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# RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE

# Local History Society

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JOURNAL OF THE RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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## EDITORIAL

### Twenty-five years on.....

In 1964 Eastcote House was demolished and this society was founded. The two events were not unconnected. Mr. R.G. Edwards of Pamela Gardens, Eastcote, had noted the rapid growth of new building in the area and the destruction of many features of historic interest. Early in the year he believed that the forthcoming demolition of one of the great houses would provide a good opportunity for investigating an ancient site and he contacted people likely to be interested.

Sir Christopher Cowan of Kiln Farm, Northwood (Chairman of the Uxbridge Bench and former Chairman of the Middlesex County Council), Miss A.M. Pollard (Chief Librarian at Manor Farm), Mr. & Mrs. Edwards, Mr. C.P. Morrell, Mr. W.A.G. Kemp (author of "History of Northwood & Northwood Hills" 1957, and "History of Eastcote", 1963) and Mr. & Mrs. H.H. Crane, met at 24 Cheney Street (the Cranes' house) on 6th April and decided to start a local history society to be called "The Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society".

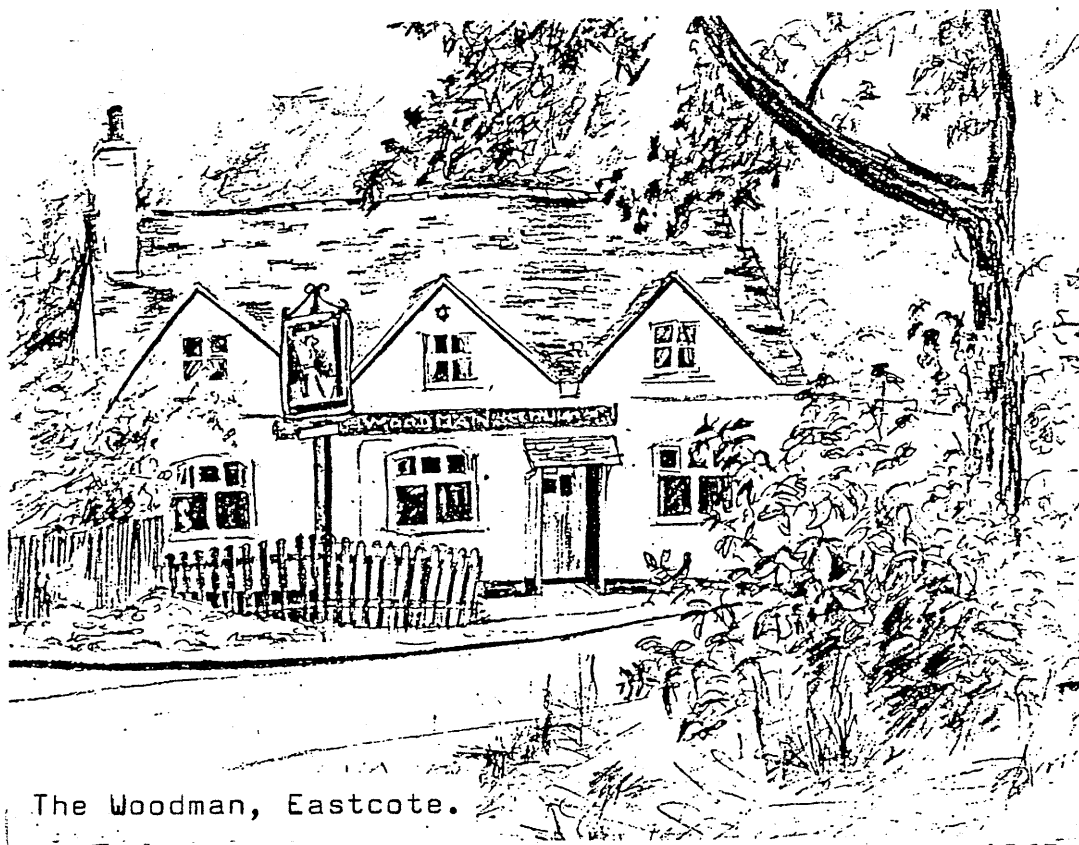
Those present formed a caretaker committee with Sir Christopher Cowan accepting the office of Chairman, Mr. R.G. Edwards that of Secretary and Mr. C.J. Morrell the Treasurer. Following publicity in the Press, Mr. L.E. Morris joined the group. He had been engaged in research on Ruislip's history for several years and had published his book "A History of Ruislip" in 1956 and numerous articles in the Journal of the Ruislip & District Natural History Society from 1953 onwards. At an inaugural public meeting held at Manor Farm Library on 22nd May 1964, he gave a talk on the general basis of local history and pointed out the many deficiencies in knowledge of the immediate area.

45 people joined and right from the start the society determined to be active in research. Working parties were formed to:- photograph the area (C.J. Morrell, leader); catalogue existing records and sources of information (L.E. Morris); survey and list memorials and gravestones (Miss M. Hoare); study the origin of street names (R.G. Edwards); and undertake archaeology (R.M. Derricourt).

The programme began with Miss B. Provan from the Middlesex County Record Office speaking of Ruislip material held there (22nd June) and the first outing (5th July) was a tour of St. Martin's and Manor Farm, led by Mr. L.E. Morris. A "dig" was begun in Parker's Field in September, where the Winston Churchill Hall was about to be built and in October the committee decided to publish "Ruislip-Northwood ; the growth of the suburb 1887-1939". by D.W. Massey, who had given a talk on the subject to the September meeting.

It was a brave beginning. Twenty-five years on it behoves us to look back and ask ourselves whether we have lived up to the ideals and aspirations set by our founder members.

by Colleen A. Cox



The Woodman, Eastcote.

Drawing by Karen Spink 1967

Public houses are amongst the most durable of British institutions, an observation which is as true for the local area as it is nationally. Although much changed in appearance and character, of the fifteen licensed premises mentioned in the mid-19th century censuses, twelve have survived and are functioning at the present time.

There were two types of establishment in this area in the last century, beerhouses and inns. The 1830 Beerhouse Act allowed any householder who was assessed to the Poor Rate to sell beer from his house on payment of two guineas to the Customs and Excise and in 1861 there were eight such beer retailers. Inn keepers required a licence granted by a Justice of the Peace, which allowed them to sell wines and spirits and a number also provided food and accommodation. In this area the census enumerators described the proprietors of inns as either licensed victuallers or publicans. By 1871 their number had increased to eight when two former beerhouses, The White Bear at King's End and The Woodman in Eastcote had become fully licensed. The occupiers in each of the census years from 1851 to 1881 have been listed together with the owners recorded in the 1863 rate book (Table I).

Most of the licensees were local men but those at The George, The Ship, and The True Lovers Knot were newcomers to the area, mostly from Buckinghamshire and other parts of Middlesex. Interestingly, John Brownhill from Hampshire, the licensee at The True Lovers Knot in 1881, had been recorded in 1871 as a general servant in the household of the vicar, the Reverend Christopher Packe, and his first wife Mary had been the cook.



LICENSED PREMISES 1851 - 1881

TABLE I

Public-house	Owner 1863 Rate book	Censuses		
		1851 ←	1861	1871 → 1881
<u>RUISLIP</u>				
Six Bells *	S. Salter	George Ive	Maria Ive	George Ive
The Plough	A.B. Smith	James Stint	Charles woodman	Thomas Watkins
The woodman	G. Harman	Joseph Hill	Joseph Hill	Joseph Hill
The George *	Reid & Co.	Matthew Ratcliffe	Henry Perryman	James G. Marshall
The Swan *	S. Salter	James Godliman	James Godliman	James Godliman
One Bell (Brick-layers Arms)	S. Salter	William Doughty	Ann Barringer	Ann Barringer
White Bear *	G. Harman	James weedon	James Weedon	Emma Weedon
Prince Albert	W. scaffold	W. scaffold		
<u>NORTHWOOD</u>				
The Gate	W. Bourne	Mary Ann Bourne	Mary Ann Bourne	William Bourne
True Lovers * Knot	S. Salter	James Weatherly	Edward weatherly	David Griffin
<u>EASTCOTE</u>				
Black Horse *	S. Salter	Hannah Smith	Hannah Smith	Joseph Churchill
The Woodman *	G. Harman		Thomas Nash	Louisa Nash
Case is Altered	Clutterbuck		Daniel Bedford	Daniel Bedford
The Ship & The Sun *	Whittenstall	Daniel Matheson	Charles Wright	George Tagg
(Field End)	W. Lawrence		Richard Eales	

\* Fully licensed

Samuel Salter, a Rickmansworth brewer, owned five local premises, three in Ruislip and one each in Eastcote and Northwood. George Harman, a brewer from Uxbridge owned three, two of which were called The Woodman. The Sun and Ship (later The Ship) was owned by Whittingsalls, the Watford brewery which in 1862 became Sedgewicks of Watford. Clutterbucks of Stanmore owned The Case is Altered. Two small beer-houses were occupied by their owners. One of these, The Gate in Northwood, was owned by William Bourne but run first by his mother and later by his widow.

Not all the premises were licensed throughout the whole period and two were only mentioned in one census year. The Prince Albert at Tile Kiln kept in 1851 by its owner William Scaffold was not run as a beerhouse by his widow although she continued to occupy the house after his death. It has not yet been possible to find the exact location of the other, kept by Richard Eales in 1861, although we know that the cottage was owned by William Lawrence and was near Field End House Farm in Eastcote. These two have not survived nor has The One Bell, although the building remains next to the entrance to St. Martin's Church in Ruislip High Street. This was known for a time as The Bricklayers Arms when kept by William Doughty who was also a bricklayer. In 1851 he lived there with his brother Henry, the sexton and his widowed niece, Ann Barringer, who later ran the business.

Neither Thomas Nash nor Daniel Bedford were beer retailers in 1851 although both lived in the houses which later became The Woodman and The Case is Altered respectively. Nash was formerly an agricultural labourer and Daniel Bedford a carpenter. The Case is Altered was occupied in 1881 by Bedford's son Frederick, a journeyman bricklayer.

Several of the proprietors had more than one occupation. In addition to those at The George who also ran a butcher's shop and William Doughty the bricklayer, those at The Plough in 1851 and 1861 were also hay dealers. Others were farmers and Daniel Bedford was a grocer. A number of local establishments provided accommodation for lodgers, usually no more than one or two, but George Tagg had three at The Ship in 1871 whilst James Godliman had three men lodging at The Swan in 1861 and five in 1871. The lodgers were almost all single men usually from outside the area and employed as agricultural labourers or a journeyman learning a trade.

Although largely frequented by men, some of the licensees were women who, in most cases, had taken over after the death of their husbands. Then, as now, public-houses were the centre of social life for many but, if the local newspapers are to be believed, they too were troubled from time to time by drunkenness and disorder.

The public-houses also served other purposes in the community. Although most of the sales of property, farm equipment and crops took place at the farm concerned or at The Chequers Inn, Uxbridge, the catalogues of such sales were always available at local inns and some of the sales were held there. The Six Bells which served the close-knit community of Ruislip Common, was conveniently near the woods and was a popular venue for the regular wood sales whilst at The Black Horse, Eastcote, growing crops of grain and meadow hay were frequently sold and occasionally wood sales.



Inquests too were usually held at local inns and the coroner, Dr. Diplock, was kept busy in the area. Deaths of infants and young children were common at this time and inquests were only held after sudden, unexplained deaths or after accidents. Some were particularly poignant such as that held at The White Bear, King's End, in May 1878 which involved the sudden death of the five-month old son of the licensee, George Treacher. The examining doctor found the baby to be well-nourished with sound organs but some irritation of the brain and the jury agreed on a verdict of death from convulsions due to natural causes.

Another sad story was that of Owen Alesbury, the three-year old son of George Alesbury, the gardener to Robert Parnell of Ruislip Park. At the inquest held at The George in July 1875 the jury was told that the little boy had been playing with his brothers in the barn when he had caught his hand in the cogs of the wheel of the chaff-cutting machine. The doctor had been called and had treated the injury but a week later lockjaw developed and the child died. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Farming accidents were a regular occurrence and a number ended in deaths. Such was the case of Robert Hewitt who worked at Kewferry Farm in Northwood. At the inquest held at The True Lovers' Knot in July 1872, the jury were told that Hewitt must have been asleep under a cart laden with hay when the cart had tilted and Hewitt was suffocated under it. His body was not found until the following morning.

The following year an inquest was held at The Six Bells when William Tobutt drowned in the reservoir (lido) whilst visiting his father Daniel Tobutt of Ruislip Common. Probably the most sensational inquest was that which had taken place earlier in the century, in 1837, after the badly-beaten body of fifteen-year old John Brill had been found in the woods near Youngwood Farm. This inquest was also held at The Six Bells but although three local men were thought to be responsible for the murder there was insufficient evidence to convict them.

The inns provided hospitality for such groups as the members of the vestry who reportedly retired to The George or The Swan after their meetings, and the bell ringers who appropriately patronised The One Bell. Some were also available for specific occasions. In January 1875, Daniel Long Junior and his wife obtained a special licence until 5 a.m. for a ball for over 50 people held at The George. This was an occasion on which, according to the local paper, "this usually quiet little village was enlivened". It is possible that Daniel Long Junior was the licensee of The George at this time as it was known that he was a butcher in Ruislip. The butcher's shop was next to the inn and usually run by the licensee. Daniel died in 1875 and his widow Julia was reported in the street directories as the licensee of The Swan in 1877 and 1878 before moving to the Black Horse, Eastcote.

After cricket matches, the teams made good use of the local inns. During the 1860s, matches in Eastcote were played either near Eastcote House or on land behind The Ship Inn. The latter was an obvious choice when Charles Wright was the licensee as he

was a keen cricketer, described in one newspaper account as "a professional underhand bowler of a peculiar pitch". The public-house was known as The Cricketer's Arms for a while during his tenancy and it was not surprising that the teams took refreshment there after the matches.

During the 1870s matches were held in one of Mr. Nash's fields at Haydon Hall Farm and the teams were later entertained at The Woodman where Mrs. Louisa Nash provided an ample repast. Matches in Ruislip were played on land near Manor Farm and William Churchill, who succeeded James Godliman at The Swan, provided the hospitality.

Matches between Ruislip and Eastcote were keenly contested and did not always end harmoniously. The following extract appeared in the local paper on September 14th, 1872 -

"After some spirited play on both sides, stumps were drawn in favour of the Ruislip team. Dinner was afterwards served up at The Swan Inn in Mr. Churchill's very best style for which he received great praise. Although the pleasure would doubtless have been enhanced had the Eastcote XI favoured the company with their presence, the evening notwithstanding passed very merrily".

The ill-feeling did not last long however and after the return match two weeks later when the Ruislip team again won, it was reported that "the whole party repaired to The Woodman where an excellent supper was served up by Mrs. Nash, the worthy hostess, to which ample justice was done and for which she received great praise. The rest of the evening passed very pleasantly in the usual harmonious way when the victors started home giving three ringing cheers for Eastcott (sic)".

Accounts in the local press of the proceedings of the Petty Sessions contained a number of references to public-houses. Some of these related to minor offences. In 1862 Edward Weatherly of The True Lovers Knot was charged with keeping open after hours but as the house had previously had a good record, he was let off with a fine of fifteen shillings. Later that year and again the following year, Joseph Hill of The Woodman, Breake-spear Road, was charged with the same offence. On the second occasion it was reported that there had been a number of complaints about this house and Hill was fined £1 including costs.

A number of accounts referred to drunkenness which sometimes put the licensee at risk. In 1864 Henry Lavender was offered the option of a £2 fine or one month's imprisonment after assaulting Henry Perryman of The George Inn. Eight years later Henry Lavender (possibly the same man) and John Bowden were charged with refusing to leave the White Bear after being asked to do so by the licensee, Mrs. Weedon, and of assaulting the policeman who had come to her assistance.

