

RUISLIP NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE

local history society Journal 1991



The Station Master's House Ruislip

FH & DMS

The Journal of the Ruislip Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

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EDITORIAL

Some of the more fascinating and, at the same time, more frustrating things about research into Local History, or Family History too, are often the odd things that crop up unexpectedly during a particular project.

One such occurred while transcribing the 16th Century Wills for Ruislip. In most wills of the period, the same names turn up as witnesses time after time. Such names tend to be those of local men and women who were influential or who held some local Office at the time, such as Parish Priest, Headborough or Church Warden.

The Will of James Edlin dated 11 July 1504, was unusual on two counts, not only was it the only one written wholly in Latin, but also it included amongst the witnesses the name *Affelwaldo le Ilallis for IIII Hillis J.* The name is most unusual and appears nowhere else in any of the other wills transcribed. A search through various name indices on a national basis have yielded no other occurrence of this most singular name, nor, so far, has anyone else come up with an alternative suggestion as to what the name might be (the writing does seem to be reasonably clear). Who was he, or was he anyone at all? Perhaps it was some mythical person included for legal purposes - a sort of Tudor A. N. O! It may be one day the mystery will be solved as to the identity of this unusually named individual.

Two names which hold no mystery for members of the Society, are Len Krause and Eileen Bowl. After many years of hard work as Chairman of our Society, Len has relinquished the post and Eileen has taken it over. As a token of appreciation for all his work, the last Annual General Meeting unanimously elected Len as President of the Society, a post which has not been filled for many years now. We congratulate both him and Eileen on their new posts.

During last year, the Society held an Exhibition on Ruislip schools entitled 'Educational Development in Ruislip'. Extracts from school log books were on display, together with photographs and reminiscences of people involved with some of the schools. The exhibition was well attended and many of the visitors to the Exhibition must have gone away saying to themselves 'I wonder what he comes of old ...'. We should like to thank the members of the Research Group, who were involved in preparing the exhibition and also all those who supplied material for it. It is hoped to produce a publication based on the material later in the year.

The Christmas meeting of the Society was a social gathering with the theme of a Wartime Christmas. Members of the Committee and other helpers provided an excellent entertainment and also a meal which far exceeded wartime rations! Again, we should like to thank all those who helped to make this meeting the success it clearly was.



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SLNMER OUTINGS 199 1

Saturday 20 April	Visit to Local Churches to view stones used in their construction Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0930hr
Saturday. 18May	Andover. Danebury HillFort & Winchester Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0900hr
Saturday 15 June	Castle Acre 8. Kings Lynn Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0900hr
Sunday 29 September	Coach lour of Bristol Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0900hr



INQIE IN NORTHWOOD

by Leonard Krause

In 1928, a syndicate formed by the Shilaker Family in Northwood built three large detached houses in Sandy lodge way. Two of the houses were demolished after the second world war and were replaced by flats. The third house - *Whitefriars* - No 30 Sandy lodge Way still stands.

Whitefriars was occupied by Mr Egbert Stilaker of the Syndicate and his family until his death in the early 1950's. His widow sold the property to Dr W StC Symmers MD in 1953, who told us the following history of Whitefriars which he had from Mrs Shilaker.

If I £ SJiloltN" was an Engineer with CO11t1tJctions with tile ort11Of11811ts industry, 1J()tob/y Viders. In the Spanish Civil War h 1836/J8 saw the grin lKwoc oR the civil pcpuhtion caused by 08rio/ bombardment by the Cermon luftwoFfe ossisthg Franco. As the ctN"toilly of war h EurOp8 ,8W, /R; CO11CBm for his family ttxJl a practical ftrn ond M 11138/J8 designed ond built on airraid sJBhtN" i1 /Jis garden, just soutlJ of file lJouse. W/J8nwar was declared i1 Septembsr 1910, the S/JiloltN" family sMpl" i1 t/Jis s/J8her 8vtn"y night aInost withJout exception 111til Hay INS.

In the spring of 1990 Dr Symmers, after the death of his wife, decided to sell the garden in which the shelter stood, and he invited a few of us, to see it. He told us that a family from the Middle East had been to see Whitefriars which was also for sale. When their children were asked what the shelter was, they said - after some hesitation - ~ mosque' (the accompanying sketch shows why!).

The shelter was a circular concrete structure about 10ft diameter and 10ft high with a domed roof. The walls, roof and base were 10in thick concrete sandwiches with armament steel plate in the middle. There were deep set windows and a door which could be protected by fitted steel plates. There was a stove for warmth with an odd little chimney, water and electric light.

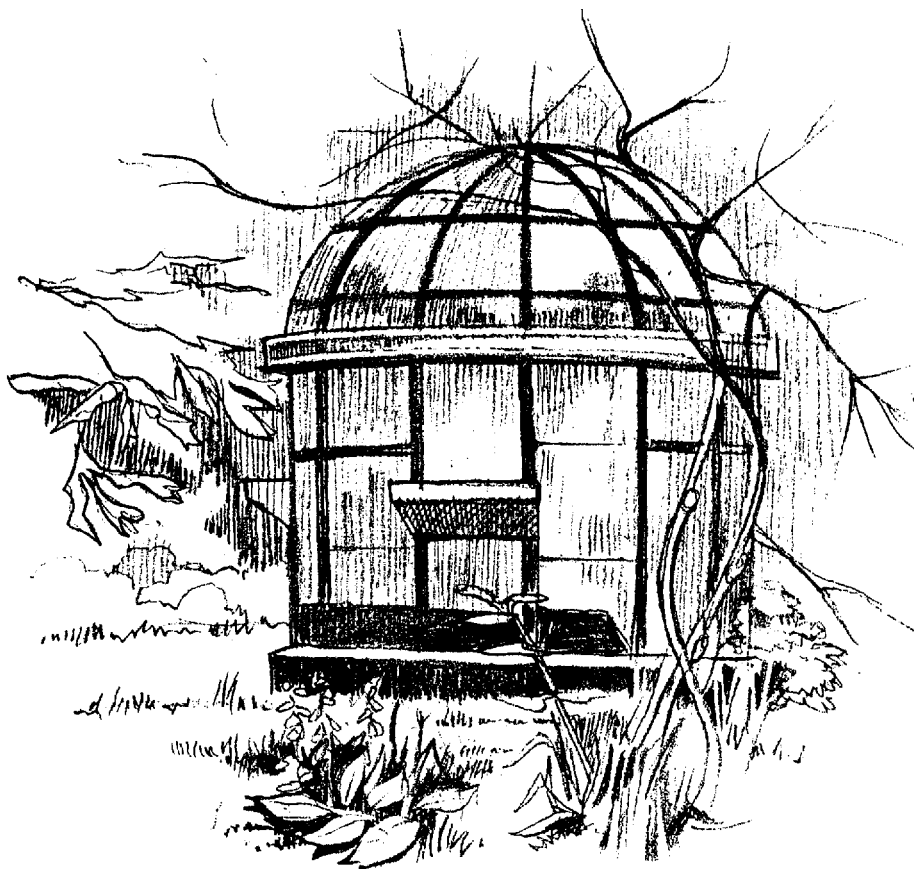
From 1915 onwards, the shelter was used as a garden store and play room and gradually, as the garden had less attention, it became engulfed in saplings and shrubs. Now it has gone - it must have been quite a job - and a new house is taking shape on the site. Undoubtedly it would have withstood anything but a direct hit as Mr Shilaker planned, and he certainly would not have been surprised at the concentrated aerial attack on Iraq as we write in January 1991.

Dr Symmers now lives in Edinburgh. We are obliged to him for his interest and courtesy which arose from an Exhibition we staged at St Johns UR Church in Hallowell Road.

-Len Krause: Eileen Bowl: Eileen Watling: Jim McBean



J8Sandyl~ Way



Airraid Shelter built 1938

C.V.GALLEY

by Eileen 11. Bowl

Cyril Vincent GoOey (known aa Vic) waa a well-known figure among the large band of amall builders who began to develop *IltJtroltIndin* the 1920s and 30s. alongside such 'big' names as Telling or Comben & Walteling. He made something of a speciality of bungalows and built them extensively around Eastcote. Ruislip and Northwood and Pinner too. like several of the other small developers in this area (Mr Patchett. Mr Peachey and Mr Belton of Southern Park and Belton htates for example) he came from the north of England.

He was born at Rowlands Gill.Co. Durham (about 10 miles west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. in May 1906 and spent much of hi8 childhood in Blaydon (of reces fame). On leaving school at the age of 14. he worked as a milkman for the Co-operative Society for a short time. until he realiaed that he could earn more money for shorter hours down the pit and went to drive ponies at the Addison Colliery instead. At 16 he enjoyed another brief flirtation with the milk retail trade. but this time as his own boss. He bought eggs and also rabbits which he skinned himself. to sell as well 08 milk and earned extra on Sundays by using his pony and cart to 8ell ice cream for another vendor.

All this hard work taught him many valuable lessons in business management. which must have come in handy in later life. but brought little profit at the time. so he changed tack again and apprenticed himself os o plasterer to Mr Davidson of Blaydon and in so doing set the pattern for the rest of his working life.

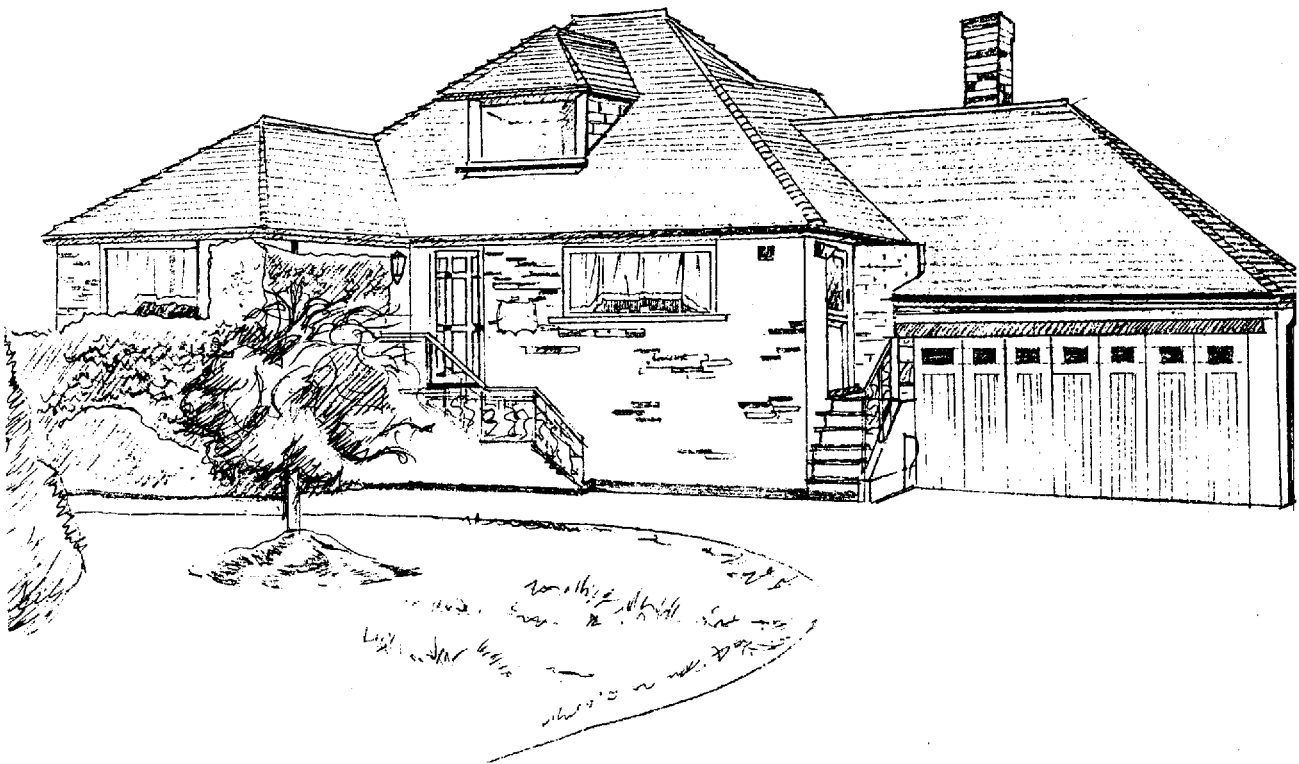
His succes8ful career as o plasterer hod a slight hiccup in 1927 because of the slump in the building trade and after five months on the dole in the north-east. he took the coach to London, just before his 22nd birthday. The building boom hod begun in Middlesex. Two of the Ball brothers. John and Bill were busy in Colindale and Hendon and C.V.Galley started work with Bill Ball at Wykmans Hill. Colindale in the middle of May 1928.

Within two years he hod rented o bungalow at Pole Hill. Hillingdon and hod brought his mother. step-father and the rest of his family down from the north-east and had fixed them 01lup with jobs. This was quite a common progression at the time: young. skilled. unmarried men. driven from the north by lack of work and attracted by the opportunities for employment offered by the building and associated trades in the expanding suburbs. travelled south. established themselves and having blazed o trail. were joined by older members of their families. Many of these families enjoyed comfortable lives in the south-east. though they were not all so successful as Mr Galley.

His next step was to enter into o fairly short-lived partnership. Galley •• Walker os o Plastering Contractor and he worked on contracts for Comben & Wakeling and other of the larger builders. About the some time he met his future wife. Doris Hill. while going on o coach trip to the 1932 Aldershot Military Tattoo at the Rushmoor Arena. The young couple bought o plot of land at 54. lime Grove and built their own bungalow mainly with their own hands. It was complete and furnished in time for their wedding day on 7th July 1934.

The Galley/Walker partnership broke up. but he continued on his own and was employing 28 men in 1934. Just over a year later he embarked on his building career. by borrowing enough money to buy five plots in Fronces Road. on the east side of Cheyney Street and putting up five bungalows. He moved into one of them with his wife and baby son.

From these fairly small beginnings his business expanded. He built ten more bungalows nearby in Cheyney Street and Chiltern Road. Eastcote. Then Comben" Wakeling who were developing the Eastcote Park Estate wanted to dispose of 88 plots and offered them to Mr Galley. who had been their plastering contractor such a short time before. The plots were in St Lawrence Drive. Rodney Gardens and Bridle Road. Once again he built bungalows. which were complete by 1939 and a new home for himself and family at 35. Field End Road. backing onto St Lawrence Drive.



9 SflowrencfJ DrWfJ

More land became available and was acquired in Evelyn Avenue and at Meadow Close. but the Second World War broke out and prevented development. During the next six years much of Mr Galley's work was on air-raid shelters and repairing bomb damage for Ruislip-Northwood and Hayes Councils. This must have kept him busy. because in 1941 alone 102 houses were demolished. 365 severely damaged and 2528 slightly damaged. as a result of air raids in Ruislip-Northwood.

After the war private building was forbidden for a time by the new Labour Government and later was allowed only under a Building Licence at controlled prices. so C.V.Galley turned his attention to council houses. beginning with 36 in South Ruislip. A licence soon enabled him to start building at lost in Evelyn Avenue. Meadow Close and Blaydon Close (named after his childhood home). Among the council contracts was one from Acton Council for council houses to be built in South Ruislip on land sold by Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council.

By the late 1950s the firm C.V.Galley Ltd was building about 50 houses a year. that is one a week. Mr & Mrs Galley moved again. this time to 7. Lawrence Drive. another new house built by the company. It stands on a bend in St Lawrence Drive and had land at the side which was made into a tennis court. A visit to Canada in 1963 suggested new styles of housing to Mr Galley and on his return he put up a brand new super bungalow on the former tennis court. with a basement to hold a full-sized billiards table as well as the central heating boiler.

One of the roads developed by Galleys was Rushmoor Close off Catlins Lane. Eastcote. named after the arena in Aldershot. where Mr & Mrs Ganey first met in 1932. His daughter and son in law lived in the Close after their marriage in 1960. thus keeping up the romantic associations. He also built 12 houses in Westbury Road. Northwood. on the Eastbury Farm Estate.

For more than 40 years C.V.Galley led a team of workers who stayed together for long periods. Many men had worked for him for between 25 and 40 years. but by the mid- 1970s were reaching retirement age and as his son did not want to carry on the business without the old team. the firm was wound up in 1976. The last building project was in the new road called The Sigers in Eastcote. The timber-framed house called Sigers had not stood on that site at all. but on the other side of Field End Road and had been demolished in the early 1930s to make way for the Eastcote Park Estate. where so much of Mr Galley's early work had been done and where he had lived for so much of his married life. He and his wife retired to Poole, Dorset. in 1977. where they had owned a weekend home for some years. He died in January 1983 and his ashes are in the Garden of Remembrance at St Lawrence's Eastcote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Most of the information for this article was taken from a privately produced autobiography of Mr Galley and I am most grateful to Mrs Galley & her family for permission to use the material and to J.B.Reid esq. for drawing my attention to it.

APPEAL Galley-built bungalows and houses are scattered widely over this area. It would be interesting to compile a complete list and I should be grateful if anyone who knows of any would be kind enough to contact me.

CHRISTMAS 1940

by Eileen 11. Bowlf

The theme of the Society's 1990 Christmas Social was 'Christmos I!JIO~ Anyone who had been seeking light relief from the strains of war fifty years ago. might have gone to see Rita Heyworth 'the new oomp/J girl' appearing in 'The lady i1 (JHHJstion'at the Rivoli.or attended one of the numerous whist drives advertised in the local paper but in 1990. Society Members watched and heard what the Committee had made of Christmas in that momentous year. half a century ago.

THE KING'S SPEECH

It was a nostalgic evening. Colin Bowlf disguised as a BBC announcer acted as M.C. Ennunciating clearly through a realistic microphone [cleverly created out of what appeared to be an old shoe box by Karen Spink) he began:

'At three o'chcJ on Christmas /Joy I!HO, you could guoront88 III0t practico/ly every mon. woman and child M Ruis/ip. Northwood & Eostcote would be sittig by the fire and egerly waiting for the King's speeck to beum on the wirel8s\$. Kilg George Vt who was trouhlsd by o stOIIITl8r,broodcost live from /JucJilg/1om Po/oce. after lNwing lunched with flis fomHy. . The Owen and the two PriJcesses listened through on extension speoler in onot/Jer room. '

The Queen fFJ!een Wotlilgl graciously acknowledged the presence of the audience and looked on indulgently as Princess Elizabeth tvo/ery Cowl8y} and Princess Uargaret {(oren SpinJ) nursed their dolls. The King flen Krouse, ropidly promottHi from Choirmon to President to King in the space of three months} had a faultless delivery as he spoke of the disruptive effect of war on family life.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

1940 had been a bad year for Britain. Dunkirk was evacuated at the beginning of June and the Battle of Britain was fought in September.

From August. Ruislip-Northwood had suffered several airraids each day and night raids as well. School children spent much of their time in tr(Jf1()/J(Jm their school playgrounds.

The weather was cold and because of blackout regulations the Bourne School caretaker was unable to light the fires early enough in the mornings to warm the rooms. So school began in near freezing temperatures.

A survey of 347 Ruislip children's sleeping arrangements during November disclosed that:-

- 5 children slept in a bed upstairs
- 17lchildren slept in a bed downstairs
- 79 children slept in Anderson shelters
- 39 children slept in Garden shelters
- 14children slept in Public shelters
- 39 children slept under the stairs

St John's Ambulance members attended the public shelter in Shenley Avenue to do all they could to prevent colds and to treat minor ailments.

During 1940. 185 High Explosive Bombs; 400 Incendiary Bombs; 25 shells; 3 Parachute Mines; and a number of unexploded bombs and shells fell on Ruislip-Northwood. 102 houses were demolished; 365 houses were severely damaged and 2528 houses were slightly damaged. 19 people were killed and 125 injured.

In these depressing conditions. people turned to the wireless again to listen to Winston Churchill's heartening speeches. Kay Holmes gave a spirited rendering of two of Churchill's speeches. which had actually been given in the House of Commons. shortly before and just after the fall of France.

RATIONS

Food was rationed. Mrs Watling showed what an adult was allowed per week:-

- 40z bacon or ham
- Meat to the value of 1s.2d. (6p)
- 20z butter
- 20z cheese
- 40z margarine
- 40z cooking fat
- 3pt milk
- 80z sugar
- 20z tea
- 1 egg

Each month an adult could *have* a packet of dried milk and dried egg and 12 oz sweets and *every* two months lib of preserves. The ration varied slightly from time to time and additional items could be bought when available with a limited number of *poiJts* which could be cut out of the ration book.

Making rations stretch was a problem for all housewives. But once again the BBC was on hand with helpful advice. At 8.30 in the morning. harassed Mrs Cox of Ruislip could switch on *KitclHm Front* (on her genuine 1940's wireless) and be chivied into making a delicious meatless *Woohon Pi8*. by a superior lady announcer *fDemse Shock_DJ*.

BRITISH RESTAURANT

The British Restaurant in Victoria Road then opened its doors and clients were exhorted to '*FORMAN OROERlY (JfEIEI*' After an excellent meal. during which Spam was displayed and portions of Woolton Pie were distributed. there was a short break to allow members to examine an exhibition of wartime bygones. which included a baby's gas mask. identity cards and ration books.

WOIEN°S WORK

As usual in times of National Emergency. the Government discovered that women had a role to play outside the home. Colleen COJl took up the entertainment again with a hilarious account of women's war work. A manual of the time likened welding skills to those of knitting!

WESTIINSTER ABBEY

Many people turned to religion during the war. On the Sunday after Dunkirk. St Martin's was filled to overflowing at all services. with crowds queuing to get in.

The lady in John Betjemin's poem '*Westmi1sfer AbbtJy*' tread for us by VaMry CowmyJ. hadn't quite grasped the tenets of christianity.

RHYMES

In every playground in the country in 1940, you would have heard rhymes like these.....

*Hitler, you're barmy!
You want to join the army!
Get knocked out by a big Boy Scout!
Hitler, you're barmy!*

*Who's that knocking at the window?
Who's that knocking at the door?
If it's Hitler let him in
And we'll sit him on a pin
And we won't see Old Hitler any more!*





*Run Adolf! run Adolf! run, run, run!
Don't let the allies have their fun, fun, fun
They'll get by without their Adolf pie
So run Adolf! run Adolf! run, run, run!*

Committee members chanted them while tossing balls to each other at the front of the hall.

