

Local History Society

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JOURNAL OF THE RUISLIP NORTHWOOD AND

EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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cursive hand and are probably copies of the assessors' originals. They do not divide the households into chargeable and non-chargeable but, most usefully, group the Westcote households into hamlets or settlements. Eastcote entries are grouped together under the one heading "Ascott-Feild End". Although the boundaries of the various settlements are not defined, the lists make it possible to judge their size and to know the locality in which each of the inhabitants of late 17th century Ruislip lived.

The total number of householders in the 1672 list is 212.

It is to be noted that the lists refer to households and not houses and that some doubts have been expressed as to the completeness of Hearth Tax returns.

Hearths

The heating of rooms in late 17th century dwellings was either by a central chimney stack with back to back hearths or else chimneys at the gable ends or outside walls. Woodmans Farm, Bury Street and Mistletoe Farm in Eastcote are examples of the former and White Cottage, Raisens Hill and the former Southcote Farm as illustrated in "Ruislip in Times Past", of the latter. There are many examples and variations of house layout.

It would seem that a house with heating in 3 or 4 rooms would provide reasonable comfort and might represent the home of an average reasonably well off yeoman farmer (St. Catherine's Farm, Eastcote, which was clearly a prestigious building, was a 3 hearth house in the early 17th century); more hearths than this would begin to represent wealth and status; less than this a step down in the social scale. Accordingly, the Hearth Tax returns give a glimpse of the social set up in Ruislip in the latter part of the 17th century and it is possible for example to envy James Robins luxuriating in his 10 hearth house in Eastcote (Sigers?) and sympathise with Widow Saymore in her cottage at Little Kings End having but one hearth. No doubt parishioners of the poorest sort existed in hovels without any formal hearth at all but it is not known how many of these there are likely to have been.

1664

No. of Hearths	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	+	Total
No. of Households												
Westcott	47	37	17	11	12	5	1	1				131
Eastcott	23	25	10	11	8	1			1	1	2	82
Totals	70	62	27	22	20	6	1	1	1	1	2	213

1672

No. of Hearths	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	+	Total
No. of Households												
Westcott	39	36	25	11	10	7	1					129
Eastcott	18	24	17	10	8	4					2	83
Totals	57	60	42	21	18	11	1				2	212

The two households in the plus column represent Haydon Hall (Lord Chandos) with 18 and 16 hearths and Eastcote House (Ralph Hawtrey) with 15 hearths (Swakeleys is credited with 39).

The 1 and 2 hearth households have decreased by 15 between 1664 and 1672 while the 3 hearth households have increased by an exactly similar amount. The few 8, 9 and 10 hearth households have disappeared over the same period while the 6 hearth households have increased.

The average number of hearths per household in 1664 is: Westcott 2.4, Eastcott 2.6. The average for the Ongar hundred in Cambridge is 3.0; for the Isle of Ely 2.4 and for the wealthy city of York 3.4.

Hamlets

The return for 1672 is especially interesting because the households in the Westcott side are shown in their respective hamlets. It is not clear why the Eastcott side is lumped together under the one heading of Ascott-Feild End.

No. of Hearths	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	+	Total
Ruislipp	19	13	5	3		2			42
Berry Street	9	11	8	2	2				32
The Towne	7	8	6	5	3	4			33
Katherine End	1	3	2		1		1		8
Little Kings End	3	1	4	1	4	1			14
Ascott-Feild End	18	24	17	10	8	4		2	83

Since most of the other hamlets are listed, Ruislipp must refer to the remainder, i.e. the outlying parts of Westcote and must include Northwood. In which case one of the 6 hearth dwellings was most likely The Grange and the occupant Thomas Puddifant. Berry Street would include Park Hearn and Silver Street Green and the total of 32 households is understandable but it is a surprise to see that the 33 households of the Town include as many as 12 dwellings with 4 hearths and above. The ancient vicarage is likely to have been a large 6 hearth house (Thomas Bright, vicar). The tiny settlement of Katherine End had one large 7 hearth dwelling, perhaps Southcote Manor House. The occupant would have been Henry Wingfield. In 1664 when Augustine Wingfield died the inventory of his property referred to a hall, great parlour, little parlour, gallery, library, etc. - obviously a house of some size.

The Occupants

It is impossible in this account to list all the inhabitants of the parish with the number of hearths in their control and only the larger number are given overleaf. However, complete lists have been made and will be put with our local history records.

No. of Hearths	Occupants	No. of Hearths	Occupants
18	William, Lord Chandos	16	Lord Chandos
15	Ralph Hawtrey Esq.	15	- Hawtrey Esq.
10	James Robins Eastcote		
9	John Reading "		
8	John Reading Westcote	8	John Reading The Towne
7	Augustine Wingfield "	7	Henry Wingfield Katherine End
6	John May Eastcote	6	Widow May Eastcote
6	Thomas Puddifant Westcote	6	Thos. Puddifant Ruislipp
6	John Heale (Hale?) "	6	John Hale Towne
6	John & William Nelham "	6	Mr Yeates "
6	George Davis "	6	Joan Wheeler "
6	Widow Herriott "	6	James Seymer "
		6	Nicholas Alder) Ruislipp
			Richard Nealon)
		6	Chas. Stepkins Lt.Kings End
			(empty)
		6	Henry Robins Ascott
		6	Widow Reading "
			(empty)
		6	John Jackson "

Sources

G.L.R.O., MR/TH/6/23/55

V.C.H., Cambridge and Middlesex.

The Hearth Tax, Problems & Possibilities

English Farmhouses. R.J. Brown

Levyng of the Hearth Tax, English Historical Review

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 Bowlt, Len Krause
and James McBean

1897 O.S. 6 Inch Map.

THE NORTHWOOD PARK (DENVILLE HALL) ESTATE

by EILEEN M. BOWLT

The Estate 1891

Northwood Park Estate was put up for auction on 6th August 1891. The Sales catalogue prepared by the Auctioneers, Messrs. Humbert & Flint is in the British Library Map Room¹ and photocopies have recently been lodged in the Local History Room at Manor Farm Library. At that time it was 196 acres in area and the main section was bounded by Jacketts Lane, Ducks Hill, the road which now runs through Mount Vernon Hospital grounds (then a track between meadows) and White Hill. Land in the triangle between Ducks Hill, Rickmansworth Road and the Gravel Pits completed the estate.

It was described with true Estate Agents hyperbole as "very picturesque" and "an opportunity seldom to be met with", situated in a "proverbially healthy district" and said to embrace extensive views "including the Crystal Palace, Knockholt Beeches and the Grand-stand at Epsom"! Any social climbers among prospective purchasers were informed of the close proximity of Lord Ebury at Moor Park and of the "choice residential locality". On a more practical note the property provided "many exquisite sites for superior residences".

Lot 1 comprised "the quaint, old-fashioned residence distinguished as The Hall" with its "Gothic and Medieval style" elevation; four and a half acres of Pleasure Ground; 60 acres of "luxuriantly timbered and beautifully undulating Park" containing an ornamental lake and well-stocked coverts and stabling, carriage house and a coachman's cottage; these latter being on the east side of Ducks Hill. The cottage in Jacketts Lane was included in the Park.

Particular features of the 14-bedroom house were the "medieval" conservatory paved with Minton tiles and the "Noble Baronial Dining Hall" with an open-timbered roof and oak panelling (erected at a cost of about £10,000!). A richly carved oak mantel and a white marble mantel with gilt mountings had both been exhibited at the 1851 Exhibition. The Dining Hall had an organ at one end and was sometimes known as the Chapel.

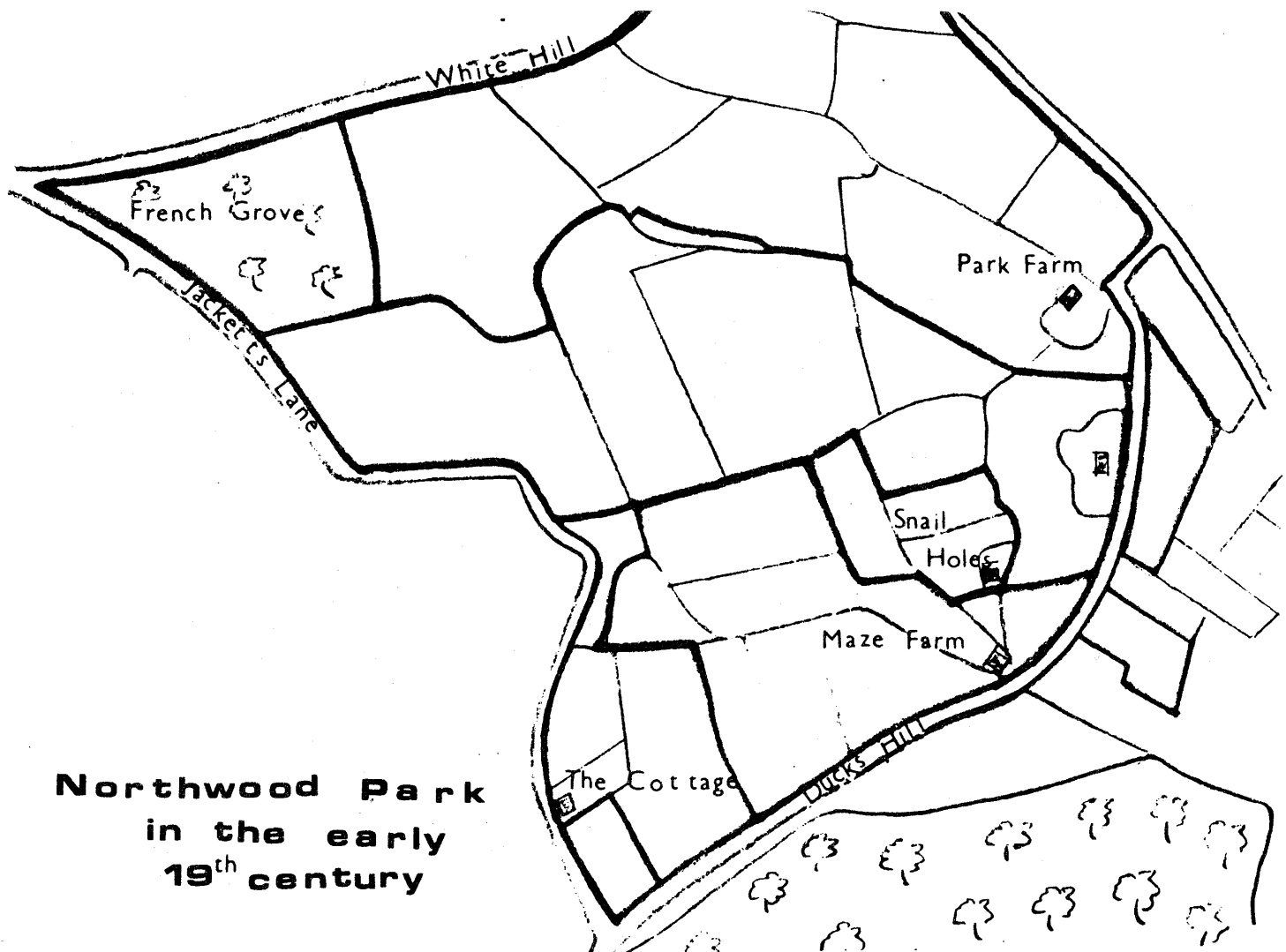
Lots 2 and 3 were Northwood Park Farm (now Park Farm Riding Stables). The farmhouse had a sitting-room, four bedrooms, kitchen and offices and two cottages adjoining. There were extensive farm buildings.

Lot 4 lay between Rickmansworth Road and Ducks Hill and was advertised as a desirable site for the erection of villas. A proposed new road crossed it (now The Avenue).

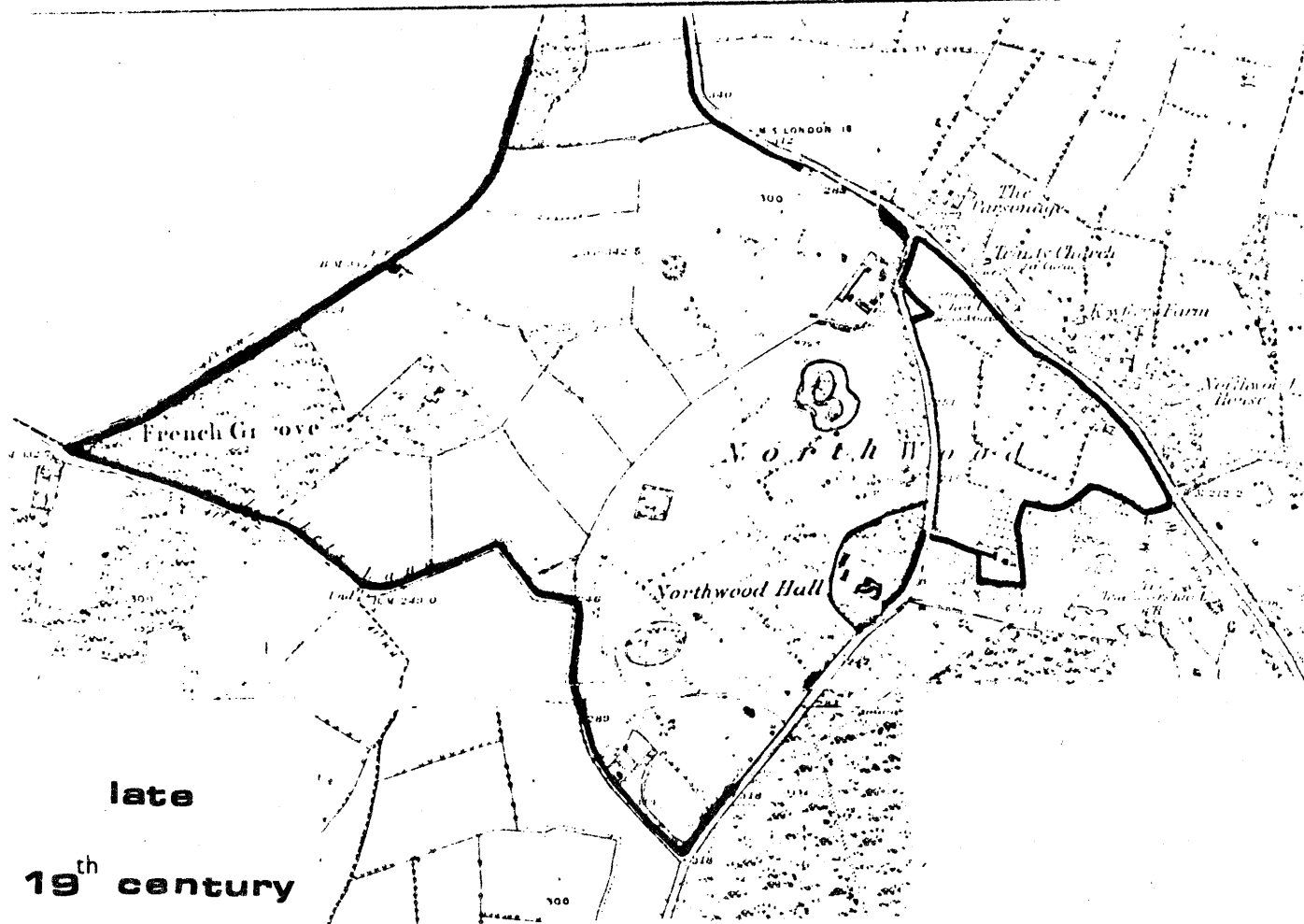
Norton Family

Northwood Park had been created by Daniel Norton (1806-1888) between c.1841 and c.1860. The Nortons were an Uxbridge family of some standing, being Millers there from the 17th century and associated with Uxbridge Old Bank at the turn of the 18th/19th centuries. Daniel Norton of Northwood Park was a partner in the firm of Daniel Norton & Sons of City Road Basin, Timber Merchants and Senior Lord in Trust for the Manor and Borough of Uxbridge.² He was the eldest son of William Norton of Hillingdon and his wife Mary, daughter of Jason Wilshin of Manor Farm, Ruislip.³ Daniel's first wife Louisa Maria Delves bore at least ten children, one of whom, Grace, died young and lies in Ruislip Churchyard.