The assaults were not only carried out by customers. In March 1872 under the headline "A brutal son and a forgiving mother" was an account of the attack on Maria Ive of The Six Bells by her son Henry. Even though her face was so discoloured



from the blow that she was barely recognisable, Mrs. Ive pleaded with the members of the bench that they be lenient. Her son had previously had a head injury which she felt had affected his brain, particularly when he was intoxicated. The Chairman felt that Ive's behaviour had been brutal and inhuman and sentenced him to two months imprisonment without the option of a fine.

The Swan was frequently mentioned in the press in the 1870s when William Churchill was the licensee. In October 1872 Henry Lavender (again) and Alfred Lacey were convicted of drunkenness when on September 16th they had been found lying asleep on a form in the public-house, having spent some considerable time there! A summons was also taken out against William Churchill for harbouring the men. He claimed that he had refused to serve the men for several hours as they had already had too much to drink, but the Chairman of the Bench said that the proper course would have been to call the police to help him get the men out. The case was not considered to be a serious one, however, and although Churchill was fined twenty shillings the offence was not recorded on the back of his licence. At the same sessions Henry Lavender was summonsed for being drunk and refusing to leave The Swan on October 5th. On this occasion he was also charged with an assault on William Churchill and he, in turn, accused the latter of assault. This charge was dismissed but Lavender was convicted of both drunkenness and assault.

It was hardly surprising that in 1873 the Justices expressed their reluctance in renewing Churchill's licence because of the evidence of great irregularity in the running of the public-house. They did so however but there were further problems in January 1874 when Churchill's brother-in-law, George Ive, was charged with being drunk in a licensed house and William Churchill was summonsed for allowing him to remain there. Ive was fined five shillings with twelve shillings costs while on this occasion Churchill was fined £3 and had his licence endorsed.

Even though he does not seem to have stayed at The Swan much longer, his problems were not over. In April 1874 he issued the following notice to tradespeople - "I hereby give notice that I will not be answerable for any goods supplied to my wife Harriet after this date, unless my consent is first obtained". The notice was signed W.M. Churchill Junior, late The Swan, Ruislip.

Although there were difficulties from time to time, most of the public-houses seemed to have been flourishing businesses with some diversification which clearly met a local need. At this distance it is not possible to comment on the quality of the beer and although this may have been a factor, it is most likely that regular customers frequented a public-house that was near at hand, where the company was good and the atmosphere convivial.

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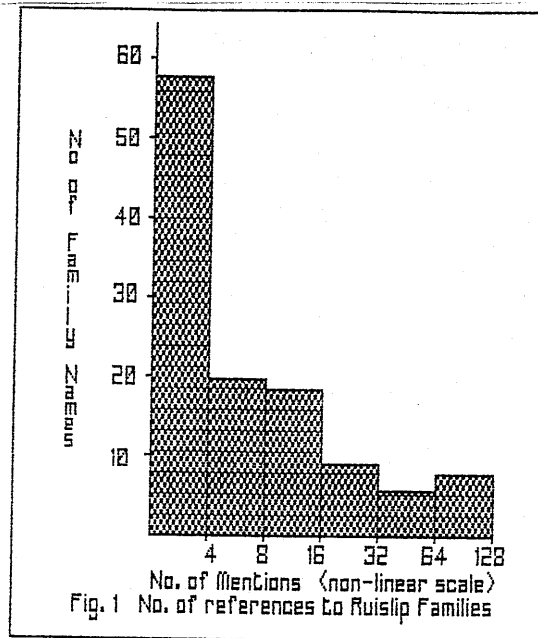
#### Sources

1. Censuses for 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 - copies available at Ruislip Library.
2. Rate book 1863 - transcript available at Ruislip Library.
3. Local newspapers - on microfilm at Uxbridge Library.

## SOME SIXTEENTH CENTURY RUISLIP FAMILIES

by Derek Jacobs

An index of Ruislip names referred to in the 16th century wills, the 1565 Terrier and some of the 16th century Court Rolls, includes some 107 surnames. Some of these occur only once or twice while others occur much more often as is shown in Fig. 1.



Only 6 families are mentioned on more than 64 occasions and all but one of these families have members who were headboroughs at some time (Table 1). A headborough was an official appointed by the manor to carry out a range of duties which included supervision of the watch, upkeep of the stocks, dealing with criminals and riots, supervising beggars and seeing to the welfare of the poor.

Table I. Families whose names occur more than 64 times

Name	Frequency	Headboroughs
Nicholas	126	John: Robert of Hale End
Fearne	116	James: John of Wylcheres
Reading	88	John
Robins	81	none
Mower/Winchester	76	John
Nelham	69	Robert: William

The families listed will be examined in more detail and some family trees will be shown. The Mower and Winchester families are treated as a single family because most of the references to them are as "Mower als Winchester" or "Winchester otherwise known as Mower". In all family trees where no surname is given, the surname is that of the family.



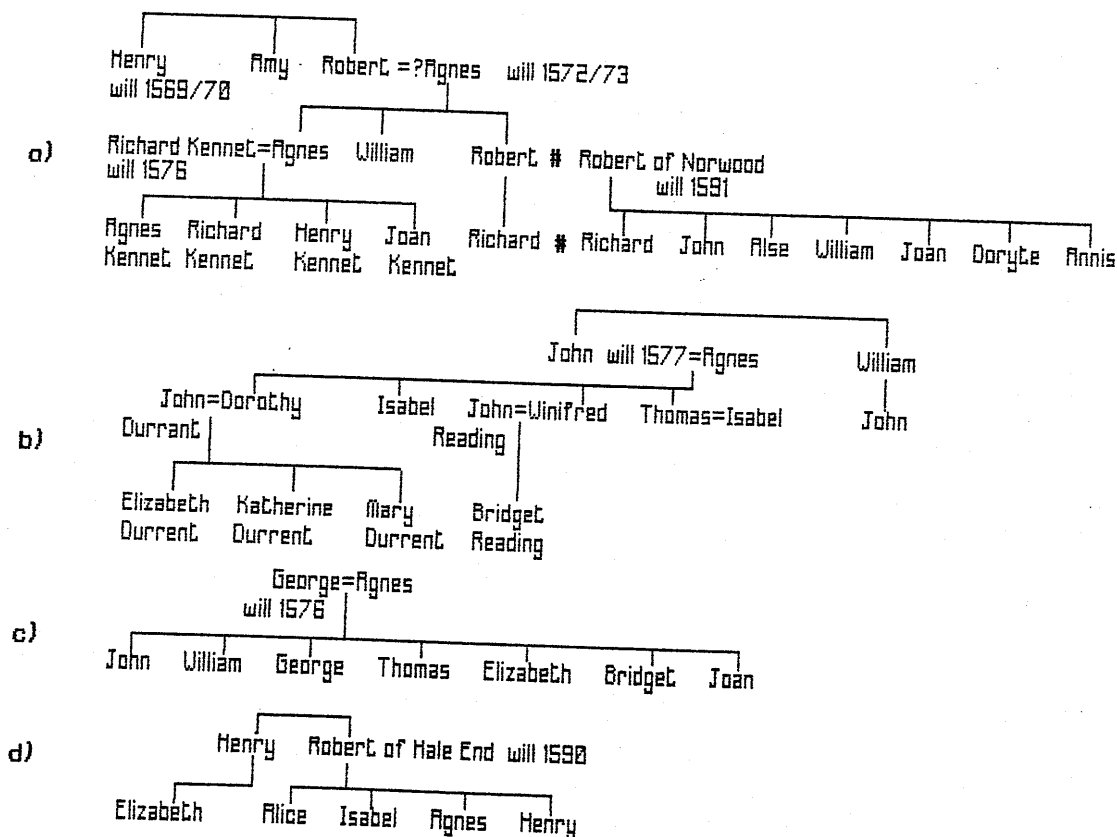
## THE NICHOLAS FAMILY

Variously spelt Nicholas, Nicholles, Nicklas, Nocholas, Nycholos, Nycholas.

The earliest reference to this family is 1521 when John and Robert Nycholas were witnesses to the will of Thomas Ferne, John also being an executor. The majority of references are in the later half of the century and Figure 2 shows the family groups as far as they can be established.

The two headboroughs were John, headborough of Ascott (i.e. Eastcote) in 1575 and Robert of Hale End (the area near Highgrove) in 1576. It might have been this John (2b) who was married to Agnes and who made a will in 1577, or possibly his nephew, son of William. Robert of Hale End made a will in 1590 whilst a second Robert, referred to as Robert of Norwood (i.e. Northwood) made a will in 1591. The two were thus contemporaries which makes it difficult to link either of them to earlier families although possible linkages are shown.

Figure 2 NICHOLAS FAMILY TREES



# indicates that the two names linked may be the same person

In his will dated 1569/70, Henry Nicholas (2a) left four freehold lands in Pinner to his brother Robert. Later, Robert of Norwood in his will of 1591, had a son Richard and also left four lands in Pinner. It therefore seems possible that Robert the brother of Henry was married to Agnes who made a will in 1572/73 and that her son was Robert of Norwood, especially as both had sons named Richard.

In the 1565 Terrier, a Robert Nicholas of Northwood owned the house which is now called Green End and which stands in Dene Road. In addition to the land left to his son, Robert of Norwood also made provision in his will for his daughter to receive stock from his land and some of the household goods.

Item I gyve to Alse my dayghter the black cowe Called Ringstone(?) the baye mare three weathers the best bedstead with the best bead best bolster a pillow ye best coverlet a blanquite ij payre of fynest sheets the best Cofer in the corne lofte the Cubord in the hall the best brasse pott the Cowdren with ij (illegible) inges one kettle one postnett ij table clothes iij platters ij porringers one saltseller one pewter candlestick a mortar with pestell one spitt a paire of cobyrons a dropping pan ij napkins ij Cushins ij barrells ij boules one tubb one kyver a littell table one stoole also I geve unto her everie yeare so longe as she shall live x s to be paid her by my sonne william by even portyons at ij several times of the yeare that is to see at the ffeast of St myhall and at the Annuncyacon of the Virgine Mary. (Michaelmas 29th Sept. and 25th March)

Item I geve to Joane my daughter a bedstead a bed a boulster a pillowe a coverlitt a blanquite ij paire of sheets the Cubbord in the Chamber the old cofer in the Corne lofte a blacke Cowe iij wethers ij kyttles ij tableclothes iij peeces of pewter two porringers one candlestick one saltseller ij napkins ij boules one tubb one kiver ij stooles ij Cushins a gridyron.

Item I give to Doryte my daughter a blacke cowe with a share in the forth and ij lambes iij peeces of pewter ij paires of sheets ij napkins

Item I give to Annis my daughter a bed a coverlett a blanquitte a bolster a pillow ij paire of sheetes the best Cofer in my loft(?) ye ould Cofer in the Chamber beneath one kettell one brasse pott a red cowe ij ewes and ij lambes ij tableclothes iij peeces of pewter ij porringers one candlestick one saltseller ij napkins ij bowles one tub one kyver ij stooles ij Cushins a gridyron

In addition to the headborough, Robert of Hale End (2d), there is also a reference in the wills to John of Field End (Field End Farm near Eastcote Library). Other references in the 1565 Terrier indicate that the family also owned property in Fore Street and "a cottage on Raysons Hill called Jowles". Robert Nicholas owned the house at the bottom of Fore Street now called "Four Elms" and higher up the lane, Richard Nicholas had two cottages in the angle between the ancient park boundary and the road, which no longer stand. "Jowles" is now "White Cottage" and is reached from Harlyn Drive.



Not all the family lived in Eastcote, however, as there is also a reference to a william of Perivale, a Henry of Wyng and a John of Pinner as well as Robert of Northwood.

A further member of the family, George Nicholas (2c), made a will in 1576 in which he left his smith's shop to his wife,

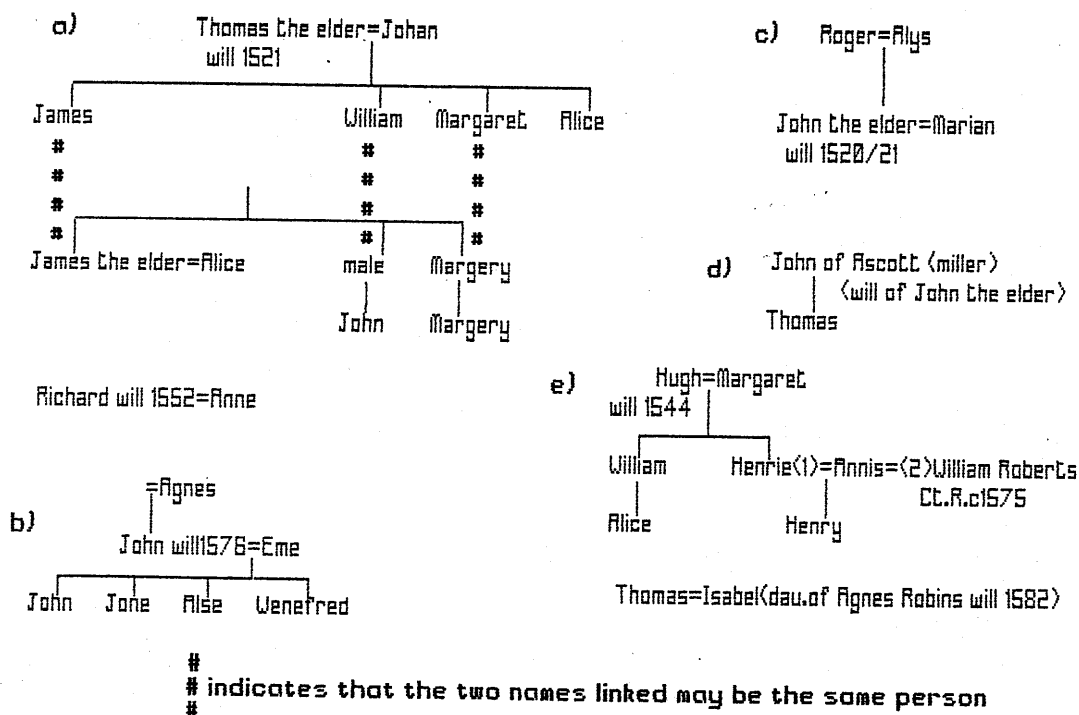
Item I geve to Agnes my wief all my goodes that belongeth unto my Shoppe of Smiths craft or science for the tearme of xij yeares in manner and forme followinge That is she shall have the use occupation profitt or comoditie to occupie or to lett them to other duringe the saide tearme of xij yeares and at the ende and tearme of xij yeares she shall leave them to the use of John my sonne and yf he shall soe longe live as good as nowe they be and yf John my sonne fortune to die before the ende and tearme of xij yeares and havinge not yssue them to the use of George my sonne and his heirs

The Nicholas family also had marriage ties to the Reading the Kennet, the Cogges, the Edlin and the Durrent families.

### THE FEARN FAMILY

Variously spelt Fearn, Fearne, Fern, Ferne.

Figure 3 FEARNE FAMILY TREES



References to this family occur regularly throughout the 16th century but the total number of individuals covered is not very great. A James Fern was headborough of Ascott in 1552 and it seems likely that this was James the elder who made a will in 1568 and who was the son of Thomas the elder (will 1521)(2a).

The other headborough, John of Wylcheres, whose land lay at the top of Wiltshire Lane, was headborough in 1576 and was either overseer or witness to several wills at this time. He could have been the John who made a will in that year or possibly his son (3b). In addition to John the headborough, the will of John the elder in 1520/21 (3c) was witnessed by a ploughmaker John and there is also a reference to a miller John in 1565. Other references to a ploughmaker James in 1552 and to a miller Thomas in 1544 would seem to suggest a continuity of occupation through the generations. In his will John the elder also refers to a miller John of Ascott with a son Thomas (3d) and if this is the miller of 1544 then there would appear to have been at least three generations of millers in the family. The 1520/21 will also refers to a house called "ffyvions".