EVACUEES

Children were badly affected by the war. Broken nights, missed school, separation from fathers and other male relatives. Evacuation brought even greater disruption into the lives of many and Eileen Watling (dressed in school blazer) remembered what it was like. Actually her account made it sound rather jolly. She had Greek lessons in the Gentleman's cloakroom!

The evening included a good many wartime songs and carols and ended with coffee and mince pies and good wishes all round.

**CHRISTMAS PUDDING
WITHOUT EGGS**

Mix together 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of breadcrumbs, 1 cup of sugar, half a cup of suet, 1 cup of mixed dried fruit, and, if you like, 1 teaspoon of mixed sweet spice. Then add 1 cup of grated raw carrot and finally 1 level teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda dissolved in 2 tablespoons of hot milk. Mix all together (no further moisture is necessary) turn into a well-greased pudding basin. Boil or steam for 4 hours.

APPLE MINCEMEAT

mincemeat go further by it with grated or finely raw apples or with thick sp.

ave not been able to make, in mincemeat then flavour apple with plenty of spices / a little mixed dried fruit pped cooked prunes or chopped raw dates. You then have a pleasant filling for the traditional Christmas tarts.

A Wartime Christmas Recipe

TIE MINT WITH A HOLE IN IT

by Eileen Watling

In 1986, an appeal for volunteers enabled me to further a long-standing interest in archaeology by helping to process finds from the excavations then being carried out at the Royal Mint. This important site lying just outside the walls of the City of London and east of the Tower, proved to have a past history largely unknown to Londoners and visitors who frequent the area, and possibly of interest to readers of this Journal.

The six acre site had been variously occupied since the Romans began quarrying gravel in the area, and during most of the Middle Ages provided material for roads and buildings, although otherwise left mainly vacant. In 1349, when the cemeteries within the City had been filled to overflowing, the gravel pits afforded space for a mass burial of victims of the bubonic plague which had recently decimated the population of London.

Edward III founded the Cistercian Abbey of St Mary Graces on the site in 1350, in fulfilment of a vow made when he narrowly escaped drowning at sea. In doing so, he seems to have disregarded the close proximity of the Black Death burial. This abbey became renowned for its work among the poor, for which it was especially commended by the Bishop of London in 1368. Londoners made it many gifts, so that it became rich and powerful. Because of its importance, the Abbey was commissioned at intervals to oversee the discipline and morals of the Cistercian Order of England, Ireland and Wales. By the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Abbey had become the third richest Cistercian House in Britain after Fountains and Furness. However, despite a plea from the Lord Mayor of London to Henry VIII asking for it to be spared to continue its good work for the poor, St Mary Graces was dissolved in 1538.

About 1560, the Crown purchased the site in order to set up a victualling yard supplying salt, pork, beef, bread, biscuits and barrels to the growing Tudor navy. The Abbey church was demolished, but other buildings were adapted to new uses, the monks' refectory becoming the salt store, the infirmary, the barrel store and so on. Due to these adaptations, large sections of the Abbey buildings survived. The Navy occupied the site until about 1740, when the Government established warehouses on it. Samuel Pepys, Clerk of the Acts of the Navy, was appointed Surveyor-General of the Victualling Office in 1666, so must have known the adapted Abbey buildings well. He lived not far away in Seething Lane and described in his Diary how he watched the Great Fire of London from the tower of Allhallows Barking nearby.

The victualling yard site was cleared in 1799, to become the new home of the Royal Mint which had come under increasing pressure for space in its former position in the Tower. New buildings in the neo-classical style were designed and erected by James Johnson and Sir Robert Smirke. The Mint functioned on its London site until the vastly increased demand for coinage and the introduction of decimalisation led to its removal to Wales in 1968. No coins were minted in the old building after 1975, and the Crown Estate Commissioners agreed to fund trial excavations by the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology which were followed by full-scale excavations finally concluded in 1988, at a cost of one million pounds, much of it funded by the developers.

Excavation revealed extensive sections of the old monastery, including parts of the cloisters, the monks' working room, an infirmary and the refectory with the remains of its decorated tiled floor. Also found was the large and complex sewer system of the monastic latrines, together with the later Tudor replacement drains. Among the smaller finds were pottery and china, glass objects and bottles, ornamental tiles, hundreds of clay pipes, iron tools, the remnants of leather belts and harnesses and the occasional Roman coin and pre-historic beaker. PUEs of bones showed that our predecessors were hearty eaters of a variety of wild and domestic animals and fowls, while to judge from the vast quantities of discarded shells, they consumed oysters as a commonplace article of diet.

Ten human burials were found to the north of the site where it is thought the cemetery of the Abbey's lay patrons was situated. The graves were arranged in orderly rows. One burial to the east of the former Lady Chapel probably marks the monks' cemetery. It was arranged for all these remains to be re-interred in the East London cemetery.

Processing the finds involved first washing carefully all but the most delicate objects. Metal articles had to be cleaned otherwise to prevent further rusting and disintegration. When *dry*, material had to be marked with date and context numbers as minutely as possible, usually with a mapping pen and Indian ink. This was not always an easy task, as objects could vary from rough pieces of masonry to tiny slivers of porcelain almost impossible to grasp firmly. Piecing and sticking together fragments of ornamental tiles and pots, together with preliminary cataloguing, were also sometimes included in our work.

The Museum's scientists carried out tests to determine the date and composition of finds and analysed the remains of seeds and plants formerly grown for food. They examined the skeletons to establish their age, height and sex and sought evidence denoting arthritis, tuberculosis and other diseases. It was noteworthy that a large number of skulls contained an excellent set of teeth, possibly due to a sugar free diet and mortality at a comparatively early age. Speculation aroused by the light green colouring found on quantities of the human bones was soon ended by an assurance that this phenomenon merely indicated staining of the soil by copper seeping through from the floor of the Mint.

Royal Mint Court now accommodates offices on the site. It was agreed by the developers that parts of the ruined Abbey should be incorporated within the new buildings. Also, the listed facade of the old Mint building has been retained and refurbished, together with the two main gateways, part of the old outer wall, and some of the trees. Close up, the general effect is somewhat marred by the towering office blocks which hem it in, but from a distance, the old Royal Mint appears to rise with its former dignity restored, from the site where so much of London's history lies concealed.



CAPTAIN & MRS BENNETT EDWARDS OF HAYDON HALL

by Jim McBean

Mrs Bennett Edwards was born in 1845 and she and her husband had come to live at Haydon Hall by 1886.

Mrs Edwards' father was Edward William Cox, referred to by Laurence Morris as 'an important figure in the byways of 19th century history' and with a career sufficiently notable to merit a full page in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. He was born in Taunton in Somerset where his father had established an extensive foundry and he was trained in the law, becoming a barrister of Middle Temple and, in 1868, a Serjeant-at-law. He was briefly a Member of Parliament. Although holding various legal positions, i.e., Deputy Judge of Middlesex, Recorder of Portsmouth etc., he practiced very little at the Bar and turned his undoubted business acumen to publishing. He established the *low Times*; purchased the ailing periodical *The Field* and made it profitable; became the proprietor of the *Queen* and established *Exchange and Allegiance* as well as other publishing enterprises. He died at Moat Mount, Mill Hill on 24 April 1879 and left a considerable fortune. The census return for 1871 shows him at Moat Mount with his wife Rosalinda Alicia (nee Fonblanque), his daughter Ada Rosalind Bennett Edwards and her husband Harry Bennett Edwards together with visitors and the usual retinue of butler, footman, groom, maids etc. associated with a wealthy Victorian family. The wealth he had accumulated, his estates and his extensive publishing interests were duly passed onto his children.

Ada Rosalind Cox was born at 19 Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood on 1 August 1845, one of three children. After an education at home, she married Harry Bennett Edwards on 7 May 1867 at St Paul's, Mill Hill when she was 22 years old and their first child Harold, was born in 1868. In 1870 the first of their three daughters Lillian was born in Hyderabad during the two years the couple spent in India due to her husband's army commitments.

Mrs Edwards was a novelist. She started writing early in life and the British library catalogues seven of her novels written over a period of fourteen years when she was in her early thirties to late forties. Other sources list additional titles. She wrote in a period when novels were being produced in large numbers and Trollope was able to say in 1870 'we have become a novel reading people'. Although the great writers of the day were mostly men, the period was also notable for such female novelists as Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë and others, leading a commentator to remark that 'in the 19th century was the age of the Female Novelist'. W.S. Gilbert however poked fun, referring to 'a singular anomaly' - the woman novelist who were on a little list and who never would be missed! Most of Mrs Edwards' works were written during the fifty years she lived at Haydon Hall.

It is not easy to assess the literary merits of Mrs Edwards' work. She is perhaps little known today and she does not appear in the standard indexes of writers of the period. On the other hand, publishers were prepared to issue a whole series of her three-decker novels; she is noted in Alibon's *Oxford Dictionary of English Literature*; in *Who was Who* and John Sutherland in his *Victorian Fiction* says of her work 'they are marked by a gorgeous style of writing'.

Mrs Edwards appears to have been something of an individualist since some volumes of *Who's Who* contain the surprising statement that she was an active member of the ILP Socialist Party and the writer of her *Tines* obituary stated that she was frequently disparaged by people who only knew the rich lady who seemed to delight in ignoring strait laced convention and lifted eyebrows. Amongst her many activities she found time to work on the Committee of the Ladies\ Branch of the Kennel Club of which she was Vice-Chairman in 1906. She was also a member of the fox terrier club.

Ada Rosalind Bennett Edwards died on 22 December 1936 and was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on 28 December and her ashes scattered in the Garden of Remembrance.

Harry Bennett Edwards was born at St Stephen's by Saltash, Cornwall on 29 March 1837, one of the four sons of Rev. Thomas Bennett Edwards, vicar of the same parish, and Uarianne his wife. The impropiators of the living were the Dean •• Canons of Windsor. After a classical & mathematical education at Marlborough and privately, he took up a career in the Army in India. At the age of 18 he was nominated a Cadet at the East India Company Military School on the recommendation of Sir Frederick Pollack. He duly passed his interviews and examinations and was appointed Ensign in the Bombay Infantry and embarked for India in 1857 at the age of 20. This was the year of the Indian Mutiny and thereafter the East India Company was wound up and Bennett Edwards became a lieutenant in Her Majesty's Indian Army.

In 1866 he was on leave in the U.K. and the next year his marriage to Ada Rosalind Cox took place at Mill Hill. Two years later he was in action in Abyssinia where he earned a medal. He was now a captain. During his next period of duty, his wife was with him and their first daughter, LilHan, was born in Hyderabad. Harry Bennett Edwards finally returned to England on sick leave in 1871 and he retired from the army on 30 September 1872. He was 49 when he and his wife settled in Haydon Hall.

Captain Bennett Edwards has left a permanent memorial in the district in the form of the Northwood Golf Club. He with two others, founded the Club in 1891, one hundred years ago, and was its first club captain and president. The story is told of how Mrs Nichols of the Ripple Tea Rooms, adjoining the course, prepared morning porridge for Capt. Edwards prior to an early morning round. His son Harold was also a member and the sporting bent of the family was carried on by E.J. Edwards who took an active interest in cricket at Haydon Hall. The house *Foiracre* in Wiltshire Lane is said by W.A.G. Kemp in his *History of E06tCottJ*, to have been built by Capt. Edwards

Captain Henry Bennett Edwards died at Southill Cottage on 17 October 1914 aged 77.

The Edwards of Haydon Hall took great interest in the local affairs of the district and there are many instances of their kindness and generosity quoted in Mr Kemp's book. It is to be hoped that the memory of them will not be allowed to fade.

Acknowledgement. My thanks are due to the librarians of Ruislip Manor Farm: the Bishopsgate Institute: Hendon: Cornwall and the British Library (India Office). Also to the Northwood Golf club and the Kennel Club.

Sources.

Robin Gilmour: *The Novel in the Victorian Age*

Eloine Showalter: *A literature of Ther Own*
Clerical Guid8 1836

APPENDIX

From the British Library Catalogue:-

Edwards. Mrs Harry Bennett

His Story - And Hers A man's adventure

In Sheep's Clothing A novel

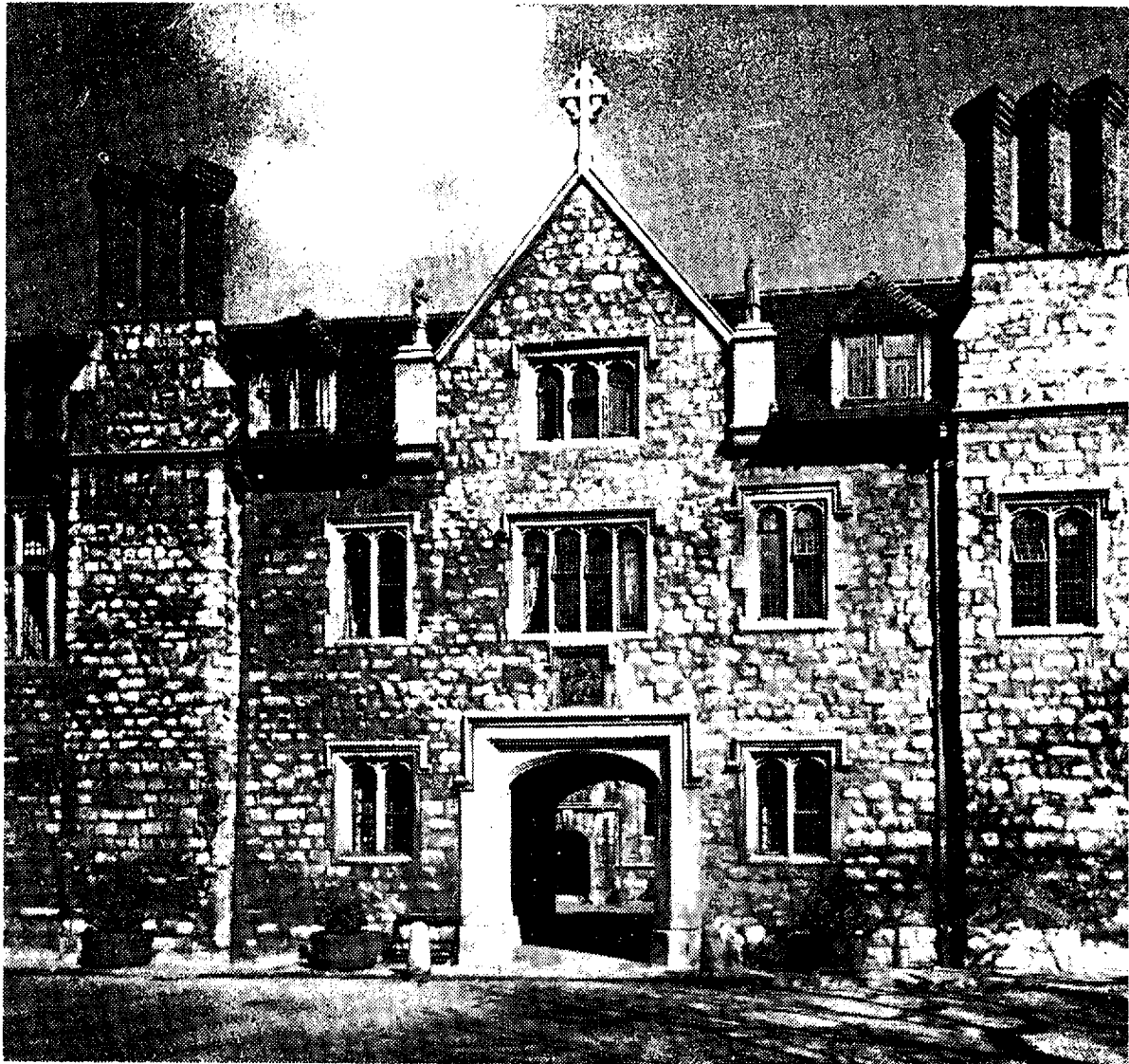
Loyella A novel

Pharisees A novel

Saint Moniea A wife's love story

A Tantulas A novel

The Unwritten Law A novel



Charterhouse

A VISIT TO THE LOTION CHARTERHOUSE 28th April 1990

by Valery J.E. Cowley

On a brilliantly sunny Saturday members drifted across Charterhouse Square and under the double-arched 15th century gatehouse incorporating the early Georgian Master's Lodgings. to be greeted by Bob Bedford and a wedding party: the place was full of white and green floral decorations and champagne (but alas not for us). After a short wait for Master Harrison to arrive, we began our conducted tour by admiring the restored gables of the reconstructed south range with their emblems of the three phases in the Charterhouse's history - monastery, mansion house and school/hospital - including a Gownboy and Brother in their traditional dress.

It began as a double-sized Carthusian Monastery (24 instead of the usual 12 cells), the fourth in England, founded by Edward III's commander, Sir Walter Manny, who had leased 13 acres called Spitalcroft from St. Bartholomew's in 1349, when the Black Death was raging, for the City to use as a burial ground and started the Charterhouse on the site in 1370. Additions included an orchard in 1378. Henry Yevele, the King's master mason worked on the cloister, which was not, however, finished until 1436 and chapels were added to the originally aisleless church. The strictness of the order attracted St. Thomas More and in 1535, Prior John Houghton and several other brothers, including Sebastian Newdigate of Harefield Place, were executed at Tyburn for refusing to accept Henry VIII as supreme head of the church; in 1537 ten more died in prison or were executed.

After the Dissolution the conventual buildings became a courtyard house and the great hall was built by Sir Edward North, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations. This forms one side of Master's Court, which resembles an Oxford quadrangle, but with its stucco removed since wartime fire-bomb damage. The buildings became Howard House and the Duke of Norfolk entertained Queen Elizabeth I here. Various tenants ensued until in 1611 Thomas Sutton, Master of Ordnance bought it to establish a school and the Hospital (for elderly impoverished gentlemen) of King James in the Charterhouse. It had 16 governors including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chancellor. Sutton's arms and crest in plaster, together with a repainted sundial decorate the Court's upper storeys.

Brickwork from the lay brothers' quarters incorporating either the sacred monogram IHS or IH for John Houghton, remains in the exterior wall of the west range of Wash-house court, preserved during the North/Norfolk alterations. Facing the Ruislip party as the Master continued his talk were the rebuilt 19th century Pensioners' Court and Preacher's Court and the old conduit house. We encountered many feral cats, which are antagonistic to the Master's moggies.

The Great Hall's roof trusses and corbels survived the 1941 fire and the combined hammerbeams and arched principals derive from Westminster Hall. There is an early 17th century Caen stone chimneypiece bearing the fourth Earl of Norfolk's arms and fashionable Flemish strapwork ornament, with an appropriately fire-defying salamander, emblem of Constancy. The panelled screens are reminiscent of an Oxford dining hall. New kitchens have been installed to replace those in Wash-house Court and so service is through the left-hand screen door as of old. There are galleries and portraits of past Masters.

The Great Chamber ceiling displays more Howard of Norfolk heraldry picked out in gold and its painted chimneypiece is now restored. a survivor of the 1941bomb's blackened blistering. Delicate arabesques. gold groundwork. medallions of the four Evangelists and the 12 Apostles accompany the Annunciation and the last Supper. The room has Flemish tapestries and modern two-tiered hanging lights. Here Queen Elizabeth I was entertained and James I dubbed 133 knights. Many famous governors of Sutton's Hospital have met here. including Bacon. Laud. Cromwell. Monmouth and Judge Jeffreys.

The monastic church. except for the bottom part of the tower. was demolished by North after 1545. but the Chapter House remained and was converted into a chapel in the 17th century. with Tuscan pillars and heraldic glass. There is a fine early 17th century carved screen with openwork scrolls. cherub heads and a cartouche. Sutton's monument by N. Johnson of Southwark and Nicholas Stone was erected in 1615. The alabaster effigy is flanked by emblems of mortality with Sutton's arms and a low relief showing pensioners and others being addressed by him. Faith. Hope. Charity. labour and Rest are among the emblematic figures and it has a magnificent medieval-style iron grill.

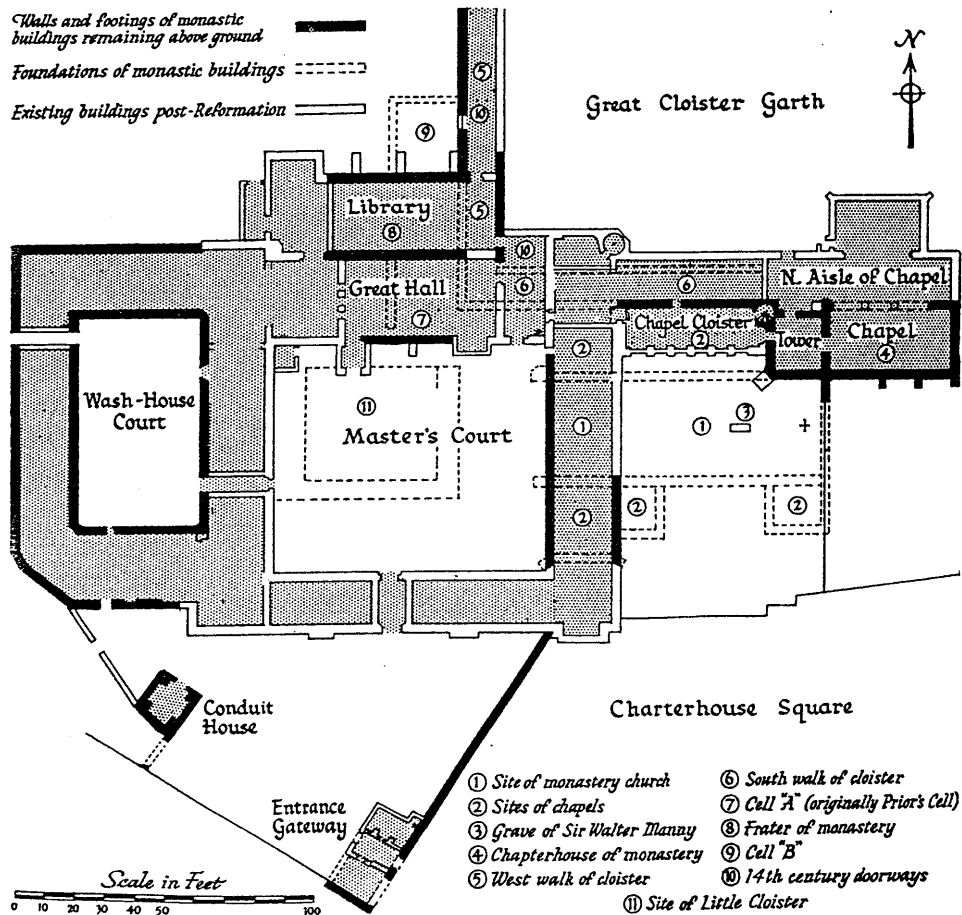
There is a tablet to another Master by Flaxman. The altarpiece is a Lucca Giordano painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary visiting St. Elizabeth and in the ante-room stands a chair which belonged to John Wesley. who was once a pupil at the school.