After Louisa's death in 1869 aged 55 (monument in Holy Trinity Churchyard), Daniel married a woman 35 years younger than himself, but produced no further



**Northwood Park
in the early
19th century**



**late
19th century**

children.

Maze Farm

Daniel bought Maze Farm in Ducks Hill and 26 acres in 1841 from the executors of Sir John Vaughan who had also owned Eastbury.⁴ On the night of the census (June 7th 1841) he, his wife, one daughter, two female servants and an agricultural labourer and his wife were in residence. At that date it was simply an old farmhouse which can be traced back to a cottage called 'Symbotes' in the 1565 Terrier. Daniel Norton turned it into a mansion. A letter from his granddaughter, Mrs. Denny to the late W.A.G. Kemp (quoted in "The Story of Northwood", page 72 - 1982 edition) says that he had the house enlarged twice, the second time in 1851. Mr. Norton had obviously been a visitor to the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, where he purchased the overmantels mentioned above and may have been influenced in his architectural taste, for the "Gothic and Medieval" style elevation which we can still see at Denville Hall was built at this time. One wall of the old Maze Farm is believed to have been incorporated in the new building. W.A.G. Kemp quotes the late Mr. W. Prince of Northwood as saying that the bricks were made on the site and the building work done by Tom Lacey of Ruislip.

The Lodge

The very pretty "Cottage Orne" built of red brick and flint by the Driveway, seems to have been erected at the same time. Mary Puddifoot, lodgekeeper and her husband James, a gardener, are listed there in the 1851 census returns.

Daniel Norton bought up adjoining property piecemeal as it became available.

Park Farm

The house now called Park Farm or a building on the same site was called Philpots Tile House in the 16th century. Later it became Batcher Heath Farm and was owned by a Miss Noyes in 1850 (occupied by John Lawrence). Daniel Norton had bought it by 1855 when the land extended north to the county boundary. Later he sold 19 acres to Lord Ebury lying north of the road which now runs through Mount Vernon grounds.

Soon after 1850, a cottage standing some way south of Park Farm (opposite The Avenue) was acquired along with land behind it. The house which had been another Tile House in 1565 was demolished (it does not appear in the 1866 6" O.S. map), and the land was let as part of Park Farm. A pair of cottages built in White Hill about 1860 and still standing are in the north west corner of this land.

The farmhouse was at least partially rebuilt. It appears in the 1861 census as New Farm when the house and two cottages were inhabited by Thomas Brown, a steward, William Gillies, a gardener and James Brown, a coachman. Later the house and land was leased to farmers. Edwin Nicholls had a 21 year lease from 1882 and the Nicholls family remained there until c.1970. It is rumoured that Edwin was offered the farm because he played cricket, a game fostered by Mr. Norton. Northwood Cricket Club moved to their present ground in Park Farm in 1896.

Snail Holes

Earlier local historians have suggested that Snail Holes was on the east side of Ducks Hill near the Gravel Pits, but the present writer believes that it was a cottage just north of Maze Farm which appears on the Ruislip Enclosure Map 1806, (Nos. 153-5 and 158), when it was owned by Daniel Hill. Thomas Worman a haybinder and his family lived there in 1851. Daniel Norton bought

the property, removed the house and threw the land into his Pleasure Grounds, which incidentally, were embellished with two summerhouses in the form of flint turrets. One of these still stands (now in the garden of 64 Ducks Hill).

The Cottage, Jacketts Lane

This timber-framed cottage was possibly built late in the 16th century. It belonged to the Howard family of Mill End, Rickmansworth from the late 18th century until 1850. Daniel Norton took the land into his Park but retained the cottage. It was restored and converted into two cottages. The cross-wing is faced with 19th century brick work which has diaper patterning and dentilation under the eaves and has a new chimney with bread oven built onto it. The other chimney on the east end is original and also has a bread oven. This corresponds with information passed on by elderly residents.

It was called Jacketts Farm in 1851 when Francis Kempton described as a farmer of 30 acres was living there. The conversion probably took place soon after as the 1861 census shows two households, that of Daniel Hill, gamekeeper and of William Milton, agricultural labourer.

It has been a single cottage again for many years.

French Grove

The piece of ancient woodland called French Grove (mentioned 1456) in the corner of Jacketts Lane and White Hill changed hands frequently in the 19th century. Daniel Norton bought it from Lord Ebury in the late 1850's.

Coach House & Stables

Waste land east of Ducks Hill had been allotted to Miss A.M. Hogard, then owner of Maze Farm by the Enclosure Commissioners. Daniel Norton built fine stables, a coachman's cottage and a carriage house there about 1862. William Gillies and James Brown still gardener and coachman, moved there from the cottages at Park Farm and are found there in the 1871 census. The buildings still stand alongside the cobbled yard, but are now private houses.

Later History of the Estate

Daniel Norton's house was known as Maze Farm in 1841, as Maze House in 1861 and had achieved the grander title of Northwood Park by 1881. The 17 people residing there in 1861 formed the largest household in the whole of Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote. There were:

Daniel Norton	54		born Uxbridge
Louisa Norton	47	"	London
Louisa Norton	26	"	London
Daniel Norton	18	"	London
Jason Norton	16	"	London (St.Lukes)
William Norton	15	"	Uxbridge
Thomas "	13	"	Uxbridge
Arthur "	11	"	Uxbridge
Henry "	6	"	Uxbridge
Violet "	8	"	Uxbridge
Florence "	5	"	Ruislip
Louisa Delves	74	(Louisa Norton's mother)	
Betsey Kimpton	29	House Servant	born Batchworth
Betsey Ley	22	" "	Thurlby, Lincs.
Ann Hunt	26	" "	Windsor
Beatrice Howley	22	" "	Ferny Stratford
Sarah Briggs	21	" "	Uxbridge

Daniel Norton supported Lord Ebury in his efforts to provide a church in Northwood. Holy Trinity was opened in 1854. His obituary² notice in the local paper says that "a bronchial affection forced him at length to seek a somewhat warmer climate and he accordingly spent a good deal of his time in the Isle of Wight". He died there on 10th February 1888 and was buried at Holy Trinity.

Daniel Norton jun. with his wife, seven children and six servants (two governesses, butler, cook, housemaid and nurse) were resident in 1881, but moved away soon afterwards. The Hall and Pleasure Grounds were leased to Mrs. Gladstone of Manchester in 1882 and the parkland and Park Farm to Edwin Nicholls. Once Northwood Station opened in 1887 and building development began, the land between Ducks Hill and Rickmansworth Road was let to Thomas Elkington on a building lease.

Despite Humbert and Flint's best efforts, not a single bid was received for any part of the estate at the 1891 auction and the Nortons continued to own it into this century. After the expiration of Mrs. Gladstone's lease, they returned to Northwood and played an important part in the affairs of Holy Trinity.

Mrs. Garrett, founder of St. Helen's School, remembered them in the 1890's. "There was always a good congregation in church and one noted with interest the arrival of the dignified lady, Mrs. Norton from Northwood Hall who passed up the nave followed by her six tall daughters, two of whom sang in the choir and one, Edith, became the first missionary recruit from Northwood and spent many fruitful years in Japan".⁵ Regular Mothers' Meetings were held at the Hall and sales of work to raise funds. Mr. Norton was churchwarden 1878-1883 and 1894-1899. He became chairman of the newly-formed Ruislip Parish Council in 1895.

At the end of the century they left Northwood again, letting the Hall to Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Cunliffe-Pickersgill, who impressed one small girl with their imperious behaviour towards the lesser breeds particularly those who dared sit in their seats at church!

The Trustees of Mount Vernon Hospital (then the North London Hospital for Consumption & Diseases of the Chest at Mount Vernon, Hampstead) bought 105 acres, Park Farm and the Plantation in 1902 and built the hospital, which was opened in 1904. The farm house was excluded from the sale.

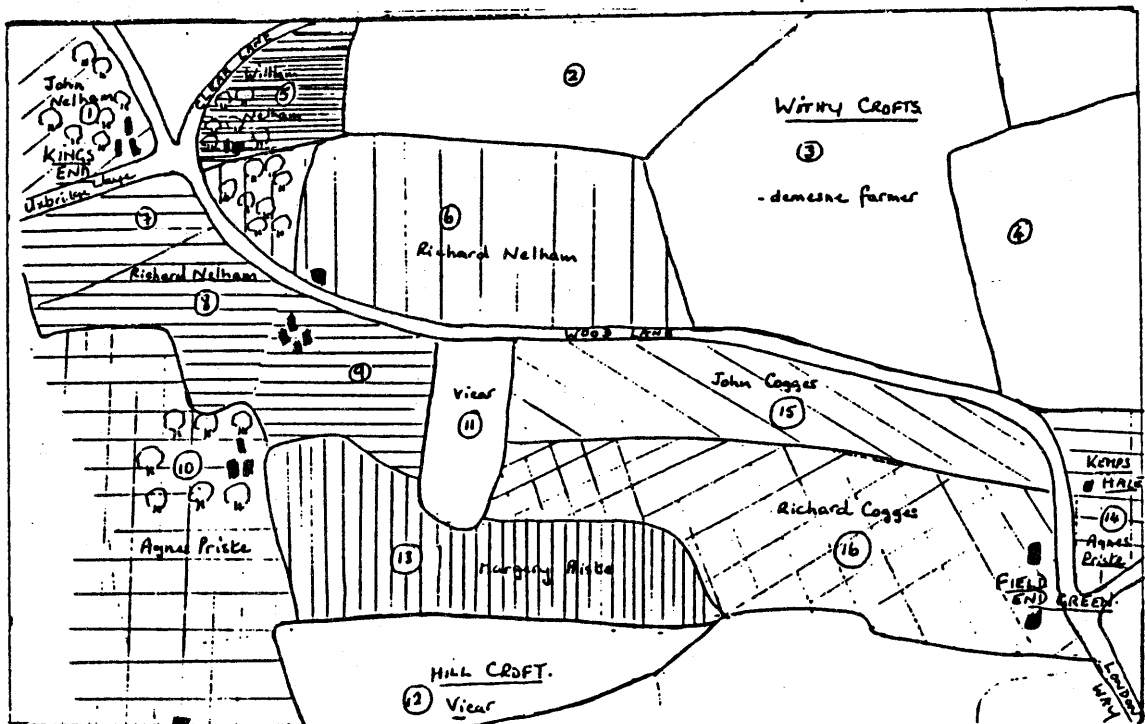
During the First World War, Baron Isidore Berkovitz had the Tivoli House School at the Hall and afterwards Mrs. Gertrude Bell ran a day and boarding school for young children there.

Alfred Denville a Newcastle M.P. and a theatrical promoter purchased the Hall in 1925 and made it into a Home for Retired Members of the Theatrical Profession.

References:

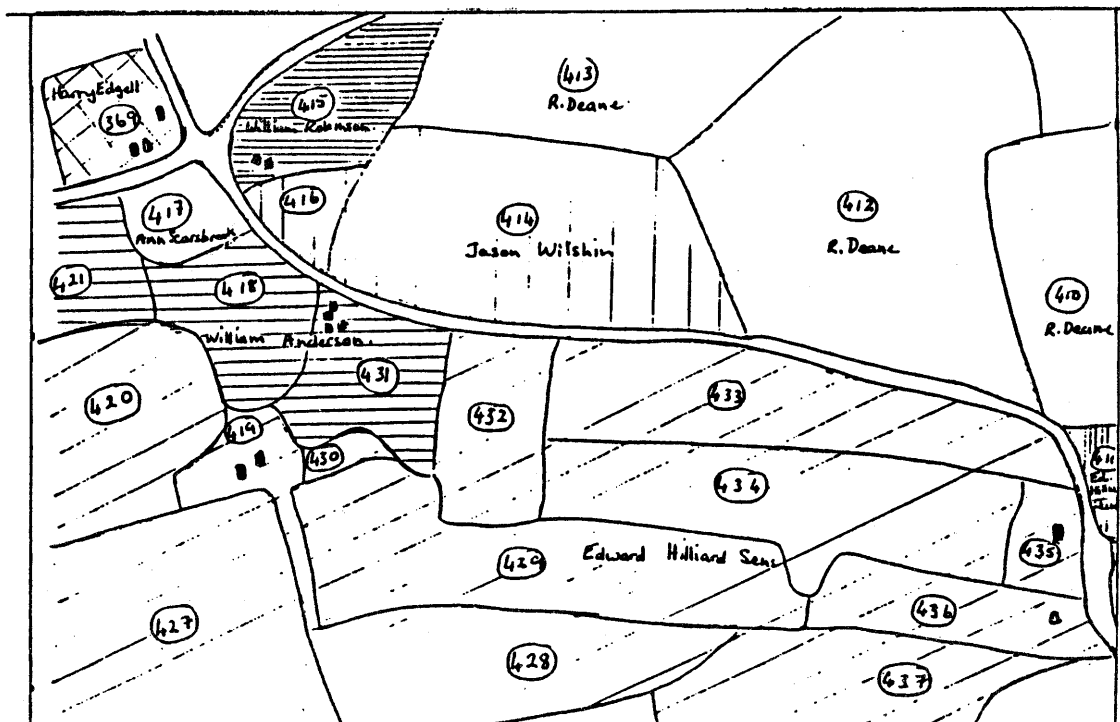
1. British Library Map Room 137c 7(17)
2. Bucks. Advertiser 18th February 1888
3. Family Tree compiled by J. McBean
4. This and following information re: acquisition of property is based on Parish Rate Books transcribed by J. McBean from G.L.R.O. DRO 19
E2/1 - 60 and from Enclosure and O.S. maps at Manor Farm Library.
5. Letter in Northwood File, Manor Farm Library.

Map 1 1565 - Conjectural map.
(Bowlk et al.)



① - Numbers correspond to those in Table 1a.

Map 2 1806 Enclosure Map.



④32 - Numbers correspond to those on Enclosure map.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF KING'S END AND WOOD LANE

by COLLEEN A. COX

A casual visitor to Ruislip might well dismiss the area round King's End and Wood Lane as typical 20th century development and overlook the handful of older dwellings which are the clue to its links with the past. In fact both names occur in the 1565 Terrier, the survey made by King's College, Cambridge of its lands in Ruislip. We do not know the derivation of Wood Lane since it was not very near the woods but it seems likely that the former hamlet of King's End takes its name not from the College but from a local family mentioned in earlier records.

Documents and maps from the 16th to 20th century have been studied to reveal some of the changes to the land south of Ickenham Road (formerly Clear Lane) that have resulted in the area as we know it today. The present Kingsend is a new road constructed across the land at the beginning of this century.

In 1565 (Map 1) this land was occupied by the demesne farmer, the vicar and seven copyhold tenants all of whom belonged to established families with land elsewhere in Ruislip. (Table 1a). There were six dwellings, five of which survived in part until this century although only two now remain - at 65/65a Kingsend and the cottages at the corner of Chichester Avenue. Most of the land was enclosed pasture apart from orchards adjacent to four of the cottages and two small pieces of meadow. Wood Lane crossed the area from the north-west to the south-east along the same line as the present road.

Although Ruislip remained in the hands of King's College, there is little comprehensive information after this until the Enclosure Award and Map of 1806 (Map 2, Table 1b). At this time Withy Crofts still formed part of the demesne lands and was leased by Ralph Deane of Eastcote House. King's End Farm and its lands belonged to Harry Edgell who owned several small estates in the area including Ruislip Park. The land at the top of Kingsend belonged to William Robinson and the six acres next to it on Wood Lane, to Jason Wilshin in whose family it remained throughout the 19th century. Their imposing chest tomb is to the right of the path as St. Martin's Church is approached from Eastcote Road.

