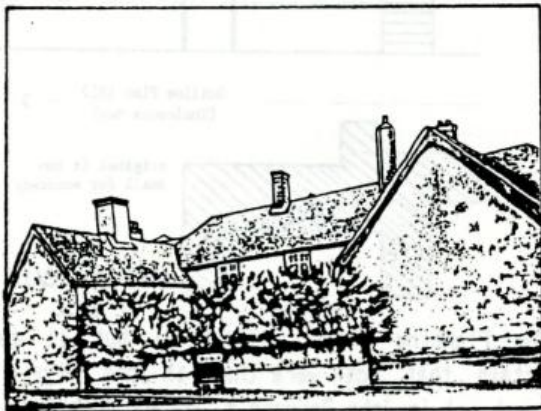


# Harefield History Society

Newsletter No. 19, Autumn 1988

## MANOR COURT



The local authority has recently put Manor Court at the top of Church Hill on the market. The brief issued by the planning department includes a few historical details but very much more is known about the property (as those of us who heard Eileen Bowl's talk at our last AGM will appreciate). Perhaps this would be a good moment to summarize the story of Manor Court, once known as Conduit Farm and before that, in the 16th and 17th centuries, as Marlowes, Millwards or Marlwards (rather confusingly, other properties had much the same name, but they can be sorted out!).

In the early years of the 16th century, in Henry VIII's reign, the house belonged to the Osborne family. John Osborne of "Heys" (Hayes) inherited it from another Osborne (George) and when he died in 1528 or 9 left it to his only surviving daughter Elizabeth. At that time it was a freehold property, "Marlowes originally Millwards", a tenement with a garden and small croft lying "against Scatterell Street" (a name which crops up in property transactions and seems to have been an ancient name for the southern part of the High Street, or one section of it). By 1546 Elizabeth Osborne was married to William Parker and they evidently lived in the house. On William's death Elizabeth married again, and when she died in 1560 Marlowes was inherited by the son of her first marriage, George Parker. There was some dispute between George and his step-father Richard Willcher over the ownership of other "copyhold" properties which had been Elizabeth's, but Marlowes itself may not have been involved. (1)

At some point between 1561 and 1593, what had been a freehold became part of the lord of the manor's estate and was let to Thomas Gainsford, gentleman. He had the house with orchard, garden and yard; also a hop yard and a close lying next to the house and the street, plus some other land. He was still the occupier in 1609-11. (2)

By 1664 John Slye, a yeoman farmer, was the tenant. At this period Marlowes was one of the larger village houses with tax being paid on six hearths or chimneys. An inventory of John Slye's effects made in 1681 gives an idea of its extent.

Downstairs: GREAT PARLOUR with a table and court cupboard; LITTLE PARLOUR with bedstead, cupboard, chest and desk; HALL with a long table, 2 "chair tables", 3 forms, 12 stools, 3 old chairs; KITCHEN with fire irons, a tremendous amount of cooking equipment, dozens of pewter plates and dishes, candlesticks, smoothing irons, a lanthorne and 4 "fleetches of bacon" worth £3; MILKHOUSE with 4 "kivers" for cheese-making among other articles; BEER BUTTERY and BREWHOUSE (with 5 brewing tubs and a cheese press).

Upstairs was the "Parlour and Hall Chamber" (it appears to have been one room over the two downstairs but there just might have been an "s" after the word "chamber" in the original document, which is rather faint); it had a bed, table, 2 chests, a court cupboard, 6 green chairs, a trunk and a glass case (a silver tankard and silver spoons worth over £8 were kept up here, plus lots of linen worth over £6); the two "OLD CHAMBERS" don't seem to have been in regular use (there was a "woollen wheel" for spinning, a cupboard and 3 old corn chests); the KITCHEN CHAMBER and SERVANT'S CHAMBER were both fully furnished (the servant's mattress was flock not feather).

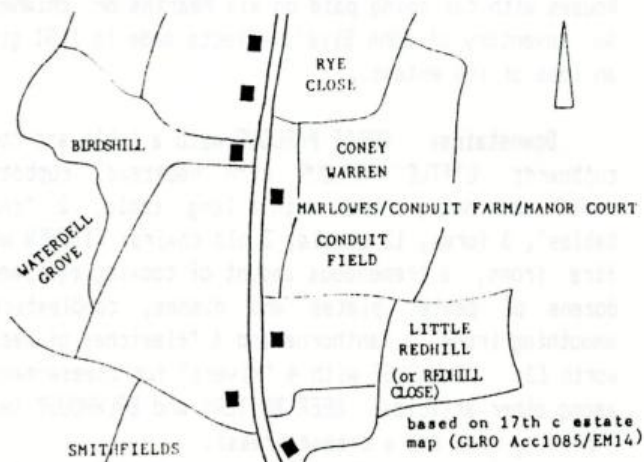
The inventory also included goods which were left to John Slye's wife - she had brought them with her on her marriage. These included a standing bed and a trundle bed to push under it, chairs and chests, brass and pewter wear, warming pans, a salt box, linen, a butter churn and other appliances for the dairy, a still and a birding gun (odd possession for a woman). It does not say which room(s) these were in, but the Great Parlour was distinctly empty, and there seems to have been space for more furniture upstairs (3)

There were andirons for fireplaces in the Hall, Kitchen, Kitchen Chamber, and the Hall/Parlour Chamber, but there could easily have been hearths in other rooms, including the Brewhouse, to make up the total of 6 hearths which were taxed.