Like the Nicholas family the Fearn's appear to have been an Eastcote family. With the exception of one property in Silver Street (Bury Street) their properties were in Wiltshire Lane, Jowle (Joel) Street, Cheney Street, Eastcote High Road, Cuckoo Hill and Field End Road. They include several timber-framed buildings which are still standing, namely Ramin, Mistletoe Farm and Cheney Street Farm. They were related by marriage to the Winchester /Mower and the Robins families towards the end of the century and probably also to the Reading family, since Agnes Reading was the god-daughter of Hugh at Fern according to his will in 1544 (3c).

#### THE READING FAMILY

Variously spelt as Redinge, Redynge, Reddinge, Reddynge.

Although the name appears frequently throughout the 16th century, such wills as exist are very short and it is not possible to produce any useful trees for this family. Amongst others, the family is linked by marriage to the Robyns family. An entry in the Court Rolls for 21 April 1579 reads:-

Henry Redynge is to take up a cottage & an orchard by estimation 1 acre surrendered to hym by Richard Redynge hys brother ho hathe Remayned in the coustadye of Richard Robyns his grandfather & others & is now of full age

The 1565 Terrier also contains a reference to this property namely that:-

John Stockden holds a cottage and an orchard with a meadow adjoining containing an acre at Cannons Bridge, which cottage the said John holds during the lifetime of his wife Joanna, formerly the wife of Richard Redinge, then to rest with Henry Redinge her son....

This property would appear to have been just south of Reservoir Road. The family trees of the Robyns' include two Richards, but neither mention a daughter Joanna.

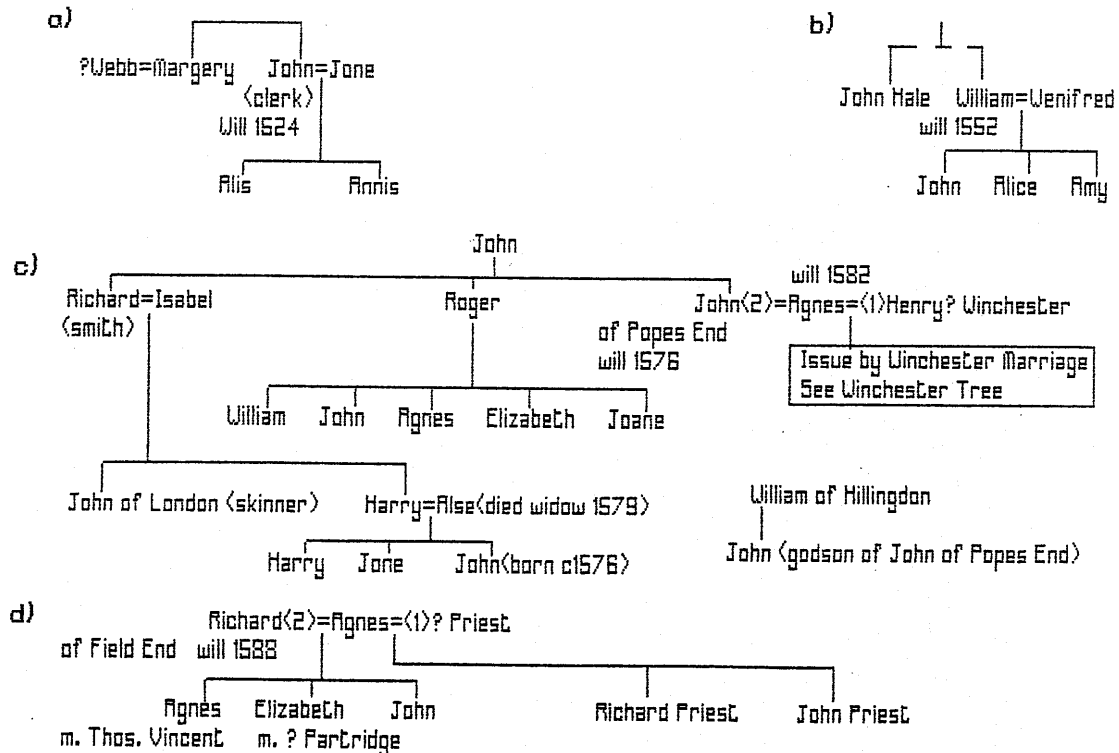
There were several Johns viz. John of Stanwell, John of Bury Street, John of Sigers and John of Field End. (Field End House Farm site, now St. Thomas More's church). One reference to John of Bury Street is as the writer of a will which would point to a fair degree of education and another John was a headborough of "Ascott" in 1576. A further member of the family, William, was a tile maker who lived in Northwood. John Reding of Stanwell's house had the unusual name "Plocketts" which is now called Eastcote Cottage and stands at the corner of Field End Road and Eastcote Road.

### THE ROBYNS FAMILY

From the 1565 Terrier this family also owned property in the Eastcote area including the Old Barn House, Eastcote High Road, and Horn End, Cheney Street. In the 1565 Terrier, John Robins senior held:-

one cottage with a close containing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres lying north against Cowcoves (Cuckoo Lane) and south against the Brook and it abbutts west onto Well Green and east onto the messuage of the aforesaid John Robins.....one messuage with meadow containing 5 acres and a close containing 1 acre and it lies south against the close of Roger Robins and Cheynye Street and north against Cowcoves Lane and it abbutts west onto the cottage aforesaid and east onto Cheynye Street

Figure 4 ROBYNS FAMILY TREES



This would seem to place his property as being near the junction of the present-day Cheney Street, Cuckoo Hill and Eastcote High Road, and is almost certainly Horn End. As this area was Pope's End it would seem likely that he was the John of Pope's End referred to elsewhere (4c). Richard Robyns the smith had a cottage

in Silver Street (Bury Street) now Bury Farm and a close called "Clack" which was presumably in Clack Lane. There is no mention of where his smithy was but it was probably the other property which he owned at the junction of Bury Street, High Street and Eastcote Road, which is known to have been a smith's shop. Like most families some of the members come from further afield e.g. William of Hillingdon and John who was a skinner of London.

Richard of Field End and his wife Agnes (4d) lived at Field End, Westcote, later known as Sherley's Farm and now The Old Barn Hotel.

#### THE WINCHESTER or MOWER FAMILY

These appear throughout the century are usually referred to by both names. They owned land in Ruislip, two dwellings in the vicinity of what is now Ruislip Lido, an area then called Park Hearne, and two in the Wiltshire Lane/Fore Street area. One of these only passed to the family in 1577 and is not therefore in their possession at the time of the 1565 Terrier. The Court Roll for 21 May 1577 records that:-

.....I John Mosse of the parryshe of Stanmoer the more (Grt.Stanmore?) out of the Courte doe surrender...Two cottages with their appurtenances there unto belonging sett lying and being in Fore strete within the parrishe aforesayed to the behoofe and use of Agnes Wynchester of Ryslyppe and her heyres for ever according to the Custome of the same Manner

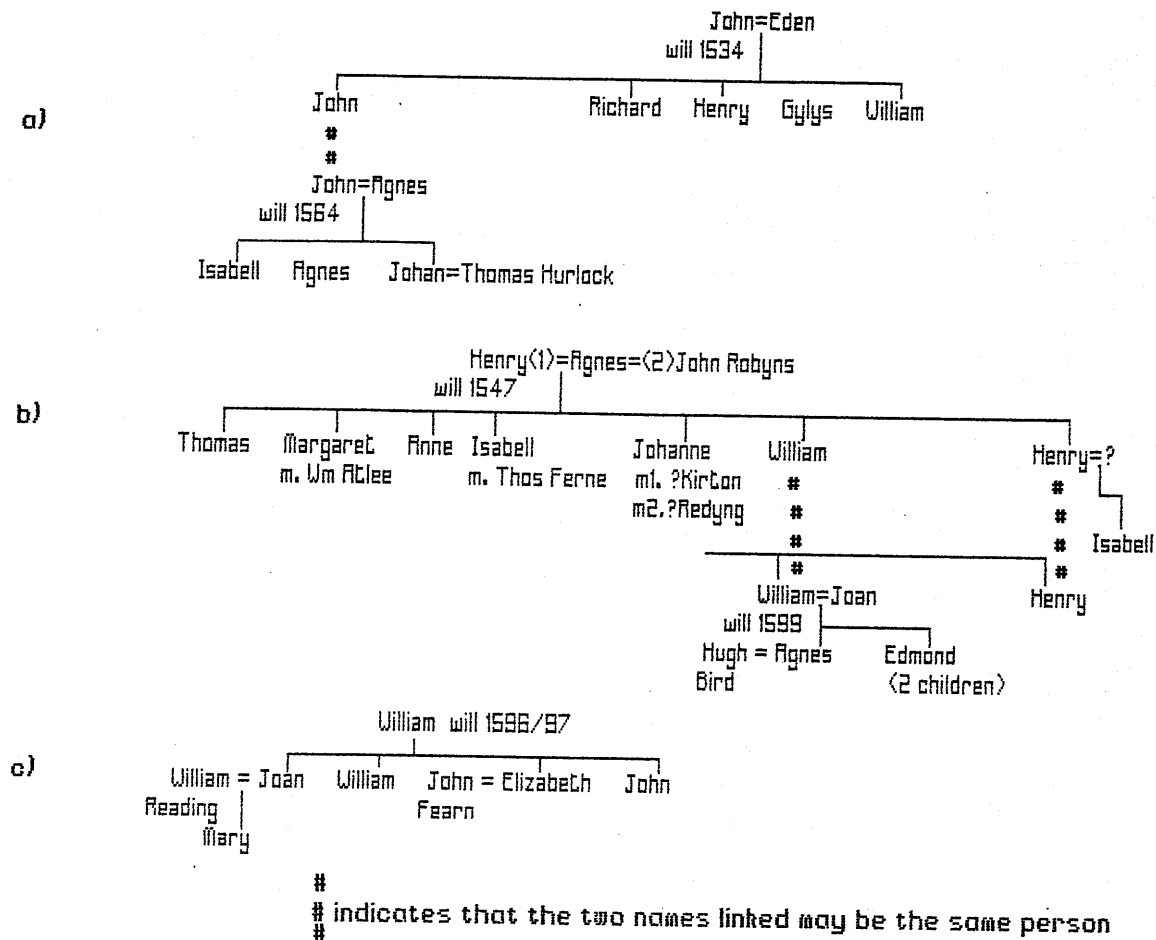
It is not clear to which Agnes this refers but it is probable that it is the widow of John who made a will in 1584. The cottages referred to were in the possession of Isabell Mosse at the time of the Terrier, which stated that they were to pass to her son John after her death. Another entry in the Court Roll of 21 April 1579 refers to land left to Agnes by her husband John on his death:-

Also we saye that John Wynchester lying in Extremes about xx yeres last past dyd Surrender to cottages called blackes wythe a mede therunto Adjoining contayning iij acres or ther aboutes and one other close lying in norwood called peres feld by estimacion v acres to the use of Agnes hys wyffe untill Jane hys daughter should accomplish the eage of xxj yeres then to Remyne to the use of the forsayd Jane her heyers forever and is now the wyfe of Thomas Hurlocke and hys of full eage

"Blackes" was at Park Hearn.

The Court Roll for 26 July 1575 refers to John Wynchester as being a headborough and it would seem likely that this is the John whose father William made a will in 1596/97.

Figure 5 WINCHESTER/MOWER FAMILY TREES



### THE NELHAM FAMILY

The earliest mention of the Nelnam or Nellam family are the wills of John and Richard in 1558 (6a & b). From the 1565 Terrier it would appear that the family lived in the King's End area of Ruislip and this is supported by a bequest in John's will, of gravel to be laid between Ickennam Elm and his house. They appear to have owned King's End Farm (demolished), Primrose Hill Cottage, Orchard Cottage and Fiveways (rebuilt). This will also referred to land in Ickennam which he had recently purchased from Sir Edmund Peckam and John Smith, Serjeant at Arms, and which he left to his sister's husband, William Saye of Ickenham, and to his nephew Robert Saye. William Saye was an important and wealthy resident of Ickenham and an official of the Court of Arches, an ecclesiastical court of the province of Canterbury.

From his will, John (6a), appeared to have been comparatively well-off and some idea of his life style can be gathered from his will. At one point he refers to his boys' hose cloth but there is no other mention of any issue in the will. Reference is also made to his wife's daughter Anne, which would imply that he was her second husband. Included, amongst others, are the following bequests to his wife.



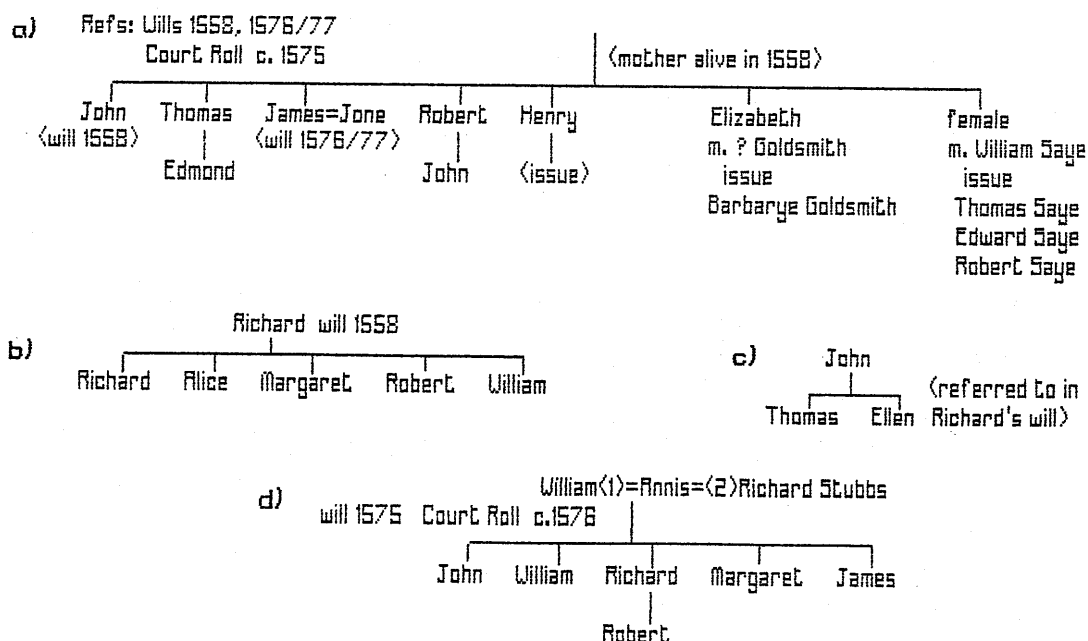
Item I geve and bequeathe to my wiff these goodes hereafter mentioned ffirste the bedstede and the beste bedde withe the beste coveringe of Carpitte worke and the beste of Dornix (a silk worsted or part woollen fabric) and all the hanginges the table the Carpett and the Cupbord and the fourme as they presently stande in my parlor And also the bedd and bedstede and hanginges in the Chamber over that And also the beste flocke bedde Also all my lynnen stuff in my howse savinge x pair of shetes and all the pillowes excepte one of fowne and two others Also half the Chaiers and stooles in my howse and a Cheste wherin her lynnen lyeth the Cheste in the lofte where the maydes lye And the Cheste where my writtinges be and the round table in the lofte Also I bequeathe to her half my brasse my pewter and lattyn (an alloy of copper, zinc, lead and tin) parles bowles skymmers and firkins

Item I bequeathe to her all my none wollen clothe savynge my boyes hose clothe and all my woll halfe my quissions and the beste cloke savinge one that I have also the Cobyrons and the lesser spitte And the lesser Anndyron and the dripping panne

Item more to her in kyne at her owne choice

Item I will they be founde upon my grounde and Stuffe until Mayedaye nexte Also I geve to her halfe my shepe the undermentioned only except And also I geve her all my poultry and two sowes ij shootes half my pigges and in redy money x1 th one half to be paid to her betwene this and Michelmas nexte And the other half within twoe yeares after my decease And yf she dye before the said terme of yeares be owte or expired then to her assignes at her pleasure

Figure 6 NELHAM FAMILY TREES



Although his will was not so detailed, Richard (6b) appeared to be also a man of substance and is referred to as a yeoman. His bequests to his children are typical of many of that period and exemplify the sort of items to be found in a house of the period and also the farming carried on in the area.