Ann Scarsbrook owned a house and garden on the site of the present White Bear P.H. but other records of the time indicate that she was also the licensee of the Red Lion owned by Samuel Salter and possibly situated where Byeway Cottage once stood on Ickenham Road. Apart from William Anderson's three acres behind the White Bear, the rest of the land to the south of Wood Lane belonged to the Hilliard family. The Hilliards had inherited lands in Ruislip and Ickenham after the marriage in 1779 of Edward Hilliard to Elizabeth Stafford Crosier of Cowley House, Uxbridge. The former Crosier lands together with purchases made by the Hilliards at the time of the enclosure made them the second largest landowners in Ruislip.

During the 19th century the rate books give details of land ownership and tenancy and the census returns from 1851 to 1881 yield information about the inhabitants. Unfortunately, neither is as straightforward as present-day local historians would wish. Although farms and the public houses are frequently named, the absence of addresses as we know them, makes it difficult to identify individual cottages with absolute certainty. Even a study of four consecutive censuses at times further confuses the researcher but Table 2 lists the heads of households and their likely place of residence in the middle of the century. (Map 3)

The population in this area was remarkably stable even by 19th century

TABLE 1a & 1b

LOCATION	1a) 1565 TERRIER			1b) 1806 ENCLOSURE AWARD 1863 Rate Book		
	Tenant	Land Holding	Acres	Owner	Area A R P	Owner
King's End Farm	1. John Nelham	Messuage, Orchard & 2 Closes of Pasture	3	Harry Edgell	1 1 0	Harry Edgell
Withy Crofts	2, 3 & 4 Demesne farmer	2 Closes of Pasture	19	Ralph Deane	21 3 15	F.H. Deane
Orchard Cottage 65/65a Kingsend	5. William Nelham	Cottage, Orchard & Close of Pasture	1½	Wm. Robinson	1 3 3	Henry Bird
	6. Richard Nelham	Messuage, Orchard & Close of Pasture	5	Jason Wilshin	6 1 30	Wilshin
White Bear P.H.	7. Richard Nelham			Ann Scarsbrook	1 10	G. Harman
Tudor Cottages	8, 9. Richard Nelham	Cottage, Close of Pasture	1½	Wm. Anderson	3 1 30	
Primrose Hill Farm	10. Agnes Priste	Messuage, Orchard & 3 Closes of Past.	14	Edward Hilliard Senior	8 3 5	
	11. Vicar	Meadow	1	Edward Hilliard Senior	1 1 0	J. Hilliard
Hill Croft	12. Vicar	Close of Pasture	3	Edward Hilliard Senior	3 2 5	
	13. Margery Priste	2 Closes of Pasture	3½	Edward Hilliard Senior	4 1 34 1 13	
Kemps Hale	14. Agnes Priste	Pightle of Meadow	1	Ed. Hilliard Jun.	1 1 18	G. Hilliard Trust.
	15. John Cogges	Close of Pasture	2½	Edward Hilliard Senior	3 3 27	J. Hilliard
Field End Farm	16. Richard Cogges	Cottage & 3 Closes of Pasture	6	Edward Hilliard Senior	6 3 18	

standards and some tenants occupied the same house for over thirty years. Withy Crofts was still part of the demesne but leased as meadow land to the publican James Weedon, its name corrupted to Withy Cutts (and Widdicutts in some records).

King's End Farm was still owned by Harry Edgell and by 1861 the tenancy had passed from Samuel Weedon to William Stilling who lived there for many years and also farmed Priors Farm at the bottom of West End Road.

According to the 1847 rate book, a beerhouse later known as the White Bear belonged to Charles Weedon and was run by William Gomm. George Harman owned it by 1863 together with two other small beerhouses in Ruislip, both called 'The Woodman' - one in Joel Street and the other on Breakspeare Road. James Weedon, the licensee of the White Bear in 1851 and 1861 was succeeded by his widow Emma and later by George Treacher. The Alesbury family took over at the turn of the century.

Immediately to the west of the public house were the three King's End cottages where lived Isaac Andrews, William Hill and William Lavender.

The 1866 O.S. Map shows two adjoining dwellings on the site of the present Laburnums behind the White Bear. These were occupied by John Weatherly and John Collett, both described as haybinders.

Much of the land at King's End as in other parts of Ruislip, had been turned over to meadow to meet the increasing demand for hay but several orchards survived. One of these gave its name to Orchard Cottage (65/65a Kingsend) not to be confused with the later Orchard Bungalow and the later still Little Orchard on Wood Lane.

We do not know who occupied Orchard Cottage during these census years but the rate books suggest that it was rented from Henry Bird by Edward Bray, a wood dealer who lived at Little King's End on Sharps Lane.

The Hilliards still owned Primrose Hill Farm which stood on the present Chichester Avenue. It was occupied by another member of the Weedon family and yet other members lived in the farm cottages on Wood Lane. It is hardly surprising that King's End was known locally as 'the garden of Weedon'. The old cottages at the corner of Chichester Avenue were originally one dwelling converted into two for farm labourers. William Weedon added the third between 1861 and 1866. Primrose Hill was farmed by the Weedon family until 1884 when the tenancy passed to Edwin Ewer of Wilkins Farm in the High Street. He retained the farm until his death in 1914 when he was succeeded by his son Edwin Shatford Ewer whose name is still remembered by older residents.

Field End Farm at the bottom of Wood Lane belonged to another branch of the Hilliard family and was farmed for over thirty years by George Watkins.

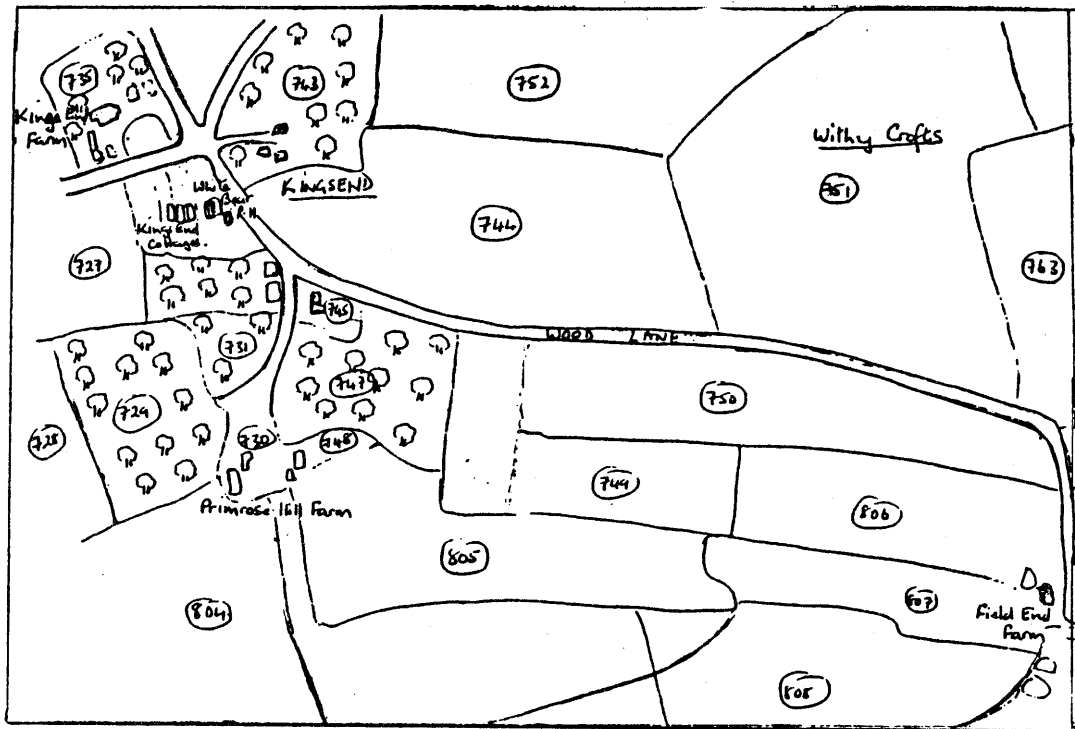
By the end of the last century, agreement had been reached for the extension of the Metropolitan Railway from Harrow to Uxbridge. King's College was not slow to appreciate the financial benefits that might accrue from the development of its lands near the new railway and those in King's End were in a particularly favourable position near the proposed Ruislip Station. Negotiations with the local council took place about the construction of a new road from the station and the provision of sewerage. In November 1904 the Provost and Scholars of King's College, Cambridge bought six acres of land on Wood Lane from Jason Wilshin for £2,000 and approval was received from the Board of Agriculture for its change of use to building land. In January of the following year they purchased a 'cottage with barn', outbuildings, yard, garden and orchard - an area of about

TABLE 2

HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD - CENSUS INFORMATION 1851 - 1881

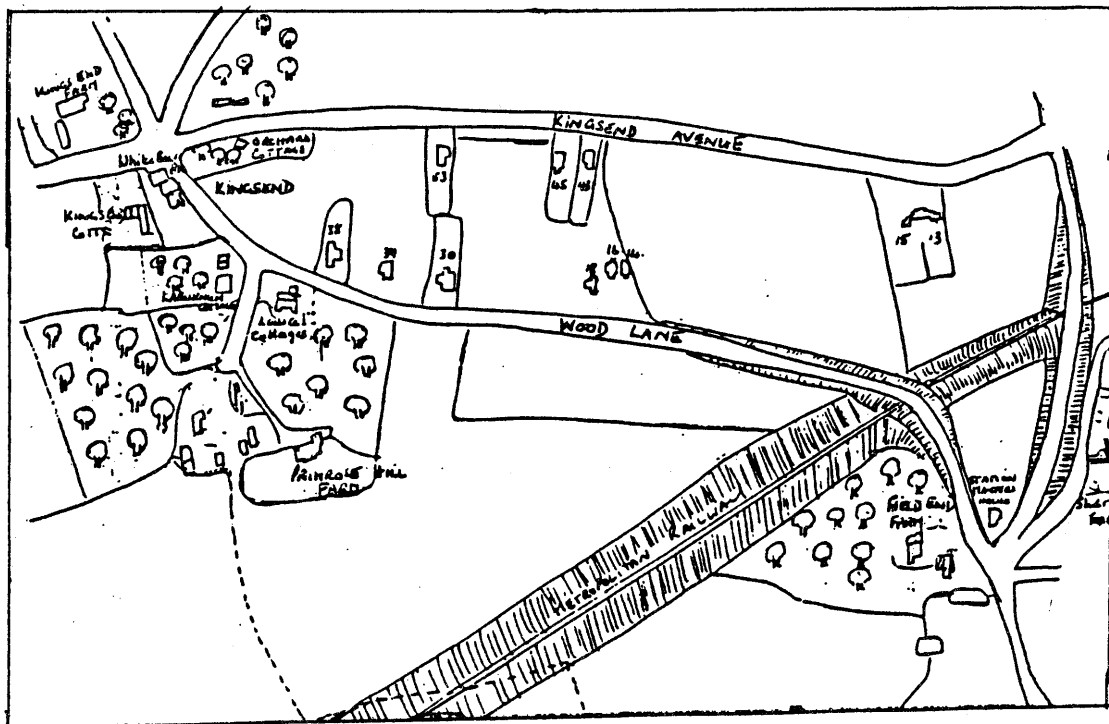
LOCATION	1851	1861	1871	1881
King's End 1 Farm	Samuel Weedon farmer	William Stilling farmer	William Stilling farmer	William Stilling farmer
King's End 2 Cottages	Isaac Andrews ag. labourer	Isaac Andrews farm labourer	Isaac Andrews ag. labourer	Isaac Andrews hort. labourer
	Charles Henwood Clerk of Timber Wharf	William Hill haydealer	William Hill ag. labourer	William Hill ag. labourer
4	William Gomm haydealer	William Lavender wood dealer	William Lavender wood dealer	William Lavender wood dealer
White Bear 5 P.H.	James Weedon publican	James Weedon beershop keeper & farmer	Emma Weedon publican	George Treacher licensed victualler
Laburnums 6	John Weatherly haybinder	John Weatherly haybinder	John Weatherly haybinder	John Weatherly former haybinder
Laburnums 7	John Collett haydealer	John Collett haybinder	John Collett ag. labourer	John Collett haybinder
Primrose 8 Hill Farm	William Weedon farmer	William Weedon farmer	William Weedon farmer	Walter Weedon farmer
Tudor 9 Cottages	John Weedon ag. labourer	Henry Hill ag. labourer	Henry Hill ag. labourer	Henry Hill ag. labourer
	James Weatherley farm labourer	Thomas Weedon farm labourer	Thomas Weedon ag. labourer	Thomas Weedon ag. labourer
	11		George Brill ag. labourer	Fanny Collins annuitant
Field End 12 Cottage	James Hows farm labourer	John Weedon farm labourer	John Weedon ag. labourer	John Weedon former ag. labourer
Field End 13 Farm	George Watkins farmer	George Watkins farmer	George Watkins farmer	George Watkins farmer

Map 3 1866 Ordnance Survey Map.



(805) Numbers correspond to those on O.S. map.

Map 4 1914 Ordnance Survey Map



2.2 acres lately occupied by James Bunce". (Orchard Cottage). £1,000 was paid for this property at the top of Kingsend Avenue as the new road was originally called. Despite such purchases of adjoining land, the College did not wish to tie up large amounts of capital in this speculative venture. David Massey describes how an agreement was made initially with Garden Estates Limited in 1909 whose interests in Ruislip were passed to a new company known as Ruislip Manor Limited. This company provided the capital for essential services such as roads, drainage, water and power supplies and in return did not have to buy up the whole area at one time, but could purchase individual plots of land when required. The directors of the company guided development on the then fashionable 'garden suburb' lines but builders and others took the risks of the construction and sale of the new homes.

The landowners were not the only people to recognise the financial benefits that the railway could bring. A number of local residents opened tea gardens to provide refreshments for the day trippers enticed out to the still rural Ruislip. The Orchard Bungalow opened in 1905 by Albert Cross was later popularised by Richard Raymont. George Weedon followed with The Poplars at the bottom of Ickenham Road and encouraged by its success he opened the gardens of King's End Farm soon after. The Boyles family of Orchard Cottage and Arthur Alesbury, licensee of The White Bear were not to be outdone and soon there were four tea gardens at King's End all doing brisk business.

The first houses in Kingsend Avenue were designed by the architect F.H. Mansford. To make them look suitably imposing and in keeping with the aims of the development, he built a semi-detached pair of houses and gave the name 'Walden' to the one in which he lived (No.15). Mansford was responsible for a number of other houses in the area including the new farmhouse at Primrose Hill built for Edwin Shatford Ewer at the time of his marriage in 1910, an occasion at which Mr Mansford's son Hugh was a pageboy.