The tower contained a Treasury which is now the Muniment Room and has a squint. which gave a view of the high altar of the original church. It now displays many interesting historical documents. including a pictorial plan of the water supply system from Islington installed in 1431.

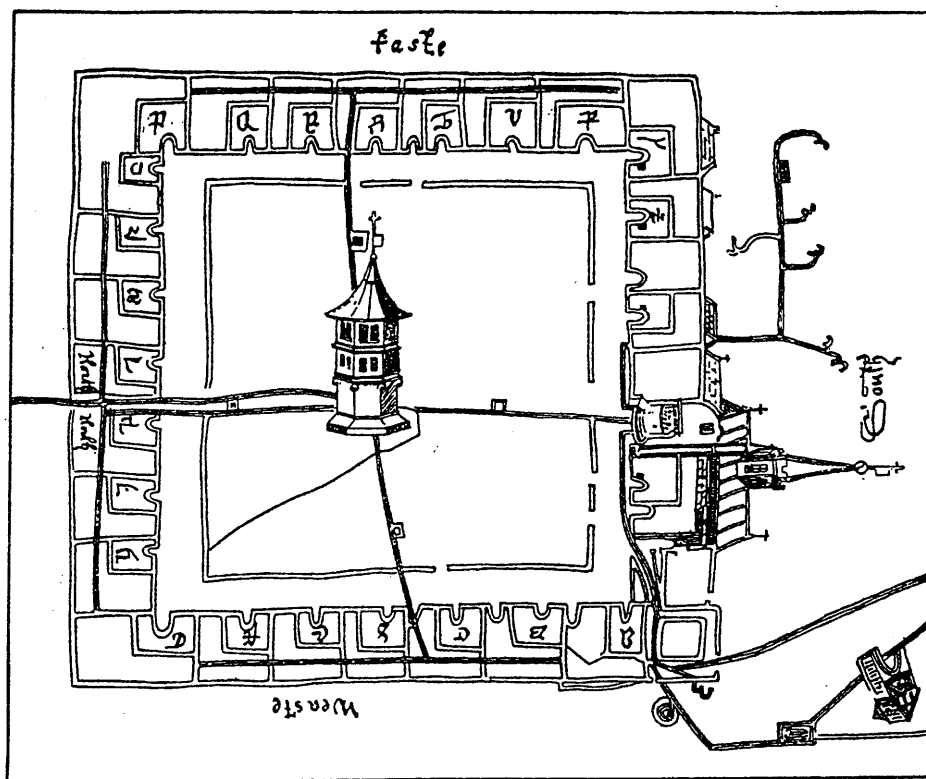
In 1947. the lead coffin of Sir Walter Manny. a native of Hainault who came to England as page to Edward III's Queen Philippa. was found with his remains and a papal bulla. at the step of the high altar of the original church. Since the demolition in 1545. this area has been a green garth in the open air.

The Brothers' library occupies the position of the monks' Frater or Refectory. The Carthusians had communal meals only on certain days; normally they ate in their cells round the cloister. meals being passed through a hatch near the door. an example of which we saw. They said the Divine Offices in church and met in the Chapter House to discuss community affairs. The typical Carthusian monastic plan is most clearly preserved at Mount Grace. near Osmotherley. in North Yorkshire.

One portion of cloister remaining has Elizabethan brick vaulting. but the schoolboys had to be prohibited from playing dangerous football in it. Sutton's school moved to Godalming in 1872. leaving the Hospital behind. Merchant Taylors' School moved in. erected some new buildings. including a headmaster's house and stayed until their next move to Northwood in 1933. The site of the school and its playing fields. covering most of the area enclosed by the cloister. was acquired by St. Bartholomew's Medical College. and so has returned to the successors of those from whom Sir Walter Manny leased Spitalcroft six centuries ago.



Plan showing the present Charterhouse & remaining portion of the mediaeval buildings



Plan of the water supply of the monastery, showing the Great Cloister & monastic buildings. From a later copy of the mediaeval drawing.

Sutton's Hospitel now houses 30 inmates until they die. Admission is by recommendation and encompasses retired professionals such as artists and teachers. who must be bachelors or widowers over 65 years old.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Arthur Oswald. *The London Charterhouse* Revised. Country life Ltd. 1959.



*In Wash-house Court, early 16th century, looking north-west.
Here were the lay brothers' quarters.*



DRAINED UDO REVEALS SECRETS

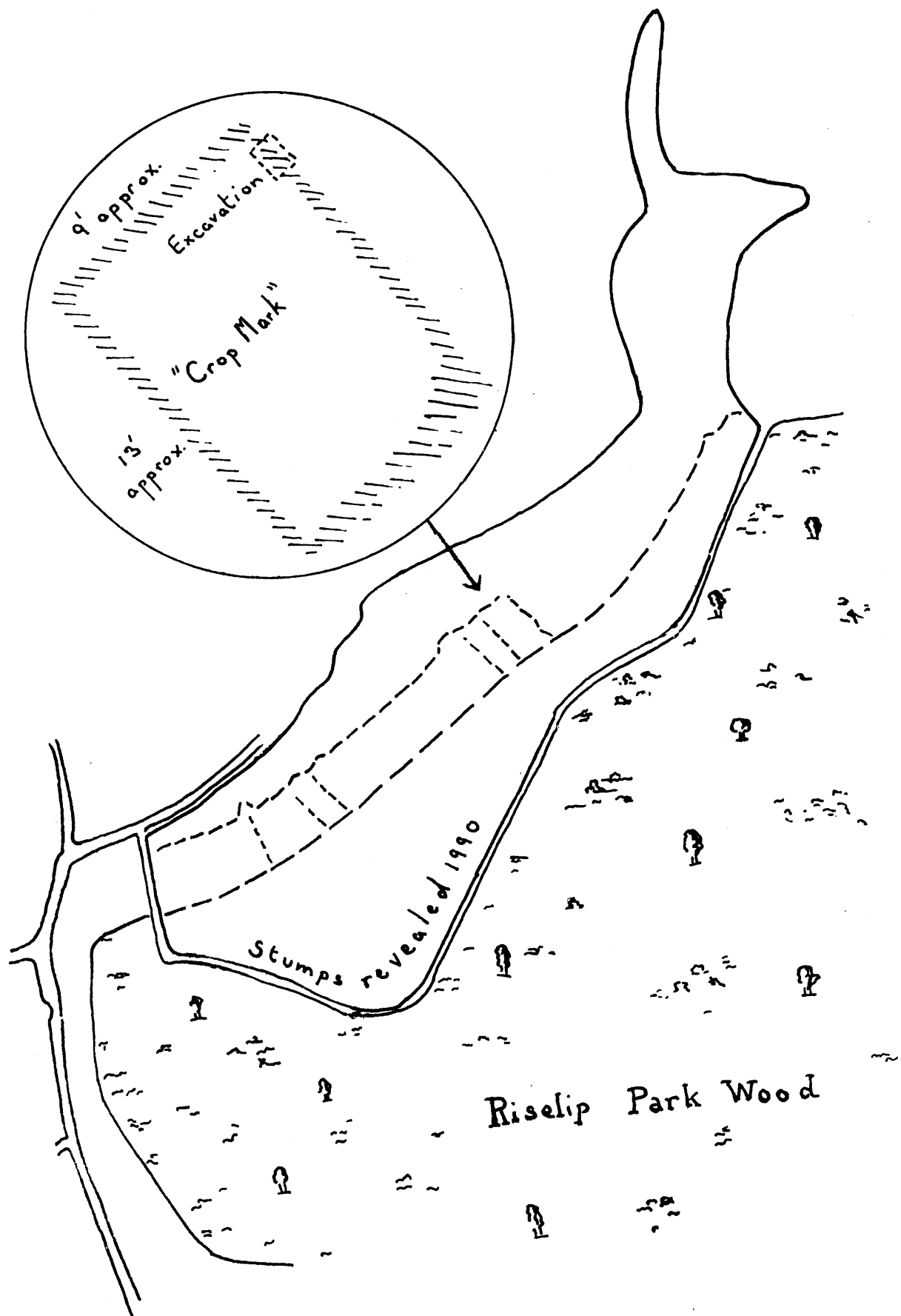
by Colin Bowlt

INTRODUCTION At the beginning of the 19th century there was no Ruislip Lido. Where it is now was then a shallow valley with a stream and some dwellings along its length forming the hamlet of Park Hearne. This can be seen on Doharty's Map of 1750 and so it remained until the Ruislip Enclosure of 1804-14. At that time large areas of land in the old parish of Ruislip which until then had been open fields and common grazing were divided up and fenced by Act of Parliament. To pay the cost of organising these enclosures certain portions were sold and one such lot was purchased by the Grand Junction Canal Company. At this time the Company, which had built the canal at the end of the 18th century, was seeking supplies of water to feed it. In addition to the piece of enclosed common land alongside what is now Poor's Field it also bought out the owners of the cottages at Park Hearne and an adjoining strip of Park Wood. A dam was constructed across the end of the valley (on which the boat house now stands) to form a reservoir filled by the small streams from Copse Wood and what is now Northwood Golf Course. At the end of 1811 it was reported to be filling with water.

THE COTTAGES What provision, if any, was made for the displaced cottagers is not known. There is a story that the militia had to be brought out from Windsor to evict them. Thus Park Hearne disappeared (literally) from view. That is until the year 1990, when the reservoir was partially drained for several months to allow repair work in the public swimming area. The water level has been lowered before, but not for so long during such hot, dry weather within living memory. Disappointingly the dwellings of Park Hearne were not revealed entire, with doors swinging open and burnt out fires in the hearths! They were probably largely pulled down before the filling of the reservoir (if only to keep the former residents out). However, examination of the drained area towards the north end of the Lido in May 1990 showed that a thick layer of mud silt had been deposited with modern rubbish lying on the top.

The mud was in all stages of drying out, but in one area the conditions were such that a rectangular 'crop *mori*' of darker damp mud in the light coloured dry mud was revealed (this had disappeared after several more days drying). The outline measured 13 feet by 9 feet, but the boundary nearest the water was less distinct (see map). A small hole was dug in one corner uncovering a crumbling brick wall. The remaining thickness was 3~ inches, which suggests a wall of single brick thickness (4 1/2 inches). Careful probing with a trowel showed the wall to be more than 12 inches high, buried in grey-black silt containing no observable artefacts. The silt was probed down to about 15 inches, but no solid floor or surface was detected.

The position of the structure seems to correspond to the most northerly of the dwellings shown on Doharty's Map, where it lies next to 'Pth', 'O11 Om', and was owned by John Paine in 1750. When the Enclosure Map was drawn in 1806 it appears as Old Enclosure 489, belonging to John Dean, who owned Four Elm Farm in Fore Street as well. During the negotiations with the Grand Junction Canal Company, John Dean bought two other of the Park Hearne cottages in the summer of 1807 and in the August sold all three to the company for £250.



*Site of Riselip Lido showing area of Park Woods and properties
in Park Hearne flooded to create the reservoir
(based on Enclosure Map 1806)*

The 'crop mark' clearly does not represent the whole outline of a house. It may be part of a house, the rest of which was not visible • or perhaps the outline of an outbuilding attached to the dwelling. No other ghost outlines were seen, presumably either because drying conditions were not right or the walls are not so close to the surface of the mud. Some of the Park Hearne buildings are almost certainly under the concrete of the swimming pool.

THE WOOD To make the reservoir of sufficient size the Canal Company purchased a strip of Park Wood from King's College, Cambridge, which was flooded as is clearly shown on the Enclosure Map. (see map) On the same day that the brick structure was discovered on the N.W. side of the reservoir, stumps of oak trees were noticed for a considerable distance (200-300 yards) along the Park Wood side of the exposed reservoir bottom. These were in a sandy-clay area and not covered with silt, which here did not occur until some 30-40 feet out from the normal shoreline and may have hidden more stumps. These must be of trees felled around 1810 to form the reservoir.

The stumps were weathered and the cut surface strongly eroded, but not more so than old stumps to be seen within Park Wood now. The positions of 6 sample were measured to compare spacings here 180 years ago with those between oaks now growing in the wood. Distances apart were sometimes as close as 4 feet and the density was of the order of 300 oak trees to the acre. This would have allowed little room for any coppice hornbeam and is rather close for maiden trees and so suggests that the oaks themselves had been coppiced. There are no stands of coppiced oak in any of the Ruislip woods today, but a few individual stools exist, notably in the more open bracken areas of Park Wood. These may be relics of former coppiced oak areas which supplied bark for tanning.

POSTSCRIPT Because of the continued lack of rain it was impossible to fill the reservoir from the feeder streams in time for 6 charity event at the lido in July. Water was therefore pumped from the now disused Colne Valley Water Company well that penetrates 300 feet deep into the chalk under Poor's Field.

SOURCES:

King's College Archives: Doherty Map & Survey
 Ruislip library; Enclosure Map & Act
 Bowlton Eileen M.: *The Good/18th Phetcher's* (1977).



HAVE YOU GOT AN EARLY MAP OF
 RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE ~

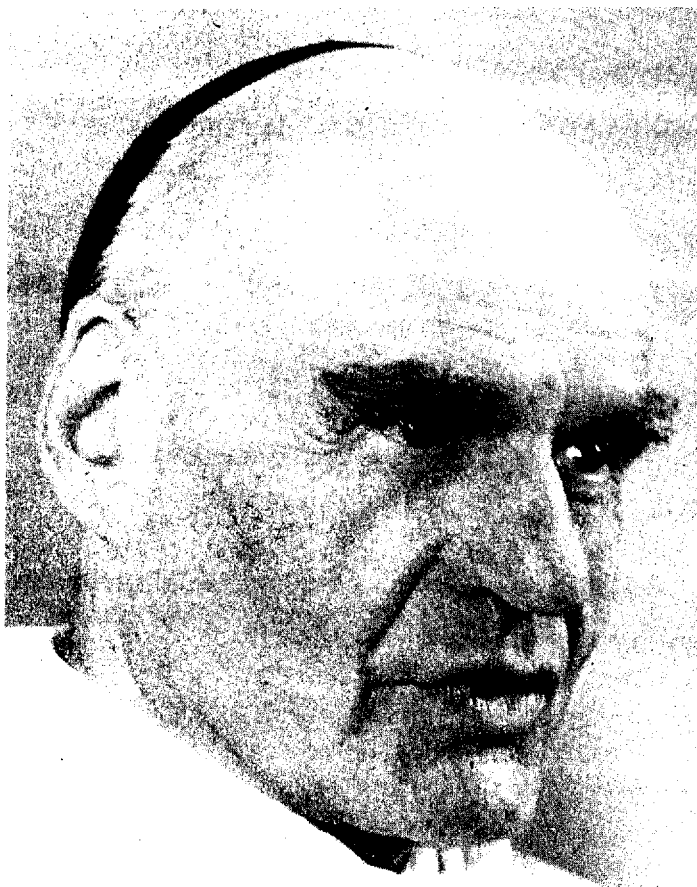
Local Historians relate a great deal on early maps of the
 locality. Buy a copy of the 1897 O.S. Six-Inch map From the
 Society.

50p per sheet.

£1.50 For 1 set of it to cover the parish

DOM PAUL GRAMMONT 46th Abbot of Bec-Hellouin. 1948-86

by Volery J.E. Cowley



The history of the Abbey of le Bec-HeUouin has been written most recently by Jean de la Varena in a booklet in Manor Farm library's Local History Room. where can also be found this Society's own publication.

'I/uis/jJ & thtJ Abb8y of &c~
so I shall not repeat the familiar story of its revival in 1948 after use as a Cavalry Remount Depot. The chief architect of the restoration of the Benedictine life there was Dom Paul Grammont, then Prior of a small double community of Olivetan Benedictine monks and nuns from Mesnil St. Loup.

The Order of Our Lady of Mount Olivet was founded in 1319 by St. Bernard Ptolomei (d. 1348) at Monte Oliveto near Sienna and joined the

Benedictine confederation in 1960. Their interpretation of the Rule of St. Benedict is very strict: they wear a white habit and have 24 houses including Bec.

BEC'S ENGLISH CONNECTIONS Bec situated between Lisieux and Rouen, produced three Archbishops of Canterbury in the 11th & 12th centuries: its first Prior, Lanfranc; its Prior and second Abbot, Anselm; and Theobald. Bee's other famous alumni include Alexander II, Pope 1061-73; the 11th & 12th century Bishops of Rochester, Ernulf and Gundulf, one of whom founded the community at West Mailing, Kent (now Anglican Benedictine nuns linked with Bech and Gilbert Crispin, Archbishop of Westminster 1085-1117).

0011 GRAIIIIONrS ECUIIENISII Dom Grammont therefore sought to develop ecumenical relationships with the Church of England, as Canon Roger Greenacre (Chancenor of the Diocese of Winchester and first Anglican Oblate of Beol wrote in his obituaries of the Abbot in 'The Tablet' and 'The Independent'.

Archbishop Michael Ramsey, who shared Dom Paul's sense of the sanctity of God and the mystery of the church, and who awarded him the Silver Cross of St. Augustine in 1967, stood alongside his feUow successor to Anselm to give the blessing and chant the Pater Noster during the celebrations of Anselm's feast day in April that year.

Archbishops Coggan & Runcie paid official visits to Bec, while Dom Grammont, accompanied by some of his monks & nuns, was present at some great ecumenical occasions at Canterbury, including the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Canon Christopher Hill wrote in 'The Church Times': *'Among Dom Paul's many achievements the establishment of a flourishing abbey whose spirituality is the work and prayer of the community towards Christian unity'.* The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, which is twinned with Bec, was present at Dom Grammont's funeral in 1989 and Bec has welcomed parish groups (including St. Martin's, Ruislip) college chaplaincies and St. George's Anglican Church in Paris.

0011 GRAMMONT'S LIFE Who was this remarkable spiritual force? Paul Grammont was born on February 11th, 1911 at Troyes in Champagne and entered an Olivetan community early. After training at Rome, he was ordained in 1936 and three years later became Prior of the double Benedictine community at Corneilles-en-Parisis, where he opened a house of studies. He served in the Second World War in Norway and Morocco. His brother who had joined the Mesnil community after him, died in the Ardennes in June 1940. When before the Second Vatican Council, Dom Paul began his ecumenical activities and more recently he was concerned to establish links with the churches in Northern Ireland. He had a fine singing voice and great dignity in presiding over the liturgy, which combined traditional Latin with modern French and is celebrated by the monks and nearby oblate nuns of Ste. Francoise Romaine.

Dom Grammont resigned the abbacy in 1986 and in 1988, already ill with cancer, he was filmed there with three other monks, including his successor, Dom Philippe Auben, talking about their vocations. He retired to Bec and celebrated the major feasts of the winter of 1988-89, receiving Unction of the Sick on Corpus Christi Day. On July 30th 1989, aged 78, after 61 years as a monk and 18 as Abbot, he died and was buried in the choir near the grave of the Blessed Herluin, founder of Bec in 1035.

The Venerable John Livingstone, Archdeacon of Nice, writes: *'He was an intelligent, silent man, with such presence that he made every one feel his foil silent as well. One of the great things about him was that he appointed his opposites as Prior: a short round, cheerful, friendly man to his huge, his taciturn, remote St. John. Dom Paul's Zobel is now Abbot. It was as if he had built up such a long continuity with such an obvious loyalty to follow. He could deliver a 'classically good, long, fully developed, splendidly written and splendidly spoken' sermon.*

In December 1989 Lee Amis du Bec-Helluin devoted a special booklet to the life of Dom Paul. It contains the homage paid by M.F. d'Harcourt during its general assembly at the abbey in October 1989, saluting Dom Paul as man, philosopher and priest, recalling his meeting with the Dalai Lama and his work in the Holy Land. Among the various tributes, Dom Paul's 'Image of a Monk' is reprinted.

Dom Paul's inspiration lives on in print, as I discovered on the bookstall of St. Martin de Canigou last year and it reverberates well beyond his once apparently defunct abbey in Normandy.

11£ STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

by Eileen M.Bowl

The Station Master's House at the junction of Wood lone and West End Road. was built at the some time as Ruislip Station in 1904. being the only house erected in Ruislip that year. It was demolished one weekend in March 1990 and the site has remained derelict awaiting redevelopment ever since.

The developers. McCarthy & Stone hope to build a five-storey block of apartments. to be used as Sheltered Accommodation. The Hillingdon Borough Planning Department have opposed the plan as it stands and on inquiry is to be held on Tuesday 28th January 1991.

The house stood on what was once a piece of roadside waste called Field End Green. until the Ruislip Enclosure of 1806. It adjoined an ancient messuage called Kemps Hale. the site of which is now under the Metropolitan Railway line.

Poking about among the debris in January 1991 produced little of historic interest. but such bricks as are still lying about ore unusual in having no frog (the recess for mortar on the top side). Frogs were first used in the late 17th century and were normal in 18th & 19th century bricks. These bricks were wire cut and almost certainly made about 1904. but could hove been brought some distance by roil and may even hove been specially mode for the Metropolitan Railway Company.

Does any railway buff among our readers happen to know where they ore likely to have come from?