Item I will and bequeathe to Richard my sonne a fether bedde withe all that belongethe thereto and a cheste And also I will to him my greate cawdron and my greate and beste Brasse potte and the greate trevette and two troughes with a boltinge cheste

Item A spytte and a payre of cobbiordes a payre of Sheetes

Item I will also to hym that myne Executors shall leave and delyver to him x quarters of lawfull wheate when that he shall enter one my lande

Item the table in the hall wythe the stande

Item I will unto hym xtie bushells of beans and to be delyvered to hym as before sayde

Item I will to hym a cowple of kyne not of the beste nor of the worste and x sheepe

Item I will and bequeathe to Alice my daughter a fetherbedde wythe all that longes thereto And threë payre of Sheetes And a cheste

Item one of the Cupbordes in the hall Also I will to her a dosen of pewter not of the beste nor of the worste A salte Seller two Candlestickes

Item I will to heur also x sheepe

Item my greate brewinge pan and the other brasse potte and a kettell

Item I will and bequethe to Margaret my daughter a bedd withe all that longes thereto and three payer of Sheetes and a cheste and a cupbourde and viij peyces of pewter A salte seller and two candlestyckes

Item I will to her also threë kyne

Item I will to her also x Sheepe

Item I will to her A pan A kettle and a brasse potte

Although the 1565 Terrier makes no reference to a James Nelham (6a), it is clear that he lived in the King's End area also. Firstly, his will in January 1576/7 refers to gravel to be laid between his house and Ickenham Elm and secondly, a Court Roll of May 1575 includes the following entry:-

Memorand that I James Nelham out of the court of the Manor of Ryslippe doe surrender into the hands of the lorde by the hands of William Kyrton Hedborowe and in the presence of John Coogges tenant of the manor aforesayde all that my messuage and all my other hossyng therunto belonging sett standyng and being in Kyngs End wythe an orchard and a garden and one peece of meadowe called lormarsmede and to closes called aldryght and howecrofte and one close called paresfeld and all my land arable and medowe in the common felde of Ryslippe wythe ther apurtinances to to the behoof and use of Jane my wyffe for the term of her lyffe the Remainder of the messuage and other the landes of aforesayd shall be to the behoof and use of Edmond Nelham the sone of Thomas Nelham my brother and his heyers uppon the condicions hereafter folowing.....

John, Richard, Robert and william are the only Nelhams listed in the Terrier and if, as is probable, both John and Richard died soon after making their wills in 1558, then the reference to these names in the Terrier would seem to relate to other members of the family with these names. The Court Rolls refer to Robert and William as headboroughs in 1576 but it is not clear which Robert and William these are. Richard and James also appear in the Court Rolls the same year for refusing to be sworn upon homage.

Sources: Manor Farm Library: Ruislip Wills 16th century - Transcribed by Derek Jacob.  
King's College R 36 (1565 Terrier)  
GLRO Photocopies of Ruislip Court Rolls.

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#### SECRETARY'S RETIREMENT

Elizabeth Krause has been the Society's longest-serving Secretary, having had the office thrust upon her during a break for coffee at a Committee meeting in February 1979! She has done the job faithfully and with great charm ever since, having been especially good at personally welcoming new members at meetings and caring for everyone's interests and comfort.

We are all sorry that she feels obliged to retire, but thank her for all her efforts on the Society's behalf and we are confident that she will continue to do a great deal for us in her other capacity as Chairman's helpmeet.

We take this opportunity to welcome Eileen Watling, who has kindly agreed to take Elizabeth's place.

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Letter from Pte. Henry Lavender, No.1413, 66th  
Berkshire Regiment, Gibraltar, sent to his mother  
Elizabeth Collins, Ruislip Common, Near Uxbridge,  
Middlesex, England.

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Gibraltar, January 17th 1847

When you unfold this put it between  
a cloth and press it open with a warm  
iron.

My Dear Mother,

This comes with my kind love to you hoping to find you in good health as thank god this leaves me at present dear mother. I have writ you this to let you see how we are situated in Gibraltar and anytime when you think of me you can look at this and see me, if you look you can see the big guns and shot each side of me and the sea in front of me, so that you see there is no chance of running away. the small box you see between my legs is the powder box that they lode the guns with the batery walls is all round the side of the sea, so that any vestle they see and do not lett them know what nation they belong to. the flags you see each side of me is the colours of my Ridgment and the righting you see on them is the name of the different battells they have been in there is a large market and a market where they sell tobacco and sheari there is two large prot church and two chappels fore the use of the solders and eny sailors there may be in the harbour. tobacco is 6 pence the pound snuf is the same tea is 2/0 the pound coffey is 1/8 the pound bread and meate is about the same as at home Porta and spirits is the same as at home I have no more to say at present so now I must conclude with my kind love to all inquire- ing friends I am your affcanite son. H. Lavender.

Footnote. Ed.

It has not yet been possible to trace from local records exactly which Henry Lavender wrote this letter but it was almost certainly written to the Elizabeth Collins living at Youngwood Farm, Ducks Hill Road in 1851. In 1840, as a 49-year old widow, Elizabeth Lavender had married the 52-year old widower Daniel Collins at St. Martin's Church, Ruislip. Eleven years later she was recorded in the census as a 60-year old married woman who was born in Ludgate Hill, London. Her occupation was given as a midwife and a nurse and she appeared to act in this capacity in the household of the farmer, Charles Churchill.

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## THE HERMIT IN THE SOUTH AISLE

by Valery Cowley

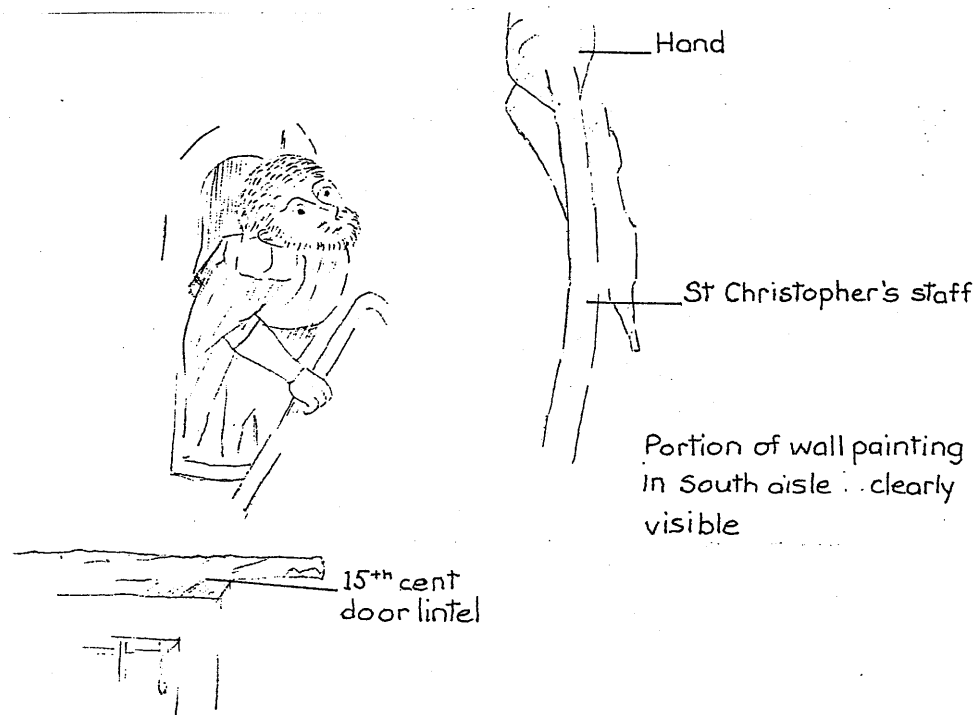
St. Martin's once had a holy helper, one of the fourteen saints especially responsive to prayers for recovery from sickness and for those who wish to make a good death, whose cult flourished at the time of the Black Death. "You will not die suddenly during any day when you look upon the face of St. Christopher", it was said and so he is often found depicted near a church doorway, which is where part of his legend has been uncovered recently, in the south aisle of St. Martin's Church, Ruislip.

The south aisle was rebuilt (from possibly late Norman work) at the parishioners' expense, ca. 1400-1450, with an eastward extension of 1450-1500. The line of the top of the original, internally plastered wall has become apparent during this year's conservation work by Ann Ballantyne, to whom I am much indebted for assistance in writing this article. Last year she worked on the nave murals, where she found a piece of stone with characteristically Norman v-shaped incision re-used high on the south arcade. In the south aisle, as in the nave, she has repaired the plaster where traces of painting remained by replacing incompatible and visually disruptive previous restorations with a mortar of well-slaked limewash and sand.

Above and west of the blocked south door (with 20th century inserted window) have emerged the earliest wall paintings in the church, from the latter part of the 14th century; these therefore pre-date that 15th century door, which early fell into disuse because few parishioners lived on this side of the parish. When it was installed, the existing mural of St. Christopher was painted over directly, for there is no intervening layer of lime-wash. Colour from this second painting remains on the doorway's lintel and upper edging-stones and thus the door pre-dates this re-painting: its lower edging-stones have traces of the earlier plaster on them and the painting carries over onto them from the adjacent wall. When the large 15th century window to the west of the doorway was inserted, St. Christopher, the main subject of the mural, disappeared, leaving only his right hand and curvy staff and (from the second painting) half the foot of the Christ Child he was carrying: these are visible immediately to the left of the aisle window. A trace of gold leaf indicates that this re-painting at the turn of the 15th century was expensive; patches of green and blue contrast with the red and yellow ochres and lamp black of the earlier work. Ann Ballantyne has carefully preserved part of the second painting in two shades of blue (possibly from Christ's robe or from the river) which was used as infill below the window-sill when the south wall was rebuilt. The dark green patch to the left of the doorway is probably also a remnant of this re-painting.

To the right of the south doorway the bearded figure of a hermit (wearing a long-sleeved habit), his black cowl pushed back, tends a lantern with his left hand and carries a stick-like implement in his right. As he stands on the bank of a river this may be a fishing-rod. It is not a sophisticated composition but we must remember that its purpose was purely devotional. The style of painting of his eyes and nose is reminiscent of illuminated manuscripts. The figure stands before an arched

doorway probably representing his hermitage. Buildings can be detected in the background as well as tufted plants on the river banks, reminding us that the legend of St. Christopher is relevant to the world around us. A border runs across the bottom of the scene with an unusual design of "nebulae", linked cloud shapes filled in alternately with red and black. Similar patterning appears in the vertical border to the left of the hermit.



Christophoros (CK. = Christ-bearer) met a hermit who told him to help travellers cross the dangerous ford to his hermitage: Christopher was supposed to be a giant so strong that he wished to serve the most powerful of masters but he discovered that neither a king nor Satan was omnipotent and the latter told him that only Christ was all-powerful, so Christopher had set out to find Him. One night Christopher carried a child who became increasingly heavy as the river current raged and, when they reached the bank, he told Christopher that he had carried on his shoulders the weight of his Creator. As instructed by this Christ Child, Christopher planted his staff in the ground where it turned into a palm tree. (The staff in our wall painting to the left of the window, is unusual in having its roots depicted). Allegorically, the river (like the classical Styx) represents the transition to death. Thus Christ is the giver of life and master even over the way to death.

The legend continues to relate how the king of Lycia (S. Turkey) failed to make Christopher an apostate despite imprisonment, temptation and torture. As the martyr was beheaded (perhaps during 3 c. persecutions) he prayed that all who saw him should be saved from fire, storm and earthquake. His feast day, July 25th, was suppressed in 1969 but he is still considered the patron of travellers, especially motorists.

St. Mary's, Hayes, has an early 16th century partly-restored Christopher, with flying robes and gnarled staff, crossing a fish-infested river between rocky precipices. In Little Missenden he appears, ca 1300, on the north wall of the nave. Ruislip's manorial tenants setting out on pilgrimage or on dangerous journeys for the monks of Bec would have been grateful for his protection.

## BEETONSWOOD FARM AND ICKENHAM GREEN

by Eileen M. Bowlt

The old Beetonswood Farm site leapt into the news in the autumn of 1988, when works to extend Ruislip Golf Course onto Ickenham Green encroached upon the farmyard and scattered bricks from the old house far and wide. Prompt action on the part of this Society drew the attention of the Council to the desecration of this hitherto untouched and secluded site and it was immediately cordoned off to await archaeological investigation.

ICKENHAM GREEN. Beetonswood Farmhouse stood east of the Green, not far from the Pinn. The Green is a narrow piece of land about a mile long, lying between Ickenham Road and the river. It is approached by footpaths behind the Soldier's Return and Saich and Edwards.

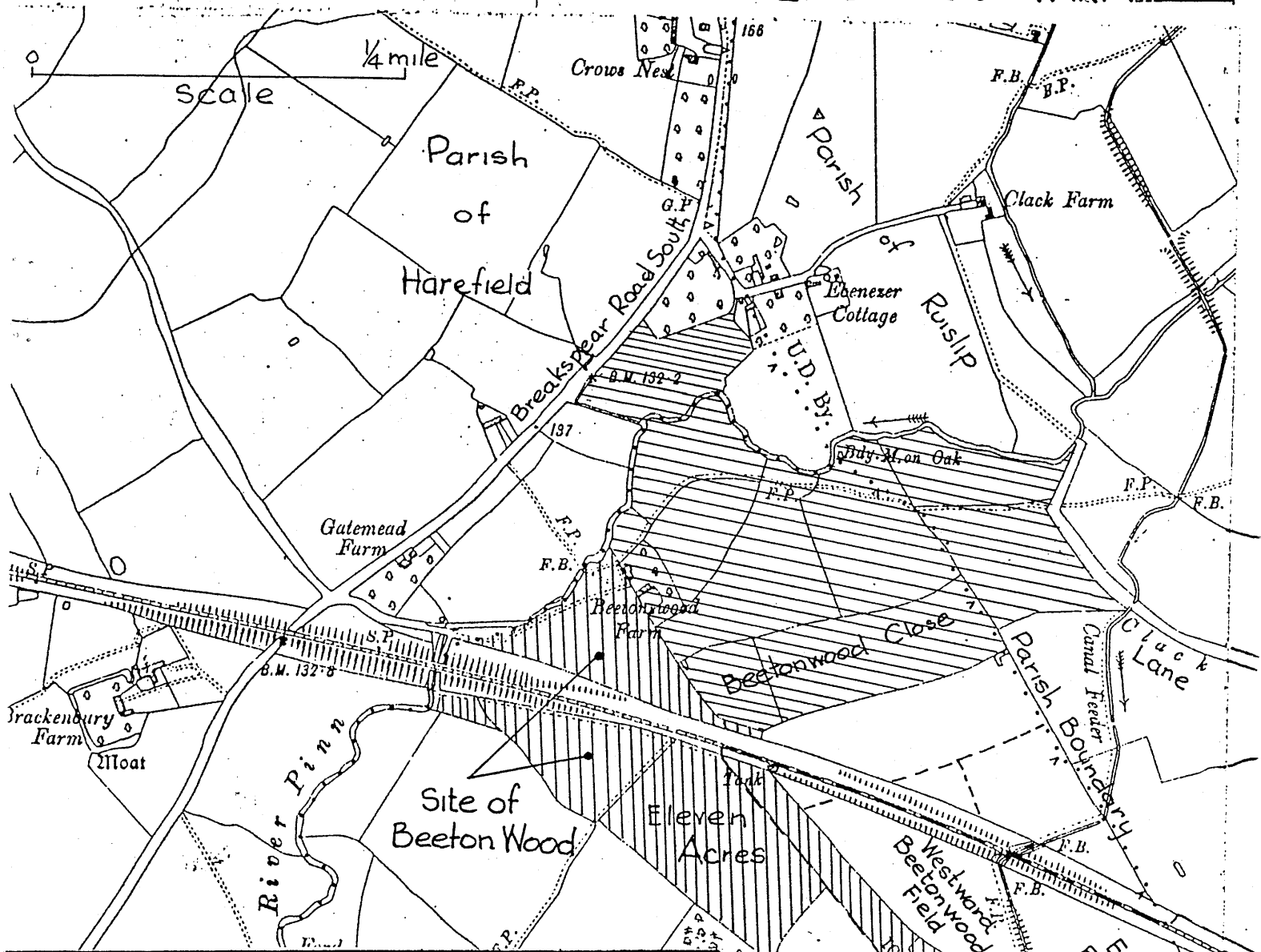
As shown on the Ickenham Enclosure Map 1780, the Green started at Ickenham Road and became little more than a rather wide track, in its central portion leading to a common wood called Beeton Wood. The trees must have been cleared quite soon after that as no later map shows the area as woodland. The whole lot has long been called Ickenham Green although Beeton wood was still mentioned as a separate entity in official documents as late as 1860. (1)