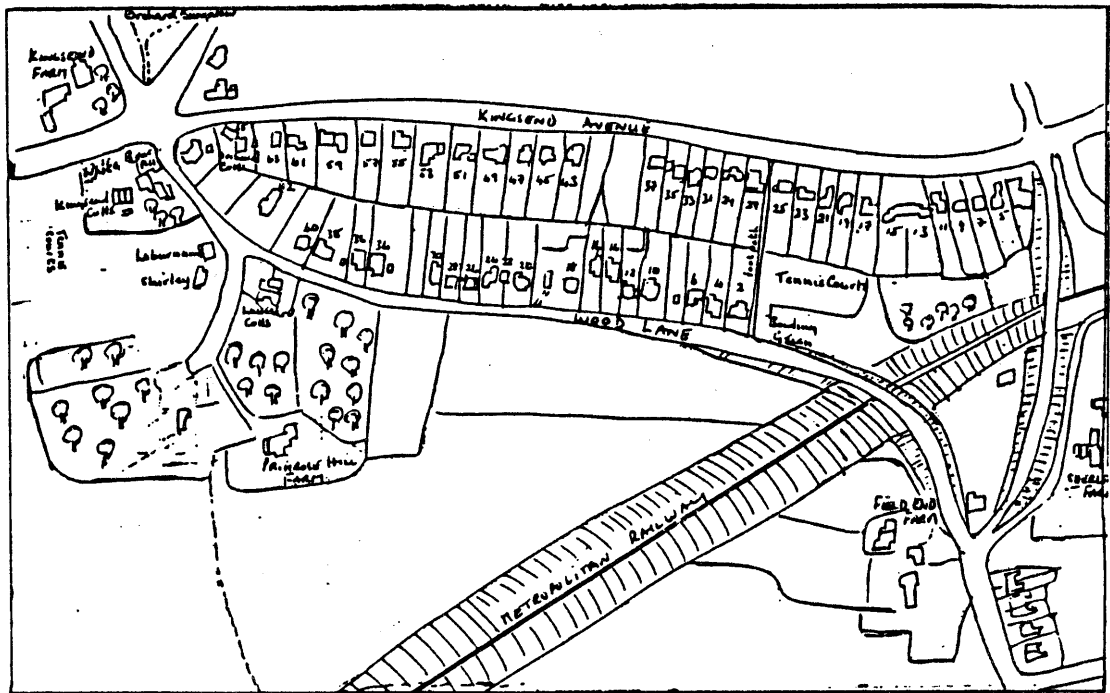
Development was fairly slow before the First World War and the 1914 Map (Map 4) shows only five new houses on the south side of Kingsend Avenue, and six on the north of Wood Lane. Of these early houses, No.12 first occupied by F.S. Wigglesworth has retained the name of 'Silverwood' to the present day. Two more of the original occupants, P.C. Boddy a well-known local figure, who lived at 'Sorrento' (No.30) and A.L. Dawson of 'St.Mary's' (No.42) were both still living in Wood Lane in 1939.

A study of several documents relating to land ownership in the area gives some idea of the transactions that took place after the war. On October 21st 1921 Ruislip Manor Limited bought from the College for £665 several plots of land, including that on which Corner House, 67 Kingsend now stands. A year later they sold the Corner House plot alone to William Walter Adamson of Edgware for £1,500. Not all their transactions were as profitable however. In September 1923 they paid the College £665 for the land on which numbers 44 and 46 Wood Lane have since been built but on December 31st 1925 sold the same plot to the architect James Maxwell Scott of Orchard Cottage for only £260.

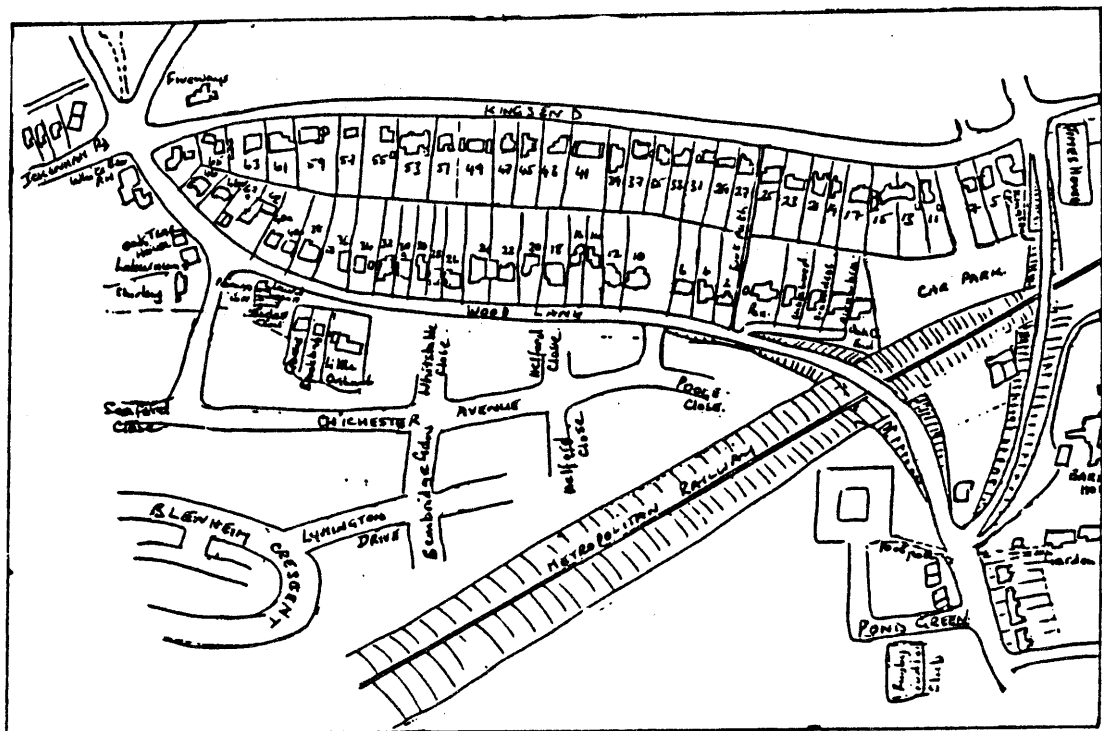
By 1935 (Map 5) development to the north of Wood Lane was almost complete with houses on all but four of the plots and all but two on the south side of Kingsend Avenue. Land at the bottom of the lane had been laid out as tennis courts and a bowling green. This land had houses built on it by 1962 (Map 6) but the only new house on the other side of Wood Lane was Little Orchard.

The days of Primrose Hill Farm were numbered, however. After Shatford Ewer's death, his widow sold the farm to Glaxo but shortly after the land was sold for development. The farmhouse was demolished in 1965 and the fields

Map 5 1935 Ordnance Survey Map.



Map 6 1962 O.S. map (with additions up to 1984)



soon disappeared under the new estate.

No traces remain of the former pasture, meadowland and orchards but it is hoped that the few remaining old cottages will survive to keep alive the memories of the past.

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FREDERIC HERBERT MANSFORD F.R.I.B.A. 1871 - 1946

by EILEEN M. BOWLT
=====

Mr F.H. Mansford, father of the author of the next article, was born at 6 Park Terrace, Park Lane, Tottenham in April 1871. After his father's death from smallpox in 1871, his mother went into partnership as Mercy & Mansford, a stationers at 95 Finsbury Pavement where she also made a home for her three sons. She took her children to as many churches as she could find within walking distance - all the City churches which before the destruction of the Second World War were far more numerous than now - thereby developing F.H.M.'s interest in architecture and influencing his future.

After school at Horley and Lenham, he became an architect, first through the office of George Hubbard F.R.I.B.A. then as chief draughtsman to Alfred Waterhouse, President of the R.I.B.A. In 1906 he set up his own practice at Ruislip. 'Walden', (now 15) King's End provided him with a home and office for the rest of his life.

In Ruislip he designed houses on commission, built others as a speculative venture and taught architecture and building construction at L.C.C. classes to make extra money.

His early love of churches (even though he was an agnostic) coloured his whole life. He knew every cubic inch of the fabric of St. Martin's. He conducted parties around the church, gave lantern slide lectures on its architecture and in 1928 restored the dormer window to the south side of the roof. The barn at the north end of No. 1 High Street was demolished at about the same time to widen the corner of High Street/Eastcote Road and he designed the curved wall with its oak window frame to hide the Almhouse lavatories while being in keeping with the 16th century building nearby.

F.H.M.'s interest in early Ruislip led him to talk (about 1907) to elderly residents about their early lives, thus gleaning some fascinating snippets about mid-19th century village affairs. He also made a photographic record of the parish during its transition from rural village to residential suburb. The four inch glass slides are now an ornament to the Ruislip Library Local History collection. The talks which he frequently gave were often reported at length in the local paper. These, and articles on local history, contributed by him, are very useful to modern historians.

He helped the Ruislip Manor Cottage Society and other non-profit making organisations for housing poorer families, an extension of his Socialist beliefs. He helped form the Ruislip branch of the Labour Party and held a meeting in Lyon House in spite of threats of violence issued beforehand.

A list of buildings designed by him in this area follow:

<u>Buildings completed before 1914</u>	<u>Client</u>
13 & 15 Kingsend	Self
Rose Cottage, 6 Kingsend.	Mrs. Wolnoth
Kingsend House, 44 Kingsend.	Mr. Morris
North, 55 Kingsend.	Mr. Rayner
3 Church Avenue.	Mr. Brassington
Primrose Hill Farm (demolished 1965)	Mr. S. Ewer
2, 4 & 6 Park Way.	
Lyon House, 71/73 Manor Way.	Self
(his wife was a Miss Florence L. Lyon)	
2, 4 & 6 Windmill Way.	Ruislip Manor
<u>Buildings completed after 1914</u>	<u>Client</u>
186 Harefield Road, Uxbridge.	Mr. Minette
188 Harefield Road, Uxbridge.	Mr. Davis
237 Park Road, Uxbridge.	Mr. Crotch
School Hall, 17 King Edwards Road (Kelvin House).	Mrs. Todd
War Memorial, Harefield Green.	
The Outlook, 21 Kingsend.	Mr. W. Mansford
115/121 High Street, Ruislip.	Mr. Prowting
Poplars Close, Ruislip.	P.E.L.M.
	(Prowting, Builder. Ewer, Landowner, Lees, Solicitor. Mansford, Architect)

EARLY RUISLIP MEMORIES

by HUGH MANSFORD

In 1907 when I was eighteen months old, I came to live in Ruislip. I cannot claim to remember the journey, but later, my father told me of those early days as follows:

He decided to branch out on his own, as an architect, and in looking for a rural area of development he found it in Metroland, recently created by the new Uxbridge railway, constructed to sell the Country to the City. The Mansford family had a stationers business in Moorgate Street and a home in Aldersgate Street, so they qualified.

Land was found available on lease from King's College, Cambridge - only later was it sold freehold in Ruislip; and a plot was chosen in the middle of a field called 'Withicotes'. Most of the fields had names in those days. Plans were made to construct a road, King's End Avenue, from the new Metropolitan Railway station to Great King's End - the junction of Wood Lane, Sharps Lane and the Ickenham Road.

Later, the name Great King's End fell out of use, which paved the way for the Avenue to be dropped from the road name. The change in road name did not take place until after the First World War, but for brevity the shortened name of Kingsend is used hereafter.

The promoters, much influenced by King's College, insisted that the house should be 'of a high standard', or 'imposing' but my parents only had a little money, so as usual a compromise was reached. My father, Frederic Herbert Mansford, (F.H.M.) designed a semi-detached pair of houses - now numbers 13 and 15 Kingsend. The front doors, which were also the tradesmen's doors, were at the sides. They were linked by a path, semi-circular in plan, with a single front gate arched by a wisteria-covered trellis.

The 'one house' deception was effective, as F.H.M. recounts. He named his house 'Walden', after the book, and the next-door was called 'Sanctuary' by the first tenants, who only stayed until their creditors found them, when they left overnight with all their goods and my father's dustbin tied onto the back of the pantechinon. He, or my mother, just saw it in time to reclaim it.

The next tenants were Mr Southers and family, who retained the house name. It was later changed to 'Houghton' by the subsequent tenant, Mr. Frank Clement.

My mother found that she could afford a young resident maid if she 'took in' a lodger. She and Mrs. Southers engaged twin sisters as maids - quite young girls, much alike. Now the 'one house' deception was complete.

A Sister-of-Mercy called one day for donations, first at 'Sanctuary', where one Miss Boot opened the door, and then at 'Walden' where the other twin opened the door. The Sister apologised saying she had thought possibly there were two houses, and departed unrewarded.

I can just remember the Boot twins taking me to their cottage home in Eastcote.

Our pair of houses were built in a field, with a supply of water carried in rubber hosepipe from the High Street. We had an earth closet for sanitation, and on adjoining land a 'home made' filter bed for the bath water. Later, there followed the road making for the Avenue - but no new trees; also the main and surface water drainage, gas and the main water supplies. I remember the jointing of the iron pipes, with tarred rope driven into the joint, followed by molten lead cast with the restraint of a felt-lined metal collar and wet clay. When set, the lead was hammered home to consolidate the joint. The soil was yellow clay, as deep as you cared to go, and that was very deep where the sewer from the lower end of Kingsend was engineered to flow downhill past Wilkins Farm and the Poplars, through the village and past the 'George' to Bury Street and so to the outfall drain along the valley of the Pinn. Ladygate Lane was then referred to as Sewage Farm Lane, perhaps not officially.

The road-makers threw up great mounds of top soil into the fields on either side of the new road, Kingsend, which were later absorbed by the various gardens.

The work was almost all manual. The men were navvies - short for navigators - a term which dates back to the days when the canals were built and many were Irish. Their dress was characteristic; corduroy breeches and waistcote; shirt without tie, but a coloured kerchief for collar; always narrow leather straps around the legs, just below the knees; generally tucked into one strap was a wooden spatula, which was used for cleaning the graft - a narrow spade most suitable for digging heavy soil. The graft was frequently first dipped into a bucket of water before it was pressed into the sticky clay, so to keep it clean.

With the road completed, other houses were soon built. I remember troubles with the house opposite to 'Walden' - The Red House - for Mr. E. Gray, the wholesale jeweller of Clerkenwell Road, London. Trouble number one was with

the foreman - the man with the bowler hat - who arrived drunk on the site fairly often and was locked by his workmen into the builders' shed, with the quick-lime and other perishables. Trouble number two was wholly mine. Mortar, at this date, was largely a mixture of lime and sand with water. It set slowly on exposure to air, so it could be mixed in bulk and stored in a semi-solid state, in a mound. Between the front of The Red House and the road there was a mound, higher than I was, and large in area. I had always liked to climb to look down from heights. I saw the mound and rushed at it to run to the top. Three paces brought me to a stop, up to my armpits in mortar.

It was usual for the builders to heat their pie or pudding for dinner by packing quick-lime lumps around it, wetting the lime, and covering all with straw and sand. The heat from the slaking of the lime heated the meal.

These early days were also marked by my first public engagement. I was pageboy at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Shatford Ewer in the church on Harrow Hill. My father designed a house for them built on Primrose Hill, Ruislip, overlooking fine fields later covered by the Four Stores.

At the bottom of the back garden at 'Walden', first there was a grass field extending to the boundary of the railway fence, which was constructed of stretched wires. On occasions, father found himself late for catching a train to town. Then he would run down the garden, through our wire fence, across the field, through the railway fence, under the road bridge beside the rails to the slope at the platform end, to catch the train. The railway staff in those days had sympathy, and might even hold the train for a late arrival. Later, the field became a nursery garden cultivated by Mr. Bray, while his wife attended to the sweetshop and newsagency beside the post office - then Mr. R.H. Hailey's shop, backing onto the Manor Farm pond.

One house of character in Kingsend was the 'Daily Mirror Cottage', re-erected on the north side of the road at the High Street junction, after its first appearance in the Ideal Homes Exhibition at Olympia. It was timber-framed to resemble an 'old world' cottage, but as I remember, it was most attractive inside also, with polished tiles for floors and windowsills, and shelves around the rooms for decorative china. The family comprised Mr. and Mrs. Dicky and two daughters, Olga and Violet. I used to play with the younger until she kissed me goodbye at the age of five, when they left the district and I started school. Mr. Dicky was 'in films', which in those days was quite unusual in this country. I first saw filming - turning the camera handle by hand - around the outside of his cottage. Later, the owners of the land demolished the cottage hoping to sell the plot, a corner site, for High Street development; but this was halted for many years by objections from residents in Kingsend. I could never understand why my father was an objector. Spoiling the amenities they said.

Mr. Rayner, the Uxbridge chemist, had father design him a house, which stands on the south side of the road on the brow of the hill.

Three other architects came to live in the road - Mr. Davey, Mr. E Gunn and Mr. Maxwell-Scott.

