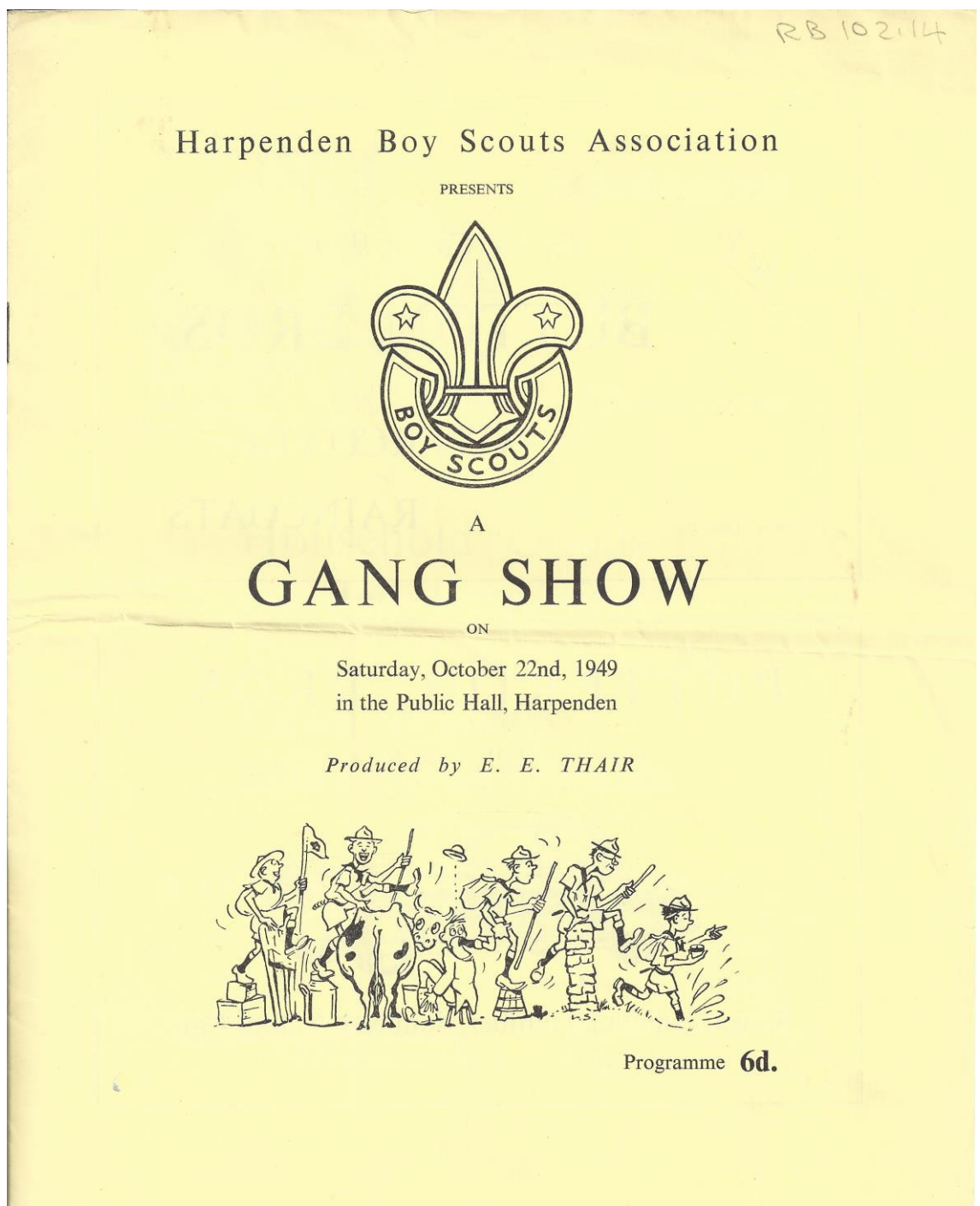




HARPENDEN & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 147  
AUGUST 2022



Front cover illustration:

*Programme for the first Harpenden Gang Show, 1949*

*HDLHS Archives RB 102.14*

Later Gang Show programmes were headed 'Harpenden and District' and then 'Harpenden and Wheathampstead'. Every Gang Show programme has been digitised and can be seen at:

<https://harpenden.gs/index.php/about-us/programmes/programme-archive>

NEWSLETTER 147  
AUGUST 2022

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Programme for 2022              | 4  |
| Harpenden Summer Carnival       | 4  |
| Exhibitions                     | 5  |
| Publications Received           | 5  |
| Harpenden Museum: Progress      | 6  |
| 70 Years on the Crest of a Wave | 8  |
| The Development of Douglas Road | 12 |
| Redbourn in Old Films           | 23 |



follow the Society on Facebook

**DEADLINE**

**Please note that the deadline for publication in Newsletter 148 is  
31 October 2022**

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and District Local History Society unless noted otherwise.***

## PROGRAMME FOR 2022

Although it is hoped that this programme of talks will continue, they will of course be subject to any future COVID-19 restrictions.