The Canal Feeder (completed 1816) crosses the Green on its way from Ruislip Reservoir to the Grand Junction Canal and runs down the western edge behind the old chapel, which is now part of Saich and Edwards. More recently (in 1905) the Great Western and London and North-eastern Railway line has cut off the north-east corner from the rest of the Green and it is this triangular piece which is now being taken into the golf course. To compensate for land used by the railway, a field called Eleven Acres, lying south of Beeton Wood, was added to the Green at the time of the sale of land to the railway company in 1900. (2)

The whole of the Green has been common land (i.e. land over which the people of Ickenham had common rights but not common ownership) for centuries. Being rather poor land from an agricultural point of view, it was left unenclosed by the Commissioners who enclosed Ickenham's open fields in 1780. Along with the Marsh, it served as grazing ground for a limited number of animals and for recreation. Each householder could turn out one horse or two cows from May Day to Martinmas (11th November). (3) However, the poorer householders of Ickenham, not possessing large animals, preferred to make allotment gardens on the Green and only the Marsh continued to be used for grazing. The 1834 court rolls (4) record that William Bunce and others on parish relief "...have lately dug up part of the waste for gardens on the Green". At first the allotments were dug without any formal agreement with the lord of the manor, but at length the allotment holders' position was regularised when they agreed to pay a rent of 1 shilling per rood per annum (5). This payment continued until 1930 when the lease of the Green passed to Uxbridge Urban District Council and the doughty gardeners refused to pay, claiming squatters' rights. (6).

ICKENHAM GREEN

BEETONSWOOD FARM



Location Map



Ickenham

The court rolls also show that several small pieces of land near the road from Ickenham to Ruislip were enclosed from time to time between 1819 and 1835 with the permission of the lord of the manor, who at that time was George Robinson. He himself built a cottage and smithy on the Green in 1828. The cottage probably became The Soldier's Return later. The Congregational Chapel was built in 1835 on a piece of land that had been granted the previous year.

#### Owners of the Green since 1780

1780	Mrs. Jane Rooke (formerly Shordiche) Michael Shordiche
1819	George Robinson of Richmond (by purchase)
1852	George Robinson's trustees
1859	Thomas Truesdale Clarke of Swakeleys (by purchase)
1890	William Capel Clarke-Thornhill
1898	Randolf Clarke-Thornhill
c.1906	Thomas Bryan Clarke-Thornhill
1923	F.C. Stedman Esq. and Richard Cross Esq.
1924	F.C. Stedman Esq.
1927	David Pool Esq. (by purchase)
1930	Uxbridge Urban District Council
1964	Borough of Hillingdon

All the above owners held the Green by virtue of their positions as lords of the manor. Frank Christopher Stedman of Guildford Street and Richard Cross of Little Manor Farm, Ruislip, acquired the lordship of the manor of Ickenham as part and parcel of the Swakeleys Estate which they bought in 1923. In 1927 the lordship (an empty title as manorial rights had been extinguished by Act of Parliament in 1925) was put up for sale and David Pool, who had bought the old Manor Farm in 1922, now paid £25 for the title to go with it.<sup>(7)</sup> There is at least one elderly gentleman still alive in Ickenham who takes a rather snooty view of the sale and says he could easily have had it himself but did not consider it worth the money.

In 1957 the representatives of the late David Pool vested the lordship of the manor in the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Uxbridge. (8). The Green was, in any case, leased by Thomas Bryan Clarke-Thornhill to the Ickenham Parish Council from 1906 and David Pool leased it to Uxbridge Urban District Council in 1930 when the Parish Council went out of existence. In 1940 he gave it to the Council by Deed of Gift (9).

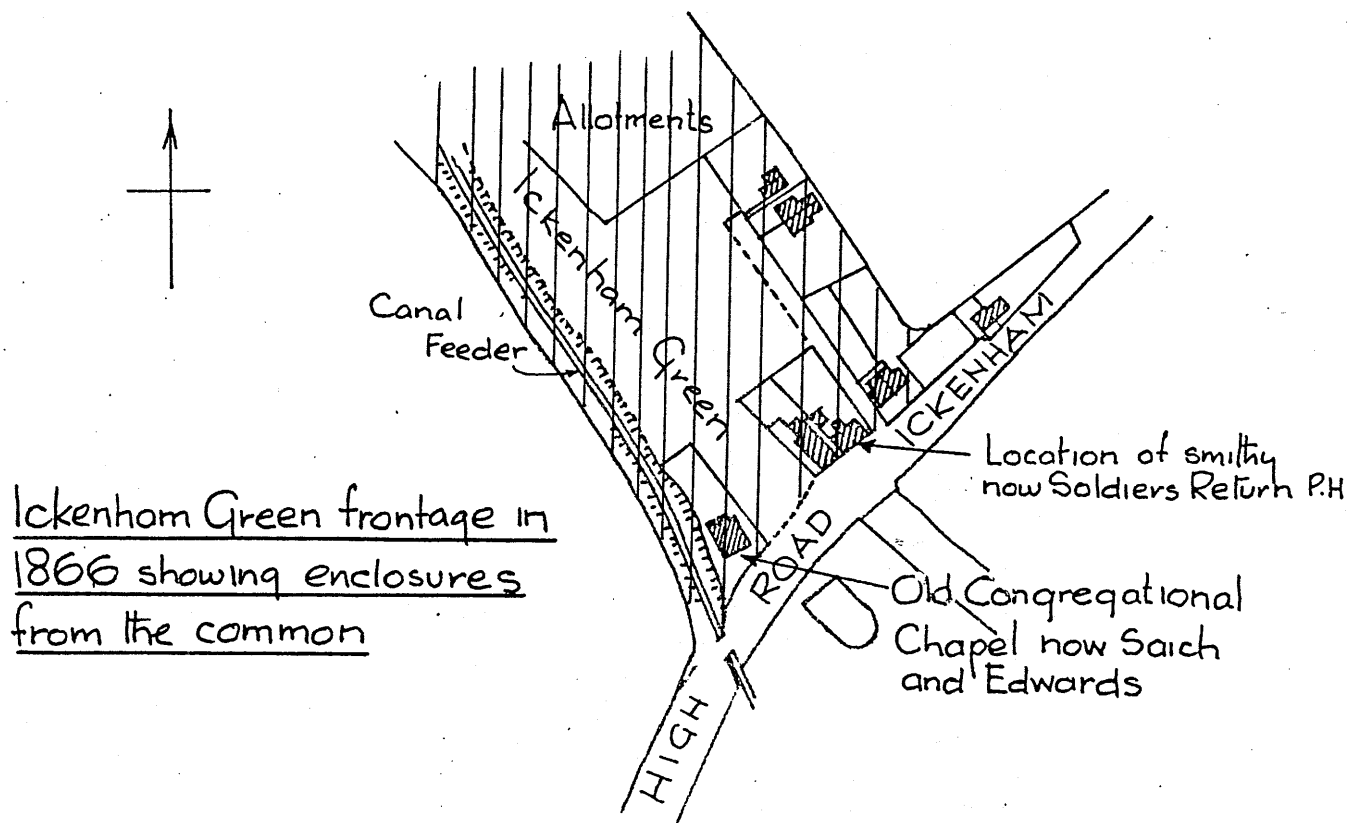
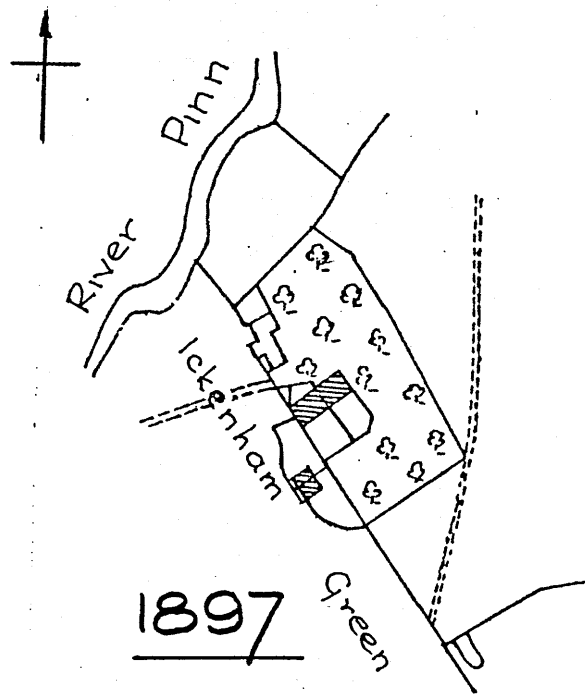
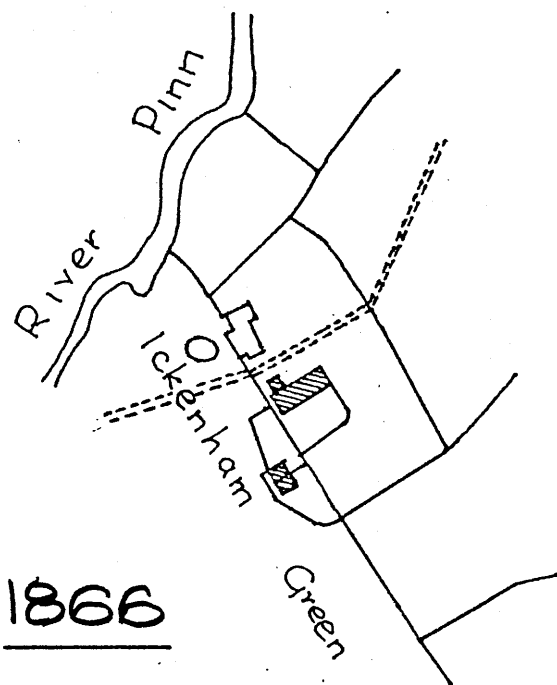
#### BEETONSWOOD FARM.

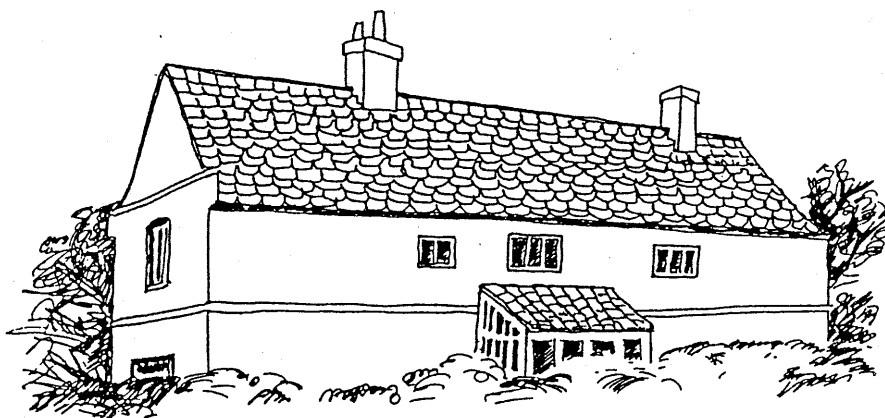
As the fields south of Beetonswood Farm and east of the old common wood called Beeton Wood all include Beeton Wood in their names (see map), it seems probable that the whole area was woodland in medieval times and that fields were cleared to provide land for the farm.

The farmhouse, which was demolished in 1946 (10), was listed as early 17th century but there are possible earlier references to the site. Denis Edwards (in his country walk around Ickenham) believes that it was first mentioned in 1367 as Bydensmede (perhaps just a meadow). When Thomas Betz of Ruislip made his will in 1463, he left a house called Bay Brane Betonhill to his grandson,, Thomas Wedychyrde.



# Beetonswood Farm





Beetonswood Farm 1923

At the time of the enclosures in 1780, Mr. Pitt owned the farm. Some of the land attached to it lay to the north across the Pinn in Harefield parish and some to the east in Ruislip parish near Clack Lane. (12). There were 27 acres in all. A field to the south called Beeton Wood was owned by Isaac Jagger in 1780 but was later added to Beetonswood Farm, increasing its size to 35 acres. William Pitt Esq. was reported as "dead since the last court" at the court held at the Coach and Horses on 29th July 1819. His son, Thomas Pitt Esq., succeeded him. He died in his turn on Christmas Day 1832 at his address in Wimpole Street, having demised his estate to his son, another Thomas Pitt. (13).

Robert Crook Walford of Hillingdon and supernumerary inspector of income tax for Uxbridge among other things, bought Beetonswood from the younger Thomas Pitt in 1838 (14) and it remained with the Walford family and later their trustees until 1920 when it was sold to William Harris of Glebe Farm, Ickenham (15). He lived there during the 1920s, the first of these owners to do so, but sold it to three people - John Nicholas Lewis, a textile manufacturer, John Edward Davies, a general dealer, and William James Watt, in 1931 (16). Five years later they sold it to the Middlesex County Council for £8020 (17), which is how it now comes, via the Greater London Council, to be in the hands of the Borough of Hillingdon.

#### OCCUPIERS OF BEETONSWOOD FARM

Little is known of early occupants of the farmhouse though the 1838 conveyance mentioned Benjamin Woodman as a former tenant and John Woodman as the then tenant. Benjamin is almost certainly the man who had some property at nearby Tile Kilns in 1806 (18). John woodman was living there with his family in 1841, when he was described as a farmer. He was also parish constable. A copy of a painting of Beetonswood's kitchen,

executed at about this time, is in the Ruislip Library's local history collection. The copy was sent to Ruislip many years ago by a member of the Woodman family, then domiciled in Australia. It shows Ann Woodman (nee Jarvis), John's wife, rocking a baby in a cradle. The painting was done by Miss Addison, the Rector's daughter. Ann had worked as a nursemaid at the Rectory before her marriage. The picture shows the wall around the doorway as bare brick and the floor composed of large tiles. There was a large open fireplace with John Woodman's constable's baton on the mantel piece above it and a wooden creel hanging from the ceiling.

Later censuses show that Beetonswood came down in the world. Four households are listed there. The 1864 O.S. 25 inch map shows the farmhouse divided into two and another pair of small cottages nearby, actually on the Green. Three of the heads of households there in 1861 were agricultural labourers and the other, James Fort, was a stocking weaver. He had moved to Beetonswood from Northolt Lane, Eastcote, where he had been living in 1851. His place of birth was Kempsey, Worcestershire. A relative living with him was a hurdle maker. In 1871 two of the household heads were on parish relief - Daniel Birch who was 85 years old and William Bennett who had suffered an accident and become blind.