There were two car owners, Mr. Geoffrey Gray, at the Red House - he was later killed in the War - who had one of the very early model T Fords, and the father of a play mate of mine at Kingsend House, with a Wolseley.

The old wooden cottage on the south side of the road, just before the junction with Wood Lane, and later restored by Mr. Maxwell-Scott, was inhabited

by a family with many children. I was always glad to be past this point when on my way to school in Sharps Lane because I was not 'one of them', and was greeted with cat-calls and remarks in a language I did not understand. The navvies had a similar language, with the frequent use of unknown adjectives.

In the early days of the new electric railway, the Ruislip stationmaster, Mr. Smith, wore a top hat as a part of his working uniform. He was responsible for Uxbridge and Ickenham stations also. There was no Ruislip Manor station as yet. His house still stands at the junction of Wood Lane with West End Road, between the slopes of the two bridges, on a triangular plot of land owned by the Railway Company. When the railway was made it bisected a pond, leaving one half on what was later to become Mr. Bray's nursery. Here I learned to catch newts with a bent pin and an earthworm. The other half was on Mr. Smith's land. He had a family of lively young daughters with little to do, so sometimes I was mothered and looked after by the Smiths. Their half of the pond had a fascination for the girls, but not being on my home ground I fell in, and was carried home dripping.

I was always intrigued by the electric light in their house, the first in Ruislip for many years to use electric light. The power supply was from the live rails of the railway, consequently, the brightness of the lights varied considerably, falling as the train started from the station. This trouble became such an annoyance, particularly in the evenings when the Ickenham substation staff were off-duty, that the house lighting was changed to oil lamps; but for years the Railway Station lamps, groups of three connected in series, were supplied direct from live rails, so giving at night an indication of the train's approach or departure.

Most summers seemed hotter in the days of my childhood than those which we have experienced for several years recently past. So much so that watering the garden in the cool of the evening, using stored rain water, was a regular game, because I liked playing with water. Water Company's water was considered too cold, straight from the tap; so at the rear of each house was a large iron rain water tank, above ground and in the sun. At the front, a pair of five foot high butts or barrels, painted green, were found both useful and decorative; however, the steel hoops containing the wooden staves forming the butt soon rusted and broke. Replacement hoops were easily made by Mr. Doe, the Ruislip smith, when the barrel was handy to his forge, which was opposite to the junction of Sharps Lane with Bury Street. So the barrel had to go to the forge. On more than one occasion, father and I rolled one of these large barrels from Walden in Kingsend, along the High Street to the forge, and back again. The traffic was mostly horse drawn, and there was no difficulty. Mr. Doe made me steel hoops to bowl, using a steel hook for propulsion, not a stick.

Mr. Nelson Ewer, of Gurney & Ewer, made his home in the Old Mill House in Bury Street, and an engineering workshop against the road beyond the house when walking from the village. The works were powered by a Blackstone oil engine, which, with its twin flywheels could be seen through a plate-glass window facing the road. It was a fascinating advertisement to the public of the hidden activities within the buildings.

Young Nelson was about my age, and we played together in and around the old house and barns; the house with its sloping brick-floored kitchen at the back, and its vaulted brick baking oven - it was pre-heated by lighting a fire of faggots inside, and when the oven was hot, the fire was cleaned out to make way for the dough or pastry. His father had a phonograph playing cylindrical records.

F.H.M. quickly made friends with the locals. One Christmas the mummers called, playing for us in our large kitchen, lit in the early days by an oil lamp hung from the ceiling beams, until the chain broke and the flaming lamp was thrown through the window to burn itself out in the garden. Mother made snapdragons for us all, and the mummers' fingers proved tougher than mine, so I had little. Soon the Pinner gas supply was used for the main lighting with oil lamps and candles for the dependable lighting.

Calling by invitation for afternoon tea was quite fashionable. Mother and I would walk to New Pond Farm in West End Road to visit Mrs. Dick Ewer - Mr. Ewer's father was Richard, and he was always Dick - which I always enjoyed because of searching for eggs around the farm, and eating honeycomb with cream and homemade scones for tea.

Old Pond Farm, with Mr. Scott, lay beyond New Pond Farm, and the pond came between them, flanking the road at the bend. The pond water outlet flowed by a drain under the road, which flooded in winter, to an open stream flowing beside the road to the Yeading Brook after passing under the vastly wide railway bridge of the quite new G.W.R. & G.C.R. The road then was only half as wide as the railway arch, which arrangement appeared to be an absurd contingency for the future needs. And now that wide span is one of a pair required for the dual road.

The flooding of the Yeading Brook in winter was so much to be expected that a raised timber footway, with white painted handrail, ran beside the road at an elevation of several feet.

The route to New Pond Farm from Kingsend took us over the railway bridge, with Sherley Farm (Mr Collins') lying on the old main road at the foot of the grass covered bridge-road embankment. A flight of wooden steps led down from the new road to the old, opposite to the farm gate. The steps had a long wooden handrail, most excellent to slide down. On the right of the road we came to Mr Smith's (the stationmaster's) new house; and Field End cottages at the foot of the Wood Lane bridge slope. On the left was Elm Grove, a house well back from the road and now demolished, where I also found children to play with. Then we walked along the narrow road with bends, hedges and trees until we reached Bedding Field Place - old cottages on the left of the road just before Mr. Marchant's new house. From here the road kept quite straight beside the fruit orchard, up to the New Pond Farm bends. I remember that 'straight' very well because, when later I was just old enough, I had there my first solo motor cycle ride on a borrowed $2\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower flat twin cylinder Douglas. Until the 1920's, a row of telegraph poles lined the road carrying a vast number of wires, all humming in the wind and best heard with an ear pressed to the side of a pole.

Much grass was grown for hay over the area served by the West End Road, later to be carted to Wilkins Farm or to Manor Farm where magnificent hayricks grew to unexpected heights with the help of an elevator, which was an inclined chute and chain-link conveyor, driven by a horse walking on a circular track and pulling a radial shaft coupled to gearing. As the ricks aged the height diminished to about two thirds. The straw thatching was a delight to watch. Hay was cut from the ricks in winter and spring using a double-edged knife some thirty inches long and shaped like the leaf of a rubber plant, but quite flat, and the handle was horizontal, as the blade was used vertically being pressed down by the man's weight. The trusses were bound with quite strong ropes made 'on the spot' from hay being twisted by a tool like a carpenter's handbrace, but with a hook in place of the bit. The hay was sold in the London market.

The little-known outside world came to Ruislip during the summer months with the disciplined exuberance of Sunday School treats. I was much excited: firstly by the extra long District trains of eight coaches never seen on the Uxbridge line at other times, with perhaps five hundred children from Whitechapel or Stepney; secondly by the march in procession, led by a brass or drum and fife band. They sang the popular songs of the day marching from the Metropolitan station, past our house and up Kingsend to Mr. W.T. Weedon's Kingend House and fields, later to be the golf course. Then, towards sundown they returned, tired and happy, all carrying great bunches of buttercups, marching with clouds of dust - the road was still a private road and untarred - with the band, and still singing, to the train which had waited all day in the siding, stretching beside the line from Ruislip Station to Ruislip Manor Station road bridge.

Ruislip had no resident medical practitioner. Dr. Charpontier, with a house and surgery in Uxbridge High Street, nearly opposite to the Harefield Road junction, visited in the surrounding district driving his horse and trap.

Our milk was delivered twice daily in a horsedrawn chariot-type milk float. The iron milk churn was heavily tinned and carried well polished brass fittings, including the tap from which the milk flowed into the two-gallon oval shaped milk pail, with hinged lid and brass wire rails on its sides from which hung the standard half and one pint cylindrical measures. At the customer's door, the milk was ladled from the pail using the measure, into the customer's jug. The morning milk from the previous evening had to be boiled in summer otherwise it went sour.

Mr. Crosby, farmer at Young Wood Farm on the west side of the brow of Ducks Hill, was the milkman I first remember. Later, Craddock's also had a milk round. I visited this old farm, and another in Breakspear Road North, near Gatehead Farm, and since demolished, to collect milk for a later delivery, riding with Mr. Crosby and his sons.

Butter and eggs could be bought at the door from the milkman. Knights oil shop, of Uxbridge High Street, sent a horsedrawn van which visited us once each week. The cart looked like a travelling tinkers store, having all types of brooms and brushes together with galvanised iron baths and saucepans hanging onto the outside; while within were found a drum of paraffin lamp oil, lamps and wicks, tapers and candles, fire wood, fire lighters, soap and soda, Rickets blue-bags for white laundry, mouse-traps, naphtha for moths, floor and shoe polish, and Monkey Brand soap, Dollie dyes for clothes and curtains.

My mother took me with her to shop in Uxbridge and to help in carrying the load of groceries. On one occasion I visited my first cinema, in a marquee on a plot of land in Vine Street, opposite to the G.W.R. station.

I also remember the old Town Hall on the site later used by the Savoy cinema, now a bingo hall.

When my pocket money had been raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1d each week on Saturday morning I went to Mr Morris' shop, The Greenway, in Ruislip High Street opposite to Kingsend. There also in a room at the back behind the sweets, newspapers and tobaccos, I had my hair cut. The shop took its name from the small triangular grass plot in front. Craddock's Dairy was the next shop on the north and village side, standing forward, with Mr Fitch (the fish) beyond, making a semi-detached pair. The last pair of shops housed Mr Hitchin's greengrocers business, with a book shop beyond. Here there was a small grass covered bank between the wide footpath and the road, with a large granite mile-stone inscribed 'XIV Miles'. It was later buried on site when the road was widened.

On the left of the road to the village could be seen through the hedge, the magnificent hay stacks in Wilkins Farm; and after passing Muddy Lane (later Brickwall Lane) on the right, on the left the yellow stock brick wall of the farm house garden led to that at the side of the house, and to the farmyard walls and gate. Here I lost a shilling in a crack in the wall, when sent shopping by my mother.

Past the farm, there followed the close-boarded oak fence of the side of 'The Poplars Tea Garden', terminated by the open iron fence of the garden.

Mr W.T. Weedon laid out the P.T.G. using an old residence on a triangular piece of ground flanked on two sides by High Street and Ickenham Road; and with wide iron gates at the road junction, surmounted by 'The Poplars Tea Garden' signboard. House and garden were open during the summer months to cater for tourists, who either cycled or came by train to Metroland.

On the left, past The Poplars, and on the junction with Ickenham Road, was built, with a slate roof, a small lodge of stucco marking the entrance gates for the drive to Park House. The drive, at this time, had been cut by the King Edwards Road construction, because the house was almost in the village, nearly opposite to the Police Station (now moved). Mr. Allwork lived in the lodge, and Mr. Butler and family at the house; which also was served by an entrance from the road, having two large round granite pillars flanking stone steps built partly across the public footpath.

Shortly after passing the lodge at Ickenham Road, and on the left lying well back, was a row of new shops ending at a vacant plot, now Barclays Bank, before King Edwards Road. There were: Blackwell's, ironmongers, International Stores, Evans, chemist, fancy goods, The Cabin, sweets and Saul's butcher.

The Church field was on the right of the main road, stretching from Brickwall Lane to the Eastcote Road, and London House of Harrison the draper was the only building this side of the road before the Police Station.

The land bounded by Sharps Lane, Ickenham Road and the High Street was Ruislip Park. The frontage plots had been sold for domestic building, so that some of the older 'new' houses in Ruislip are found as ribbon development along Sharps Lane and Ickenham Road. The High Street development came later, when Park House abandoned its entrance drive, so allowing King Edwards Road and Church Avenue to be cut into the Park; followed a little later by Manor Road, which I remember almost devoid of houses. The entrance to the park, now called The Oaks, I then knew as Swan's Alley which ran from the village beside The Swan public house to a white wooden road gate on the old boundary of the park. At one time it was named Park Lane.

NEW PUBLICATION 1986

1897 Ordnance Survey 6 inch Map

This year the Society has published copies of four sheets of the 1897 O.S. 6 inch map covering most of the old parish of Ruislip. These will be on sale at 50p. per sheet.

POTTER STREET HILL
by CELIA CARTWRIGHT

In the far north east corner of the ancient parish of Ruislip near the county boundary and the boundary with Pinner, stands Potter Street Hill. The early history of the estate on which this house now stands has been well documented by Pat Clarke in her article on Pinner Hill House in 'A Pinner Miscellany'. She tells us that in 1695 Sir Bartholomew Shower, a lawyer and recorder of the City of London extended the Pinner Hill House estate across Potter Street into Ruislip by purchasing from Ralph Hawtrey of Eastcote, ninety acres called Gyetts Hill (Gate Hill).

Rocque's map of 1754 shows several buildings towards the top of Potter Street Hill and it seems likely that one of these was Potter Street Hill House which is mentioned in the Rate books as empty in 1774 and still empty in 1786.

At the time of the Enclosure Act 1814, Baker John Sellon of Great Stanmore a serjeant-at-law owned Pinner Hill Estate and the fields show his name on the Ruislip Enclosure Map. In 1821 Baker John sold the whole estate to Albert Pell. No building is shown on the 1864 O.S. map nor in 1899 but two ponds and some sort of land working, possibly a gravel or sand pit, are marked. Recent excavations on the site revealed a broad band of gravel just beneath the surface and one of the fields on the Estate Sale catalogue of 1844 is called Gravel Pit Field. (See map).

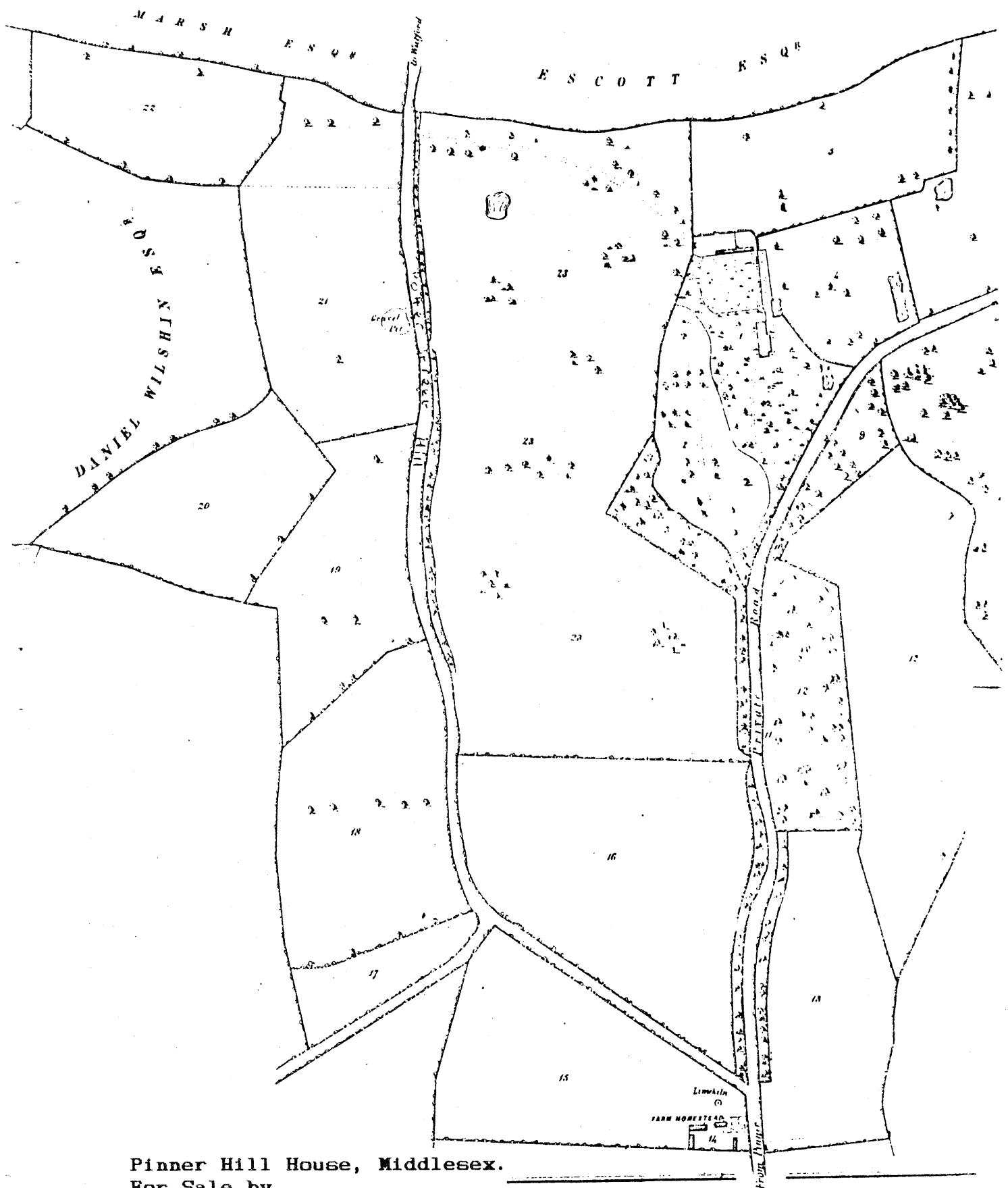
In 1844 Lady Pell sold the estate to William Tooke who bought it as an estate for his only son Arthur William. After him his only son William Arthur inherited in 1871, but in 1884 the Pinner Hill Estate passed to Arthur Helsham-Jones, William's brother-in-law. He sold the property in 1903 to Samuel Lammas Dore who owned other properties in the area e.g. the Grange, Eastcote, and on his death in 1919 the estate was sold for suburban development and the creation of the golf course to the east of Potter Street Hill.²

Here, however, a mystery occurs. In the Pinner Hill Sales particulars³ (auction by Knight, Frank and Rutley) the land to the west of Potter Street Hill about forty acres was not included. Had this portion of land already been bought by Mr. G.C. Felce who subsequently had Potter Street Hill (House) built?