HUGH IIANSFORD'S RECOLLECTIONS of the Station Master's house.

"In the early doys of the new electric railway, the RuisIp station moster. AIr Smith, wore o top bar os part of his working lliiform. He was responsih8 for Uxbrklge & /cJenhom stations also. There was no RuislipAIonorstation as yet ••.When the railway was mOd8 it bisected a pond leovhg one half on wbot was Ioter to become Afr Bray~nursery. Here Il8arned to cofc/J newts with o bent pM and on earth worm. Tile other half was on AIr Smith's fond. He hod o family of /WelyyotJlI9doug/!ters with little to do, so sometimfJs I was mothered and looJed ofter by the Smiths. Tlleir half of the pond hod o fascination for lIlegirls: but not being on my home grotJtJdl feD M ond was corr18dhome dripping.

I was olways iltrigued by the electric light il their house, tne first il RuisIp for 11J(111Y years to use electric light. Tile power supply was from the !Werails of the railway; consequently the brig/11T1888 the ligIIts •arl8d considerably, foiling as the train started from the station. This troubh becOfT1(Juch on annoyance, particularly in tile e•enilgs when the IcJenhom suhstation staff were off-duty, thot the house lightilg was c/JongtJdto oil hmps; but for ytHKS the railway station Iomps, groups of three connected in s(Jr18s, w(Jre supp/itJd direct from w(J roils. so giYing of night on ildication of the trUin's approacn or dtJportur(J."



The Stationmaster's House

NOW 11" S SQUIREL.. CULLS. TIEN IT WAS PIGEON SHOOT

From the Local paper 25th March 1905

PIGEON SHOOT arranged by Mr W.A. Claridge of the George, Ruislip. A pigeon shoot took place at the Church Field, Ruislip on Monday last. There was a large attendance and the shoot was a big success •

NOTE Churchfield Gardens is all that is left of Church Field. In 1905 the whole field which stretched across to Windmill Hill and down to Brickwall lane, was part of Manor Farm. In medieval times it was one of the common fields of Ruislip.

CROP MARKINGS A PREHISTORIC CONNECTION?

by Robert Bedford

Crop Markings or Corn Circles have once again been in evidence this Summer on grain growing areas of Southern England engendering the usual media-speculation of UFO's, close encounters with alien beings and all manner of other proposals.

These strange depressions averaging 20/30 metres in diameter and leaving no clues as to how they could be formed, appear suddenly in fields of growing grain, flattening the crop into neatly swirling patterns and not exhibiting the usual rough damage associated with storms, stray animals or humans.

Much research has been conducted as to how these mysterious circles came into being and it is now becoming generally accepted that their origin is due to a simple combination of meteorological conditions which, by causing an air vortex, flattens the growing grain into circles or, on some occasions, other unusual shapes.

Although these crop circles can appear in virtually any part of the United Kingdom, by far the greatest concentration of them appears in the Wessex area and particularly on Salisbury Plain. There is hard historical evidence which indicates that this phenomenon has been taking place over the centuries but until recently its origin has remained a mystery.

The illustrated aerial photograph of Bronze Age Barrows near Stonehenge bears a remarkable resemblance to crop circles in the same area and the types of barrow indicated can also be duplicated by crop markings which sometimes contain concentric rings of upright and depressed growing grain. Is the similarity of the barrows to crop circles coincidental?

If 20th century man with all his sophistication is able to contemplate the possibility of the circles being formed by alien beings, how much more were our Neolithic and Bronze Age ancestors ready to accept these to be manifestations of the power of the underworld gods who were able to draw down growing grain or grassland as though it were being being attracted to the underworld regions. These were places of magic and mystery - pagan forces were indicating the route to the afterlife via the beaten-down corn.

It was, therefore essential that the location of the circles be properly delineated so that future use could be made of the sacred areas in which to bury the dead suitably equipped with their grave goods of food and drink in pots, together with weapons and tools to help them in the next life. In order to record the exact location of the depressions, rocks and stones could be assembled to mark the extent of the circles.

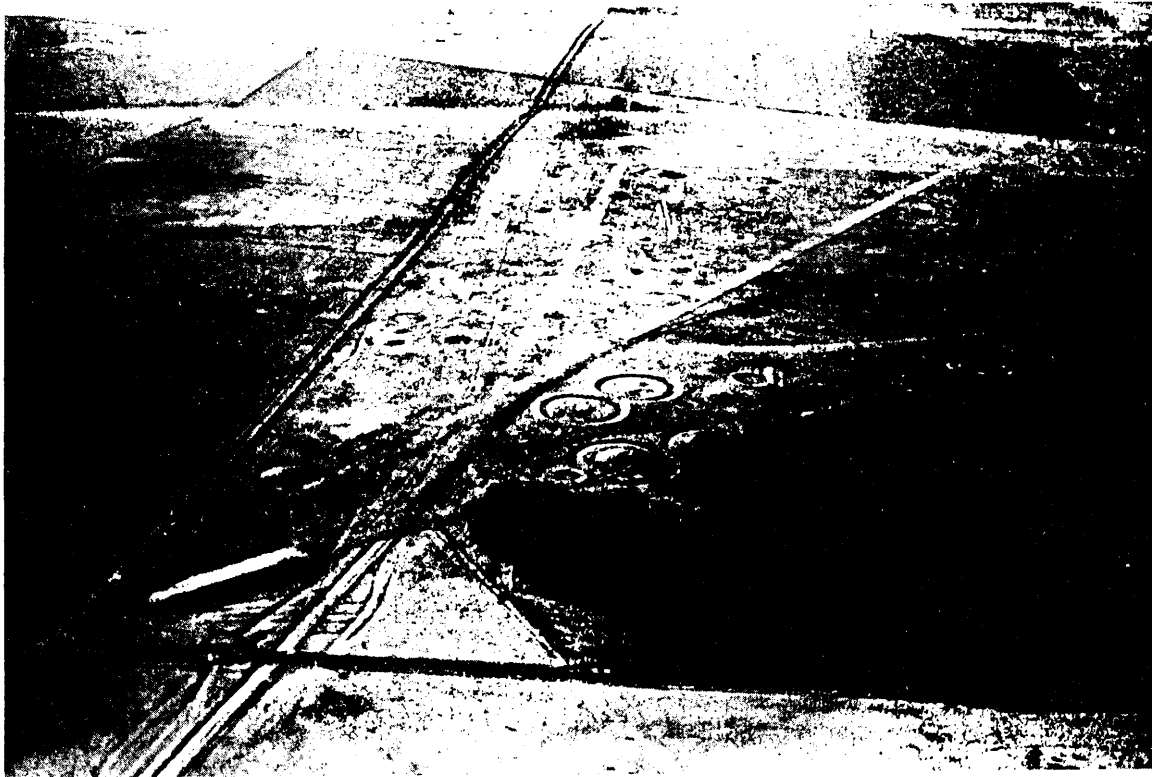
Could this then be the Neolithic origin of Stonehenge whose builders could have lived in nearby Windmill Hill Camp and observed the formation of the circles on the corn and grassland on Salisbury Plain with a mixture of wonder and fear?

Round Barrows are the standard tombs of the Bronze Age people and are the most numerous of all the field monuments and are more numerous on Salisbury Plain than anywhere else in the United Kingdom. Why was this relatively small area designated a prehistoric sanctuary - was it because the meteorological conditions were such that the formation of crop circles occurring annually in the Summer months confirmed to the inhabitants that this area was indeed the abode of the gods;

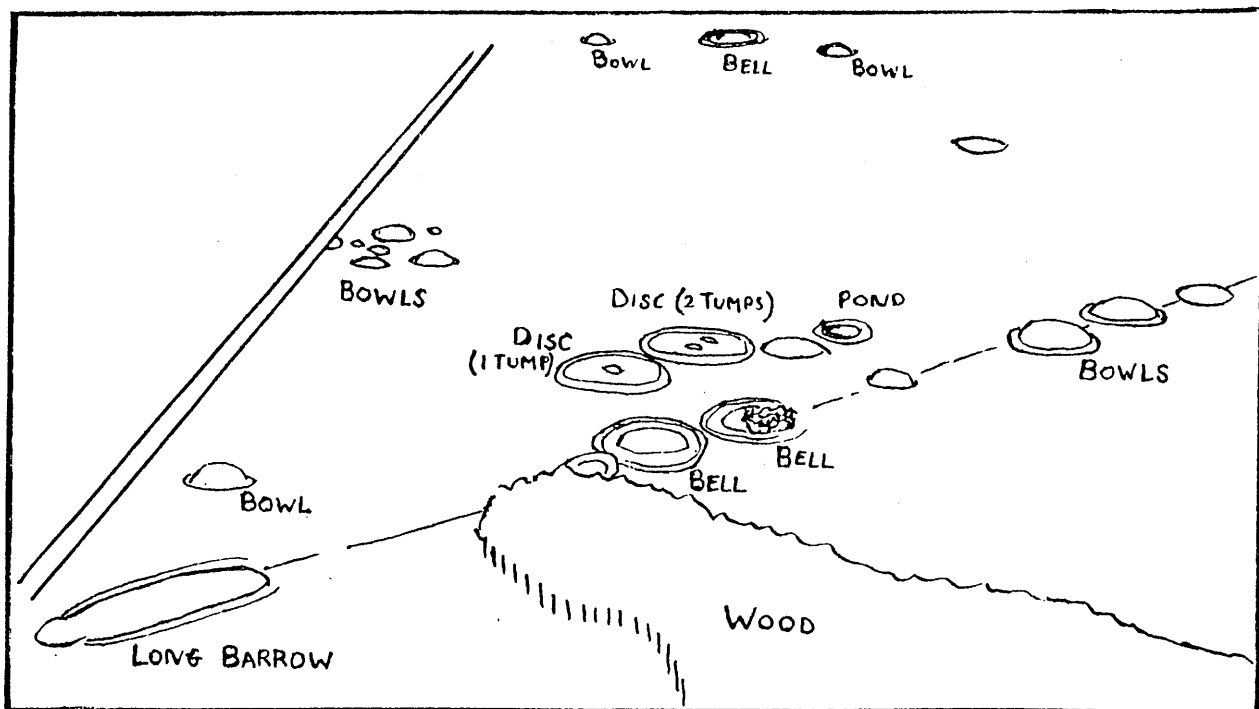
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Types of burial mound. The group of barrows at Winterbourne Cross-roads, near Stonehenge



RIISUP MAN MAKES BAD SMELL IN CITY

By Eileen M. Bowlt

In the autumn of 1378 John Bakere of Ryslep was brought before the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, charged with selling a '*putrid partridge*' to John, son of William Burle, Mason, near the church of St Nicholas Shambles, on the Sunday after the feast of All Saints (11 November). At first he denied the offence, but when the Mayor, John Phelipot and the Aldermen summoned a jury, he changed his plea to guilty. He was sentenced to stand in the pillory for half an hour while the bird was burnt under him.¹

Burning unsavoury and unsatisfactory goods under the noses of the vendors was a common punishment at the time, intended to ensure that only high quality goods were sold at the London markets and to protect consumers' interests.

St Nicholas Shambles stood within Newgate on the west of the City and north-west of St Paul's. A century before John Bakere's misdemeanour the area around the church was already a flesh market.² The name '*Shomh!8s*' derives from the Latin '*scomnum*' meaning bench and refers to the benches or stalls from which the meat was sold. Later the word came to mean a slaughter house. However, a general market was held in the same place by the late 14th century and poulterers from the Middlesex countryside sold their wares there.³ Usually country poulterers like the luckless John Bakere, stood on the pavement outside Greyfriars, while the London citizen poulterers displayed their birds outside St Nicholas' church on the opposite side of the street.⁴

In view of the discussions taking place at present about Sunday trading, it perhaps seems strange to hear that London markets were open on the sabbath in the 14th century, generally a more religious period than our own. The selling of victuals in the City on Sundays was forbidden by a proclamation of 1442-3, but in John Bakere's time the sale of meat was permitted until 10.00 am.⁵

Many Ruislip men and women must *have* sold such stuff as bacon, eggs, butter and poultry in those of the London markets which permitted 'foreign' i.e. non-citizen traders. It is a pity that the only ones whose names got into permanent records were those who transgressed in some way.

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- 2 Ian Archer, Caroline Borron, Vanessa Harding (Eds.) *Hugh Alley's 1680s*. London Topographical Society 1988
- 3 Ibid
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Ibid

TIE WINCIËSTERS & 'BLACKES'

by Dere" Jacobs

In the 16th century. the Winchester family (often referred to as '*alias Mower*') owned several properties around Ruislip and in neighbouring parishes. One of them. called Blackes. was in the now vanished hamlet of Park Hearne (see the article 'Drained Lido reveals secrets' elsewhere in this issue). This was in the possession of John and his wife Agnes. who had four daughters Joon, Isobel, Agnes and Amy. The exact site of this property is not known. but as far as it can be determined. it would seem to have been on the south side of. what is now. Reservoir Road. approximately where the Lido dam and boat house are today. It is not known for sure whether the family lived at Blockes, but the 1565 Terrier makes no mention of Agnes. who was by then a widow. having any other property at that time. so it would at least seem a likely possibility.

According to the 1565 Terrier. Agnes held a copyhold property at Park Hearne called Blockes, comprising two cottages with adjacent orchards and meadows containing in all three acres. She held this property during the minority of her daughter Joan at an annual rental of 22d. In addition. she is stated to hold six acres in two of the common fields in Westcote during the minority of her daughter Isabel at an annual rental of 15d. These six acres would not have been adjacent to the other property. Both these properties were held by leases dated 5 May 6 Eliz(1564).

The property called Blackes together with another called Peres field in Northwood are also referred to in a Court Roll entry dated 21 May 1579. This states that John Wynchester '*lying in extremes about xx [20] yeres since*' surrendered these two properties to his wife Agnes until his daughter Jone reached the age of 21 years. at which time the properties should *remoyne to tllJe use of the forsoyd.l()f1(J[ond! her he8-s forever* ~ It is also stated that Joan was at that time married to Thomas Hurlocke and was '*of full eage*': The name 'Hurlocke' only appears once elsewhere in the Ruislip documents consulted. so it would seem likely that they were not a Ruislip family. John's will. referred to below. is dated 1564. so it would seem that the reference to him '*lying iJ extremes*' twenty years before was very approximate!

In additon to these properties. a Court Roll dated 21 May 1577 refers to a John Mosse of Pinner surrendering two cottages with all housing. buildings. outhouses. meadows and pastures with appurtenances which lay in Fore Street for the use of Agnes Wynchester. This property was near to Wiltshire lane. where another member of the family. William Mower alias Winchester. held a cottage (probably Old Cheyne Cottage) with an adjoining close of one acre. This William is referred to as 'of Eastcote'. and another William 'of Northwood' also held property in Eastcote and Westcote.

On the west side of Bury Street (in Withy lane). almost opposite the present Reservoir Road and near to Agnes' Park Hearne property was a cottage with adjacent orchard containing two rods. This was in the possession of a William Winchester or Mower. It is not stated whether it was the Eastcote or Northwood William. but there is another reference to a cottage and garden at Cannons Bridge held by William of Eastcote and it is clear that these refer to the same property.

In his Will doted 21 April 1564. John Winchester alios Mower. yeoman refers to land in the parishes of Harefield & Harmondsworth which he left to his wife Agnes until his daughter Isabel come of age. The land was then to remain to Isabel provided that she surrendered to another daughter Agnes his copybold land in Pinner. He also left freehold land in Pinner to his wife until the daughter Agnes came of age. Daughter Joan is only left a legacy of E6.13.Cd(E6.66) in the Will. There is no mention of the Park Hearne property referred to in the Court Roll which was to pass to her. but it was not unusual for Copyhold land to be surrendered to the Manor Court prior to death for transfer to a spouse or to some other person. It then no longer remained the property of the Testator and accordingly it would not be included in the will. The fourth daughter. Amy. seems to have been left no land. She was left 20 marks (E13.33) which she was to receive on coming of age or on getting married.

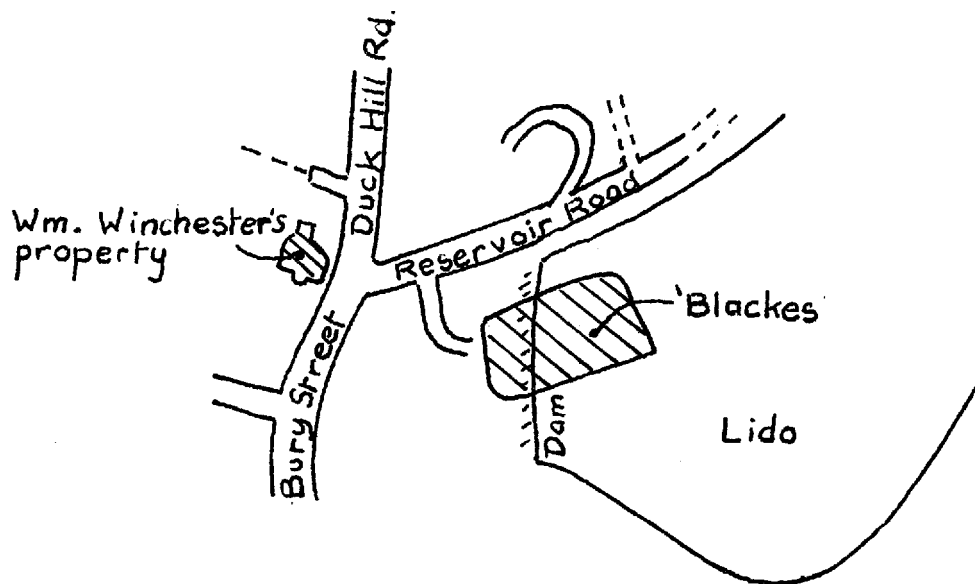
SOIII/CES

1565 Terrier for Ruislip. King's College Muniments. R.36

Ruislip Court Rolls. Greater London Records Office

Commissary Court of London Wills. City of London Guild Hall Library

& I" B. Transcripts of these documents are held in the Inner Form Library loco! History Collection.



Possible sites - Winchester properties



TIE RELATION BETWEEN COUNTY & LOCAL •• STORY

by Ron lightning

If one wants to find out about the topography & history of the County of Middlesex, there are many volumes, both antiquarian & modern, to consult. In these books are references to many localities within the County which either depict some aspect of the locality which is illustrative of the County as a whole, or which form part of a short potted history showing the uniqueness of an event or series of events. If, alternatively, one is more interested in finding out about one's own neighbourhood, there are books available in local libraries and bookshops. Several have been published on Ruislip, the latest being Eileen Bowl's in 1989. Here, the emphasis is the reverse of the county history: the old parish being *very* much in the foreground.

Three books relating to the County of Middlesex were all published this century. They are-

Firth, *Middlesex* (1906)

Briggs, *Middlesex: Old and New* (1934)

Robbins, *Middlesex: A New Survey of England Series* (1953)

As well as giving a historical survey of the county, these works reflect the prevailing historical outlook of the period in which they were written. In 1900, political events tended to dominate history writing and Firth's statement that '*Middlesex has practically no history save in reference to the capital city of London*' should be interpreted in this light. Until 1888, most of London north of the Thames formed part of the County of Middlesex, so many national public events had occurred within its borders. However, away from public life, communities existed centred around parish churches and were influenced in many ways by the pull of London. It is this local life that Firth does not recognise. In contrast to this, Briggs writing in 1934 says that '*Middlesex is full of history*' and he shows how each township has grown from a village or group of villages. What is implicit in Briggs, is clearly stated by Robbins. For him Middlesex has a history and tradition of its own, although overwhelmingly influenced by its relations with London. But he points out that Middlesex is *not* London and has a highly interesting story of its own. He is at pains to show how many factors, particularly road and rail communications, have influenced the development of the county.

A careful study of these volumes is rewarding for they show that history is an ongoing discipline. All three writers acknowledge the work of their predecessors, but they do not slavishly copy them. This is particularly true of Briggs and Robbins. Also, as time passes, the books acquire a period flavour.

It is evident that the county historians drew on the work of local historians as the extensive bibliographies of Briggs and Robbins show. But perhaps the local historian needs also to look at the work of the county historians: after all, the position of Ruislip relative to London and its comparative isolation until the coming of the railway in 1906 are important factors in its history. Thus the local historian cannot produce a history without at least some reference to the wider society, even if it is only to a neighbouring village or parish. If this is so, it would suggest that county and local history are complementary and that the history of a locality

has wider implications and does not stand alone. Perhaps this is why local historians participate in conferences centred on themes significant to all participating societies, such as the LAMASconferences at the Museum of London and those held in Winston Churchill Hall.

The bibliographies of Briggs & Robbins remind us that the work of history writing is never finished. From the earliest history of Middlesex published in 1593, history is constantly being re-written. It is not just that time has passed and recent events have to be recorded to bring old histories up to date: new facts come to light: new research techniques, such as statistical analysis, are brought to bear on population studies: and subjects are introduced, such as the condition of the poor, which were once thought not proper for historical research. This shift in emphasis is seen in Robbins, who does recognise that the social life of the poor should be studied.

Despite differences in emphasis, the three writers have one theme in common: the rapid urbanisation of the county and the consequent disappearance of much of the countryside. Firth in 1906 wrote that *'Middlesex is simply London - the hordtler where every year sees the fields diminish, the settlement of hordes and mortar quicken their restless growth, and the roads and lanes become transformed into streets'* ~ Briggs in 1934 remarked that *'it is sad if the High Street of Huislip is to resemble the awful squalor of the Harrow Road with ten times as many people'* ~ Robbins in 1953 said that Middlesex is in danger of undergoing the same horrific fate that overtook the pleasant parishes of South London a century ago: of becoming a *'just another kernel of London'*.