The cottages on the edge of the Green disappeared after 1897 and by 1920 the farmhouse was occupied by William Harris and Fanny and Eleanor Bailey. At the time of the sale to the Middlesex County Council, the house appears to have been empty and the land was let to A.W. Whittington of Crows Nest Farm (20). During the 1939 - 1945 war, the A.R.P. used the house and in 1946 pulled it down as a demolition exercise. (20).

#### References

1. G.L.R.O. Acc.85/4/295
2. Hughes: "The Story of Ickenham" P.89
3. Civic Centre Archives: Indenture 1860
4. G.L.R.O. Acc.640/9
5. Ibid.
6. Hughes: "The Story of Ickenham" P.80
7. Information from Mr. Cyril Saich
8. Civic Centre Archives: Assent 1957
9. Civic Centre Archives: 1906, 1946 & 1930
10. Druett: "The Story of Ruislip-Northwood
11. Guildhall Library: 9171/6
12. Harefield & Ruislip Enclosure Maps.
13. G.L.R.O. Acc. 640/9
14. G.L.R.O. MDR 1833 2 28
15. Ibid. Acc.640/30/25-27
16. Ibid. MDR 1931 17 747
17. Civic Centre Archives: Conveyance 1936
18. Ruislip Enclosure Map: & Award
19. Civic Centre Archives: Conveyance 1936
20. Druett: "Ruislip-Northwood through the Ages".

Maps drawn by James McBean  
Drawing by Karen Spink

An Original Shuttered Window found at Woodman's Farm,  
Bury Street, Ruislip

by Colin Bowlt

Windows in early houses did not contain glass. Glazing in vernacular buildings appears to have started in the 17th century. Typical early windows in timber-framed buildings consisted of a wooden frame supporting several vertical mullions (presumably to stop unauthorised entry). To keep out cold winds and draughts, shutters were often provided. Evidence for these can sometimes still be seen in the grooves (in which the shutter slid) in the beam above old window positions, but actual examples of windows with their original shutters are very uncommon. During renovation work by the new owners of Woodman's Farm, Bury Street, Ruislip in 1985, an early unglazed, mullioned window, complete with shutter, was discovered behind later walling.

An article on Woodman's Farm by James McBean in our 1983 Journal, drew attention to a curious gabled tower-like structure attached to the rear of the house. Its original function is not known. Whether it was constructed at the same time as the main building is unclear but the finding of the shuttered window in it suggests that it is unlikely to be much younger. The window was framed into the north wall at ground-floor level and is divided into three lights by two mullions with intermediate vertical bars (figure (a)).

The shutter was made from two pieces of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick sawn oak, lap-jointed and held together by three cross-pieces which faced into the building, nailed on from both sides (figure (b)). The cut-off top left-hand corner was to accommodate a jutting piece of framing. The shutter slid up and down in grooves formed by two pieces of wood nailed to the frame. A hole in the middle of the window sill was presumably for a peg to support the shutter in the raised position.

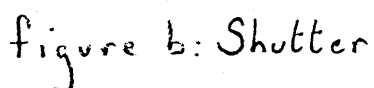
There was no sign of obvious wear on either the edge of the shutter or the grooves. Neither was there any sign of original surface colouring, but some patches of lining on the side facing the room may relate to interior decoration or be from a later covering wall. When originally discovered, the shutter was complete but damp. On drying out it warped and when subsequently rescued was found badly broken in two pieces. The left-hand shutter slide piece was also retrieved. These were conserved by the Museum of London who now retain them in their collection.

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Hand-drawn architectural drawing of a window frame. The drawing includes the following elements:

- Dimensions:**
  - Top:  $3''$  and  $44''$
  - Right side:  $22\frac{1}{2}''$
  - Bottom:  $3'7''$
  - Bottom right:  $4''$
  - Bottom left:  $3''$  and  $14''$
  - Bottom center:  $1''$
- Labels:**
  - Left side: "Slide" (written vertically)
  - Right side: "Slide missing" (written vertically)
  - Bottom right: "Cross-section of mullions"
- Diagram Details:**
  - The window frame is shown with multiple vertical mullions.
  - Arrows indicate dimensions and directions.
  - Small circles and lines represent fasteners or details.
  - A cross-section of a mullion is shown at the bottom left, with a dimension of  $1''$ .

2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "	11" approx	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	11"	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "	3"
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## EASTCOTE HOUSE 1939

by Leonard Krause

The death of Mr. H.J.E. Scott Makdougall in 1934 ended four centuries of Eastcote House as a private dwelling. It was purchased by Middlesex County Council in 1936 and leased to Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council as a much-needed community centre in the rapidly expanding suburb. (Mr. & Mrs. Hunter were installed as caretakers in the adjoining cottage). Groups like the Eastcote Women's Institute held regular meetings there from January 1937 onwards.

In September 1939 when war was declared, Mr. Bertram Barker, Clerk to the Council in Oaklands Gate, Northwood, was appointed Food Officer. His deputy, Mr. Edward Saywell, and secretary, Jean MacKean, came to Eastcote House to set up a local Food Office to operate the food rationing system coming into force. This continued until 1943 when the Ministry of Food took over and the Council personnel returned to Northwood. Fifty years on many of those who worked there are gone. Mrs. Helen Jenkins (Mr. Barker's secretary) is remembered for her very strict discipline in the Food Office, but the abiding memory seems to be the eerie darkness of the house and grounds on winter evenings when there was no moon.

## EASTCOTE 1989

by Sheila Liberty

with introduction by Leonard Krause

In this age of the predatory property developer, we are fortunate to have Sheila Liberty as Chairman of the Eastcote Conservation Area. She has set a new standard of Environmental Awareness and has worked tirelessly during the last decade to protect our local heritage. Recently the Local Authority has been persuaded that some of the estates built earlier in the century are as important as older "listed" buildings. At our invitation Mrs. Liberty writes as follows:-

*During 1988 three important Planning decisions were taken that significantly enhanced the Eastcote Village Conservation Area and indeed the Eastcote Area as a whole.*

*The first was a logical extension to the existing Conservation Area which now takes it across the lower part of Cheney Street to include the Open Space alongside the River Pinn up to the Harrow Boundary and which also includes the lower half of Cheney Street itself up to Barnhill. The Conservation Panel are satisfied with this extension although some residents wished the extension to include the whole of Cheney Street. However, it must always be borne in mind that enlarging the area does not necessarily strengthen its status but can dilute the essence of its character. The character of the Eastcote Village C.A. is largely determined by its beautiful open spaces and the scattering of listed cottages, plus of course, Eastcote House Grounds and the Walled Garden which is the jewel in our crown. If the upper part of*

Cheney Street which is more densely developed had been included it is the opinion of the Panel that there would have been an erosion to that character. This could have worked against the Conservation Area in the event of any future residential planning applications that may be presented.

The second decision which also affects the existing Conservation Area is the designation of the Eastcote Park Estate as an Area of Special Character. Although this estate is not part of the Conservation Area it is directly peripheral, encompassing Eastcote House Grounds and bordering the River Pinn half-way down the Long Meadow.

In the pursuit of money the developers are waging a war of attrition which is distressing residents and threatening to irretrievably damage both the estate and to a lesser extent the Conservation Area.

Built in the 1930's it is an elegant example of the development of Metro-land and by its juxtaposition to the C.A. it visually demonstrates the historic changes that took Eastcote from a small village surrounded by open fields to the thriving suburb it has now become.

This contrast between the two ensures that both the Conservation Area and the Eastcote Park Estate are dependent on each other for their charm - both gaining from and enhancing the other. In the report supporting our efforts for this designation which was written by Mr Jon Finney, Conservation Officer, L.B.H., it was described as an estate

" where spatial standards and a certain quality of house building have produced a character that should be protected "

As Social History it therefore represents the reality of dreams and aspirations for decent living where people could breathe and enjoy their environment without destroying it.

Currently there are five planning applications lodged with the Planning Dept for back garden development on this estate. Two applications have already, in 1987, been the subject of D of E Inquiries with the Inspector refusing one but granting one for five chalet bungalows to be built in two of the gardens which back onto the River Pinn and which will be clearly visible from the Conservation Area. Not content with this, the developer who gained the permission has now passed that permission to a different developer who has presented a fresh application changing it from chalet bungalows to five detached houses - even more visible from the Conservation Area !

As yet the Conservation Panel have not received details from the Planning Dept as to how this designation will be enacted but it is to be hoped that it will substantially help to combat this threat - meanwhile the battle continues !

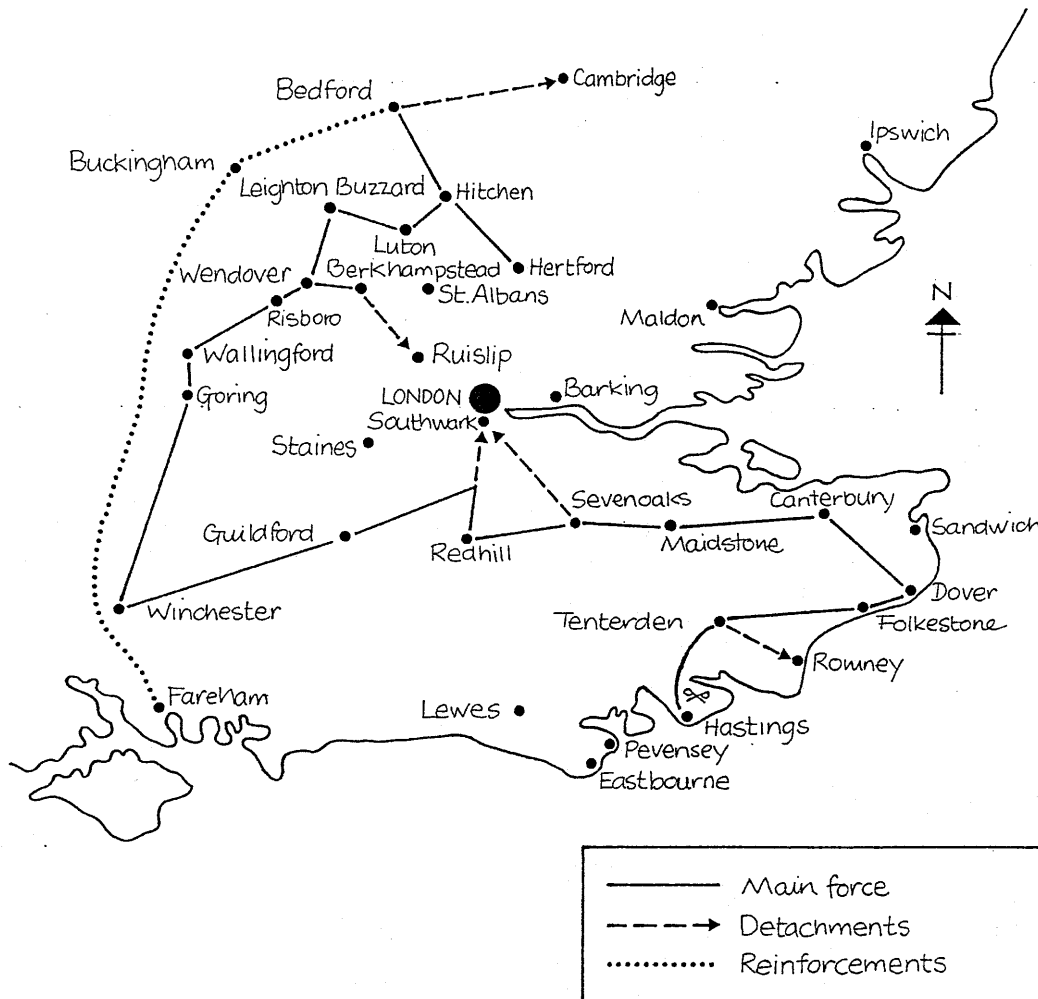
The third designation which created a completely new Conservation Area, i.e. Morford Way and Morford Close, is a total bonus for Eastcote. This superb development, built in the 1920's by Telling Bros [later W A Telling Ltd] is a mix of buildings some by individual owners and some by Tellings whose Architect, Frank Osler, had worked with Lutyens and others at Hampstead Garden Suburb.

The Telling development is therefore of Architectural and Historic interest in itself and was additionally significant in the development of Eastcote because Tellings built shops on Field End Road and thus began the centre of New Eastcote as opposed to Eastcote Village. It is proposed that this new C.A. should be treated as an adjunct to the Eastcote Village C.A. with an elected member representing that area sitting on the existing Conservation Area Advisory Panel.

In conclusion, the Eastcote Village C.A.A.P. feel that they owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Jon Finney, Conservation Officer, LBH, Planning Department, who, after taking up his newly designated post in 1987, so quickly absorbed the character of the Eastcote/Ruislip Area. As a result of the comprehensive studies made by him these three significant and exciting designations have been made. Thus Conservation in Hillingdon has begun to move confidently into the 20th century securing the future of some of the better aspects of our immediate past.

Sheila Liberty  
Chairman, Eastcote Village C.A.A.P.

MAP SHOWING NORMAN TROOP MOVEMENTS - AUTUMN 1066



## A NORMAN MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE IN RUISLIP - WHY?

by Robert Bedford

This enigma has puzzled many over the centuries and although it is beyond dispute that the motte (Norman-French for mound) just to the east of Ruislip Library, with its surrounding moat and the bailey area in which now stands the Manor House, is of Norman origin, the question remains as to why it was built here in a relatively obscure village offering no obvious defensive advantages.

To find a possible answer one has to begin with the Battle of Hastings fought on the 14th October 1066. William of Normandy with 10,000 men had set sail from St. Valery on the north French coast, landing two days later at Pevensey which he fortified and then waited for King Harold to assemble his forces. The Saxon Army lined the ridge of Senlac Hill and formed a defensive wall with their long shields against the Norman archers, armed with short bows, who came ahead of the infantry and of the knights dressed in chain mail and riding their small horses. The Saxon shield wall held intact during the long day and William's archers were running short of arrows and messengers were sent back to Pevensey for more. William, deciding on a new tactic, instructed the arrows to be fired high and into the rear ranks of the Saxon army. King Harold suffered a mortal wound and then a combined Norman attack broke the shield wall and the Saxon army fled in disorder.

The season was getting late and with shortening daylight hours and increasingly adverse weather, William must have deliberated at length as to what action he should now follow. A direct attack on London was problematical with a depleted army awaiting reinforcements from Normandy and, in an obvious attempt to assess the strength of the Saxon resistance, he led his forces by a long circuitous route by way of Hastings, Dover, Canterbury, Southwark (where he contemplated crossing the Thames) west to Winchester and then back to Wallingford where he established a motte and bailey and took his forces over the Thames.

William's objectives at this time seem to have been to seize as many royal manors as possible, as these represented centres of English resistance and also sources of personal revenue, and also to capture as many Anglo-Saxon burhs (defended enclosures) as possible to use as fortresses, ringing and isolating London from the rest of England.

He therefore moved his army during the fourth week of November along the Icknield Way to Harold's Manors at Risborough and Wendover. Here the army divided - the baggage column continuing along the Icknield Way to Luton and ultimately to Hertford, while the infantry and cavalry detachments secured Aylesbury. William had now secured a series of garrisons at burhs and manors to the north and west of London cutting it off from English reinforcements.

It seems highly probable that a fairly large detachment of infantry and cavalry from Wendover could have come directly to Ruislip and established a motte and bailey within the existing

Anglo-Saxon enclosure. This site, which was then the nearest to London, could have represented the spearhead of the ultimate attack.