The House

During the 1920's Mr. Gilbert Carlyon Felce had a house built on the land bounded by Potter Street Hill. This was referred to in the Directories as Potter Street Hill. Mr. Felce, believed to be a millionaire and something of a recluse, lived in Northwood first at 'Cedars' in Murray Road, then at 'Easby' in Watford Road.

Born in 1878, he joined insurance brokers Henry Head & Company at the age of 19. We read in the Lloyds Rota Committee Report for 30th October 1903 of his application for membership - "His sister Miss Mary Felce will advance the £5000, the candidate has no means". From 1905 to 1920 Mr. Felce was listed in the Post Office London Commercial Directories as an Underwriter at 27 Cornhill and at Lloyds.⁴ He clearly prospered, since by 1921 he had not only moved to new offices at 110 Bishopsgate, but was also having a substantial house built at Potter Street Hill. Between 1943 and 1946 an emergency business address was listed at 1 Carew Road, Northwood. He resigned from Lloyds on 12th September 1953.



Pinner Hill House, Middlesex.
For Sale by
Daniel Smith, 1844.

- 18 - 21 show approximate extent of Potter Street Hill Estate
 - 17 - Long Croft
 - 18 - Upper and Lower Crofts
 - 19 - Barn Field
 - 20 - English Wood
 - 21 - Gravel Pit Field
 - 22 - Long Parks
- approximate area of 18 - 21
is 35 acres

This house was burnt down in January 1927. An account of the fire is given in the 'Advertiser and Gazette' of January 28th. "Potter Street Hill, a large new house at Gateshill Road, Northwood was burnt out in the early hours of Tuesday morning". The article describes how the owner's ten-year old nephew raised the alarm and all the occupants including Mr. Felce's eight-year-old son David got out safely.

"Mr Felce telephoned for the gardener at the lodge, and he came up and found them wonderfully calm on the terrace. They tried to summon the fire brigade, but could get no reply from the exchange. It was at once decided that the chauffeur should take the car down into Northwood. He found a policeman on the bridge at 4.45, and the brigade was on the scene in half an hour. It was then decided to send for the Watford brigade to help".

The account goes on to describe how the Watford brigade approached by the back way (top of Potter Street Hill), sank in the mud and had to be dug out. It was some time before the hose pipes could be used as the water pressure was low owing to the height of the house. The fire was put out by eight o'clock but the ruins continued to smoke during the next day, Tuesday, after the roof fell in. Only a few pieces of valuable antique furniture were saved.

Mr. Tom Warner, who worked as head gardener for many years for Mr. Felce, says that it is believed the fire started in one of the maids' rooms, probably from a cigarette. Mr. Michael Neal, grandson of Harry Neal, says he remembers his grandfather telling him how while out riding he came on Mr. Felce wandering dejectedly round the ruins in dressing gown and pyjamas on the day after the fire. He told him, "You'd better start all over again".

The new house which was built on the site was fully described in an illustrated article in 'Country Life' April 7th 1934. "The site is a high one, and spacious, embracing nearly 20 acres. From the roadway that skirts it on one side a steep drive leads up to the plateau on which the house stands. The lodge at the foot of the drive is unusual. Instead of being a diminutive affair, it consists of two good-sized houses (providing comfortable quarters for the chauffeur and the gardener) linked by a tall archway. In front, on either side the ground is terraced and turfed, and laid out with flower beds and clipped hedges. Thus a very imposing approach is achieved. The prospect from the south side is delightful. Being on so high a vantage-point, one looks over a broad stretch of country, while in the immediate foreground is a garden lay-out with sunk pool, grass walk between flower beds, and rose garden with pergola. The house itself is a modernised version of the Georgian manner".

Each room with its furnishings is described in some detail and some of the features e.g. the 'fiddle back' mahogany doors in the dining-room, the hall and stair of Portland stone with an elegant balustrade of wrought iron capped with a mahogany handrail can still be seen. Alas, the bathroom 'with marbled grey walls, ceiling and frieze in salmon-pink, and an enclosed bath with splash-back and recess in black marble and Lalique glass' is no more.

Mr. Warner told me more of the house in its heyday. There were four full-time gardeners to maintain the tennis courts, the swimming pool with rockery, the gardens, flowering trees, herbaceous borders, vegetable gardens and fruit trees. The lower fields were let to neighbouring farmers free for their horses, provided the hedges and ditches were kept clear. Before the war there were six live-in maids, but afterwards the chief cook lived out and came in and 'did' in the mornings.

After Mr. Felce's death on February 19th 1969, we read in 'Country Life'

April 23rd 1970 that the estate was sold for a 'price in the region of £200,000'. Soon afterwards St. John's preparatory school moved to the site from Pinner. The school was bought by the Merchant Taylors' company in April 1984.

Acknowledgements

- 1,2. P.A. Clarke: A Pinner Miscellany.
3. Sales Particulars 1919 Harrow Ref. Library.
4. I am indebted to Mr. J. McBean for this information.

THE FAR PAVILION

by LEONARD KRAUSE

Field End Farm was the 'last' house in Victorian Eastcote. To the south lay open fields traversed by a tree lined country lane to Northolt. At the turn of the century scattered building occurred along this road. Raybournmead Farm was on the parish boundary together with Brookside Farm where Brackenbridge Homes now stand. To the north were four Bourne Farm cottages and Craddocks Farm or New Model Farm and set back some 500 yards from the road, a large gentleman's house in 30 acres of pasture. About 1904 it was purchased by Arthur Ernest Baily and in his hands, became famous throughout London as 'The Pavilion' for 30 years. At first it was run as a farm.

Arthur Baily, an astute and assured business man, lived at Pinner Green where he was associated with a Mr. Heywood in the Cocoa Tree restaurant in Pinner. Baily was the catering manager at the Polytechnic in Regent Street, W.1. where Heywood had a bakery shop next door. They also had a connection with the farm in Eastcote. Quite clearly, Baily saw the development potential of this property with the opening in 1904 of the Metropolitan Railway to Uxbridge. Baily also bought a grocery business in Acton and installed a needy acquaintance as manager. This did not work and the Baily family decided to move there and run the business.

Meantime, Eastcote halt was opened on the new railway and provided a new focus for the increasing numbers of Edwardian Londoners who were eager to enjoy the pleasant countryside. Baily installed his brother as resident caretaker in the upper rooms of his farm in Eastcote, the gardens were laid out, a large tea room was built, swing boats and see-saws installed with a troupe of donkeys for the children, and the Pavilion as it was now called, was in business.

As well as his business acumen, Arthur Baily was a devout christian. No one ever asked his help in vain be they hungry tramp or impecunious business man. From his youth he was closely associated with the Salvation Army, first in Islington and then in the Wealdstone citadel as Bandmaster. Undoubtedly, this side of his character attracted leaders of charitable groups, youth organisations and churchmen to the Pavilion where they got a great welcome and exemplary service.

It was open on weekdays only from Whitsuntide to the end of the school holidays and continued to grow in popularity until the outbreak of war in August 1914. It was closed to visitors but not occupied or used by the military. Arthur Baily was examined by Sir James Cantley and rejected for army service because of a serious spinal condition which he kept completely to himself. He continued his work at the Polytechnic and organised the catering for all the troops in London.

His eldest son Arthur 2nd was a student at the Polytechnic and enlisted in the regiment formed there and trained as a sapper. Later, on active service in France, he contracted pneumonia and pleurisy which developed into T.B. and he was invalided out to live at home in Acton.

Early in 1917 when zeppelin raids intensified over London, Arthur 2nd was very upset hearing again the sound of gunfire and bombs and one day Mrs. Baily packed her bags and set off on the train for Eastcote with the family, where they settled in as quickly as possible. A house in Ruislip was purchased for the caretaker and a chalet built in a sheltered part of the grounds for Arthur 2nd so that he could have the maximum of fresh air.

The Pavilion was transformed into a gentleman's home, the fine rooms furnished with antiques and a large conservatory added. The girls went to school by train to Ealing and their brothers to the Polytechnic. They had a governess cart and pony to take them to the station or to Wealdstone on Sundays. Later, their father bought a large yellow touring car, although he never drove himself. His son, Arthur 2nd, acted as chauffeur.

When the war was over, the Pavilion opened again with all its facilities extended and improved ready for the visitors who came in increasing numbers, so much so that the platforms at Eastcote halt were extended and protective canopies built. A young lad named Hester who had run away from home, came to Arthur Baily for a job. He was found accommodation, his parents told, and he was trained to become manager of the Pavilion grounds.

On quiet days like Mondays, a few hundred people would come, but at other times, more than 2000 would be there. From early morning local women would be busy buttering bread and making sandwiches and laying tables for tea. Mr. Baily would cut up the cakes and buns. When the first trains arrived at Eastcote, the shouts and laughter of the children would be heard at the Pavilion and old Will who looked after the donkeys would call to Mrs. Baily, "Eresum cum Mam, Eresum cum"! It was commonly supposed that the children who came to the Pavilion were 'poor', this was not so. All who came were well dressed and cared for and they were happy. Each was given a shilling to be spent in the Pavilion and the gates were closed to keep them from the gypsies in the lane. Invariably, they made for the shop to buy a present for their mums, flowers, china or some trinket, and then to the swings and roundabouts. After midafternoon, these were all free so that everyone had a chance. By six o'clock all had gone and the task of clearing up began. Since there was no council rubbish collection, pits were dug for its disposal.

Many adult organisations came also to the Pavilion some out of season. The photographic society of the Polytechnic paid an annual visit and so did the Jewish community, but they took over house and grounds for the day - the Baily family moving out - and provided their own food. Other organisations had distinguished patrons and presidents such as Princess Alice who were also accommodated in the house.

Shooting parties would come in October shooting pheasants over the farm fields and clay pigeons on the nearby range. Arthur Baily always set aside a day for his Salvation Army friends from all over London, but curiously enough, there was no music at the Pavilion from the Army or anyone else except on Christmas Day when half a dozen of the Wealdstone Bandsmen would travel on one of Bateman's coal carts to the Pavilion to play carols to the Baily family. Mr. Bateman was one of very many in Wealdstone who had been helped with loans or gifts of money from Arthur Baily to get them started in business. Mrs. Baily never knew who would be brought in for a meal, if her husband met anyone who was hungry, they would be treated as one of the family, fed and given money to ensure their next meal.

The pigs and sheep had been disposed of over the years and the Pavilion was solely a dairy farm. All the milk went by train to the Polytechnic and more was sold locally.

Although isolated, especially in the winter, the Baily's were a happy family and amused themselves. All were musical and well educated. They had virtually no contact with Eastcote or its people, but had many visitors. Arthur Baily was always busy with social, musical and business affairs in London.

In 1930 the spinal trouble Arthur Baily had lived with all his life caught up with him and turned to cancer and he was brought from West London Hospital, after an operation, by his son-in-law in the Daimler car - for the first time he did not want to be driven by his chauffeur William. His study, which faced into the conservatory, had been turned into a bedroom with accommodation for two nurses who cared for him night and day. His last words to his daughters were, "I tried to be faithful".

After Arthur Baily's death in 1930 at the age of 56, the Pavilion was sold to C.W. Hester, the man he had trained to be its manager. It continued to flourish with increased attendance and with music and dancing introduced for the first time, until 1933 when Hester sold out at a handsome profit to the Local Council for building.

Among all the famous cottages and tea gardens in Middlesex, the Pavilion was unique and it remains an affectionate memory to many who went there as children and only the occasional pieces of A.E.B. pottery which still turn up in local gardens, mark its site in Eastcote.

These notes are taken from a long conversation I had in November 1984 with Min Pendray, Arthur Baily's daughter. Mrs. Pendray is a lively octogenarian, still busy with church affairs in Pinner.

GIFTS TO ST. LAWRENCE EASTCOTE

by CELIA CARTWRIGHT
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The church of St. Lawrence, Eastcote on the corner of Bridle Road and Field End Road was formed when a new parish was created in 1920 from part of the old parish of St. Martin's, Ruislip. The foundation stone was laid on Saturday, December 10th 1932 at 3.00 p.m. by Cmdr. Ralph Hawtrey Deane and the new church was consecrated on Saturday October 21st 1933 at 4.00 p.m. by the Bishop of London, the Rt. Reverend Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram.