The Slyes were an important family in 17th century Harefield. There was Thomas Slye, freemason, who died in 1625 (could he have been the Thomas Slye who was responsible for building work at Harefield Place in preparation for Queen Elizabeth's visit in 1602?). Thomas's son Edmund worked for the Countess of Derby dealing with her revenues from the north of England (she mentioned him in her will) and John Slye of Marlowes was one of his children. Slye died before his lease was up leaving a son and daughter by his first marriage and two step-daughters, the children of his widow, Elizabeth Slye. She had property of her own in



Harefield, near the mill where the Bell Works now stands, so she moved there and Marlowes was let to a new tenant, Robert Mossendew, who came from the High Wycombe area. Though Robert himself died in 1698 his wife Frances stayed on at Marlowes. She was living there in 1699 with her two sons (one of them became the Ashby gamekeeper whose famous monument is on the church wall) and John Ives who worked for her. (4)

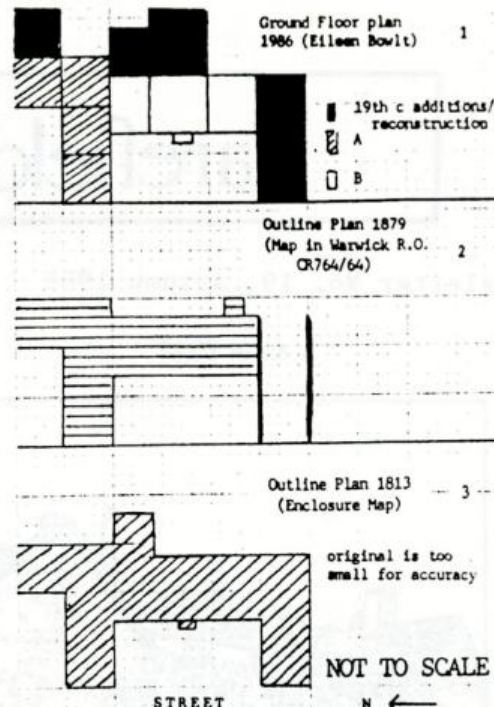


By 1708 the Mossendews had moved and Samuel Harrison had the house and garden, plus Coney Warren and Conduit Close behind - only 9 acres of demesne land. He was succeeded by Thomas Watson, then Richard Hill. Evidently the house in the village street was never let with a fixed set of fields, and the acreages varied tremendously, too. For instance, in contrast to Samuel Harrison's 9 acres, John Slye had leased 110a of "arable, pasture and upland meadow" and Mossendew 107a. Again, while Thomas Gainsford (1593) had two 5 acre closes adjoining the house (one of these was a hop yard), three fields at Birdshill on the other side of the road, Little Redhill behind the almshouses (not then built), his other lands were right away at Hill End. A hundred years later Robert Mossendew was farming Baldwins Lands north of Shepherds Hill as well as fields near the house. Richard Hill had some land in the Old Park (sold in 1751 and now part of the Harefield Hospital estate); at one stage he was listed as the tenant of Old Park Farm, but this name probably applied to the land rather than the farmhouse. (5)

By 1748 the name Conduit Farm was in currency, though a "conduit" must have existed long before this date as Conduit Field next to the house appears on a 17th century map. According to an 18th century description, spring water issued from the conduit and underground pipes carried the water to other premises. (6)

Richard Hill was followed as tenant by William Hunt with 57 acres, then Edward Trumper, member of another family dominant in village life. He was at Conduit Farm from 1782 to 1791. William Trumper had the farm with 79a in 1843 and 130a in 1851; James Morris was there at the time of the 1861 census, employed 5 men and had 130a. He died at the farm in 1879. (7)

The present house was constructed in various stages (see Figure 1 on the diagram). Experts have put forward different views as to which is the older part, A or B



(the Planning Brief suggests B) but it is pretty certain that both were there in John Slye's time - though not in John Osborne's. Robert Mossendew had some work done when he moved in, but this was just carpentry and glazing costing a few pounds. The north-west cross wing (part of A) once had a jettied front which was removed for road widening. The central section (B) apparently had an upper floor from the beginning and a chimney, so it wasn't a medieval hall. On the enclosure map of 1813 (Figure 3) there seems to have been a southern wing abutting on the road, but one map dating from later in the century (Figure 2) shows a different outline, with walls rather than buildings to the south, so it is possible that part fell down or was demolished and reconstructed later in the course of general alterations. It has been suggested (London Borough of Hillingdon Planning Brief) that the south-west wing (which on a superficial inspection looks like an open hall but certainly is not) was originally an agricultural building, perhaps a small barn.