Ruislip at this period appears to have been a defended Anglo-Saxon village with an enclosure earthwork (or burh - hence Bury Street) constructed originally to repel Scandinavian raiders. This large circular and pallisaded rampart, some of which still exists today to the north of Winston Churchill Hall, probably followed a line along Bury Street and around the high ground to the south of where St. Martin's Church now stands. A Norman motte and bailey could be constructed very quickly - Saxon conscripted labour was available to dig the moat and the spoil extracted would determine the height of the mound, in the case of Ruislip not more than about 20 feet. This would then be surmounted by a wooden "castle" of partly buried tree trunks forming a battlement and providing a look-out point. Only a few weeks were required for its construction and it would have followed the usual Norman practice of placing a motte and bailey within a previously prepared defensive position.

It was now mid-December and the English leaders in London, deciding that further resistance would now be futile, sent emissaries to Berkhamsted and offered William the crown. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle graphically records this event as follows:-

"There he was met by Bishop Ealdred, Prince Edgar, Earl Edwin, Earl Morcar and all the best men from London, who submitted from force of circumstances, but only when the depredation was complete. It was great folly that they had not done so sooner when God would not remedy matters because of our sins. They gave him hostages and swore oaths of fealty, and he promised to be a gracious lord to them. Nevertheless in the meantime, they harried everywhere they came".

The time the army spent in Ruislip would have depended on what supplies of food and fodder were available as well as the political situation in London, but it could have been at least a week before the final day's march to Westminster where William was to be crowned king on Christmas Day 1066. As an indication of the nervousness of the Norman troops in hostile territory, there occurred an incident outside the new Minster as the surrounding infantry burnt houses and put some of the populace to the sword, mistaking their cheering as a sign of revolt.

The foregoing conjecture offers an intriguing possibility which carries considerable circumstantial evidence, not least of which is the fact that the Domesday Book record compiled some twenty years after the Battle indicates that the value of the Manor of Ruislip was only £12 when it was received by Ernulf de Hesdin, whereas before 1066 it had been £30. The route of William's advance through England has been plotted by the loss in value (by more than 50%) of Manors where he or a detachment of his army rested, as the men foraged in the surrounding area.

As a short-term requirement the Ruislip motte-bailey castle was probably immediately neglected and had assumed by 1086 much the same appearance as it has today.

Bibliography: 1066 Year of Destiny: Terence Wise 1979  
The Norman Heritage : Trevor Rowley 1983  
An Archaeology of South East England: Gordon J.Copley 1958

## BURY FARM

by Eileen M. Bowlt

Bury Farm stands on the west side of Bury Street, Ruislip, between the street and the boundary of St. Catherine's Manor. (See map). The earliest delineation of the house and the land belonging to it, is on the Ruislip Enclosure map of 1806 and the first documentary reference is in the King's College Terrier of 1565, but archaeological work carried out in 1986 and described in the 1988 edition of this journal, shows that a house of hall and cross-wing type existed on the site in the 15th century and was rebuilt c.1620. The 17th century timber-framed building which still stands was fronted with brick c.1780.

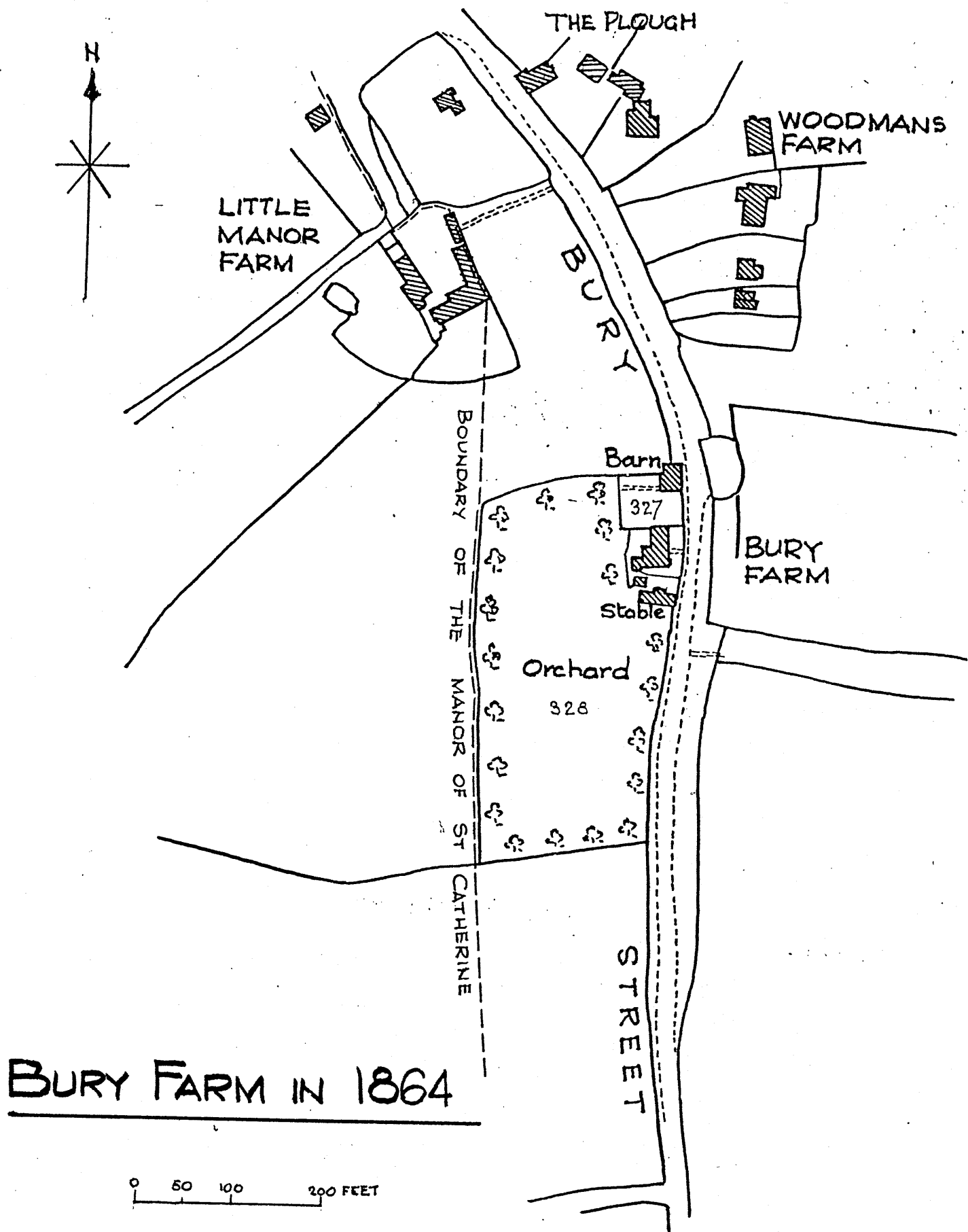
(1)

The 1565 Terrier describes property street by street and also gives abuttals, which makes identification reasonably certain. The house with an adjacent orchard occupied 1c. 1r. of land and Richard Robins, a smith, had been the copyhold tenant since 1546. Richard Robins's "cottage", as it was designated in the Terrier, was the old hall and cross-wing house.

Apart from the orchard the only land which went with it was a detached close of 3a. called Clack, about half a mile away in Clack Lane. There were no sellions in the common fields attached to the house. This fact should not cause too much surprise as the Terrier shows that relatively few houses did have common field land let with them as part of a holding, only 42 out of 116 in Westcote and Eastcote, the parts of the manor where the open fields lay. None of the 12 houses in Bury Street north of the Pinn had any share in the arable. Those that still stand, Cannonsbridge Farm, The Plough, Woodman Farm and Bury Farm, are all substantial timber-framed buildings and one wonders how they were maintained from the small enclosures (approximately 5a.) surrounding them. The proximity of the woodland makes it possible that the 16th century inhabitants derived some part of their income at least from work in the woods. That was certainly true for many of those living there in the 19th century. (2)

As far as Richard Robins was concerned, he had a trade and also owned other property.<sup>(3)</sup> The cottage at the north end of Ruislip High Street, now called The Village Tearooms, had been his since 1544. In addition, he had acquired some small parcels of common field land -  $3\frac{1}{2}$  sellions in 1545,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  sellions in June 1559 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre and 1 acre of common field meadow in 1557 and February 1559 respectively. There are no means of knowing where he lived, but as there are 15th century references to a smithy "by the court gate"<sup>(4)</sup>, a description which fits the Village Tearooms and as a smithy is still shown there on Doharty's map of 1750, it is most likely that that was Richard Robins's dwelling place.

The Court Rolls of 1589 <sup>(5)</sup> show William Robins of Hillingdon selling a house and close in Bury Street to a Matthew Nicholas and 83 years after that John Nicholas, a smith, paid hearth tax <sup>(6)</sup> on a four-hearthed house in Bury Street. If it could be proved that these two references are to Bury Farm, then it would follow that the Nicholas family (prominent property-owning yeoman) removed the medieval hall and built the present house in its place, early in the 17th century.



Ownership and occupation of the house until the 19th century is obscure but the name John Spicer is scratched into bricks around the window to the north of the front door, which suggests that he may have been responsible for the brick front. There are also some initials and dates - M.S.1776; W.G./S 1776; W.E. 1786, some of which might represent other members of the Spicer family.

The Enclosure Map 1806 shows the house with an outbuilding on either side, situated in Old Enclosure 327 (2r. 26p.) with Old Enclosure 328 (1a. 1r. 19p.) adjoining to the south, the whole with a frontage to Bury Street, running across Marlborough Avenue (a modern road inserted in the 1930s) and ending at the southern side of the cottages called "Fairview". The building shown in the northern extremity of O.E. 327 was a barn standing right on the roadside which was pulled down about 1930 when Bury Street was widened. The house itself was nearly demolished at the same time and only saved because the owner of land opposite was willing to forgo a strip. That on the south side of the house was probably a stable. It appears from Ordnance Survey maps to have been rebuilt after 1864 and again altered between 1897 and 1916. All the maps show the land as orchard.

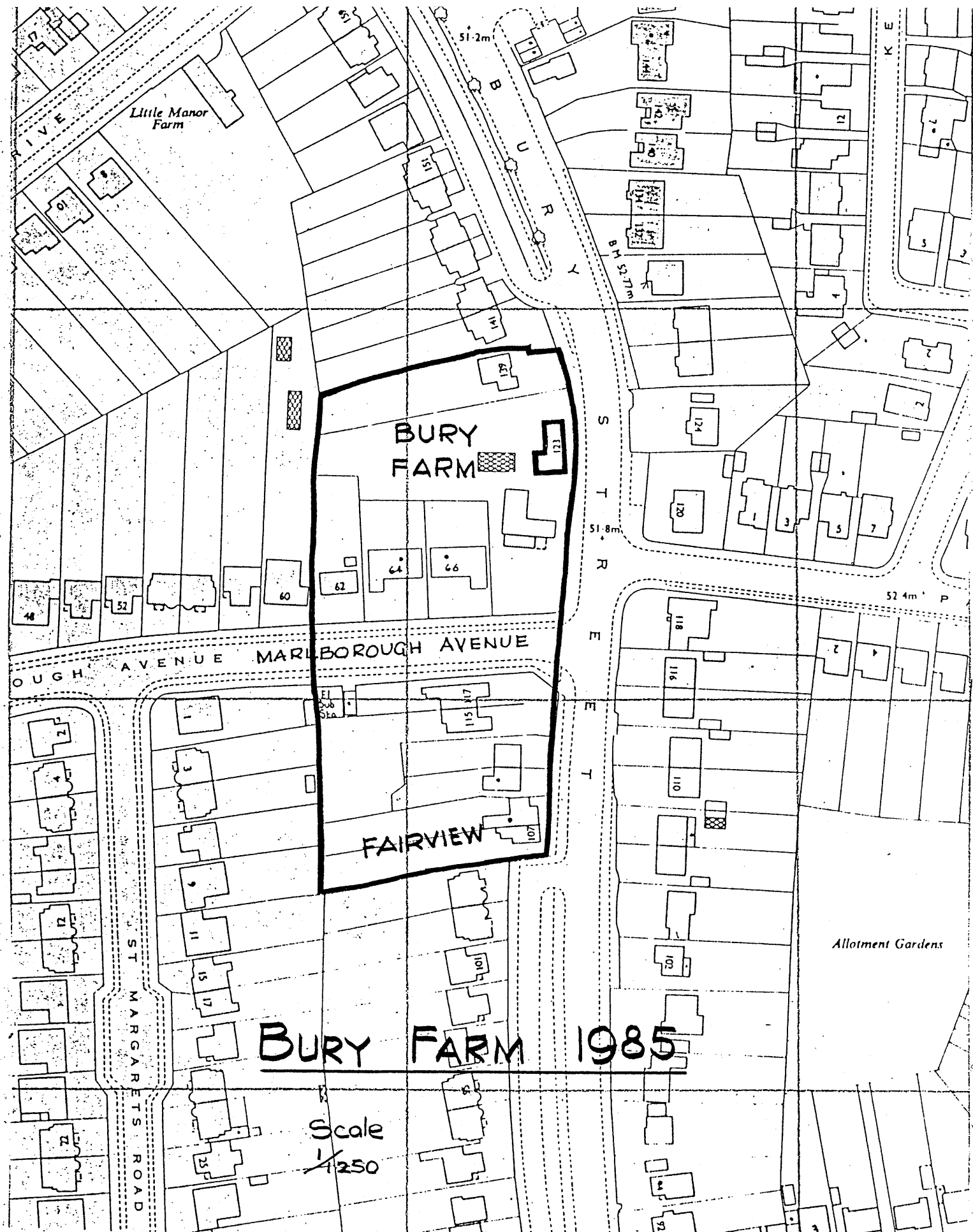
In 1807, when a valuation of Ruislip Parish was made during the Enclosure upheavals, John Taylor owned Bury Farm and William Scaffold lived in it. Ownership and occupation during the 19th century, compiled from Rate Books, Street Directories and Census Returns, are shown in the table below.

Date	Owners	Occupiers
1807	John Taylor	William Scaffold
1810	John Dean	Widow Dean
1815	Widow Dean	Widow Dean
1816	James Ewer	
1825	James Ewer	Thomas Bray
1835	James Ewer	John Grigg
1856	Elizabeth Ewer	John Grigg
1861	Elizabeth Ewer	John Grigg
1871		James Bunce
1881	James Bunce	James Bunce
1916	James Bunce	James Bunce
1939	William Ive	William Ive & Sons, Coal Merchants.
1985	Michael & Martha Taub	

James Ewer who owned the house from 1816 until his death in 1857, was a prosperous farmer who lived at Hill Farm (now in Orchard Close) where he was a tenant of the Swakeleys Estate but owned Mill House, Bury Street, and land in Sharps Lane, West End Road and elsewhere in the parish as well. His unmarried daughter, Elizabeth, owned Bury Farm after his death but lived with her brother, Edwin, at Wilkins Farm and continued to let to John Grigg.

James Bunce, owner/occupier, was a hay dealer in 1871 but had several other strings to his bow. The 1888 Street Directory describes him as "Greengrocer etc." and by 1904 he was a general





BURY FARM 1985

Scale  
1/1250

dealer. Some time later a large greenhouse was erected in which food stuffs were grown and which fell a victim to the great gale of October 1987. He built the pair of houses called "Fairview" in 1899 at the southern edge of his property and other members of the family lived in them.

The opening of Ruislip station in 1904 brought ramblers and trippers from London in search of rural recreation and refreshment and James Bunce, now turned sixty, turned his hand to providing teas at his newly-named Orchard Tea-gardens. A photograph in the Library's collection shows Edwardian ladies in picture hats sitting on wooden forms at trestle tables, being served by his granddaughter Rosa. The tea-gardens flourished until after the First World War. Rosa married William Ive, a coal merchant, c. 1912 and lived in Reservoir Road at first, moving back into the farmhouse while her husband was away at the war (1914-1918). When James Bunce died, c.1917, he left his property to his two grandchildren, Rosa Ive and William James Bunce to be divided between them. William James took the Fairview half of the property and Rosa had the farmhouse and the rest of the orchard.

