our Eastcote Book and took the closest interest in its progress.

Persistent ill health dogged her last months and she was particularly disappointed to miss the Christmas meeting on High Grove. A few days before Ella died, I took the Warrender album for her to see. Although very poorly, she revelled in its fascinating pictures of the Victorian Family and gave me a lot of new and remarkable information about Eleanor and her friends and activities in the 1920's.

We mourn Ella's passing nine years after her husband Lawrence. It is the end of an era in Ruislip History.

17TH CENTURY WILLS OF THE COMMISSARY COURT OF LONDON

by JAMES McBEAN

In considering wills of the 17th century it has always to be remembered that very few people, except perhaps the wealthy, made wills at that time. There would be a general reluctance for a busy farmer to become entangled in legal matters; any gifts he had in mind after his death would mostly be simple, involving either money, sometimes quite small amounts, or the familiar objects around the house and farm. It is likely that in many cases the wishes of the person concerned would be well known or passed on to the eldest son, rendering a written document unnecessary.

Where wills were made in Ruislip in the 17th century the senior ecclesiastical court to grant probate was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (Journal 1984) and this was the court used generally by persons of standing in the parish. The next courts were the diocesan courts of the Bishop of London i.e. the Consistory Court and the Commissary Court. Between 1600 and 1700, excluding the period 1647 - 1659 during the Commonwealth when these courts ceased to function, probate was granted to 159 Ruislip wills in the Commissary Court of London. The testators are divided into the following categories:-

Yeomen	57 (36%)	Tradesmen	12 (8%)
Widows	30 (19%)	Brickmaker	1
Not designated	28 (18%)	Spinsters	2
Husbandmen	27 (17%)	Labourers	2

A reading of the relatively high proportion of wills where the testator is not designated leads to the conclusion that they were probably husbandmen or lesser yeomen. This, and the absence of the esquire and gentry class confirms that the Commissary Court was used by the less well-to-do people of Ruislip. By contrasting the users of the Canterbury and Commissary Courts, a glimpse is afforded of the social structure of the parish. This is complemented by a study of the names in the lists attached to the Hearth Tax returns of 1664 and 1672, assuming that the more "firehearths and stoves" a householder possessed, the higher his status, and that householders deemed too poor to pay the tax are named.

A large number of wills were made by widows many of them bearing names well known in the early history of Ruislip; the Coggs, Isabell, Mary, Joan and Katherine; the Winchesters, Joan, Elizabeth and Agnes; the Readings, East, Nelham all occur. These wills are characterised by a generosity towards the poor of the parish sadly lacking in many of their male counterparts. But they are chiefly concerned with the making of bequests of domestic items such as beds and bedding, sheets and other household "stuff" and to a lesser degree, clothing. Mary Coggs (1625), clearly a person of some affluence, carefully distributed three bedsteads, a trundle bed and a "little bed" (did she live in a large 4/5 bedroomed house?), no less than 16 pairs of sheets with numerous coverlets, blankets, bolsters etc., 24 pieces of pewter, 6 silver spoons, chests, chairs and the like. Isobel Edenbras (1615) gives a glimpse into her kitchen when leaving a legacy of mortar and pestle, candlesticks, a spit, brass pots, frying pan, dripping pan and much else.

The tradesmen in the above categories consist of 5 carpenters, 2 blacksmiths and bricklayers, 1 brickmaker, wheelwright and tailor. There seems justification for adding a weaver since the will of

William Harper (1623) states:- "I give unto William my eldest son my shop ... with looms and other things". The will is unusual in that another bequest is "I give unto my child my wife goeth with which is yet unborn £3". Tradesmen referred to in inventories of the period show that James Brown was a Maltster, William Duck of Ascott a Wheeler and John Preist (1671) a Cordwinder. A brief reference to a few of the early Middlesex Sessions registers give Richard Harker a Butcher and John Kirton a Tiler. It seems it would be possible to compile a dossier of Ruislip tradesmen for the 17th century.

Commissary Court wills for the most part are short and less informative than P.C.C. wills and deal with smaller legacies; a bequest of 12 pence is by no means uncommon (John Hidgcock (1628) rewards his overseers of his will with sixpence each). There are, of course, exceptions and, as with the widows, a number of families whose names are woven into the history of Ruislip occur. Branches of the family of Coggs (a Henry Coggs was Chief Constable of the hundred of Elthorne in the early part of the century), the Robins (John Robins exhorted the overseers of his will to see that "my children have no wrong and that there be no waste made of my timber"), Reading, Preist, Nelham and other familiar Ruislip names appear. Both William and Mary Fearne of Chaney Street had wills proved in the Commissary Court as did James and Ann Baldwin.

The original records of the Commissary Court of London are lodged in the Guildhall. Copies of the wills are in manuscript volumes under reference 917/Volumes 18 to 49. Unfortunately they are not indexed by places but the volume and folio reference of our Ruislip wills have been extracted and the wills copied and they will be added to our local history records.

AN APPRECIATION OF HELEN HOARE

by EILEEN M. BOWLT
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Members of the Society heard of the death of Helen Hoare on 18th November 1984 with deep regret. Although not a member of our Society, Helen performed a great service for local history by recording with her camera many of the changes which have taken place in Ruislip over the last twelve to fifteen years and by collecting every old photograph of the area which came her way. Her interest began following a long and serious illness shortly after her retirement. Unable to move about much and determined not to become a "cabbage" she thought of making a slide collection of activities at St. Martin's to show at gatherings and raise money for the Church Restoration Fund. This idea did not develop but old photographs and snippets of information about St. Martin's and old Ruislip began to pour into St. Margaret's Road. The famous Scrap Books were formed and continued to extend until the time of her death. She and her husband Stan, her constant helper, were recently engaged in re-arranging them to fit in additional material.

Helen and Stan displayed the Scrap Books at several exhibitions put on by this Society. Photographs from the Helen Hoare Collection have appeared in Society publications. (Anyone who missed the Books while on public display was always sure of a welcome and tea and cake at the Hoare's house).

We extend our sympathy to Stan and his family. Helen will be sadly missed. Who will take her place in keeping an eye on the passing scene and so faithfully recording it?