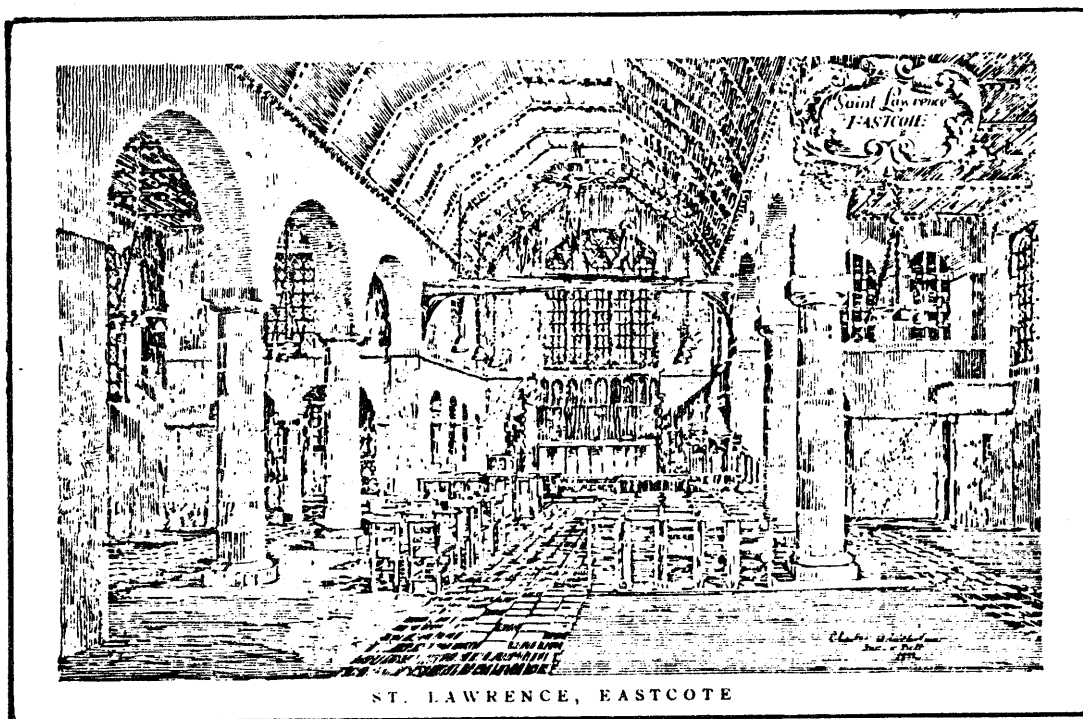
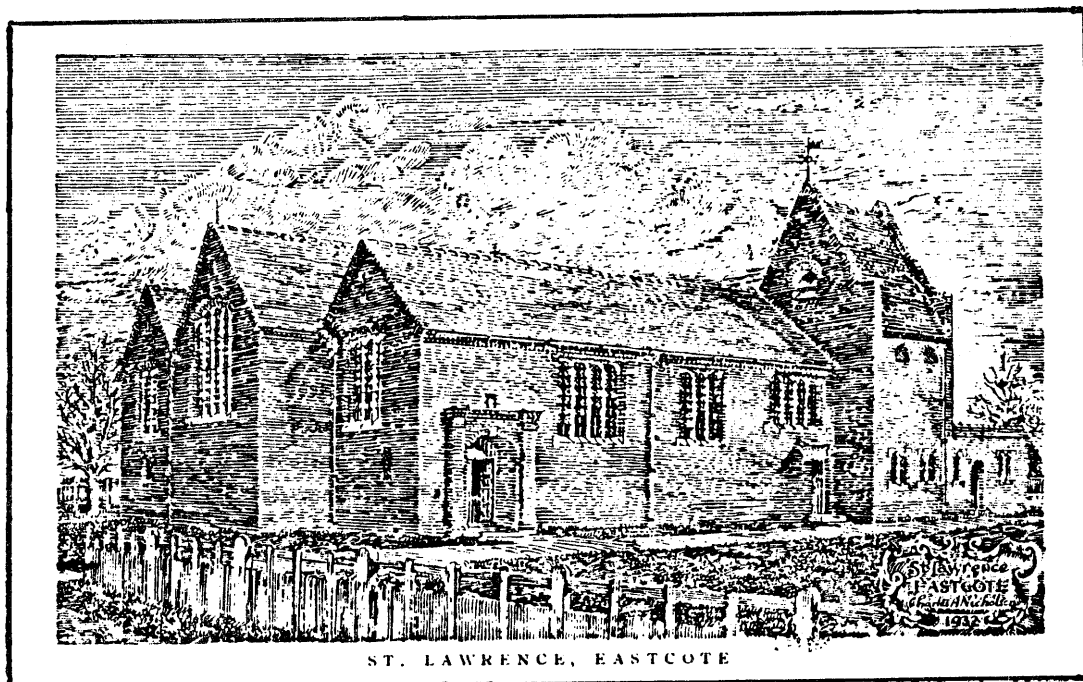
The parish newsletters (price one penny in the Church Box) from February 1932 - December 1936 recently came into the possession of the Society, kindly donated by Mrs Cross, widow of Councillor T.G. Cross who played an active part in the Church for many years. These newsletters give an interesting insight into the early impecunious years of the Church. I have extracted information on some of the gifts which were donated during this time, by whom and when.

March 1932

Two very finely carved chairs for the Sanctuary (when we get our church, wrote the Vicar the Revd. R.F. Godwin) were presented by Mrs and Miss Beardsell.

November 1932

Three Bells promised by Mr Walrond.



Copies of the postcards on sale at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, December 10th 1932.
(From the Revd. Charles Montgomery's collection).

December 1932

In this letter the Vicar states that he is very grateful to Councillor Ellis for printing the handsome cards of the drawings by Sir Charles Nicholson (the architect) of the exterior and interior of the proposed permanent church. (See illustration). 'These cards will be on sale at the ceremony and afterwards and will present an easy solution to the Christmas card problem'.

October 1933

The Vicar lists the gifts promised or given for the new church consecrated on October 21st and blessed by the Bishop of Kensington at 8.00 a.m. on the Sunday. Most of these are mentioned again the following month, except the Organ 'installed in time for the Consecration and built by the John Compton Organ Co. to be played by Mr. Taylor one of the Directors, who has been heard on the wireless'.

December 1933

Here it would seem appropriate to quote the Vicar's comments and list in full. "Great interest has been aroused at the news that we have been the happy recipients of many gifts for the furnishing of the new Church. I append a list of kind donors, which is not necessarily complete.

Two Antique Chairs for the Sanctuary, Mrs. and Miss Beardsell; Altar Missal, Mr. and Mrs. Cancellor; Service Book (for Priests' Desk), Mrs. E. Rawlings; Litany Book, Anon; Pair of Cruets, Misses Russell; St. Laurence Banner, Mrs. Stanley Edwards; Linen Vestments, L. Brown Esq.; Lavabo Bowl and Towels, Mrs. and Miss Ayres; Prayer Book, 1928 (for Priests' Desk), and Festival Book Markers, Miss Pitt (per Mrs. Stanley-Edwards); Tubular Gong, Mr. and Mrs. Claridge; Brass Gong, St. Michael's Church, Paddington; Processional Cross, Mrs. Towse; Linen Cloths, "Fair Linen" Cloth, Wax Cloth and Cover for High Altar, The Misses Robinson (Folkestone); "Fair Linen" Cloth, Lady Chapel Altar, Mrs. Eastgate; Hymn Board, Set of Numbers, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander; Candle Extinguisher, Mrs. Richardson; Picture, "Madonna and Child", Miss Stone (Ealing); Figure for Altar Cross, Miss C.E. Stone (Ealing); Silver Vase, Mrs. Burt (Ealing); Glastonbury Chair, Messrs. Mealing; Altar Linen, Capt. and Mrs. Weddell; Portable Light for Organ, W.H. Matthews Esq.; Crucifix, The late Mrs. Francis; New Set of Psalters, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jones; and Trees and Shrubs for Church Grounds, Mrs. Dixon; and Photos for reproduction in Press, etc., G.F. Green Esq."

June 1934

From Mrs. Stanley-Edwards a banner depicting St. Lawrence, worked by Miss Cooper a former pupil of the School of Art Needlework, South Kensington.

Churchwardens' wands: gifts, one anonymous, the other from Montreal on the banks of the St. Lawrence river given by Mrs. G. Edson Burns a friend of the Vicar's.

April 1935

The Cubitt Memorial - a painted wooden screen to fill in the balcony arch overlooking the chancel. This completes the scheme as devised by Sir Charles Nicholson the architect. Mrs. Cubitt kindly gave the screen as a memorial to the late Harry Cubitt, Esq., who was the Quantity Surveyor for the new Church. The screen was dedicated by the Vicar on Friday March 22nd 1935.

GRAND JUNCTION CANAL FEEDER

by DENISE SHACKELL

The 93.5 miles of the Grand Junction (now called the Grand Union) formed one of England's premier canals. The canal was authorised by an Act of Parliament of 1793 and was completed by 1805. A later Act authorised the construction of a branch canal to Paddington which was opened in July 1801.

The 1793 Act empowered the company of proprietors of the Grand Junction canal 'to make and maintain the Grand Junction canal with divers collateral cuts and incidental works and supply the canal and collateral cuts with water from all such brooks, springs --- reservoirs'.

The need for more water at the southern end of the canal became urgent in the early 19th century, mainly as a result of the Paddington branch and this led to the construction of the Ruislip Reservoir and the Feeder to carry the water to the canal. The Minutes of the General Committee of the Grand Junction Canal Company, on June 12th 1804, state that application was to be made to the Commissioners for enclosing Ruislip Common to allot sufficient land in the Parish of Ruislip to enable the company to make a reservoir at the spot surveyed by Thomas Douglas.

The valuation of the land by interested parties ranged from £70 to 50 guineas an acre. A disinterested third person had to be appointed to resolve the difficulty.

On the proposed reservoir land stood several cottages, some of which were owned by Mr. Lively who wanted much more money than their real value. In November 1805 Mr. Hogg from the Committee agreed the most advantageous terms he could get from Mr. Lively. Negotiations continued until August 1807. The Reverend Mr. Blencowe and Mr. Joseph Hill owned two cottages. They wanted two new cottages to be built in exchange for their properties. Mr. Golden, another owner, had "refused to treat on any terms", but had lately sold his estate to Mr. Dean of Ruislip who had given his assent. Mr. Blencowe was paid £210 for his cottages, Mr. Hill £100 and Mr. Dean £250 for his, which "were collectively more moderate than purchases formerly made". Other payments made were January 14th 1807, Provost and Scholars of King's College Cambridge £1068 for woodland.

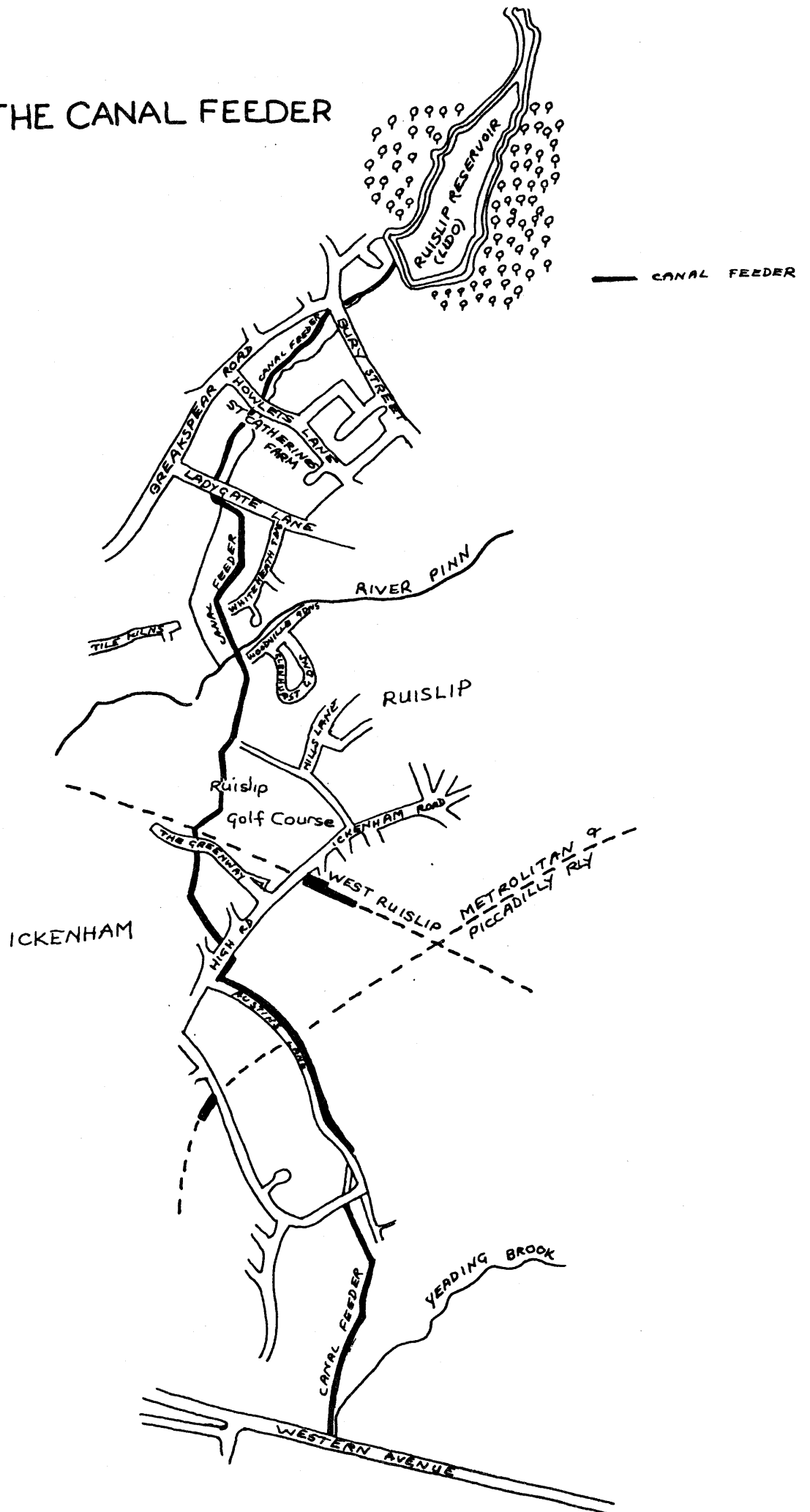
The cost of constructing the reservoir is not fully recorded, but payment to Hugh MacIntosh of £2780 in April 1812 was made for excavation and banking.

A Minute of February 9th 1813 says the feeder from Ruislip Reservoir to the Grand Junction canal was to be completed forthwith. Mr. Provis and Mr. Bevan were to make a survey, plan and estimate, also a list of the proprietors of the land the feeder would occupy. On December 14th 1815, Mr. Provis' plan was accepted. Mr Sheppard and several land holders had assented and contracts were completed later. By February 8th 1816, six miles out of eight miles had been contracted for and in 1816 the canal feeder was constructed. The water was drawn down from the reservoir in December of that year.

A Walk Along the Canal Feeder in the Parishes of Ruislip and Ickenham

It is still possible to follow the route of this feeder. There is an outlet with a sluice at the south west end of Ruislip Reservoir into the Feeder. At Bury Street it is piped straight under the road and reappears shallow with trees at the side. It is possible to trace its course by the trees along its bank as it continues very close to the bottom boundary fence of the factories and then houses in Breakspear Road. There are stretches where the feeder is

THE CANAL FEEDER



almost filled in along the back of Brickett Close but the trees continue with some breaks to Howletts Lane.

The feeder is piped straight under the road, but surfaces only as a sunken footpath. The mud path becomes tarmac and leads to Wallington Close. Trees appear again to the right of the road and continue almost to Wheeler Drive. Walk along the Drive, a cul-de-sac, until a footpath is reached which goes to Ladygate Lane.

At Ladygate Lane there is an outlet taking the feeder under the road, although it is not possible to find where it goes. A hundred yards to the left it is visible again as a shallow ditch, which runs between Whiteheath Junior and Infant Schools. There is a small brick built tunnel along this section with the date 1930 on the south side of it. The feeder then runs along the bottom of the gardens in Whiteheath Avenue where although deeper, it is very overgrown. After the gardens in Ravenscourt Close, it passes through a copse. It is now running on top of an embankment and about thirty yards of concrete viaduct are still intact, which take it over the River Pinn.

By Woodville Gardens it has disappeared, only to reappear at the bottom of the gardens along Glenhurst Avenue where it is again very overgrown. At the footpath sign it is joined by a stream and the feeder curves its way across Ruislip Golf course. There is a well preserved brick bridge on this section carrying an old trackway towards Tile Kilns. The feeder continues and runs into a tree-lined grassy lane formerly called Clack Lane. A bridge takes the lane over the feeder. This section is very overgrown. It continues across the centre of the golf course and there are small brick bridges wherever the tracks cross the feeder.

The Ruislip/Ickenham parish boundary is crossed just before reaching the main line railway (formerly Great Western). The feeder goes under the line, through a tunnel on the left with the footpath in a tunnel to the right. A few yards on is the Greenway. There is a concrete bridge where the feeder is tunnelled under the road and continues with allotment gardens on either side. Once again it is wide and deep. It continues straight for a while then curves on to Ickenham Green where there is a dilapidated brick bridge. The feeder turns sharply and runs along the western side of the Green. Here is Saich and Edwards scrapyard. The feeder runs to the west of the yard while the footpath continues on the east.