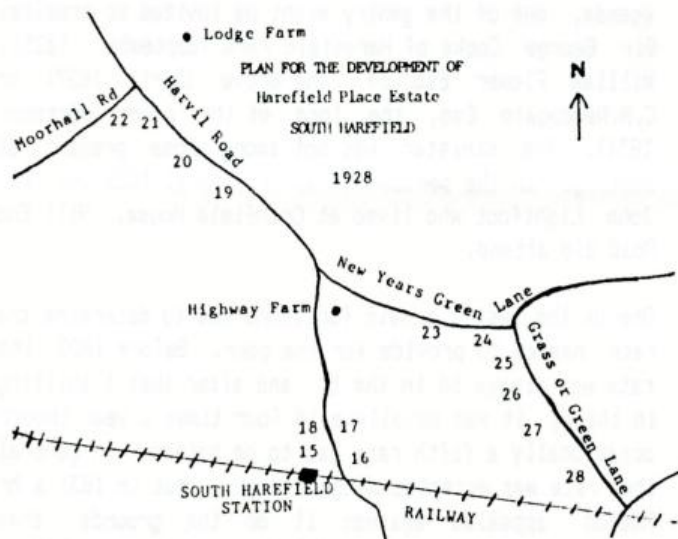
Charles Brown, who started his career as a carpenter and became a successful building contractor, made his home here and was responsible for the "modern" extensions. In 1884 there is a note of the cost of some materials used on the house which, with the farm buildings was then insured for £1400. Mr Brown, by the way, gave his address as "The Manor House, Conduit Farm, Harefield" - a name which had earlier appeared on the O.S. map. He died in 1896 and his son George apparently upgraded it to Manor Court. (8) The Browns were very active in local affairs (there is more about them in the article on Harefield's First Parish Council). They were village worthies in their day just as John Slye was in his. Let us hope that this historically interesting house can now be decently restored after years of neglect. E.S.Cuthbertson

References: 1. GLRO Acc1085/M55, EF2, EF3, M56 2. EM1, EF6 3. PRO PROB 4/14393 4. Guildhall 9171/25 16, PRO PROB 11/174 and 366, PRO T64/302 5. GLRO Acc1085/EM14, EM9, EM5, EM1, WRO CR136/C2332 6. WRO CR746/62 7. GLRO Acc1085/EF17 8. as 6; also M.Evans "Harefield's Old Buildings", L.B.Hillingdon, 1982



## THE SUBURB THAT NEVER WAS

Harefield Place Estate, part of which is shown on the map below, was put up for auction on May 10th 1928. A Town Planning scheme (September 1926) was already in existence and the sale particulars give an idea of the developments envisaged.



- 15: A valuable building plot adjoining the new South Harefield Station. Part of a new shopping centre.  
 16: Similar  
 17: Valuable area of building land. 18: Similar  
 21, 22: Proposed new shopping centre (2.676 and 1.687 acres).  
 23: Capital building plot. 24: An eligible building area forming part of a proposed new shopping centre.  
 25: Also part of shopping centre (grass lane)  
 26, 27: Similar lots.  
 Minimum value of houses: 17-20, 23, 26-8 £650 detached, £1100 a pair; 21, 22, 24 £800 or £1500 a pair.  
 The Advertiser and Gazette carried an article on the subject on October 2, 1929 - cutting supplied by Ann Dent - under the heading

### NEW UXBRIDGE SUBURB

The article gives the bounds of the 700 acre estate which included the area shown on the map but extended to the canal on the west, and beyond the railway line as far as the lodge on the Harefield or Uxbridge Common Road to the south. It goes on:

"Here is centred some of the prettiest country in the western end of the county, undulating (giving delightful vistas of Beechy Bucks), rich with woodland glades, spinneys and magnificent trees. Except for the mansion with its farms and one or two new houses at the Uxbridge end, the estate is as yet practically bare of habitation or inner roads. The lay-out plan, which is now being prepared by expert architects, thus offers great possibilities for a development scheme that, while preserving these amenities and beauty spots, will permit of houses being erected of a type that will harmonise with the natural surroundings.

### The Shopping Centre

In the centre of the estate is the new Harefield Halt on the London and North Eastern (sic) and Great Western Railways, with a service of trains that give a 21 minute run to town. Around the station a magnificent approach road of 70 feet is to be made. The railway is in a deep cutting at this point, and the approach road with its graceful sweep down to the Halt, will be flanked with shops. On the high ground, towering above the station, will be the hotel. The designers of the estate will have regard to all the advantages which main drainage offers. The Rural Council's scheme, which covers the estate, will be ready for use coincident with the development and erection of the houses. Electric light and water services are laid ready. On the lower side of the estate, reaching from the south to the Halt, is an ideal site for the 18-hole golf course. And as the estate gradually becomes inhabited, the church authorities will doubtless build a church on the land already acquired by them for the purpose at the junction of Harefield-road and Back-Lane.

### Preserving the Amenities

The estate, of course, comes within the Town Plan of the Uxbridge Rural Council and this provides for shopping centres at New Year's Green and Moor Hall, as well as at Harefield Halt. The remainder is entirely residential, and apart from an area at Moor Hall where semi-detached houses, each with a frontage of not less than 40 feet, will be permitted, every house will be detached, will be subject to covenants regarding size and design, and will stand on a quarter of an acre of ground. Even so, the whole area will not be covered with quarter acre plots. That would allow, on a maximum development, of nearly 2600 houses. The last thing which the Harefield Estates, Ltd, wish to do is to get the maximum number of plots even at only 4 to the acre. Their suggestion, and it is put forward by Mr J.A.Boise, the agent, is to plan the estate so as to allow about 1500 plots altogether. The reason for this restriction is to prevent ruthless spoliation of the glades and spinneys and to protect the magnificent trees which add so much to the picturesqueness of the scenery.