The feelings of these representative writers reveal the growing horror of those concerned with the disappearance of the old county. Early in the century, 'oases' could still be found: later there is the fear that only a husk would remain. Their consciousness concerning the rapid overdevelopment of the suburbs, expressed in their forebodings about the demise of the county, no doubt influenced others. Their strictures were not entirely negative, for they felt that there was the possibility of at least saving what remained. Robbins in 1953 felt that, with some notable exceptions, the county was poorly served by topographers and historians, although he did feel that some communities recognised the value of tradition: for example, Pinner and Ruislip. Briggs concurs, citing the formation of the *Huislip Association* and its publication of a short history of Ruislip in 1931. In his view, it was due to the civic sense of a small group of people that Ruislip had *'not yet succumbed entirely to the strident propaganda that has engulfed so much of Metropolitan'* ~ Perhaps his worst fears have still not been realised, for we still have the nucleus of the old parish contained in the Conservation Area.

Because of the complementary nature of the relationship of the history of the locality and the region, research that is carried out in a particular society can ultimately make a contribution to a wider history. As a popular history of Middlesex, Robbins' book has not yet been superseded, but perhaps one day Eileen Bowl's recent history of Ruislip will be cited in such a work. Similarly, the fact that the work of local history research is a cooperative effort... Eileen acknowledges the work of the Research Group and other members of the Society - prompts one to believe that the work of all active members of the society are of value no matter how humble.

The Journal of the Ruislip Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

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EDITORIAL

Some of the more fascinating and, at the same time, more frustrating things about research into Local History, or Family History too, are often the odd things that crop up unexpectedly during a particular project.

One such occurred while transcribing the 16th Century Wills for Ruislip. In most wills of the period, the same names turn up as witnesses time after time. Such names tend to be those of local men and women who were influential or who held some local Office at the time, such as Parish Priest, Headborough or Church Warden.

The Will of James Edlin dated 11 July 1504, was unusual on two counts, not only was it the only one written wholly in Latin, but also it included amongst the witnesses the name *Attelwaldo Le Nallis (or Lenallis)*. The name is most unusual and appears nowhere else in any of the other wills transcribed. A search through various name indices on a national basis have yielded no other occurrence of this most singular name, nor, so far, has anyone else come up with an alternative suggestion as to what the name might be (the writing does seem to be reasonably clear!) Who was he, or was he anyone at all? Perhaps it was some mythical person included for legal purposes - a sort of Tudor *A. N. Other*! May be one day the mystery will be solved as to the identity of this unusually named individual.

Two names which hold no mystery for members of the Society, are **Len Krause** and **Eileen Bowlit**. After many years of hard work as Chairman of our Society, Len has relinquished the post and Eileen has taken it over. As a token of appreciation for all his work, the last Annual General Meeting unanimously elected Len as **President** of the Society, a post which has not been filled for many years now. We congratulate both him and Eileen on their new posts.

During last year, the Society held an Exhibition on Ruislip schools entitled '*Education in Ruislip*'. Extracts from school log books were on display, together with photographs and reminiscences of people involved with some of the schools. The exhibition was well attended and many of the visitors to the Exhibition must have gone away saying to themselves '*I wonder what became of old*'. We should like to thank the members of the **Research Group** who were involved in preparing the exhibition and also all those who supplied material for it. It is hoped to produce a publication based on the material later in the year.

The Christmas meeting of the Society was a social gathering with the theme of a Wartime Christmas. Members of the Committee and other helpers provided an excellent entertainment and also a meal which far exceeded wartime rations! Again, we should like to thank all those who helped to make this meeting the success it clearly was.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<i>Ruislip Conservation</i>			
<i>Research Group</i>		Dr Colleen Cox	0895-673187
		Ms Karen Spink	081-866.7279



SUMMER OUTINGS 1991

Saturday 20 April	Visit to Local Churches to view stones used in their construction Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0930hr
Saturday 18 May	Andover, Danebury Hill Fort & Winchester Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0900hr
Saturday 15 June	Castle Acre & Kings Lynn Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0900hr
Sunday 29 September	Coach Tour of Bristol Coach outing. Depart St. Martins Approach 0900hr



UNIQUE IN NORTHWOOD

by Leonard Krause

In 1928, a syndicate formed by the Shilaker Family in Northwood built three large detached houses in Sandy Lodge way. Two of the houses were demolished after the second world war and were replaced by flats. The third house - *Whitefriars* - No 30 Sandy Lodge Way still stands.

Whitefriars was occupied by Mr Egbert Shilaker of the Syndicate and his family until his death in the early 1950's. His widow sold the property to Dr W StC Symmers MD in 1953, who told us the following history of Whitefriars which he had from Mrs Shilaker.

Mr E Shilaker was an Engineer with connections with the armaments industry, notably Vickers. In the Spanish Civil War in 1936 he saw the grim havoc on the civil population caused by aerial bombardment by the German Luftwaffe assisting Franco. As the certainty of war in Europe grew, his concern for his family took a practical turn and in 1938 he designed and built an airraid shelter in his garden, just south of the house. When war was declared in September 1940, the Shilaker family slept in this shelter every night almost without exception until May 1945.

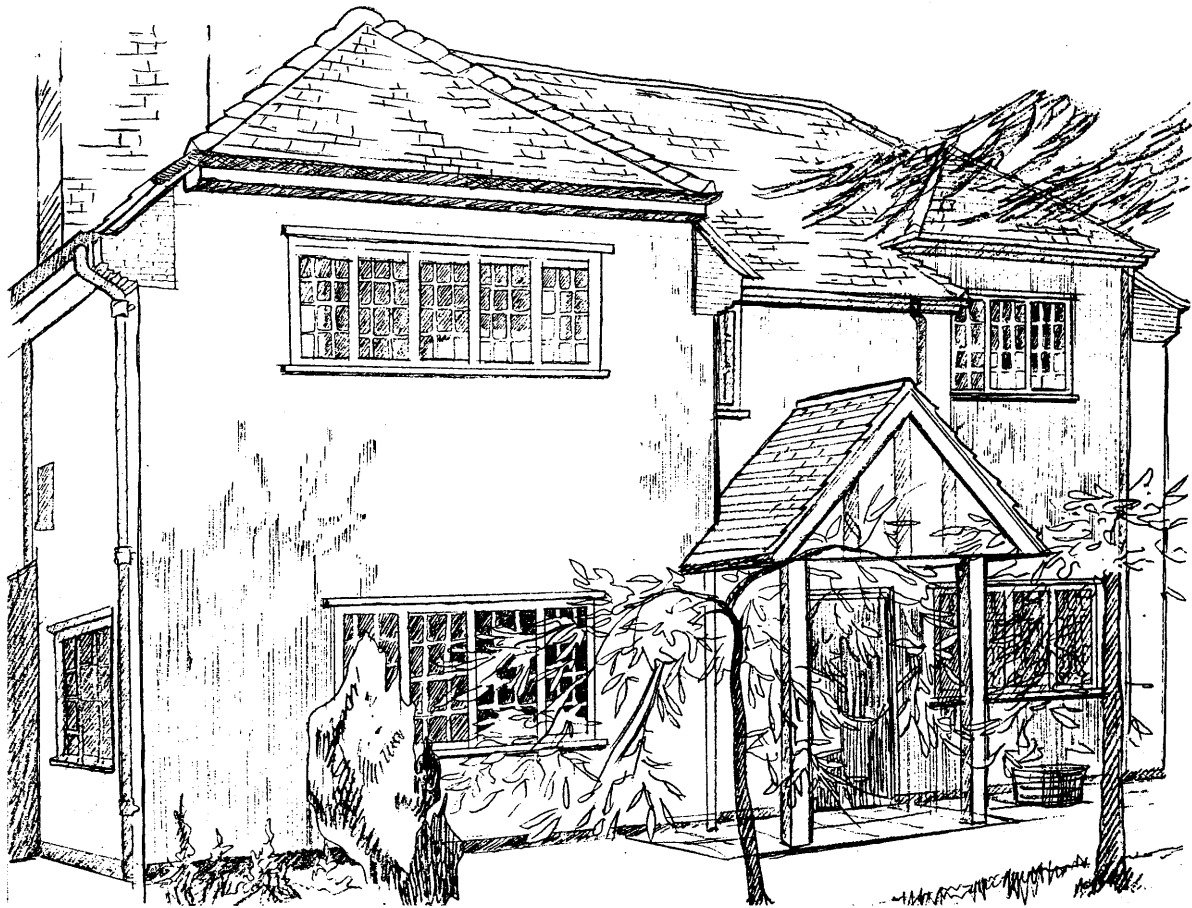
In the spring of 1990 Dr Symmers, after the death of his wife, decided to sell the garden in which the shelter stood, and he invited a few of us* to see it. He told us that a family from the Middle East had been to see Whitefriars which was also for sale. When their children were asked what the shelter was, they said - after some hesitation - 'A mosque' (the accompanying sketch shows why!).

The shelter was a circular concrete structure about 10ft diameter and 10ft high with a domed roof. The walls, roof and base were 10in thick concrete sandwiches with armament steel plate in the middle. There were deep set windows and a door which could be protected by fitted steel plates. There was a stove for warmth with an odd little chimney, water and electric light.

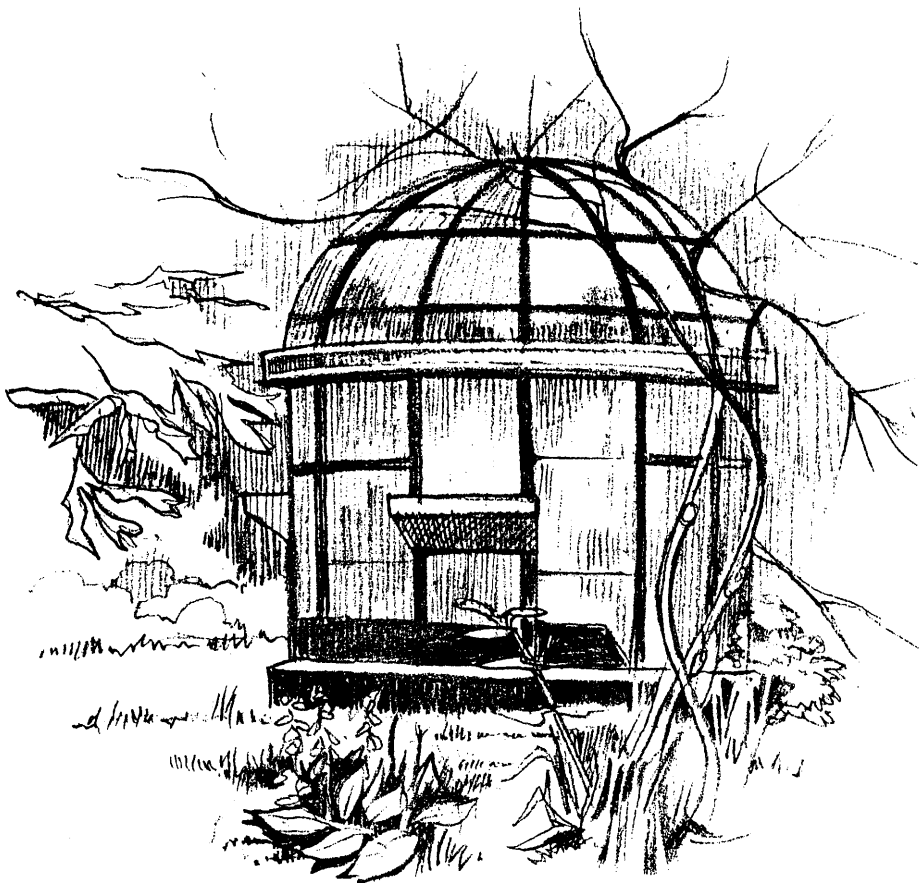
From 1945 onwards, the shelter was used as a garden store and play room and gradually, as the garden had less attention, it became engulfed in saplings and shrubs. Now it has gone - it must have been quite a job - and a new house is taking shape on the site. Undoubtedly it would have withstood anything but a direct hit as Mr Shilaker planned, and he certainly would not have been surprised at the concentrated aerial attack on Iraq as we write in January 1991.

Dr Symmers now lives in Edinburgh. We are obliged to him for his interest and courtesy which arose from an Exhibition we staged at St Johns UR Church in Hallowell Road.

*Len Krause; Eileen Bowl; Eileen Watling; Jim McBean



38 Sandy Lodge Way



Airraid Shelter built 1938

C.V.GALLEY

by Eileen M. Bowlr

Cyril Vincent Galley (known as Vic) was a well-known figure among the large band of small builders who began to develop *Metroland* in the 1920s and 30s, alongside such 'big' names as Telling or Comben & Wakeling. He made something of a speciality of bungalows and built them extensively around Eastcote, Ruislip and Northwood and Pinner too. Like several of the other small developers in this area (Mr Patchett, Mr Peachey and Mr Belton of Southern Park and Belton Estates for example) he came from the north of England.

He was born at Rowlands Gill, Co. Durham (about 10 miles west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) in May 1906 and spent much of his childhood in Blaydon (of races fame). On leaving school at the age of 14, he worked as a milkman for the Co-operative Society for a short time, until he realised that he could earn more money for shorter hours down the pit and went to drive ponies at the Addison Colliery instead. At 16 he enjoyed another brief flirtation with the milk retail trade, but this time as his own boss. He bought eggs and also rabbits which he skinned himself, to sell as well as milk and earned extra on Sundays by using his pony and cart to sell ice cream for another vendor.

All this hard work taught him many valuable lessons in business management, which must have come in handy in later life, but brought little profit at the time, so he changed tack again and apprenticed himself as a plasterer to Mr Davidson of Blaydon and in so doing set the pattern for the rest of his working life.

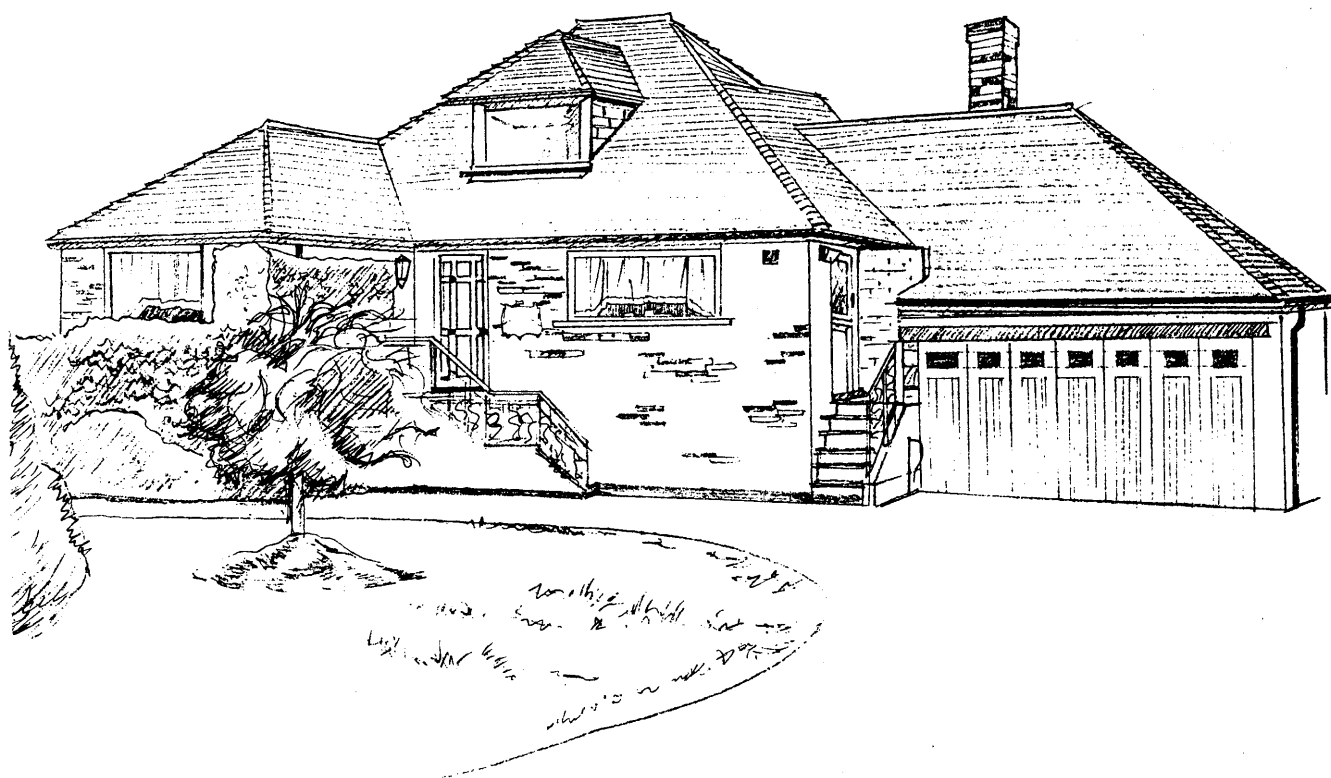
His successful career as a plasterer had a slight hiccup in 1927 because of the slump in the building trade and after five months on the dole in the north-east, he took the coach to London, just before his 22nd birthday. The building boom had begun in Middlesex. Two of the Ball brothers, John and Bill were busy in Colindale and Hendon and C.V.Galley started work with Bill Ball at Wykmans Hill, Colindale in the middle of May 1928.

Within two years he had rented a bungalow at Pole Hill, Hillingdon and had brought his mother, step-father and the rest of his family down from the north-east and had fixed them all up with jobs. This was quite a common progression at the time; young, skilled, unmarried men, driven from the north by lack of work and attracted by the opportunities for employment offered by the building and associated trades in the expanding suburbs, travelled south, established themselves and having blazed a trail, were joined by older members of their families. Many of these families enjoyed comfortable lives in the south-east, though they were not all so successful as Mr Galley.

His next step was to enter into a fairly short-lived partnership, Galley & Walker as a Plastering Contractor and he worked on contracts for Comben & Wakeling and other of the larger builders. About the same time he met his future wife, Doris Hill, while going on a coach trip to the 1932 Aldershot Military Tattoo at the Rushmoor Arena. The young couple bought a plot of land at 54, Lime Grove and built their own bungalow mainly with their own hands. It was complete and furnished in time for their wedding day on 7th July 1934.

The Galley/Walker partnership broke up, but he continued on his own and was employing 28 men in 1934. Just over a year later he embarked on his building career, by borrowing enough money to buy five plots in Frances Road, on the east side of Cheyney Street and putting up five bungalows. He moved into one of them with his wife and baby son.

From these fairly small beginnings his business expanded. He built ten more bungalows nearby in Cheyney Street and Chiltern Road, Eastcote. Then Comben & Wakeling who were developing the Eastcote Park Estate wanted to dispose of 88 plots and offered them to Mr Galley, who had been their plastering contractor such a short time before. The plots were in St Lawrence Drive, Rodney Gardens and Bridle Road. Once again he built bungalows, which were complete by 1939 and a new home for himself and family at 35, Field End Road, backing onto St Lawrence Drive.



9 St Lawrence Drive

More land became available and was acquired in Evelyn Avenue and at Meadow Close, but the Second World War broke out and prevented development. During the next six years much of Mr Galley's work was on air-raid shelters and repairing bomb damage for Ruislip-Northwood and Hayes Councils. This must have kept him busy, because in 1941 alone 102 houses were demolished, 365 severely damaged and 2528 slightly damaged, as a result of air raids in Ruislip-Northwood.

After the war private building was forbidden for a time by the new Labour Government and later was allowed only under a Building Licence at controlled prices, so C.V.Galley turned his attention to council houses, beginning with 36 in South Ruislip. A licence soon enabled him to start building at last in Evelyn Avenue, Meadow Close and Blaydon Close (named after his childhood home). Among the council contracts was one from Acton Council for council houses to be built in South Ruislip on land sold by Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council.

By the late 1950s the firm C.V.Galley Ltd was building about 50 houses a year, that is one a week. Mr & Mrs Galley moved again, this time to 7, Lawrence Drive, another new house built by the company. It stands on a bend in St Lawrence Drive and had land at the side which was made into a tennis court. A visit to Canada in 1963 suggested new styles of housing to Mr Galley and on his return he put up a brand new super bungalow on the former tennis court, with a basement to hold a full-sized billiards table as well as the central heating boiler.

One of the roads developed by Galleys was Rushmoor Close off Catlins Lane, Eastcote, named after the arena in Aldershot, where Mr & Mrs Galley first met in 1932. His daughter and son in law lived in the Close after their marriage in 1960, thus keeping up the romantic associations. He also built 12 houses in Westbury Road, Northwood, on the Eastbury Farm Estate.

For more than 40 years C.V.Galley led a team of workers who stayed together for long periods. Many men had worked for him for between 25 and 40 years, but by the mid- 1970s were reaching retirement age and as his son did not want to carry on the business without the old team, the firm was wound up in 1976. The last building project was in the new road called The Sigers in Eastcote. The timber-framed house called Sigers had not stood on that site at all, but on the other side of Field End Road and had been demolished in the early 1930s to make way for the Eastcote Park Estate, where so much of Mr Galley's early work had been done and where he had lived for so much of his married life. He and his wife retired to Poole, Dorset, in 1977, where they had owned a weekend home for some years. He died in January 1983 and his ashes are in the Garden of Remembrance at St Lawrence's Eastcote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Most of the information for this article was taken from a privately produced autobiography of Mr Galley and I am most grateful to Mrs Galley & her family for permission to use the material and to J.B.Reid esq. for drawing my attention to it.

APPEAL Galley-built bungalows and houses are scattered widely over this area. It would be interesting to compile a complete list and I should be grateful if anyone who knows of any would be kind enough to contact me.

CHRISTMAS 1940

by Eileen M. Bowlt

The theme of the Society's 1990 Christmas Social was '*Christmas 1940*'. Anyone who had been seeking light relief from the strains of war fifty years ago, might have gone to see Rita Heyworth '*the new oomph girl*' appearing in '*The Lady in Question*' at the Rivoli, or attended one of the numerous whist drives advertised in the local paper but in 1990, Society Members watched and heard what the Committee had made of Christmas in that momentous year, half a century ago.

THE KING'S SPEECH

It was a nostalgic evening. Colin Bowlt disguised as a BBC announcer acted as M.C. Ennunciating clearly through a realistic microphone (cleverly created out of what appeared to be an old shoe box by Karen Spink) he began:

'At three o'clock on Christmas Day 1940, you could guarantee that practically every man, woman and child in Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote would be sitting by the fire and eagerly waiting for the King's speech to begin on the wireless. King George VI, who was troubled by a stammer, broadcast live from Buckingham Palace, after having lunched with his family. The Queen and the two Princesses listened through an extension speaker in another room.'