There is a pipe under Ickenham High Road. The feeder turns and continues within the R.A.F. camp grounds, along the side of the road to Austins Lane where there are two brick bridges near the junction with the High Road that led to the old National School of Ickenham. At the corner of Austins Lane the feeder turns and follows the Lane until just before the railway, where it is piped underground for several hundred yards past the Brackenbury Village development. On the south side of the railway there is a wide concrete outlet with a metal grill under the boundary fence. The feeder continues through a scrubby hedgerow with the footpath which peters out after 100 yards, but the feeder can still be seen from the road.

There is another brick bridge taking a grassy track into a field and on to another bridge where the feeder disappears under Austins Lane. Here it is piped under the housing estate and reappears in Glebe Avenue on the south side near to the houses. The feeder runs out of a concrete outlet by the road and continues its course on the right side of a long narrow field, until it comes to a bridge with a grassy track from Sussex Gardens, leading to Ickenham Marsh. Here is the end of the first field.

There is a second long tapering field with the feeder on the right hand side

and the Yeading Brook on the left. The two waterways nearly converge at the end of the second field and continue only a few yards apart along the side of Freezeland Copse and on to the Western Avenue where there is a small pipe for the feeder and a wide tunnel for the Yeading Brook.

The canal feeder continues across country towards Yeading and at Southall runs into the Grand Union, Paddington arm via a sluice gate.

The canal feeder was sold to Hillingdon Borough Council in about 1970.

References:

"The Welsh Harp Reservoir" 1835/1985 by the Wembley History Society.

1985 LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE - LANDSCAPES OF INDUSTRY : 9th March

There are changing fashions in the way people regard the industrial landscape, according to Ironbridge Gorge Museum Director Dr. Barrie Trinder.

He told the Local History Liaison Group 1985 Conference, held in the Winston Churchill Hall on 9th March, that the late 18th century had welcomed industrialisation as exciting, as well as beneficial. By the mid-19th century industry had become equated with squalor but soon a reaction set in which culminated in such developments as Bourneville and Port Sunlight.

Drawing on examples from France and the U.S.A. as well as from Britain, Dr. Trinder encouraged the 160 delegates from some dozen local societies to examine the Conference theme - "Landscapes of Industry" - as something which had chronological perspective, which had been created either by centralised authority, by business initiative, or by the working people themselves, driven by poverty to exploit their reservoir of skills.

Dr. Trinder set out to provide us with a framework for analysing the industrial landscape, with reference to the natural landscape, geology, transport and to the sources of power. He drew attention to the influences of style and function in the design of industrial buildings, to the inter-relationship of enterprises in the same locality, and to the intricate social relationships of an industrial community.

Commenting later on Dr. Trinder's obvious enthusiasm for preserving examples of Britain's industrial legacy, Conference Chairman Philip Snell joked that perhaps before long we might see a British Slag Heap Society, but this might not have the same appeal as the subjects covered by the other two speakers.

Martin Woods, Chairman of the Grand Union Canal Society, explained that his organisation had come into being in 1967 when it was feared the canal might be filled in, but had continued as a focus for the study of what, after all, had been a transport system as revolutionary in its day as are our contemporary motorways.

Through his slides, Mr Woods took us on a towpath walk which ably demonstrated that the Grand Union has much to teach us as we follow it through our local landscape, about a thriving industrial past rapidly being obliterated by new commercial realities - unless we take the trouble to look for its traces.

Denis Edwards, well known to many Society members for his encyclopaedic studies on local railway matters, extended his perspective beyond the influences of Metroland to take in the Great Western and the Grand Central, at the same time rivals and collaborators in the rush to bring the benefits of the railway to rural Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote.

When the railway did come, it was not so much industry as suburbia which sprawled across the sleepy hayfields, cutting through the hedges of elm and avenues of poplar.

At the end of the Conference one delegate suggested that post industrial Britain was in danger of becoming one huge museum. As we in this area know, an influx of trippers can lead to changes which will alter the landscape forever.

- MARTIN CARTWRIGHT

ROMAN LONDON : 23rd November

On Saturday 23rd November 1985 the Museum of London held its first full day's programme on Roman London for the general public. The speakers, four from the Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London, and the Deputy Director and Keeper of the Roman Department assessed the current state of knowledge of this most important of all Roman sites in Britain.

The first speaker, Dominic Perring, explained that archaeological evidence suggests that London did not exist before 50 AD, when it was planned as the centre of administration for the new Roman province. The Roman conquest had been motivated by the wish, or need, to make money through expanding trade, taxation and money lending. Londinium was not, therefore, laid out on the familiar grid pattern of a military site. It was not deliberately settled like a 'colonia' such as Colchester. The earliest buildings were of baked clay and timber. From the first literary reference in Tacitus we learn the town was completely destroyed by fire in the revolt of Boudicca. After developing around the turn of the first century, another fire occurred in 125 AD. From 130 to 140 there was no rebuilding on some of the sites of the Flavian period, but the town was still rich in building elsewhere.

Gustav Milne went on to talk about the Roman waterfront. Our knowledge of the chronology of the harbour works and their scale of development has only been gained over the last ten years. The river bank in Roman times is now confirmed as 100 metres north of the present shore line. The first century gravel embankment stabilised by wooden piles was built over in the mid-first century with a landing stage of massive oak timbers covered with a mortar and mud floor. Evidence of a bridge was shown from a bridge pier which could support a five metre wide carriageway. It appears that a quay was built every 50 years or so until 250 AD. Open fronted buildings for goods in transit on the wharves were found, also amphorae (large jars) for importing wine, fish sauce, dates and figs, and samian ware.

Mr Hugh Chapman, the Keeper of the Roman Department, then inspired us to tour the Roman Gallery. He showed slides of some of the exhibits, which he explained are arranged chrono-thematically. They included reconstructions of a boat and the dockside, scenes of everyday Roman life in the kitchen and the dining room - also actual objects such as military equipment, tombstones, jewellery, samian ware, and even a Roman bikini!

After lunch John Maloney described in some detail the construction of the Roman wall. It was probably 21 feet high with a castellated parapet at 14½ feet with a V-shaped ditch on the outside and an earth bank inside. The wall was 3000 metres long, with turrets at regular intervals - although only four of these are known. We were shown slides of the recently excavated Bastion 4A, in the base of which a forger's hoard was found. The wall was built between 190 to 225 AD, probably by Albinus.

London in the 3rd and 4th centuries, we were told by John Schofield, contained some large buildings, but with large areas of open space. The monumental arch found at Blackfriars, and a large free standing screen with gods in the niches, whose original sites were not known, were shown in some detail. Two very fine mosaics have also been discovered. The character of the old great commercial centre of the 1st to 3rd centuries had by now changed to an administrative village. As trade declined, exports decreased and towns, including even Londinium, were no longer needed.

Perhaps a future programme might include the London Wall walk, and a visit to the Museum. I would certainly recommend it! - CELIA CARTWRIGHT

SUMMER VISITS 1985

A WALK AROUND HILLINGDON VILLAGE : 23rd May

Following his memorable and amusing talk on the history of Hillingdon Village, Ken Pearce led an evening walk around the area which he had so vividly described. Many buildings and sites of historical interest are to be found surrounding the church of St. John the Baptist, which dominates Hillingdon Hill.

We met outside the church, and noticed the imposing tower, constructed of flint and dated 1629. In the churchyard are many interesting graves, including that of John Rich, who died in 1761. He was concerned with the building of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, and was responsible with John Gay, for the first production of "The Beggar's Opera". We also noticed the grave of Thomas Whittington, who died in 1769 at the age of 104. His son who reached 103 is buried with him. The many large tombs in the churchyard are an indication of the number of wealthy families, who owned houses in Hillingdon during the last century. These include the Mills family of Hillingdon Court, and the Cox family of Hillingdon House and Harefield Place. We also noted the grave of Toby Pleasant, who was African born and sold into slavery in the West Indies. He was rescued by a gentleman from Hillingdon and was brought to his home to work as a servant until his death in 1784.

Alongside the churchyard lies Coney Green, a large open space, the name of which derives from the number of rabbits which could once be found there. The surrounding embankment, which no doubt marks an ancient boundary, has yet to be excavated. The Green is the site of Hillingdon Fair, which began in 1372 to celebrate the building of a small Chantry Chapel. It was closed down at the time of the Reformation, but the fair still continues and May 16th marks Hillingdon Fair Day.

Opposite the church is Cedar House, built in 1580. In the 18th century it was the home of Samuel Reynardson, a botanist, who introduced the original cedar tree from a seedling of which the present massive tree was grown. The house is now owned by Shepherd Hill & Co., an engineering firm who won a Civic Trust award for their sympathetic renovation.

Until the 1930's, Hillingdon Hill was a narrow country road. It was then widened to form the dual carriageway we see today, and the parade of shops and the Vine public house date from this time. Fortunately, the road widening did not affect the row of timber-framed buildings opposite the church. These include the Red Lion where Charles I is said to have lunched in 1646. In the afternoon, he is thought to have walked down the adjoining lane, and from this its name of Royal Lane derives.

Walking down Royal Lane, we passed the site of the vicarage which has been demolished and came to the church hall. This was built about one hundred years ago, and was then the village school. Opposite this, we saw a large Victorian building, set in extensive grounds, which is now Bishopshalt School. This is the third or fourth building on the site of the original Manor House, built in 1281, when the Bishops of Worcester became rectors of the parish. The site was sold by the church commissioners in 1850, when a London builder, John Jackson, pulled down the existing house, and put up the building we see today. He re-laid the gardens to include a croquet lawn, and an impressive avenue of chestnuts. The house had a succession of owners, until it was bought in 1920 by Middlesex County Council for £6,800. Uxbridge County School moved in, and in 1928 the name was changed to Bishopshalt. This name was chosen because the Bishops of Worcester used to rest here on their journeys to and from London. The gardens and conservatory remain, the latter having been beautifully restored thanks largely to the fund raising efforts of many pupils, parents and staff.

we ended our walk here, envying those like Mr Pearce, who work in such lovely surroundings. We are most grateful to him for sharing his enthusiasm with us.

- SHEILA JONES-OWEN

LOCAL HISTORY WALK - ICKENHAM GREEN

One of the joys of joining Mrs. Eileen Bowlt's walks is to reach those parts where one would never go oneself. This 1985 walk was no exception and thus some 24 eager followers set off in early evening from Ickenham Pump in the direction of Ruislip along the High Road. The site of the 1866 National School was pointed out, now only evidenced by possible kerbstone alignments. Two 1890's cottages were passed by and then we walked along the side over the Canal Feeder opened in 1816 which ran from Ruislip Reservoir to Hayes where it fed, briefly, the Grand Junction Canal. The Congregational Church was in existence over 100 years ago and next door was the grocer's shop, all now the premises of Saich and Edwards. Up we walked along a roadway adjacent to the Soldiers Return, the latter being thought to be quite an old building, substantially rebuilt. It was certainly there in 1828 as a beerhouse and smithy, and was built on former waste. The Green itself behind was laid out in 1780 as common grazing for the villagers. Later, the land belonged to the Clarke's as Lords of the Manor. In 1927, David Poole, last Lord of the Manor, let the land on lease to the Uxbridge U.D.C., but it was later given to the Council as a gift.

Over a wide canal bridge was a further section of the Green, some 80 feet or so wide, attractively laid out with well-spaced trees. On the north edge some allotments are still to be seen in use, remnants of those created by squatters in the 19th century. The Cricket Club was formed in 1948, formerly part of Swakeleys Estate. In 1780, it was called the eleven acre field within Ivyhouse Farm and in 1906 it was laid out as public open space. Mad Field Covert was planted when shooting was a fashionable sport. To the north was the Great Western and Central Railway opened in 1906.

Beatonswood Farm was an interesting spot shrouded in mystery which we were told was first recorded in 1565. Now it is a heap of brick demolished by the A.R.P. as an exercise. Back along the footpath over the Pinn, and on up to Breakspear Road South. Gatemead Farm, a mid-19th century building was noticed but we stopped to look at Brackenbury where we learnt that Lord Hastings in the 16th century was the tenant and married the daughter of Lady Alice, Lady of the Manor of Uxbridge and Harefield. After a fire, a new moated building was erected in about 1685.

Inevitably, it now started raining so we hurried across Conduit field, over a wobbly stile, on to a rectangular moat called Pynchester - fed by the Pinn - possibly once the site of a 14th century building. Certainly, when there was an archaeological dig in the 1960's, a 1377 silver penny was found as well as a hearth. Then on by the Pinn to Swakeleys House for a brief glimpse; The Avenue has some houses of interest - in particular No. 2, being timber-framed, part 16th century and part 19th century. With dusk gathering, we quickly passed the site of Ivyhouse Farm demolished in 1963, a look at the Rectory and on to Gell's Almshouses - even today an attractive terrace of five cottages; past the 18th century Appletree Cottage and the Buntings first mentioned in 1411 and rebuilt in 1920, and back to the Pump. Our walk finished just before 10.00 p.m. and as always, there was never time enough for a full appreciation of what had been seen, but notwithstanding, a resolve to view again on another day.

- CHRISTOPHER BROWN

OUTING TO HIGHGATE CEMETERY : 9th June

A wet, gloomy day provided the right atmosphere for our outing to one of London's most famous cemeteries. It was opened in 1839, when the City burial grounds could not cope with London's rising population.

Throughout the 19th century it was a favourite venue for Victorian Londoners with its landscaped grounds and ornate monuments, but in the 20th century, maintenance declined and the cemetery was neglected and became overrun by vegetation.

We began our tour in the old cemetery on the western side of the road where there has been the most deterioration. There, we saw the catacombs in the form of an inner and outer circle, some still retaining their original iron grille doors, now entwined with ivy. Further on, was the terrace, now in the process of being rebuilt, which originally gave splendid views across London. At present any views are obscured by the vegetation. Beneath the terrace are the vaults, with space for 900 coffins. We then made our way back to the entrance forecourt with Mr. Holmes, our guide, pointing out some of the more famous memorials. These included the mausoleum of Julius Peer; the statue of a sleeping lion above Wombwell the menagerist's tomb; Mr Maples' tomb in the shape of a four-poster bed and the memorials to the novelists Mrs. Henry Wood and George Eliot.

Before leaving the cemetery we made a brief visit to Karl Marx's memorial in the newer eastern side.

Our outing was completed with a visit to Lauderdale House in nearby Waterlow park.

- SUSAN TOMS

----- EXTRACTS FROM BUCKS. ADVERTISER

2nd October 1875

WANTED a good general servant, where a nurse is kept. Must be honest and have good character from last situation. A comfortable home, family removing to London for winter. Wages £10 given to commence with. Apply to Mrs. Pritchard, Spring Cottage, Eastcote.

26th June 1880

EASTCOTE - To be LET from 24th June at Field End Villas, an eight-roomed, semi-detached VILLA, large garden, in first class order. 3 miles from Pinner Station. Bus twice daily each way. Rent £28 p.a. Apply to Mr. Foxlee, Eastcote, Pinner.

- IRENE FURBANK

PROGRAMME OF SUMMER OUTINGS 1986

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- Sunday
4th May
1.00 p.m.
- :
- Coach outing to Fawley Court near Henley.
Depart St. Martin's Approach.
- Sunday
11th May
2.00 p.m.
- :
- A walk through the woods with Colin Bowlt. Meet
at Mad Bess Woods Car Park.
- Saturday
7th June
8.00 a.m.
- :
- Coach outing to Salisbury.
Depart St. Martin's Approach. Return about 8.00 p.m.
- July 12th
- :
- Visit to Domesday Exhibition, Greater London Record
Office. Own or public transport. Details to be
announced later.

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