The 40ft roads will have 6 foot grass verges planted with trees, and 4ft paths so that the residents will have the maximum of convenience without any semblance of the modern suburban road. The estate, though to be planned as a comprehensive scheme, will be in 3 subsidiary sections. The first to be developed will be from the West-End to North Lodge; then from North Lodge to Dewes Dell; and finally from Dewes Dell to Moor Hall. And so Harefield Halt will soon have its inhabited area and shopping centre, and the building will gradually be extended in an ever widening circle until the scheme is completed."

Why did this scheme fail? Although the railway company agreed to run Harefield Halt it demanded a yearly revenue of £1250, guaranteed by the owner of the land, George Rose. When the building developments failed to materialize - and the revenue, too - the Halt was closed (1931). Where did Rose go wrong? (More about the Halt in "Harefield- At That Time of Day").



Manor Court, Vestry, Parish Council - these were the successive means of local government from the middle ages to quite recent times. In the article which follows Dorothy Winton describes some of the activities of the Harefield Vestry Between 1821 and 1835, the only period for which minute books of the meetings themselves survive. (The rate books, giving detailed accounts of income and expenditure from 1687 onwards still exist. Extracts have been published in several volumes by H.S.Cochran.) Thanks are due to the Rev. Dennis Connor for access to records in the church.

THE HAREFIELD VESTRY  
1821-1835

The Vestry's origin was the calling together of parishioners to discuss church business (see John Richardson "The Local Historian's Encyclopedia"). From 1601 it became responsible for Poor Law administration: setting the poor rate, appointing parish officers, distributing relief in cash or kind, apprenticing pauper children. It was the Harefield Vestry which set about building the workhouse (1782) and choosing the governors. All this was in addition to matters like the repair of the church and the local highways, and bringing wrong-doers to justice.

According to the Act of 1601 churchwardens, overseers of the poor and people of the parish were to meet monthly on a Sunday afternoon in the church, but in Harefield by the early 19th century meetings quite often took place on other days (one was held on a Saturday afternoon at 6 o'clock, for example). There were very regular meetings in 1821 but in subsequent years they became fewer and more spasmodic; after 1824 they were down to twice a year, for the nomination of parish officers, with the occasional extra meeting if special business so demanded.

As intended in the Act, Harefield Vestries were usually held in the church. On Friday September 23rd 1825, 17 people met in the vestry room there to discuss the appointment of a new governor for the workhouse. The present vestry room could not have held so many, but the lay-out of the church was very different then, before the alterations of 1841. Occasionally a Vestry was held in the workhouse - when workhouse affairs were the main business. At least once a year, generally at Easter when accounts were audited and officers appointed, the Vestry adjourned to a local inn, the White Horse in 1822 and 1825, the King's Arms in 1824 and 1827, the Cricketers in 1826.

Vestry meetings were called by fixing a notice on the church door so that people could see it when they attended the Sunday service, and the fact that proper notice had been given was duly recorded in the minute book. On one occasion, 10 people signed the minute as correct but George Hone registered his disagreement: the meeting was "altogether irregular, not having proper notice given in the church", he declared. Under this complaint was a note to the effect that the notice

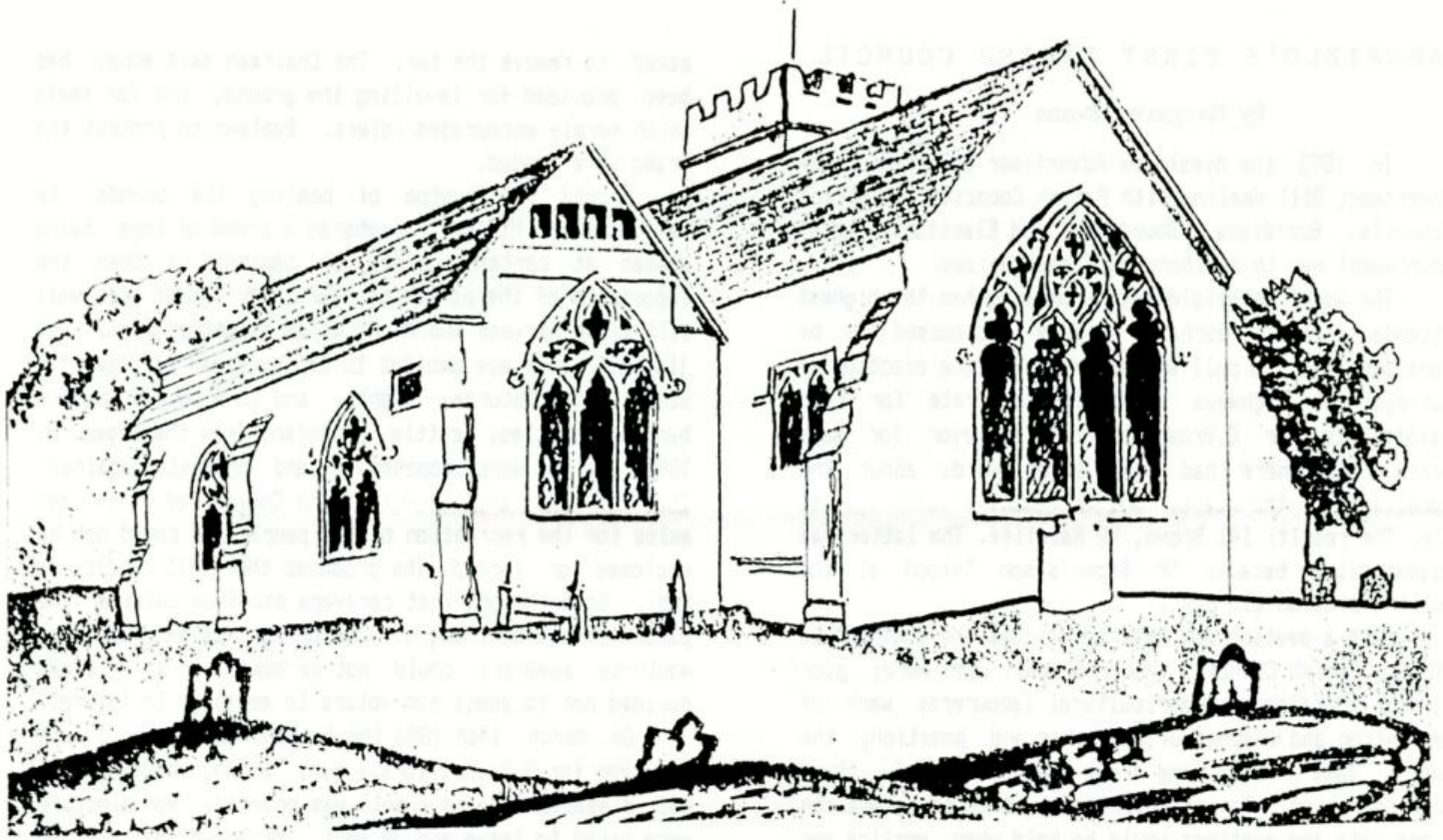
WAS "affixed to the Church Door" but DURING Divine Service.