The Queen (*Eileen Watling*) graciously acknowledged the presence of the audience and looked on indulgently as Princess Elizabeth (*Valery Cowley*) and Princess Margaret (*Karen Spink*) nursed their dolls. The King (*Len Krause, rapidly promoted from Chairman to President to King in the space of three months*) had a faultless delivery as he spoke of the disruptive effect of war on family life.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

1940 had been a bad year for Britain. Dunkirk was evacuated at the beginning of June and the Battle of Britain was fought in September.

From August, Ruislip-Northwood had suffered several airraids each day and night raids as well. School children spent much of their time in *trenches* in their school playgrounds.

The weather was cold and because of blackout regulations the Bourne School caretaker was unable to light the fires early enough in the mornings to warm the rooms. So school began in near freezing temperatures.

A survey of 347 Ruislip children's sleeping arrangements during November disclosed that:-

- 5 children slept in a bed upstairs
- 171 children slept in a bed downstairs
- 79 children slept in Anderson shelters
- 39 children slept in Garden shelters
- 14 children slept in Public shelters
- 39 children slept under the stairs

St John's Ambulance members attended the public shelter in Shenley Avenue to do all they could to prevent colds and to treat minor ailments.

During 1940, 185 High Explosive Bombs; 400 Incendiary Bombs; 25 shells; 3 Parachute Mines; and a number of unexploded bombs and shells fell on Ruislip-Northwood. 102 houses were demolished; 365 houses were severely damaged and 2528 houses were slightly damaged. 19 people were killed and 125 injured.

In these depressing conditions, people turned to the wireless again to listen to Winston Churchill's heartening speeches. Kay Holmes gave a spirited rendering of two of Churchill's speeches, which had actually been given in the House of Commons, shortly before and just after the fall of France.

RATIONS

Food was rationed. Mrs Watling showed what an adult was allowed per week:-

- 4oz bacon or ham
- Meat to the value of 1s.2d. (6p)
- 2oz butter
- 2oz cheese
- 4oz margarine
- 4oz cooking fat
- 3pt milk
- 8oz sugar
- 2oz tea
- 1 egg

Each month an adult could have a packet of dried milk and dried egg and 12 oz sweets and every two months 1lb of preserves. The ration varied slightly from time to time and additional items could be bought when available with a limited number of *points* which could be cut out of the ration book.

Making rations stretch was a problem for all housewives. But once again the BBC was on hand with helpful advice. At 8.30 in the morning, harassed Mrs Cox of Ruislip could switch on *Kitchen Front* (on her genuine 1940's wireless) and be chivied into making a delicious meatless *Woolton Pie*, by a superior lady announcer (*Denise Shackell*).

BRITISH RESTAURANT

The British Restaurant in Victoria Road then opened its doors and clients were exhorted to '*FORM AN ORDERLY QUEUE!*' After an excellent meal, during which Spam was displayed and portions of Woolton Pie were distributed, there was a short break to allow members to examine an exhibition of wartime by-gones, which included a baby's gas mask, identity cards and ration books.

WOMEN'S WORK

As usual in times of National Emergency, the Government discovered that women had a role to play outside the home. Colleen Cox took up the entertainment again with a hilarious account of women's war work. A manual of the time likened welding skills to those of knitting!

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Many people turned to religion during the war. On the Sunday after Dunkirk, St Martin's was filled to overflowing at all services, with crowds queuing to get in.

The lady in John Betjeman's poem '*Westminster Abbey*' (read for us by Valery Cowley), hadn't quite grasped the tenets of christianity.

RHYMES

In every playground in the country in 1940, you would have heard rhymes like these.....

*Hitler, you're barmy!
You want to join the army!
Get knocked out by a big Boy Scout!
Hitler, you're barmy!*

*Who's that knocking at the window?
Who's that knocking at the door?
If it's Hitler let him in
And we'll sit him on a pin
And we won't see Old Hitler any more!*





*Run Adolf! run Adolf! run, run, run!
Don't let the allies have their fun, fun, fun
They'll get by without their Adolf pie
So run Adolf! run Adolf! run, run, run!*

Committee members chanted them while tossing balls to each other at the front of the hall.

EVACUEES

Children were badly affected by the war. Broken nights, missed school, separation from fathers and other male relatives. Evacuation brought even greater disruption into the lives of many and Eileen Watling (dressed in school blazer) remembered what it was like. Actually her account made it sound rather jolly. She had Greek lessons in the Gentleman's cloakroom!

The evening included a good many wartime songs and carols and ended with coffee and mince pies and good wishes all round.

**CHRISTMAS PUDDING
WITHOUT EGGS**

Mix together 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of breadcrumbs, 1 cup of sugar, half a cup of suet, 1 cup of mixed dried fruit, and, if you like, 1 teaspoon of mixed sweet spice. Then add 1 cup of grated raw carrot and finally 1 level teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda dissolved in 2 tablespoons of hot milk. Mix all together (no further moisture is necessary) turn into a well-greased pudding basin. Boil or steam for 4 hours.

APPLE MINCEMEAT

mincemeat go further by it with grated or finely raw apples or with thick ~~sp~~.

ave not been able to make, in mincemeat then flavour apple with plenty of spices & a little mixed dried fruit pped cooked prunes or chopped raw dates. You then have a pleasant filling for the traditional Christmas tarts.

A Wartime Christmas Recipe

THE MINT WITH A HOLE IN IT

by Eileen Watling

In 1986, an appeal for volunteers enabled me to further a long-standing interest in archaeology by helping to process finds from the excavations then being carried out at the Royal Mint. This important site lying just outside the walls of the City of London and east of the Tower, proved to have a past history largely unknown to Londoners and visitors who frequent the area, and possibly of interest to readers of this Journal.

The six acre site had been variously occupied since the Romans began quarrying gravel in the area, and during most of the Middle Ages provided material for roads and buildings, although otherwise left mainly vacant. In 1349, when all the cemeteries within the City had been filled to overflowing, the gravel pits afforded space for a mass burial of victims of the bubonic plague which had recently decimated the population of London.

Edward III founded the Cistercian Abbey of St Mary Graces on the site in 1350, in fulfilment of a vow made when he narrowly escaped drowning at sea. In doing so, he seems to have disregarded the close proximity of the Black Death burial. This abbey became renowned for its work among the poor, for which it was especially commended by the Bishop of London in 1368. Londoners made it many gifts, so that it became rich and powerful. Because of its importance, the Abbey was commissioned at intervals to oversee the discipline and morals of the Cistercian Order of England, Ireland and Wales. By the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Abbey had become the third richest Cistercian House in Britain after Fountains and Furness. However, despite a plea from the Lord Mayor of London to Henry VIII asking for it to be spared to continue its good work for the poor, St Mary Graces was dissolved in 1538.

About 1560, the Crown purchased the site in order to set up a victualling yard supplying salt, pork, beef, bread, biscuits and barrels to the growing Tudor navy. The Abbey church was demolished, but other buildings were adapted to new uses, the monks' refectory becoming the salt store, the infirmary, the barrel store and so on. Due to these adaptations, large sections of the Abbey buildings survived. The Navy occupied the site until about 1740, when the Government established warehouses on it. Samuel Pepys, Clerk of the Acts of the Navy, was appointed Surveyor-General of the Victualling Office in 1666, so must have known the adapted Abbey buildings well. He lived not far away in Seething Lane and described in his Diary how he watched the Great Fire of London from the tower of Allhallows Barking nearby.

The victualling yard site was cleared in 1799, to become the new home of the Royal Mint which had come under increasing pressure for space in its former position in the Tower. New buildings in the neo-classical style were designed and erected by James Johnson and Sir Robert Smirke. The Mint functioned on its London site until the vastly increased demand for coinage and the introduction of decimalisation led to its removal to Wales in 1968. No coins were minted in the old building after 1975, and the Crown Estate Commissioners agreed to fund trial excavations by the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology which were followed by full-scale excavations finally concluded in 1988, at a cost of one million pounds, much of it funded by the developers.

Excavation revealed extensive sections of the old monastery, including parts of the cloisters, the monks' warming room, an infirmary and the refectory with the remains of its decorated tiled floor. Also found was the large and complex sewer system of the monastic latrines, together with the later Tudor replacement drains. Among the smaller finds were pottery and china, glass objects and bottles, ornamental tiles, hundreds of clay pipes, iron tools, the remnants of leather belts and harnesses and the occasional Roman coin and pre-historic beaker. Piles of bones showed that our predecessors were hearty eaters of a variety of wild and domestic animals and fowls, while to judge from the vast quantities of discarded shells, they consumed oysters as a commonplace article of diet.

Ten human burials were found to the north of the site where it is thought the cemetery of the Abbey's lay patrons was situated. The graves were arranged in orderly rows. One burial to the east of the former Lady Chapel probably marks the monks' cemetery. It was arranged for all these remains to be re-interred in an East London cemetery.

Processing the finds involved first washing carefully all but the most delicate objects. Metal articles had to be cleaned otherwise to prevent further rusting and disintegration. When dry, material had to be marked with date and context numbers as minutely as possible, usually with a mapping pen and Indian ink. This was not always an easy task, as objects could vary from rough pieces of masonry to tiny slivers of porcelain almost impossible to grasp firmly. Piecing and sticking together fragments of ornamental tiles and pots, together with preliminary cataloguing, were also sometimes included in our work.

The Museum's scientists carried out tests to determine the date and composition of finds and analysed the remains of seeds and plants formerly grown for food. They examined the skeletons to establish their age, height and sex and sought evidence denoting arthritis, tuberculosis and other diseases. It was noteworthy that a large number of skulls contained an excellent set of teeth, possibly due to a sugar free diet and mortality at a comparatively early age. Speculation aroused by the light green colouring found on quantities of the human bones was soon ended by an assurance that this phenomenon merely indicated staining of the soil by copper seeping through from the floor of the Mint.

Royal Mint Court now accommodates offices on the site. It was agreed by the developers that parts of the ruined Abbey should be incorporated within the new buildings. Also, the listed facade of the old Mint building has been retained and refurbished, together with the two main gateways, part of the old outer wall, and some of the trees. Close up, the general effect is somewhat marred by the towering office blocks which hem it in, but from a distance, the old Royal Mint appears to rise with its former dignity restored, from the site where so much of London's history lies concealed.



CAPTAIN & MRS BENNETT EDWARDS OF HAYDON HALL

by Jim McBean

Mrs Bennett Edwards was born in 1845 and she and her husband had come to live at Haydon Hall by 1886.

Mrs Edwards' father was Edward William Cox, referred to by Laurence Morris as '*an important figure in the byeways of 19th century history*' and with a career sufficiently notable to merit a full page in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. He was born in Taunton in Somerset where his father had established an extensive foundry and he was trained in the law, becoming a barrister of Middle Temple and, in 1868, a Serjeant-at-Law. He was briefly a Member of Parliament. Although holding various legal positions i.e. Deputy Judge of Middlesex, Recorder of Portsmouth etc., he practiced very little at the Bar and turned his undoubted business acumen to publishing. He established the *Law Times*; purchased the ailing periodical *The Field* and made it profitable; became the proprietor of the *Queen* and established *Exchange and Mart* as well as other publishing enterprises. He died at Moat Mount, Mill Hill on 24 April 1879 and left a considerable fortune. The census return for 1871 shows him at Moat Mount with his wife Rosalinda Alicia (nee Fonblanque), his daughter Ada Rosalind Bennett Edwards and her husband Harry Bennett Edwards together with visitors and the usual retinue of butler, footman, groom, maids etc., associated with a wealthy Victorian family. The wealth he had accumulated, his estates and his extensive publishing interests were duly passed onto his children.

Ada Rosalind Cox was born at 19 Hamilton Terrace, St Johns Wood on 1 August 1845, one of three children. After an education at home, she married Harry Bennett Edwards on 7 May 1867 at St Pauls, Mill Hill when she was 22 years old and their first child Harold, was born in 1868. In 1870 the first of their three daughters Lillian was born in Hyderabad during the two years the couple spent in India due to her husband's army commitments.

Mrs Edwards was a novelist. She started writing early in life and the British Library catalogues seven of her novels written over a period of fourteen years when she was in her early thirties to late forties. Other sources list additional titles. She wrote in a period when novels were being produced in large numbers and Trollope was able to say in 1870 '*we have become a novel reading people*'. Although the great writers of the day were mostly men, the period was also notable for such female novelists as Jane Austin, Charlotte Bronte and others, leading a commentator to remark that '*it seemed that the 19th century was the age of the Female Novelist*'. W.S.Gilbet however poked fun, referring to a *singular anomaly* - the woman novelist who were on a little list and who never would be missed! Most of Mrs Edwards' works were written during the fifty years she lived at Haydon Hall.

It is not easy to assess the literary merits of Mrs Edwards' work. She is perhaps little known today and she does not appear in the standard indexes of writers of the period. On the other hand, publishers were prepared to issue a whole series of her three-decker novels; she is noted in Alibone's *Dictionary of English Literature*; in *Who was Who* and John Sutherland in his *Victorian Fiction* says of her work '*they are all marked by a gorgeous style of writing*'.

Mrs Edwards appears to have been something of an individualist since some volumes of *Who's Who* contain the surprising statement that she was an active member of the ILP Socialist Party and the writer of her *Times* obituary stated that she was frequently disparaged by people who only knew the rich lady who seemed to delight in ignoring strait laced convention and lifted eyebrows. Amongst her many activities she found time to work on the Committee of the Ladies' Branch of the Kennel Club of which she was Vice-Chairman in 1906. She was also a member of the fox terrier club.

Ada Rosalind Bennett Edwards died on 22 December 1936 and was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on 28 December and her ashes scattered in the Garden of Remembrance.

Harry Bennett Edwards was born at St Stephens by Saltash, Cornwall on 29 March 1837, one of the four sons of Rev. Thomas Bennett Edwards, vicar of the same parish, and Marianne his wife. The impropiators of the living were the Dean & Canons of Windsor. After a classical & mathematical education at Marlborough and privately, he took up a career in the Army in India. At the age of 18 he was nominated a Cadet at the East India Company Military School on the recommendation of Sir Frederick Pollack. He duly passed his interviews and examinations and was appointed Ensign in the Bombay Infantry and embarked for India in 1857 at the age of 20. This was the year of the Indian Mutiny and thereafter the East India Company was wound up and Bennett Edwards became a lieutenant in Her Majesty's Indian Army.

In 1866 he was on leave in the U.K. and the next year his marriage to Ada Rosalind Cox took place at Mill Hill. Two years later he was in action in Abyssinia where he earned a medal. He was now a captain. During his next period of duty, his wife was with him and their first daughter, Lillian, was born in Hyderabad. Harry Bennett Edwards finally returned to England on sick leave in 1871 and he retired from the army on 30 September 1872. He was 49 when he and his wife settled in Haydon Hall.

Captain Bennett Edwards has left a permanent memorial in the district in the form of the Northwood Golf Club. He with two others, founded the Club in 1891, one hundred years ago, and was its first club captain and president. The story is told of how Mrs Nichols of the Ripple Tea Rooms, adjoining the course, prepared morning porridge for Capt. Edwards prior to an early morning round. His son Harold was also a member and the sporting bent of the family was carried on by E.J. Edwards who took an active interest in cricket at Haydon Hall. The house *Fairacre* in Wiltshire Lane is said by W.A.G. Kemp in his *History of Eastcote*, to have been built by Capt. Edwards

Captain Henry Bennett Edwards died at Southill Cottage on 17 October 1914 aged 77.

The Edwards of Haydon Hall took great interest in the local affairs of the district and there are many instances of their kindness and generosity quoted in Mr Kemp's book. It is to be hoped that the memory of them will not be allowed to fade.

Acknowledgement. My thanks are due to the librarians of Ruislip Manor Farm; the Bishopsgate Institute; Hendon; Cornwall and the British Library (India Office). Also to the Northwood Golf club and the Kennel Club.

Sources.

Robin Gilmour: *The Novel in the Victorian Age*

Elaine Showalter: *A Literature of Their Own*
Clerical Guide 1836

APPENDIX

From the British Library Catalogue:-

Edwards, Mrs Harry Bennett

His Story - And Hers	A man's adventure
In Sheep's Clothing	A novel
Loyella	A novel
Pharisses	A novel
Saint Monica	A wife's love story
A Tantulas	A novel
The Unwritten Law	A novel



Charterhouse

A VISIT TO THE LONDON CHARTERHOUSE 28th April 1990

by Valery J.E. Cowley

On a brilliantly sunny Saturday members drifted across Charterhouse Square and under the double-arched 15th century gatehouse incorporating the early Georgian Master's Lodgings, to be greeted by Bob Bedford and a wedding party; the place was full of white and green floral decorations and champagne (but alas not for us). After a short wait for Master Harrison to arrive, we began our conducted tour by admiring the restored gables of the reconstructed south range with their emblems of the three phases in the Charterhouse's history - monastery, mansion house and school/hospital - including a Gownboy and Brother in their traditional dress.

It began as a double-sized Carthusian Monastery (24 instead of the usual 12 cells), the fourth in England, founded by Edward III's commander, Sir Walter Manny, who had leased 13 acres called Spitalcroft from St. Bartholomew's in 1349, when the Black Death was raging, for the City to use as a burial ground and started the Charterhouse on the site in 1370. Additions included an orchard in 1378. Henry Yevele, the King's master mason worked on the cloister, which was not, however, finished until 1436 and chapels were added to the originally aisleless church. The strictness of the order attracted St. Thomas More and in 1535, Prior John Houghton and several other brothers, including Sebastian Newdigate of Harefield Place, were executed at Tyburn for refusing to accept Henry VIII as supreme head of the church; in 1537 ten more died in prison or were executed.

After the Dissolution the conventual buildings became a courtyard house and the great hall was built by Sir Edward North, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations. This forms one side of Master's Court, which resembles an Oxford quadrangle, but with its stucco removed since wartime fire-bomb damage. The buildings became Howard House and the Duke of Norfolk entertained Queen Elizabeth I here. Various tenants ensued until in 1611 Thomas Sutton, Master of Ordnance bought it to establish a school and the Hospital (for elderly impoverished gentlemen) of King James in the Charterhouse. It had 16 governors including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chancellor. Sutton's arms and crest in plaster, together with a repainted sundial decorate the Court's upper storeys.

Brickwork from the lay brothers' quarters incorporating either the sacred monogram IHS or IH for John Houghton, remains in the exterior wall of the west range of Wash-house court, preserved during the North/Norfolk alterations. Facing the Ruislip party as the Master continued his talk were the rebuilt 19th century Pensioners' Court and Preacher's Court and the old conduit house. We encountered many feral cats, which are antagonistic to the Master's moggies.

The Great Hall's roof trusses and corbels survived the 1941 fire and the combined hammerbeams and arched principals derive from Westminster Hall. There is an early 17th century Caen stone chimneypiece bearing the fourth Earl of Norfolk's arms and fashionable Flemish strapwork ornament, with an appropriately fire-defying salamander, emblem of Constancy. The panelled screens are reminiscent of an Oxford dining - hall. New kitchens have been installed to replace those in Wash - house Court and so service is through the left - hand screen door as of old. There are galleries and portraits of past Masters.

The Great Chamber ceiling displays more Howard of Norfolk heraldry picked out in gold and its painted chimneypiece is now restored, a survivor of the 1941 bomb's blackened blistering. Delicate arabesques, gold groundwork, medallions of the four Evangelists and the 12 Apostles accompany the Annunciation and the Last Supper. The room has Flemish tapestries and modern two-tiered hanging lights. Here Queen Elizabeth I was entertained and James I dubbed 133 knights. Many famous governors of Sutton's Hospital have met here, including Bacon, Laud, Cromwell, Monmouth and Judge Jeffreys.

The monastic church, except for the bottom part of the tower, was demolished by North after 1545, but the Chapter House remained and was converted into a chapel in the 17th century, with Tuscan pillars and heraldic glass. There is a fine early 17th century carved screen with openwork scrolls, cherubs' heads and a cartouche. Sutton's monument by N. Johnson of Southwark and Nicholas Stone was erected in 1615. The alabaster effigy is flanked by emblems of mortality with Sutton's arms and a low relief showing pensioners and others being addressed by him. Faith, Hope, Charity, Labour and Rest are among the emblematic figures and it has a magnificent medieval-style iron grill.

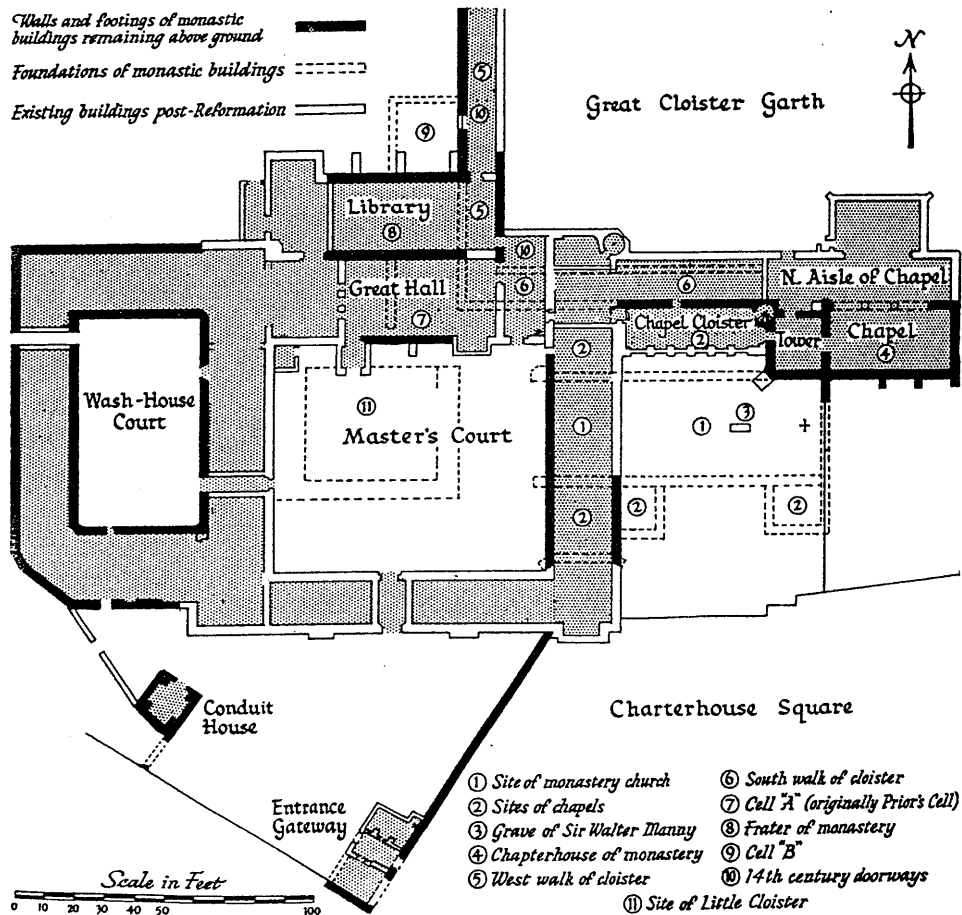
There is a tablet to another Master by Flaxman. The altarpiece is a Lucca Giordano painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary visiting St. Elizabeth and in the ante-room stands a chair which belonged to John Wesley, who was once a pupil at the school.