During the 1920s, William James Bunce developed his Bury Street frontage by building a semi-detached pair of houses and later two semi-detached bungalows.

English Homes, who were erecting an estate on the lands of Little Manor Farm, were building Marlborough Avenue in 1935 and the Council insisted on taking a strip of land from the orchard to give the new road an outlet to Bury Street. Mrs. Ive gave land to her children to have a house each, and a house and two bungalows were built along the Marlborough Avenue frontage and a house behind where the old barn used to stand in Bury Street. In 1985 the Ive family moved away and the new owners set about restoring the building, which led to the uncovering of the fascinating construction history described in the 1988 Journal.

The name Bury Farm is recent, only coming into common use since the Second World War. Indeed, even now, many local inhabitants think of it as "Ive's Place". Farm in any case would seem to be a misnomer as the house cannot fairly be so described at any time in the long period of its recorded history.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. King's College R.36.                     | 5. British Library: Add.MS 9367           |
| 2. Ruislip Library: Census Returns 1841-81. | 6. G.L.RD: MR/TH/23                       |
| 3. King's College R.36.                     | 7. Information from Mary Rees (nee Ives). |
| 4. " " R.39                                 |   |

Maps drawn by James McBean.

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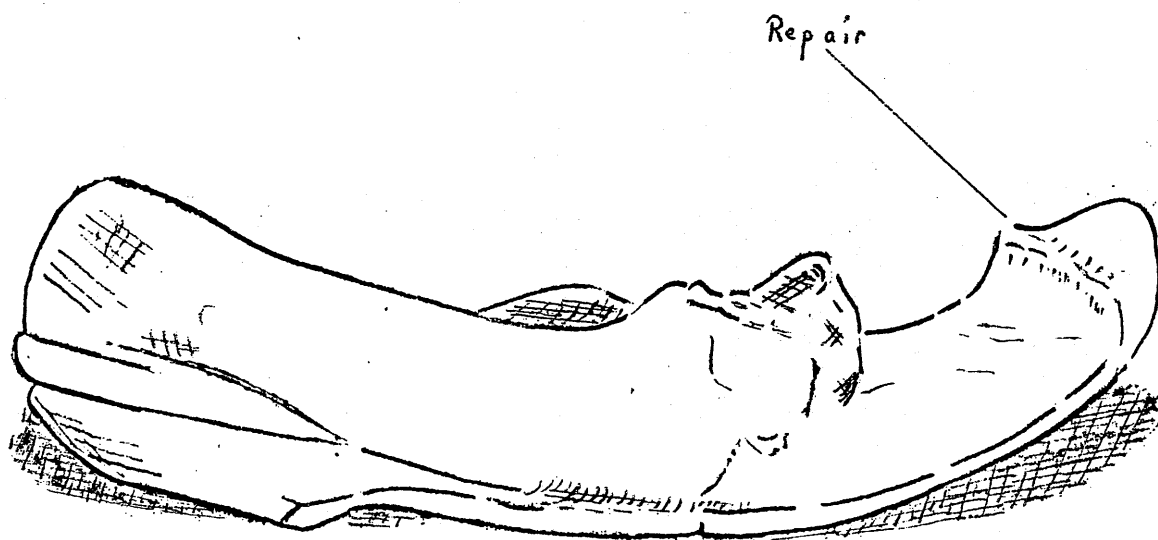
## Two recent discoveries of shoe "burial" in Ruislip

by Colin Bowlt

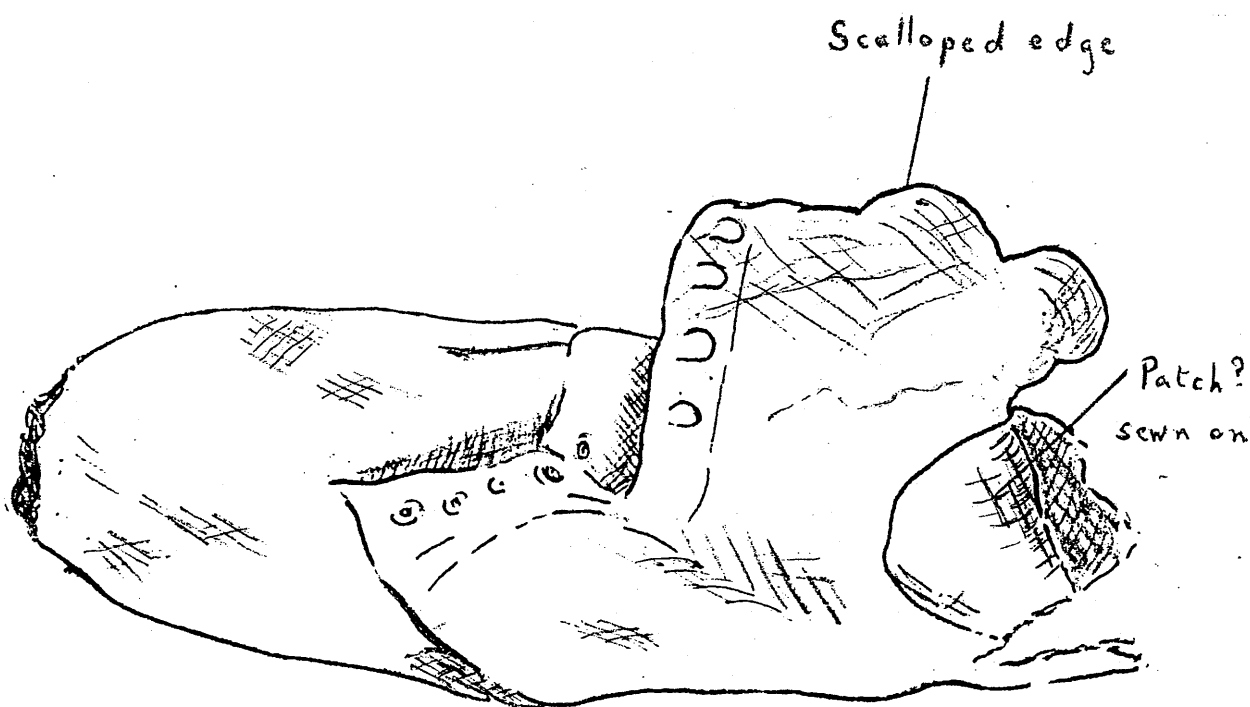
There are a sufficient number of examples to indicate a fairly widespread practice in the past of deliberately hiding shoes in buildings. Some years ago the Northampton Museum listed over 130 examples of shoes and boots being found in houses and more have turned up since then. They occur in the southern half of England, in Wales and, surprisingly, two examples from N. America. The earliest was of 15th century date from Tewkesbury Abbey but lack of evidence for the practice before that may simply reflect the dearth of houses still standing from that time. The most recent example is as late as 1935.

Some of these could be accounted for by accidental loss but in many instances they have been discovered during repair or demolition of buildings in places where accidental loss seems improbable, such as under floors, in, or behind, walls and in roofs but also very often associated with chimneys. Most often they have been found alone but sometimes other objects were also present. Perhaps the most outstanding example was found in 1961 in the late 16th century Lauderdale House on Highgate Hill. In a built-up recess near a first-floor fire-place were two odd shoes, with four desiccated chickens, two of which had apparently been strangled and two burned alive, a yellow glazed earthenware candlestick, a glass goblet, a thong of plaited rushes and a large basket which probably contained all these objects but was thrown away by the workmen who found it. This "burial" seems to be of the time of the original building. Also close to our area are several examples from Watford dating from the 16th and 17th centuries.

In September 1985 during alteration and repair work at Bury Farm, Ruislip, workmen found an old shoe behind the thin lath and plaster wall by the chimney in the S.W. upper room. The shoe has been examined at the Museum of London. It was a lady's shoe for the right foot made circa 1770. The shoe was well-worn and it was thought that it was probably about 20 years old when hidden behind the wall. The house, which was described in the last Journal, was built circa 1620 but alterations had been carried out at various times since, in particular in the 18th century when the brick facing was added to the front of the house. It seems likely that the shoe was placed behind the wall during alterations at the end of the 18th century. The shoe is of leather with two integral straps. The low heel was made of wood (with wood-worm holes) covered with leather but the piece on the walking surface was missing. The sole had a hole worn through at the toe and was of two pieces, but whether this was a repair was not clear since all joins were beautifully, and remarkably evenly, stitched. The capping at the toe did not appear to be a repair. The shoe was only some 8 inches long: a very small lady's shoe by present-day standards. I examined the find site later but apart from some blackened, crumbling plaster, daub and similar rubbish, I found nothing which might have been associated with the shoe. The present owners of Bury Farm have retained the shoe at the house.



18th Shoe from Bury Farm, Bury Street



19th Boot from Hope Cottage, Breakspear Road

2

In September 1988, Celia Cartwright was brought a small boot found by builders during alterations at 2 Hope Cottages, Breakspear Road. I later spoke to the builder, Mr. L. Francis of Whyteleaf Close, who confirmed that his workmen had indeed found the boot in a recess at the back of the chimney which had since been knocked down. He said the part of the building he was dealing with had originally been two cottages but had been converted into one dwelling. He was changing it back to two cottages again. There is another cottage adjoining and a date plaque of 1886, which is the date of construction. The boot was given by the owner to our Society which has donated it to the Museum of London collection. No report on it has yet been received but it is of the 19th century. This, coupled with its hiding place, strongly suggests that it was interred at the time of building. The leather boot was only 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long and would seem to be that of a child. There was no trace of colour but it was well-worn and/or decayed with the upper loose from the sole and the heel apparently missing. A leather patch was sewn on at the back, a rather curious place.

Some years ago when Normans, the newsagents shop in the High Street, opposite St. Martin's Church, was being altered into an estate agent's office for B.S. Hall, the workmen displayed an old shoe in the window. It was thought that this had been discovered during the work but no further details are known.

These finds from Ruislip would seem to be further examples of what appears to have been a fairly widespread practice of deliberately interring shoes and boots when a home was built or altered. There is no known written record of just why this was done even though the practice continued into this century, but perhaps by then the real reason had been forgotten, except perhaps the vague idea that old shoes are "lucky".

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#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

At present we have 110 members and attendance at meetings remains consistently high. This year the subscription was increased to £4-50 (£8-00 for a couple) in order to cover our costs. We have also introduced an associate membership category with a £2-00 subscription.

In these days of rising prices it is going to be difficult to keep our subscriptions at this level but, of course, an increase in membership numbers would help. Other societies are putting a great deal of effort into recruiting new members and whilst I am not suggesting that our society should follow suit, we can all make an effort by mentioning the Society to our friends and neighbours. A larger membership would also give the Society more influence when its opinion is sought on local matters.

Most of our current members live in this area but some, usually with local connections, live in various parts of the Home Counties. Our Journal is, of course, distributed to every member and also to other local societies and to institutions such as the Greater London History Library and the Brunel University Library.

Sheila Jones-Owen

## IN MEMORIAM

by Leonard Krause

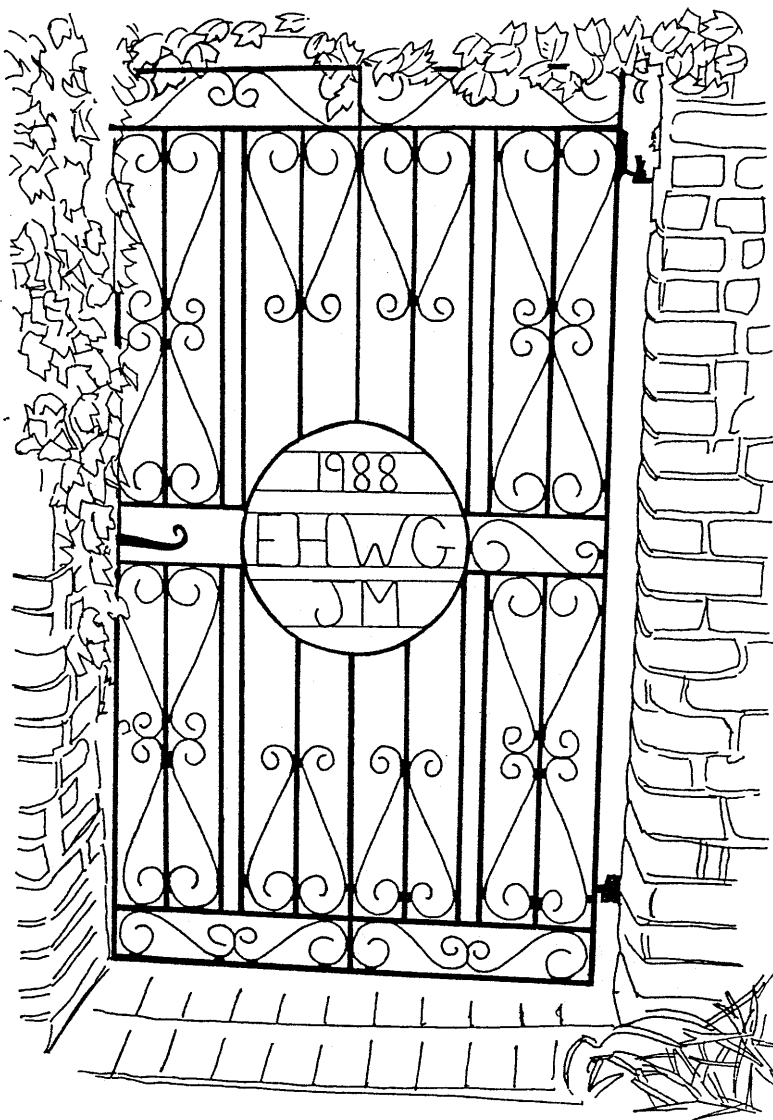
We regret the death of four of our members during 1988.

Jean Mitchell died in May. Jean represented us on the Eastcote Conservation Panel and is remembered in the newly-erected wrought-iron gate to the Eastcote House walled garden.

Mary Pater died in July. Mary was active in the Ruislip community especially in the Literary Society.

Harold Meacock died in October. Harold was a member of the Ruislip Conservation Panel where his astute mind was invaluable in assessing what the Local Authority and private developers were really up to.

Laura Maly a former member and resident of Ruislip for 35 years died in November.



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Mr. Leonard Krause	01-868-9040
Secretary	Mrs. Eileen Watling	0895-673534
Treasurer	Mr. Tony Jones	0895-634683
Registrar & Membership Secretary	Mrs. Sheila Jones-Owen	0895-633888
Minutes Secretary	Mrs. Susan Toms	0895-637134
Editors	Mrs. Eileen Bowlt Dr. Colleen Cox	0895-638060 0895-673187
Programme Secretary ) Outings Secretary ) Ruislip Conservation )	Mr. Robert Bedford	0895-637396
Research Group	Miss Irene Furbank Mr. George Camp	0895-636047 01-845-9412
LAMAS Liaison	Mr. Ronald Lightning	0895-631074

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### SUMMER OUTINGS 1989

- Sunday, 23rd April - Walk around Eastcote with Eileen Bowlt  
Meet at Eastcote Station 2.00p.m.
- Saturday, 20th May - Coach outing to Flag Fen, Peterborough  
and Ely.  
Coach leaves St. Martin's Approach 9.00 a.m.
- Sunday, 17th September- Placque walk around Harrow-on-the-Hill  
with Jim Golland.  
Meet at St. Mary's, Harrow-on-the-Hill  
2.00p.m.
- 

### SWAKELEYS OPEN DAYS 1989

- Sunday, 14th May 10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.
- Sunday, 16th July " "
- Sunday, 1st October " "
- 

Local historians rely a great deal on early maps of their locality.  
HAVE YOU GOT AN EARLY MAP OF RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE?

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