Notices of meetings gave some indication of the main business to be discussed as well as the date, time and place. The vicar's warden (one of the two churchwardens) usually chaired the proceedings but when something specially important or contentious was on the agenda, one of the gentry might be invited to preside: Sir George Cooke of Harefield Park (September 1825), William Flower Esq of The Grove (April 1827) or C.N.Newdegate Esq, the lord of the manor (October 1831). The minister was not among those present at meetings in the period but as from April 1832 the Rev John Lightfoot who lived at Cranfield House, Hill End Road did attend.

One of the Vestry's main functions was to determine the rate needed to provide for the poor. Before 1800 the rate was always 6d in the £, and after that 1 shilling in the £; it was usually paid four times a year though occasionally a fifth rate had to be raised. In general the rate was accepted without demur, but in 1831 a Mr Meeson appealed against it on the grounds that Harefield property was not fairly assessed. The Vestry agreed to a revaluation by a committee of churchwardens and overseers, which reported back after only 12 days! The new assessment meant that an increased sum was raised. The rateable value of every property went up - with the exception of the original objector's! In consequence three people voted against the rate based on their increased assessments. The objectors were not those who would be paying most (Mr Partridge of Breakspears, Mr Flower of The Grove and Mr Newdegate of Harefield Place), but the relatively modest ratepayers Thomas Weedon and William Atkins, and William Collett who was one of those who paid the minimum sum. Shortly afterwards there was opposition to a supplementary rate for repairing the highways - an "unnecessary" and "inexpedient" proposal "as our parish is already greatly burdened with Parochial Taxation and the Rates paid with great difficulty by many of the Farmers and Tradesmen". The rates and accounts had to be approved by the justices for the peace, and sometimes items were disallowed. On the other hand in 1822, when there were objections by ratepayers to the charges for taking the population census, the justices declared the amount reasonable. The expenses of Mr Scrace, one of the overseers, were considered "proper" in consequence of his great age, "near ninety".

The Vestry meeting had always been an opportunity for those in need to attend in person to ask for parish relief. This was still the procedure in 1821. It was the business of the overseers to distribute the relief as well as to collect the rates. Thus, of the various parish officers (among them surveyors of the highway, constables and headboroughs), the overseers of the poor, nominated by the Vestry though actually appointed by the justices, had the most onerous job. A way, widely adopted, of lightening their burden was to contract out some of the work, such as the management of the workhouse and the relieving of the poor. In 1821





Charles Cox of Harrow-on-the-Hill was appointed to "Farm the Poor" of Harefield for £1068. He was to maintain and employ the poor of the parish and would be expected to pay all expenses except the county rate, repairs of the Poor House (excluding window glazing), coroner's inquests, constables' bills, legal expenses and repairs to the church. The furniture in the Poor House was to be kept in good repair and if "the said Charles Cox should leave it in a worse state he should make an allowance to the Parish"; if it were left in a better state the parish would reimburse him. Medical treatment of paupers both in and out of the workhouse became Charles Cox's responsibility and at one stage he undertook the burials. A consequence of this transfer of work from Vestry to Contractor was that Vestry meetings became less frequent.

By 1825 there was conflict, albeit of a gentlemanly kind, between the Vestry who wanted Cox to continue farming the poor and the justices who appear to have been less than satisfied, for reasons unknown. The position was advertised and three people including Cox were shortlisted. At a Vestry Meeting with Sir George Cooke (Harefield Park) in the chair 16 of the 17 people present voted for Cox's reappointment, despite the fact that his tender of £800 was the highest. He stayed on until 1827 when a local man, Matthew Bugbee was signed up at £800 a year (his had been the lowest tender in 1825).