The tower contained a Treasury which is now the Muniment Room and has a squint, which gave a view of the high altar of the original church. It now displays many interesting historical documents, including a pictorial plan of the water supply system from Islington installed in 1431.

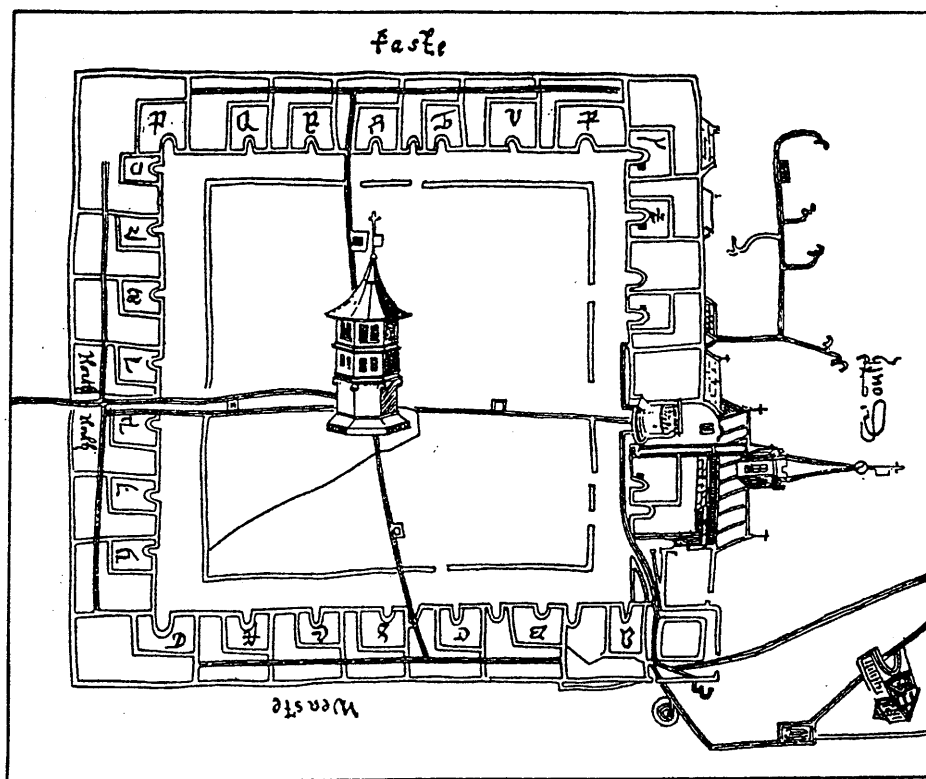
In 1947, the lead coffin of Sir Walter Manny, a native of Hainault who came to England as page to Edward III's Queen Philippa, was found with his remains and a papal bulla, at the step of the high altar of the original church. Since the demolition in 1545, this area has been a green garth in the open air.

The Brothers' Library occupies the position of the monks' Frater or Refectory. The Carthusians had communal meals only on certain days; normally they ate in their cells round the cloister, meals being passed through a hatch near the door, an example of which we saw. They said the Divine Offices in church and met in the Chapter House to discuss community affairs. The typical Carthusian monastic plan is most clearly preserved at Mount Grace, near Osmotherley, in North Yorkshire.

One portion of cloister remaining has Elizabethan brick vaulting, but the schoolboys had to be prohibited from playing dangerous football in it. Sutton's school moved to Godalming in 1872, leaving the Hospital behind. Merchant Taylors' School moved in, erected some new buildings, including a headmaster's house and stayed until their next move to Northwood in 1933. The site of the school and its playing fields, covering most of the area enclosed by the cloister, was acquired by St. Bartholomew's Medical College, and so has returned to the successors of those from whom Sir Walter Manny leased Spitalcroft six centuries ago.



Plan showing the present Charterhouse & remaining portion of the mediaeval buildings



Plan of the water supply of the monastery, showing the Great Cloister & monastic buildings. From a later copy of the mediaeval drawing.

Sutton's Hospital now houses 30 inmates until they die. Admission is by recommendation and encompasses retired professionals such as artists and teachers, who must be bachelors or widowers over 65 years old.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Arthur Oswald, *The London Charterhouse Restored*, Country Life Ltd. 1959.



*In Wash-house Court, early 16th century, looking north-west.
Here were the lay brothers' quarters.*



DRAINED LIDO REVEALS SECRETS

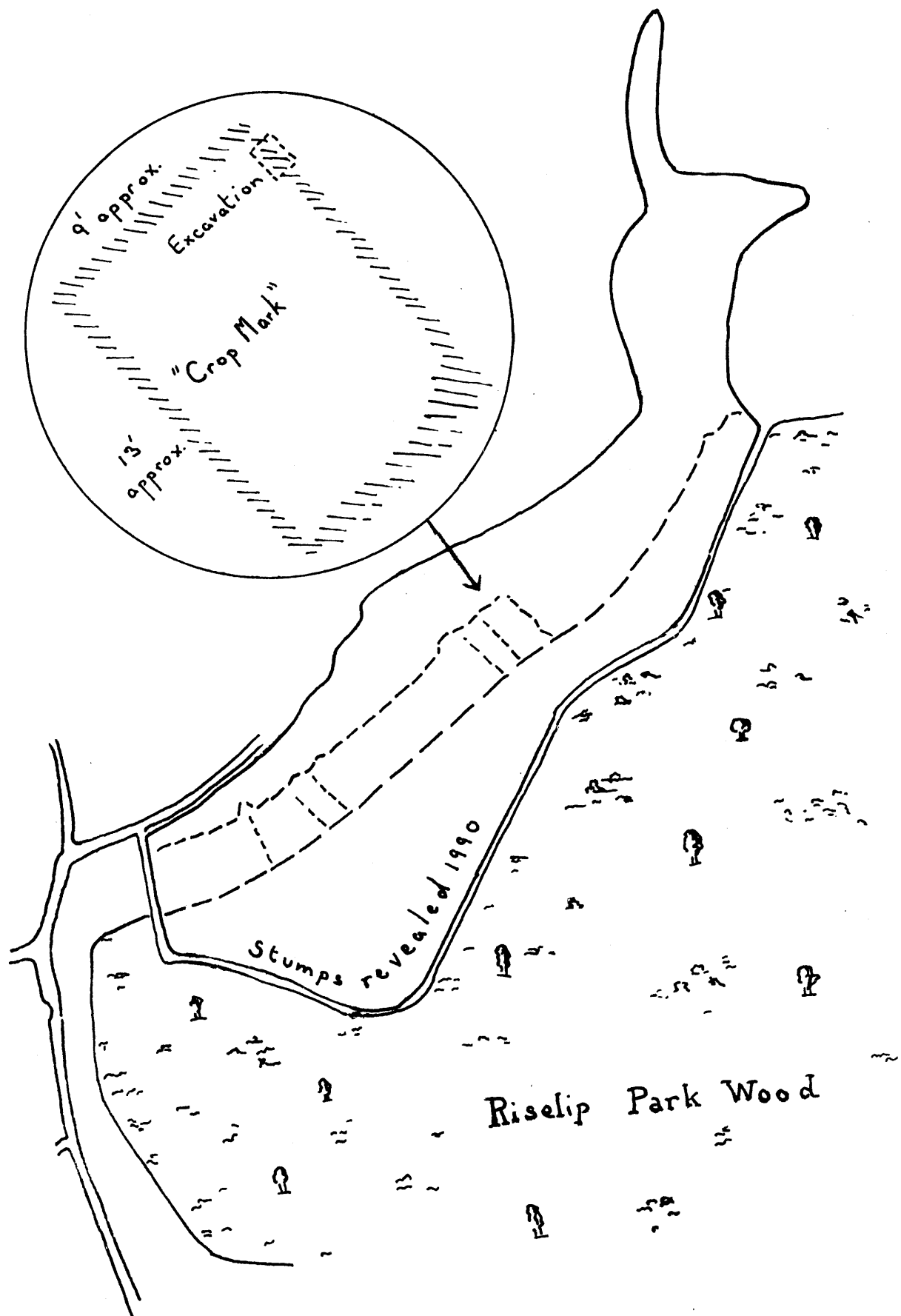
by Colin Bowlt

INTRODUCTION At the beginning of the 19th century there was no Ruislip Lido. Where it is now was then a shallow valley with a stream and some dwellings along its length forming the hamlet of **Park Hearne**. This can be seen on Doharty's Map of 1750 and so it remained until the Ruislip Enclosure of 1804-14. At that time large areas of land in the old parish of Ruislip which until then had been open fields and common grazing were divided up and fenced by Act of Parliament. To pay the cost of organising these enclosures certain portions were sold and one such lot was purchased by the Grand Junction Canal Company. At this time the Company, which had built the canal at the end of the 18th century, was seeking supplies of water to feed it. In addition to the piece of enclosed common land alongside what is now Poor's Field it also bought out the owners of the cottages at Park Hearne and an adjoining strip of Park Wood. A dam was constructed across the end of the valley (on which the boat house now stands) to form a reservoir filled by the small streams from Copse Wood and what is now Northwood Golf Course. At the end of 1811 it was reported to be filling with water.

THE COTTAGES What provision, if any, was made for the displaced cottagers is not known. There is a story that the militia had to be brought out from Windsor to evict them. Thus Park Hearne disappeared (literally) from view. That is until the year 1990, when the reservoir was partially drained for several months to allow repair work in the public swimming area. The water level has been lowered before, but not for so long during such hot, dry weather within living memory. Disappointingly the dwellings of Park Hearne were not revealed entire, with doors swinging open and burnt out fires in the hearths! They were probably largely pulled down before the filling of the reservoir (if only to keep the former residents out). However, examination of the drained area towards the north end of the Lido in May 1990 showed that a thick layer of mud silt had been deposited with modern rubbish lying on the top.

The mud was in all stages of drying out, but in one area the conditions were such that a rectangular '*crop mark*' of darker damp mud in the light coloured dry mud was revealed (this had disappeared after several more days drying). The outline measured 13 feet by 9 feet, but the boundary nearest the water was less distinct (see map). A small hole was dug in one corner uncovering a crumbling brick wall. The remaining thickness was 3½ inches, which suggests a wall of single brick thickness (4½ inches). Careful probing with a trowel showed the wall to be more than 12 inches high, buried in grey-black silt containing no observable artefacts. The silt was probed down to about 15 inches, but no solid floor or surface was detected.

The position of the structure seems to correspond to the most northerly of the dwellings shown on Doharty's Map, where it lies next to '*Park Heron Gate*' and was owned by John Paine in 1750. When the Enclosure Map was drawn in 1806 it appears as Old Enclosure 489, belonging to John Dean, who owned Four Elm Farm in Fore Street as well. During the negotiations with the Grand Junction Canal Company, John Dean bought two other of the Park Hearne cottages in the summer of 1807 and in the August sold all three to the company for £250.



*Site of Ruislip Lido showing area of Park Woods and properties
in Park Hearne flooded to create the reservoir
(based on Enclosure Map 1806)*

The 'crop mark' clearly does not represent the whole outline of a house. It may be part of a house, the rest of which was not visible, or perhaps the outline of an outbuilding attached to the dwelling. No other ghost outlines were seen, presumably either because drying conditions were not right or the walls are not so close to the surface of the mud. Some of the Park Hearne buildings are almost certainly under the concrete of the swimming pool.

THE WOOD To make the reservoir of sufficient size the Canal Company purchased a strip of Park Wood from King's College, Cambridge, which was flooded as is clearly shown on the Enclosure Map. (see map) On the same day that the brick structure was discovered on the N.W. side of the reservoir, stumps of oak trees were noticed for a considerable distance (200-300 yards) along the Park Wood side of the exposed reservoir bottom. These were in a sandy-clay area and not covered with silt, which here did not occur until some 30-40 feet out from the normal shoreline and may have hidden more stumps. These must be of trees felled around 1810 to form the reservoir.

The stumps were weathered and the cut surface strongly eroded, but not more so than old stumps to be seen within Park Wood now. The positions of a sample were measured to compare spacings here 180 years ago with those between oaks now growing in the wood. Distances apart were sometimes as close as 4 feet and the density was of the order of 300 oak trees to the acre. This would have allowed little room for any coppice hornbeam and is rather close for maiden trees and so suggests that the oaks themselves had been coppiced. There are no stands of coppiced oak in any of the Ruislip woods today, but a few individual stools exist, notably in the more open bracken areas of Park Wood. These may be relics of former coppiced oak areas which supplied bark for tanning.

POSTSCRIPT Because of the continued lack of rain it was impossible to fill the reservoir from the feeder streams in time for a charity event at the Lido in July. Water was therefore pumped from the now disused Colne Valley Water Company well that penetrates 300 feet deep into the chalk under Poor's Field.

SOURCES:

King's College Archives; Doharty Map & Survey
Ruislip Library; Enclosure Map & Act
Bowlit Eileen M.: *The Goodliest Place in Middlesex*.



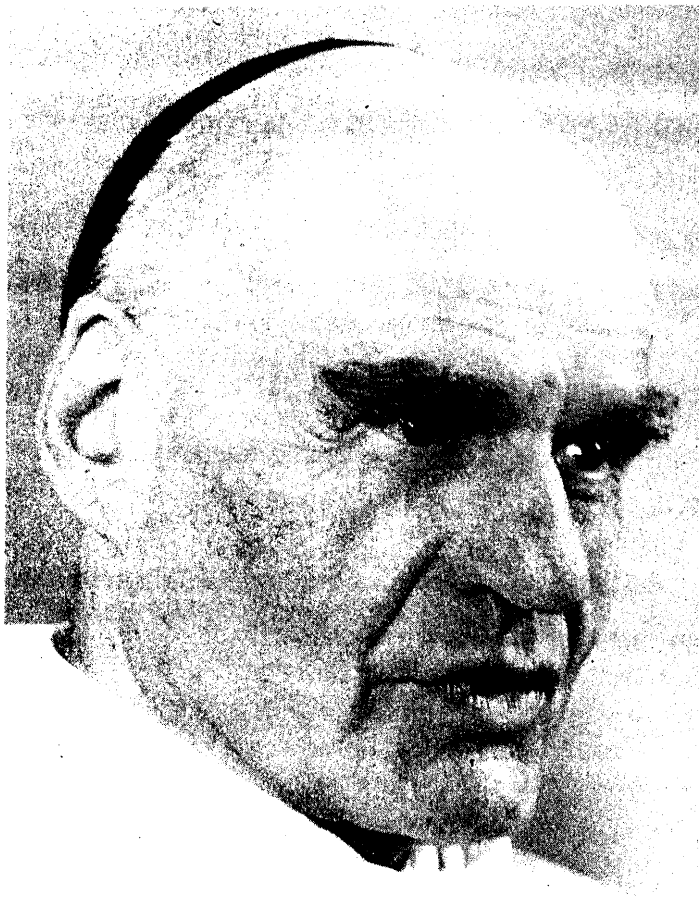
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RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE ?**

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50p per sheet
£1.85 for set of 4 to cover the parish

DOM PAUL GRAMMONT, 46th Abbot of Bec-Hellouin, 1948-86

by Valery J.E. Cowley



The history of the Abbey of Le Bec-Hellouin has been written most recently by Jean de la Varenda in a booklet in Manor Farm Library's Local History Room, where can also be found this Society's own publication, *'Ruislip & the Abbey of Bec'*, so I shall not repeat the familiar story of its revival in 1948 after use as a Cavalry Remount Depot. The chief architect of the restoration of the Benedictine life there was Dom Paul Grammont, then Prior of a small double community of Olivetan Benedictine monks and nuns from Mesnil St. Loup.

The Order of Our Lady of Mount Olivet was founded in 1319 by St. Bernard Ptolomei (d. 1348) at Monte Oliveto near Sienna and joined the

Benedictine confederation in 1960. Their interpretation of the Rule of St. Benedict is very strict; they wear a white habit and have 24 houses including Bec.

BEC'S ENGLISH CONNECTIONS Bec situated between Lisieux and Rouen, produced three Archbishops of Canterbury in the 11th & 12th centuries: its first Prior, Lanfranc; its Prior and second Abbot, Anselm; and Theobald. Bec's other famous alumni include Alexander II, Pope 1061-73; the 11th & 12th century Bishops of Rochester, Ernulf and Gundulf, one of whom founded the community at West Malling, Kent (now Anglican Benedictine nuns linked with Bec); and Gilbert Crispin, Archbishop of Westminster 1085-1117.

DOM GRAMMONT'S ECUMENISM Dom Grammont therefore sought to develop ecumenical relationships with the Church of England, as Canon Roger Greenacre (Chancellor of the Diocese of Winchester and first Anglican Oblate of Bec) wrote in his obituaries of the Abbot in 'The Tablet' and 'The Independent'.

Archbishop Michael Ramsey, who shared Dom Paul's sense of the sanctity of God and the mystery of the church, and who awarded him the Silver Cross of St. Augustine in 1967, stood alongside his fellow successor to Anselm to give the blessing and chant the Pater Noster during the celebrations of Anselm's feast day in April that year.

Archbishops Coggan & Runcie paid official visits to Bec, while Dom Grammont, accompanied by some of his monks & nuns, was present at some great ecumenical occasions at Canterbury, including the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Canon Christopher Hill wrote in 'The Church Times': *'Among (Dom Paul's) many achievements is the establishment of a flourishing abbey whose spiritual centre is the work and prayer of the community towards Christian unity'*. The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, which is twinned with Bec, was present at Dom Grammont's funeral in 1989 and Bec has welcomed parish groups (including St. Martin's, Ruislip) college chaplaincies and St. George's Anglican Church in Paris.

DOM GRAMMONT'S LIFE Who was this remarkable spiritual force? Paul Grammont was born on February 11th, 1911 at Troyes in Champagne and entered an Olivetan community early. After training at Rome, he was ordained in 1936 and three years later became Prior of the double Benedictine community at Corneilles-en-Parisis, where he opened a house of studies. He served in the Second World War in Norway and Morocco. His brother who had joined the Mesnil community after him, died in the Ardennes in June 1940. Well before the Second Vatican Council, Dom Paul began his ecumenical activities and more recently he was concerned to establish links with the churches in Northern Ireland. He had a fine singing voice and great dignity in presiding over the liturgy, which combined traditional Latin with modern French and is celebrated by the monks and nearby oblate nuns of Ste. Francoise Romaine.

Dom Grammont resigned the abbacy in 1986 and in 1988, already ill with cancer, he was filmed there with three other monks, including his successor, Dom Philippe Auben, talking about their vocations. He retired to Bec and celebrated the major feasts of the winter of 1988-89, receiving Unction of the Sick on Corpus Christi Day. On July 30th 1989, aged 78, after 61 years as a monk and 38 as Abbot, he died and was buried in the choir near the grave of the Blessed Herluin, founder of Bec in 1035.

The Venerable John Livingstone, Archdeacon of Nice, writes: *'He was an intensely silent man, with such presence that he made everyone around him fall silent as well. One of the great things about him was that he appointed his opposite as Prior: a short round talkative cheerful friendly man to balance his huge size, his taciturn remote self. (Dom Philbert Zobel is now Abbot). It was as a team they built up such a large community with such an enthusiastic lay following.'* He could deliver a 'classically good, long, fully developed, splendidly written and splendidly spoken' sermon.

In December 1989 Les Amis du Bec-Helluin devoted a special booklet to the life of Dom Paul. It contains the homage paid by M.F. d'Harcourt during its general assembly at the abbey in October 1989, saluting Dom Paul as man, philosopher and priest, recalling his meeting with the Dalai Lama and his work in the Holy Land. Among the various tributes, Dom Paul's 'Image of a Monk' is reprinted.

Dom Paul's inspiration lives on in print, as I discovered on the bookstall of St. Martin de Canigou last year and it reverberates well beyond his once apparently defunct abbey in Normandy.

THE STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

by Eileen M.Bowlit

The Station Master's House at the junction of Wood Lane and West End Road, was built at the same time as Ruislip Station in 1904, being the only house erected in Ruislip that year. It was demolished one weekend in March 1990 and the site has remained derelict awaiting redevelopment ever since.

The developers, McCarthy & Stone hope to build a five-storey block of apartments, to be used as Sheltered Accommodation. The Hillingdon Borough Planning Department have opposed the plan as it stands and an inquiry is to be held on Tuesday 28th January 1991.

The house stood on what was once a piece of roadside waste called Field End Green, until the Ruislip Enclosure of 1806. It adjoined an ancient messuage called Kemps Hale, the site of which is now under the Metropolitan Railway line.

Poking about among the debris in January 1991 produced little of historic interest, but such bricks as are still lying about are unusual in having no frog (the recess for mortar on the top side). Frogs were first used in the late 17th century and were normal in 18th & 19th century bricks. These bricks were wire cut and almost certainly made about 1904, but could have been brought some distance by rail and may even have been specially made for the Metropolitan Railway Company.