In the past the parish had always paid, through the overseers, for medical attention for poor people who were sick, and needy women at childbirth (even if they were vagrants). Mr Williamson was the surgeon and was supposed to have written notice before attending any pauper. In 1821 the Vestry decided not to pay his bill because he had not had their authorisation, and gave

him a sharp reminder for the future. Disagreements between the Vestry and Mr Williamson were quite serious and the surgeon commenced an action against William Trumper the overseer for £31 10s which the Vestry determined unanimously not to pay. Between 1821 and 1830 the Contractor was responsible for the surgeons' bills, but then the procedure was changed again and parish surgeons were appointed at a yearly salary of £20 (Mr Ayres 1830) and £25 (Mr Platt 1833).

By 1830 the duties delegated to the Contractor were greatly reduced. He had now only to manage the workhouse. He no longer received a yearly salary but was paid according to the number of inmates, at 4s 3d per head per week (there were 13 paupers in the house in December, 1831, which gives an idea of the sums involved). As a result the overseers' workload increased. They were again responsible for out-relief, and for employing the poor to repair roads and dig gravel, tasks formerly undertaken by the Contractor. Now, in 1832 for the first time an assistant overseer, George Hone, was appointed at a salary of £50 pa. He was to collect the poor rates, keep the accounts, and attend to people applying to the overseers for employment. However, the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 was soon to bring an end to the system. New regional boards were appointed to administer relief and to house the poor in Union Workhouses, perhaps miles away - the beginning of the system castigated in the celebrated tear-jerker "It was Christmas Day in the Workhouse". The Harefield workhouse continued to accommodate local people until 1836 when they were transferred first to Ruislip and then to the new establishment in Hillingdon. The Vestry was shorn of its principal responsibilities though it continued to administer other village business.

Dorothy Winton



# HAREFIELD'S FIRST PARISH COUNCIL

by Margaret Evans

In 1893 the Middlesex Advertiser reported a new Government Bill dealing with Parish Councils, District Councils, Guardians, Boundaries and Elections. Local government was to be thoroughly reorganized.

The April Harefield Vestry meeting had the highest attendance ever, perhaps because it promised to be controversial. A poll was demanded for the election of Surveyor of Highways who levied the rate for road maintenance. Mr C. Brown had been surveyor for many years, and there had been sharp words about the condition of the roads. Now Mr Ratcliff stood against him. The result: 141 Brown, 92 Ratcliff. The latter was dissatisfied because Mr Brown's son "stood at the polling station all day".

Next a meeting was held to discuss the coming rule of the Parish Council. Matters dealt with were: poor living conditions of agricultural labourers; want of recreation and a sense of ownership and position; the land game laws and the severity of their administration. Parish government was to be by one man - one vote and meetings would be held when working men could attend. The Council would be a purely secular body, replacing the old Vestry. While it might be able to obtain property for the benefit of the people it would have no power to deal with housing. Someone brought up the subject of the enclosure of common land. The comment was made that those who had freehold had freehold given them; those who had copyhold had copyhold given; those who had no land got nothing (laughter).

By 1895 the new Parish Council and Board of Guardians had been formed and first meetings were held. On Jan 19th the Council met at the Memorial Hall with Mr Tarleton of Breakspears presiding. He promised an iron chest for the parish books, to be kept at the Clerk's house (this was Mr C.J. Filkins who wrote the minutes in his beautiful hand). It was decided to circulate leaflets offering allotments - though Mr Collett pointed out that many people could neither read nor write - and by February thirty had applied. A committee was then appointed to explore the possibilities of acquiring land. (Eventually Mr Tarleton offered 400 poles of land and the plots were taken up rapidly. No work was to be done on Sundays except gathering crops.)

In April Chairman the Rev Mr Harland said "If the Parish Council has not done much at least it has not trod on any toes". The Council decided on 4 Overseers of the Poor and a balance of £117 was handed to them. Mr Filkins the Clerk was given a rise of £10 to £50 p.a. He was paid another £15 as assistant to the Surveyor.

Apparently a Mrs Turner had put posts on the Green and pipes from her house to the pond - an encroachment. Though the cricket pitch could not be fenced and so was open to damage, the pond had been railed off and seats placed. A lively debate ensued when one of the seats opposite Mr Groves' pub, The Swan, was painted with tar, "damaging the clothes of those who sat there". The Council had no power to prosecute so Mr Groves was

asked to remove the tar. The Chairman said money had been provided for levelling the ground, not for seats which merely encouraged idlers. Byelaws to protect the Green were needed.

Should the custom of beating the bounds be revived? Mr Milton remembered a crowd of boys being beaten at certain points to impress on them the importance of the parish boundary. Mr Cooper said wait till after harvest and Mr McCallum suggested April 1st (laughter). It was decided to employ a man to clean the streets on Saturday nights, and to erect a notice banning vehicles, cattle, rubbish, from the Green. By 1896 Byelaws were proposed - and protested against. The Chairman explained that the Common had been set aside for the recreation of the people and could not be enclosed or fenced (he produced the 1813 Enclosure Map). Some thought that caravans etc from outside the parish should be charged. The uproar was so great that would-be speakers could not be heard - so it was decided not to admit non-voters to meetings in future.

On March 14th 1896 the Parish Council held its election for 9 Councillors. H.R. Brown, unsuccessful, was dissatisfied and a poll was ordered. Non-electors were asked to leave and 30 went. Mr Brown then queried the administration of the coal charity quoting one James Lamb who owned 6 acres and a beerhouse and had a police pension of 21s a week, yet got 7cwt of free coal. Commotion! Then Mr Lamb appeared and said he received NO coal. There were roars of laughter: "Mr Brown had the wrong sow by the ear!" There was another J. Lamb! The press reported that "a more disorderly meeting has not been held in the village". At the April meeting to appoint the Chairman and Surveyor Mr Brown was again demanding a poll. He was turned down, protested, was ruled out of order and left. A village meeting was then called by G.R. Brown and D. Collett. The agenda: The Green, Highway Surveyorship, footpaths and roads, accounts, the Assistant Overseer, list of electors, charities, allotments, wayside wastes. The hall was full by 7pm, passages and stairs crammed. H. Brown moved a resolution against the notice on the Green, seats, and the pulling up of Mrs Turner's posts. D. Collett seconded and kept the meeting in roars of laughter, talking of his grandfather from Wales and the theft of hundreds of acres from the poor of Harefield. However, despite H. Brown's attempts to shout it down, an amendment affirming confidence in the Parish Council was carried by 92 to 14.

A decision to defer work at Hill End and Watts Common until winter (when jobs would be scarce) annoyed G. Brown. He was offensive to the Chairman who left. At the next meeting Mr Tarleton said that the Messrs Brown and Collett seemed determined that the Council's work should not go smoothly, and offered a vote of confidence in the Chairman. H. Brown apologized for using God's name in his anger and said he was not as well educated as Mr Harland, the Chairman. In October 1896 the surveyor was asked to collect about £90 of rates, left outstanding by the former surveyor Mr C. Brown, who had just died. Because of their father's death the two Brown brothers resigned (both returned to the Parish Council after a few years).

In June 1897 the bounds were beaten, though not



the boys, by 7 members. The 14 mile tramp seemed to prevent the large gathering which had been expected. At the end of the year the highways were to be taken over by the District Councils, out of the hands of local surveyors, who had traditionally been householders with at least £10 worth of property.

The National Telephone Company had asked for wayleave for their lines, and had been told to put them under ground. Eventually they got permission for posts, but overstepped the mark and put them across the Green, so they had to be removed. When the Company paid their rental they deducted 1s 6d "for income tax". The Council wrote to the Inland Revenue to find out if the tax had actually been paid. The police were consulted about bad behaviour and language and the playing of football on the Green on Sundays.

In 1903 new water mains were to be laid to the Breakspear Arms and cottages, also Tilekiln. The route could take in Bourne and Warren Farms.

The National Schools were formally transferred to the Middlesex County Council in 1904. A temporary school was constructed of corrugated iron and wood, 40 X 25 ft, for 49 children; another would be available soon for 100 more children. A parishioner said "Now we shall perhaps get up to date sewer and flushing arrangements" for the schools. The contents of the earth closets were put on the schoolmaster's garden, it was said. The new school site was to cost £750. (The school, for 300 children, was completed in 1907 and demolished in 1988).

In 1905 road widening at Willow Tree Farm was agreed on. Bad conditions in Park Lane were dealt with. Foot bridges were not wide enough for perambulators. The G.W. Railway was asked to run a bus from Uxbridge to Harefield but refused. A secondary school was suggested by the Middlesex Education Committee. It would cost £10,000 with Harefield's charge £147 10s. Harefield's rateable value was now £14067. In 1907 the Clerk Mr Filkins was asked to collect a special rate. The vote on his remuneration for this was not unanimous, so he resigned at once. He died the following year.

Mr Bull in charge of Breakspears Fire Engine found the hydrants difficult to open. They had been wired down by the Water Company. After long argument a telephone fire alarm to Rickmansworth Fire Station was arranged.

Mr Tarleton no longer wished to provide allotments - few were taken up and the rent was low. He finally disposed of his field at £3 an acre - the Council had only wished to pay £2.

The Cricket Club had been given permission to put up posts to stop carts driving across the pitch but travellers were still camping on the Green in defiance of the byelaws, and annoying residents. The Rural District Council was asked to ensure that the fortnightly collection of ashes and rubbish was maintained and to have the 10mph speed limit enforced, due to the dangerous pace at which motor cycles and cars were travelling through Harefield. (This minute book ends in October 1910 with a detailed list of all Harefield's charities.)

Sources: Harefield P.C. Minute Book 1895-1910  
Middlesex Advertiser 1895-1910

## NICKNAMES

For those who enjoyed the list of nicknames in the spring newsletter here are some more, supplied by GWEN THOMAS.

G. BIGNELL	CHINA
BOWDEN	BUMPSEY
BOWDEN	TICH
BOWDEN	CHALKY
BRANCH	LARDY
A. BREWER	SLIM
A. CLARKE	NOBBY
H. DACRE	YORKY
J. GARLAND	DAGGER
M. HARRIS	WRECKER
J. LOFTY	DODGER
E. MARSHALL	DIDDLE
SHORT	TANNER
B. SWAN	NOBBY
PEARKES	TUBBY
A. SMITH	POP
WARD	DOUGHY
FRENCH	LIB
TURNER	HOPALONG
D. SWAN	DINKIE

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### LONDON LIFE BETWEEN THE WARS

Saturday 19 November 1988

10.00 am Museum of London

Programme includes:

A film presentation of the 1920s and 1930s and talks on:

Working class housing between the Wars

Women in an East End community

"Dunroamin in Pinner and North-West London"

(suburban growth between the Wars)