Does any railway buff among our readers happen to know where they are likely to have come from?

HUGH MANSFORD'S RECOLLECTIONS of the Station Master's house.

"In the early days of the new electric railway, the Ruislip station master, Mr Smith, wore a top hat as part of his working uniform. He was responsible for Uxbridge & Ickenham stations also. There was no Ruislip Manor station as yet....When the railway was made it bisected a pond, leaving one half on what was later to become Mr Bray's nursery. Here I learned to catch newts with a bent pin and an earth worm. The other half was on Mr Smith's land. He had a family of lively young daughters with little to do, so sometimes I was mothered and looked after by the Smiths. Their half of the pond had a fascination for the girls; but not being on my home ground I fell in and was carried home dripping.

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



The Stationmaster's House

NOW IT'S SQUIRREL CULLS. THEN IT WAS PIGEON SHOOTS

From the local paper 25th March 1905

PIGEON SHOOT arranged by Mr W.A.Claridge of the George, Ruislip. A pigeon shoot took place at the Church Field, Ruislip on Monday last. There was a large attendance and the shoot was a big success.

NOTE Churchfield Gardens is all that is left of Church Field. In 1905 the whole field which stretched across to Windmill Hill and down to Brickwall lane, was part of Manor Farm. In medieval times it was one of the common fields of Ruislip.

CROP MARKINGS A PREHISTORIC CONNECTION?

by Robert Bedford

Crop Markings or Corn Circles have once again been in evidence this Summer on grain growing areas of Southern England engendering the usual media speculation of UFO's, close encounters with alien beings and all manner of other proposals.

These strange depressions averaging 20/30 metres in diameter and leaving no clues as to how they could be formed, appear suddenly in fields of growing grain, flattening the crop into neatly swirling patterns and not exhibiting the usual rough damage associated with storms, stray animals or humans.

Much research has been conducted as to how these mysterious circles came into being and it is now becoming generally accepted that their origin is due to a simple combination of meteorological conditions which, by causing an air vortex, flattens the growing grain into circles or, on some occasions, other unusual shapes.

Although these crop circles can appear in virtually any part of the United Kingdom, by far the greatest concentration of them appears in the Wessex area and particularly on Salisbury Plain. There is hard historical evidence which indicates that this phenomenon has been taking place over the centuries but until recently its origin has remained a mystery.

The illustrated aerial photograph of Bronze Age Barrows near Stonehenge bears a remarkable resemblance to crop circles in the same area and the types of barrow indicated can also be duplicated by crop markings which sometimes contain concentric rings of upright and depressed growing grain. Is the similarity of the barrows to crop circles coincidental?

If 20th century man with all his sophistication is able to contemplate the possibility of the circles being formed by alien beings, how much more were our Neolithic and Bronze Age ancestors ready to accept these to be manifestations of the power of the underworld gods who were able to draw down growing grain or grassland as though it were being being attracted to the underworld regions. These were places of magic and mystery - pagan forces were indicating the route to the afterlife via the beaten-down corn.

It was therefore essential that the location of the circles be properly delineated so that future use could be made of the sacred areas in which to bury the dead suitably equipped with their grave goods of food and drink in pots, together with weapons and tools to help them in the next life. In order to record the exact location of the depressions, rocks and stones could be assembled to mark the extent of the circles.

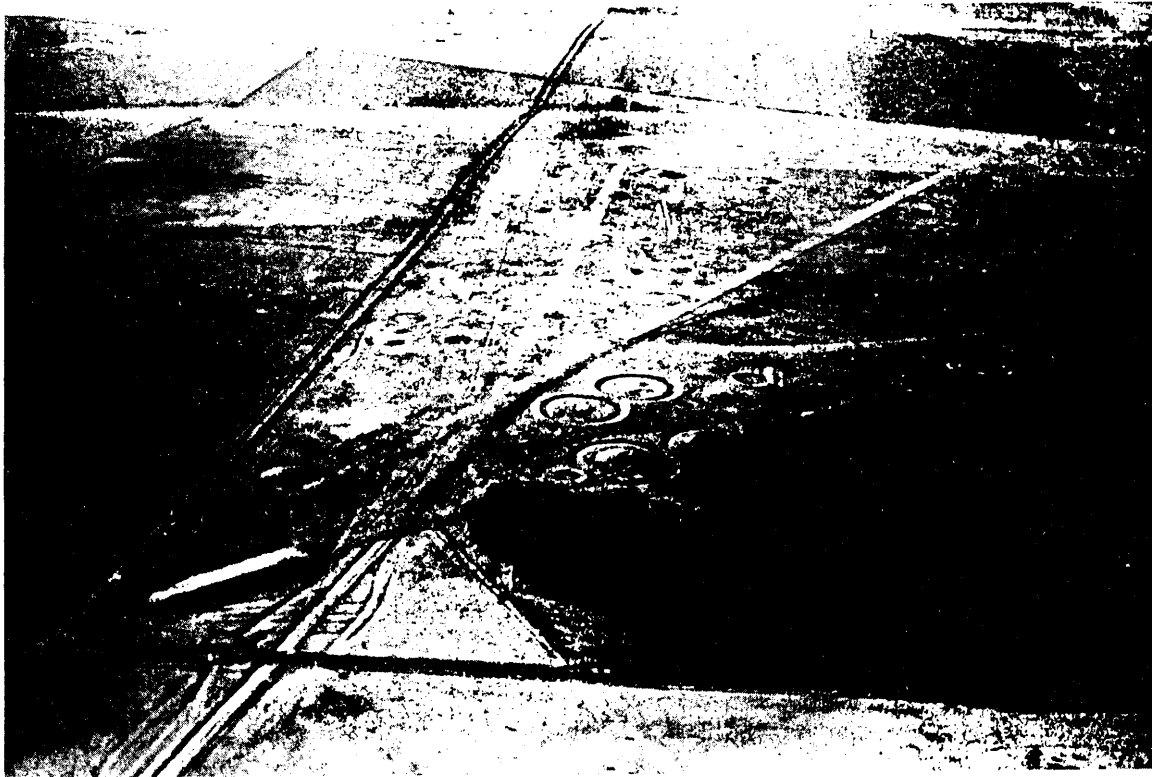
Could this then be the Neolithic origin of Stonehenge whose builders could have lived in nearby Windmill Hill Camp and observed the formation of the circles on the corn and grassland on Salisbury Plain with a mixture of wonder and fear?

Round Barrows are the standard tombs of the Bronze Age people and are the most numerous of all the field monuments and are more numerous on Salisbury Plain than anywhere else in the United Kingdom. Why was this relatively small area designated a prehistoric sanctuary - was it because the meteorological conditions were such that the formation of crop circles occurring annually in the Summer months confirmed to the inhabitants that this area was indeed the abode of the gods.

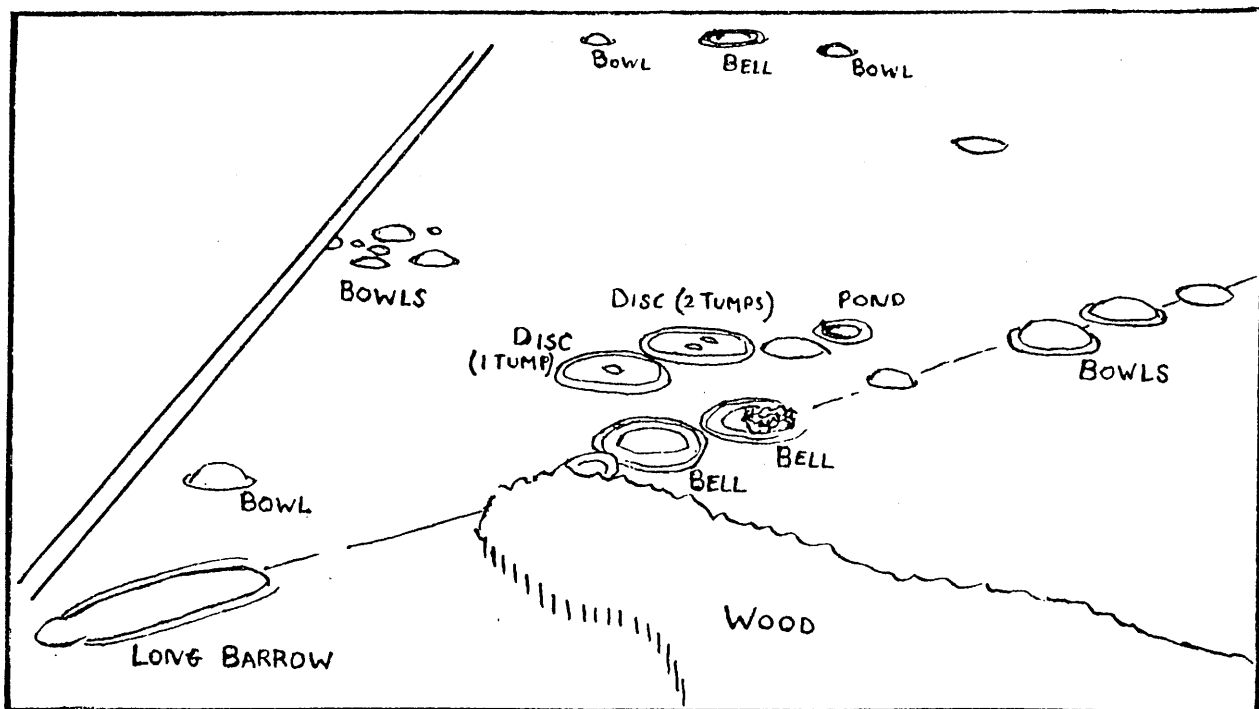
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Types of burial mound. The group of barrows at Winterbourne Cross-roads, near Stonehenge



RUISLIP MAN MAKES BAD SMELL IN CITY

By Eileen M. Bowlr

In the autumn of 1378 John Bakere of Ryslep was brought before the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, charged with selling a '*putrid partridge*' to John, son of William Burle, Mason, near the church of St Nicholas Shambles, on the Sunday after the feast of All Saints (1st November). At first he denied the offence, but when the Mayor, John Phelipot and the Aldermen summoned a jury, he changed his plea to guilty. He was sentenced to stand in the pillory for half an hour while the bird was burnt under him.¹

Burning unsavoury and unsatisfactory goods under the noses of the vendors was a common punishment at the time, intended to ensure that only high quality goods were sold at the London markets and to protect consumers' interests.

St Nicholas Shambles stood within Newgate on the west of the City and north-west of St Paul's. A century before John Bakere's misdemeanour the area around the church was already a flesh market.² The name '*Shambles*' derives from the Latin '*scannum*' meaning bench and refers to the benches or stalls from which the meat was sold. Later the word came to mean a slaughter house. However, a general market was held in the same place by the late 14th century and poulterers from the Middlesex countryside sold their wares there.³ Usually country poulterers like the luckless John Bakere, stood on the pavement outside Greyfriars, while the London citizen poulterers displayed their birds outside St Nicholas' church on the opposite side of the street.⁴

In view of the discussions taking place at present about Sunday trading, it perhaps seems strange to hear that London markets were open on the sabbath in the 14th century, generally a more religious period than our own. The selling of victuals in the City on Sundays was forbidden by a proclamation of 1442-3, but in John Bakere's time the sale of meat was permitted until 10.00 am.⁵

Many Ruislip men and women must have sold such stuff as bacon, eggs, butter and poultry in those of the London markets which permitted 'foreign' i.e. non-citizen traders. It is a pity that the only ones whose names got into permanent records were those who transgressed in some way.

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THE WINCHESTERS & 'BLACKES'

by Derek Jacobs

In the 16th century, the Winchester family (often referred to as '*alias Mower*') owned several properties around Ruislip and in neighbouring parishes. One of them, called **Blackes**, was in the now vanished hamlet of **Park Hearne** (see the article '*Drained Lido reveals secrets*' elsewhere in this issue). This was in the possession of John and his wife Agnes, who had four daughters Joan, Isabel, Agnes and Amy. The exact site of this property is not known, but as far as it can be determined, it would seem to have been on the south side of, what is now, Reservoir Road, approximately where the Lido dam and boat house are today. It is not known for sure whether the family lived at Blackes, but the 1565 Terrier makes no mention of Agnes, who was by then a widow, having any other property at that time, so it would at least seem a likely possibility.

According to the 1565 Terrier, Agnes held a copyhold property at Park Hearne called Blackes, comprising two cottages with adjacent orchards and meadows containing in all three acres. She held this property during the minority of her daughter Joan at an annual rental of 22d. In addition, she is stated to hold six acres in two of the common fields in Westcote during the minority of her daughter Isabel at an annual rental of 15d. These six acres would not have been adjacent to the other property. Both these properties were held by leases dated 5 May 6 Eliz (1564).

The property called Blackes together with another called Peres field in Northwood are also referred to in a Court Roll entry dated 21 May 1579. This states that John Wynchester '*lying in extremes about xx [20] yeres since*' surrendered these two properties to his wife Agnes until his daughter Jone reached the age of 21 years, at which time the properties should '*remayne to the use of the forsayd Jone [and] her heirs forever*'. It is also stated that Joan was at that time married to Thomas Hurlocke and was '*of full eage*'. The name 'Hurlocke' only appears once elsewhere in the Ruislip documents consulted, so it would seem likely that they were not a Ruislip family. John's will, referred to below, is dated 1564, so it would seem that the reference to him '*lying in extremes*' twenty years before was very approximate!

In addition to these properties, a Court Roll dated 21 May 1577 refers to a John Mosse of Pinner surrendering two cottages with all housing, buildings, outhouses, meadows and pastures with appurtenances which lay in Fore Street for the use of Agnes Wynchester. This property was near to Wiltshire Lane, where another member of the family, William Mower alias Winchester, held a cottage (probably Old Cheyne Cottage) with an adjoining close of one acre. This William is referred to as '*of Eastcote*', and another William '*of Northwood*' also held property in Eastcote and Westcote.

On the west side of Bury Street (in Withy Lane), almost opposite the present Reservoir Road and near to Agnes' Park Hearne property was a cottage with adjacent orchard containing two rods. This was in the possession of a William Winchester or Mower. It is not stated whether it was the Eastcote or Northwood William, but there is another reference to a cottage and garden at Cannons Bridge held by William of Eastcote and it is clear that these refer to the same property.

In his Will dated 21 April 1564, John Winchester alias Mower, yeoman refers to land in the parishes of Harefield & Harmondsworth which he left to his wife Agnes until his daughter Isabel came of age. The land was then to remain to Isabel provided that she surrendered to another daughter Agnes his copyhold land in Pinner. He also left freehold land in Pinner to his wife until the daughter Agnes came of age. Daughter Joan is only left a legacy of £6.13.4d (£6.66) in the Will. There is no mention of the Park Hearne property referred to in the Court Roll which was to pass to her, but it was not unusual for Copyhold land to be surrendered to the Manor Court prior to death for transfer to a spouse or to some other person. It then no longer remained the property of the Testator and accordingly it would not be included in the will. The fourth daughter, Amy, seems to have been left no land. She was left 20 marks (£13.33) which she was to receive on coming of age or on getting married.

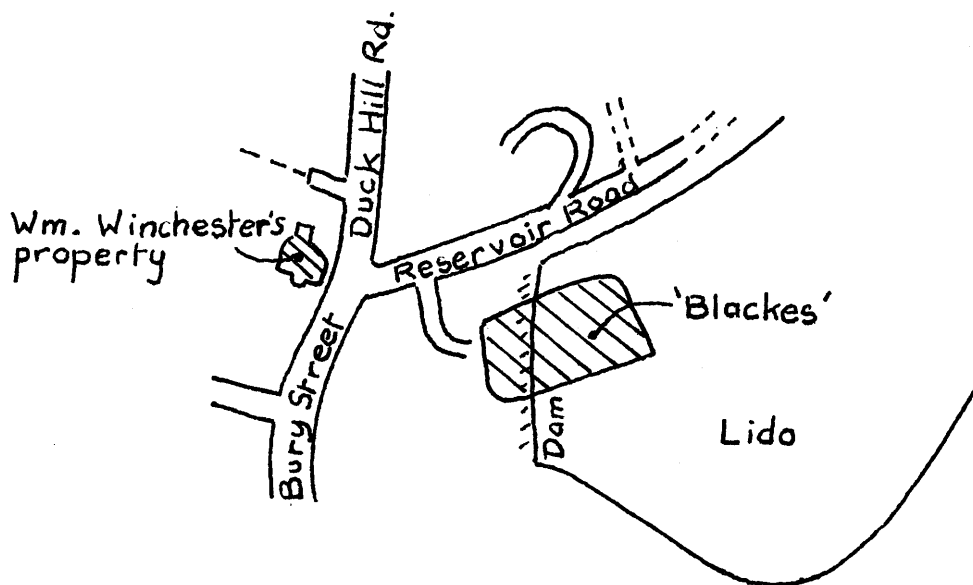
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Commissary Court of London Wills, City of London Guild Hall Library

Note. Transcripts of these documents are held in the Manor Farm Library Local History Collection.



Possible sites of Winchester properties



THE RELATION BETWEEN COUNTY & LOCAL HISTORY

by Ron Lightning

If one wants to find out about the topography & history of the County of Middlesex, there are many volumes, both antiquarian & modern, to consult. In these books are references to many localities within the County which either depict some aspect of the locality which is illustrative of the County as a whole, or which form part of a short potted history showing the uniqueness of an event or series of events. If, alternatively, one is more interested in finding out about one's own neighbourhood, there are books available in local libraries and bookshops. Several have been published on Ruislip, the latest being Eileen Bowlt's in 1989. Here, the emphasis is the reverse of the county history; the old parish being very much in the foreground.

Three books relating to the County of Middlesex were all published this century. They are:-

Firth, *Middlesex* (1906)

Briggs, *Middlesex - Old and New* (1934)

Robbins, *Middlesex* New Survey of England Series (1953)

As well as giving a historical survey of the county, these works reflect the prevailing historical outlook of the period in which they were written. In 1900, political events tended to dominate history writing and Firth's statement that '*Middlesex has practically no history save in reference to the capital city of London*' should be interpreted in this light. Until 1888, most of London north of the Thames formed part of the County of Middlesex, so many national public events had occurred within its borders. However, away from public life, communities existed centred around parish churches and were influenced in many ways by the pull of London. It is this local life that Firth does not recognise. In contrast to this, Briggs writing in 1934 says that '*Middlesex even if deprived of London is full of history*' and he shows how each township has grown from a village or group of villages. What is implicit in Briggs, is clearly stated by Robbins. For him Middlesex has a history and tradition of its own, although overwhelmingly influenced by its relations with London. But he points out that Middlesex is *not* London and has a highly interesting story of its own. He is at pains to show how many factors, particularly road and rail communications, have influenced the development of the county.

A careful study of these volumes is rewarding for they show that history is an ongoing discipline. All three writers acknowledge the work of their predecessors, but they do not slavishly copy them. This is particularly true of Briggs and Robbins. Also, as time passes, the books acquire a period flavour.

It is evident that the county historians drew on the work of local historians as the extensive bibliographies of Briggs and Robbins show. But perhaps the local historian needs also to look at the work of the county historians; after all, the position of Ruislip relative to London and its comparative isolation until the coming of the railway in 1906 are important factors in its history. Thus the local historian cannot produce a history without at least some reference to the wider society, even if it is only to a neighbouring village or parish. If this is so, it would suggest that county and local history are complementary and that the history of a locality

has wider implications and does not stand alone. Perhaps this is why local historians participate in conferences centred on themes significant to all participating societies, such as the LAMAS conferences at the Museum of London and those held in Winston Churchill Hall.

The bibliographies of Briggs & Robbins remind us that the work of history writing is never finished. From the earliest history of Middlesex published in 1593, history is constantly being re-written. It is not just that time has passed and recent events have to be recorded to bring old histories up to date: new facts come to light; new research techniques, such as statistical analysis, are brought to bear on population studies; and subjects are introduced, such as the condition of the poor, which were once thought not proper for historical research. This shift in emphasis is seen in Robbins, who does recognise that the social life of the poor should be studied.

Despite differences in emphasis, the three writers have one theme in common; the rapid urbanisation of the county and the consequent disappearance of much of the countryside. Firth in 1906 wrote that *'Middlesex is simply London over the border'* where *'every year sees the fields diminish, the settlement of bricks and mortar quicken their restless growth, and the roads and lanes become transformed into streets'*. Briggs in 1934 remarked that *'it will be sad if the High Street of Ruislip is to resemble the awful squalor of the Harrow Road within ten years'*. Robbins in 1953 said that Middlesex is in danger of undergoing the same horrific fate that overtook the pleasant parishes of South London a century ago; of becoming a *husk around the kernel of London*.

The feelings of these representative writers reveal the growing horror of those concerned with the disappearance of the old county. Early in the century, *'oases'* could still be found; later there is the fear that only a husk would remain. Their consciousness concerning the rapid overdevelopment of the suburbs, expressed in their forebodings about the demise of the county, no doubt influenced others. Their strictures were not entirely negative, for they felt that there was the possibility of at least saving what remained. Robbins in 1953 felt that, with some notable exceptions, the county was poorly served by topographers and historians, although he did feel that some communities recognised the value of tradition; for example, Pinner and Ruislip. Briggs concurs, citing the formation of the *Ruislip Association* and its publication of a short history of Ruislip in 1931. In his view, it was due to the civic sense of a small group of people that Ruislip had *'not yet succumbed entirely to the strident propaganda that had vulgarised so much of Metroland'*. Perhaps his worst fears have still not been realised, for we still have the nucleus of the old parish contained in the Conservation Area.

Because of the complementary nature of the relationship of the history of the locality and the region, research that is carried out in a particular society can ultimately make a contribution to a wider history. As a popular history of Middlesex, Robbins' book has not yet been superseded, but perhaps one day Eileen Bowl's recent history of Ruislip will be cited in such a work. Similarly, the fact that the work of local history research is a cooperative effort - Eileen acknowledges the work of the Research Group and other members of the Society - prompts one to believe that the work of all active members of a society are of value no matter how humble.