The early years of radio

Fee for the day (including coffee and tea) £7 or £4 for students, pensioners and the unwaged

### LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

FROM ARMADA TO GLORIOUS REVOLUTION

CHANGE AND GROWTH IN LONDON, 1588-1688

10.30 am Museum of London

Talks on

The Expanding City

Popular Music in the 17th century

The New River

The Business of Marriage in Tudor and Stuart London

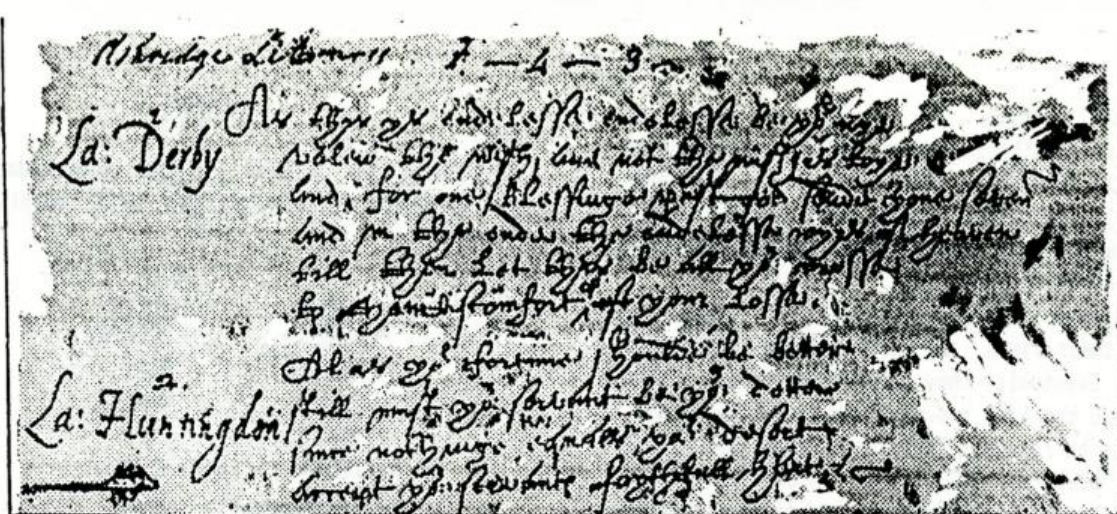
Religious Conflict

£3.50 including coffee and tea

The Harefield History Society is planning a display to illustrate CHANGE AND GROWTH IN HAREFIELD STREET, 1588-1688

Saturday Feb 25th at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip  
ENCLOSURES AND THE PEOPLE OF MIDDLESEX  
with contributions on Enclosure in Harefield





Lady Derby

As thys ys endelesse endelesse be yo'r joye  
 Value the wish but not the wisher's toye  
 And for one blessinge past god sende youe seven  
 And in the ende the endelesse joyes of heaven  
 Till then let this be all yo'r crosse  
 To have discomfourt of your losse

Lady Huntingdon

Alas yo'r fortune shoulde be bettere  
 Still must yo'r servant be yo'r detter  
 Since nothinge equales yo'r desart  
 Accept yo'r servantes faythfull hart.

Who wrote these verses? The latest theory is that Shakespeare composed them for the engagement of Anne, daughter of Alice, Dowager Countess of Derby, to Lord Chandos (this was in 1607). The other view is that John Marston was the author and that the verses were part of a masque performed (1606) at the home in Ashby-de-la-Zouch of Lady Huntingdon, another of the Countess's daughters. The first two characters in the masque were Lady Derby and Lady Huntingdon and there were verses for other noble and gentlewomen. Each verse was intended to accompany the presentation of a gift to the lady concerned.

What makes the topic interesting at a local level is that we can see the Countess and her daughters in Harefield Church where they are portrayed on Lady Derby's tomb.

The document itself was once in the library at Ashridge, Herts, which was the home of Lady Derby's third daughter and her husband (himself the son of Lady Derby's second husband, Sir Thomas Egerton, founder of the Bridgewater dynasty). How hideously complicated this sounds! Now it is in the Huntingdon Library in California which purchased the Egerton papers - among them the Countess of Derby's household expenses in Harefield for the year 1634-5.

Sources: The Times April 22 and 23, 1988 and the Guide to British Historical Manuscripts in the Huntingdon Library, California.

Harefield History Society

Committee for 1988-9

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PROGRAMME  
 1988-1989

Monday October 24th	
THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY	David Whiteman
Monday November 28th	
BAYHURST WOOD COUNTRY PARK	George Mist
Wednesday January 4th	
Social Evening	
CHURCHES OF MIDDLESEX	Pat Clarke
Monday January 23rd	
THE HISTORY OF THE WINDSOR CHAIR	Stuart King
Monday February 20th	
THE CHANGING FACE OF UXBRIDGE	Ken Pearce
March Meeting is in course of rearrangement	
Monday April 24th	
Annual General Meeting	
THE SEVEN ROADS OF HAREFIELD	Reg Neil

All meetings start at 8pm in Harefield Library  
 with the exception of  
 THE SOCIAL EVENING  
 at  
 THE GROVE, Rickmansworth Road  
 BUFFET SUPPER

The evening's entertainment will include an illustrated talk by Pat Clarke on Middlesex Churches (Several of us heard her talk on this subject recently and enjoyed it so much that we invited her to the social evening)  
 TICKETS £2.50.