**Visitors are welcome; please encourage any non-members that you know to come along; all we ask from them is a donation of £3 towards the cost of the evening**

September 27th      Elstree: Britain's Hollywood  
**Bob Redman**

October 25th      The Met Office at Dunstable and forecasting D-Day  
**Jean Yates**

November 22nd      AGM followed by Members' Evening:  
**Short contributions by members and refreshments**

## HARPENDEN SUMMER CARNIVAL

The Society was represented at this year's summer carnival, which was held on the Common from 12 noon to 6 pm on 18 June 2022.

The main exhibit was a large display board covered with photographs and other illustrations of Harpenden residents past and present. The event was well attended despite the showery and breezy weather. A strong gust while packing up at the end of the event nearly caused our gazebo to take off.

## EXHIBITIONS

When the Museum opens displays will be changed from time to time and we will hold occasional special exhibitions.

Meanwhile do look out for our displays in Harpenden Library alongside the Local History section towards the rear of the building.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

|                     |          |            |
|---------------------|----------|------------|
| The Local Historian | Vol 52.2 | April 2022 |
|                     | Vol 52.3 | July 2022  |

*(journal of the British Association for Local History)*

Our Newsletters 145 and 146 are given a brief mention in the 'Journals and Newsletters received' section in Vols 52.2 and 52.3 respectively.

|                    |         |             |
|--------------------|---------|-------------|
| Local History News | No. 143 | Spring 2022 |
|                    | No. 144 | Summer 2022 |

*(magazine of the British Association for Local History)*

|        |                |             |
|--------|----------------|-------------|
| SAHAAS | Newsletter 223 | May 2022    |
| SAHAAS | Newsletter 224 | August 2022 |

*(St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society)*

In Newsletter 223 'Recent Journal Articles' the article *Marianne Sherman's music and dance manuscripts, 1806* published in our Newsletter 145 is noted in brief.

### Hertfordshire Record Society Volume XXXIII

THE DIARIES OF JOHN CARRINGTON, FARMER OF BRAMFIELD (PART 2) 1805-1810 AND JOHN CARRINGTON, JUNIOR, 1810-1812.

John Carrington was born in 1726. Following in his father's footsteps, at the age of 20, he became gardener to Lady Cathcart at Tewin Water House. By the 1750s he was employed by Richard Warren of Marden Hill, Tewin, and in 1760 became tenant of Bacons Farm, Bramfield. Shortly after the death of his

wife in 1798, when John was 72, he began to keep a diary, and continued it until twelve days before his own death in 1810. This forms an almost daily record of the last twelve years of his life, years which saw great change and often hardship for local communities caught up in the effects of the Napoleonic wars. The high prices gained for all farm produce, as a direct result of the war, gave farmers such as John financial security and allowed him to purchase property and to make financial investments. For most of his life he served his local community as a member of the Bramfield vestry for which he acted as Surveyor of the Highways and Overseer of the Poor as well as being one of four Chief Constables of the Liberty of St Albans in the Hundred of Cashio. With a wide circle of friends and acquaintances he appears to have had a long reputation for honest dealing and a generous heart for those in his local community less fortunate than himself. As a man of apparently no formal education he exhibits a shrewd intelligence and a financial soundness in his business dealings.

Volume 1 containing the whole text of John's diary from 1798 to 1804 was published in 2015 (HRS vol XXVI). This second volume continues the diary from 1805 until John's death in 1810. His son, also called John (Jack), continued the family tradition and began to keep a diary of his own which survives until 1812. With an historical introduction and appendices, including biographies of local persons, a glossary, and full indexes of names, places and subjects, this publication makes the text of the Carrington diaries fully accessible to all.

Edited and with an Introduction by Susan Flood. 15 illustrations, 2 maps, plus illustrated jacket. ISBN: 978-0-9501741-2-9

## HARPENDEN MUSEUM PROGRESS

As at July 2022, by David Keen, Curator

With the installation of roller racking in the Les Casey Archive Room in January 2022, we have begun to make real progress towards opening a Museum for Harpenden. Our extensive collection of original works of art and large photographs is now safely stored and we have started to move the document archive from the History Room in Park Hall to the Museum. We hired a van to transport our stall for Harpenden Carnival and then made use of it to move some of the heavier items from Sandridge Gate. Some of these are on the floor of the archive room, but others are in proper archive boxes on the roller racking.

The display space in the Museum resembles a take-away pizza emporium, as there are hundreds of archive boxes temporarily stacked there. These boxes are gradually being taken to Park



Delivery of archive boxes

photo: David Keen

Hall, filled with documents and photographs and returned to the Museum. As the stacks diminish it means more items are being transferred to their permanent home.

The fit-out of the Museum is in the hands of Qwerk, a museum design company based in Luton. Their most recent project has been the Raphael Exhibition at the National Gallery and now that this is in place they can turn their attention to Harpenden Museum.

Part of this process has been to measure and photograph all our artefacts. As there are about 3,000 items this was a mammoth task, but apart from being of use to Qwerk it means we have the basis of a catalogue of our collection. The Trustees are

considering the latest proposals from Qwerk and we hope that before long work on fitting out Harpenden Museum will have begun. When will we open? That's still not easy to predict, but we are making progress. DK

**70 YEARS ON THE CREST OF A WAVE:** the history of the Harpenden Gang Show.

A report by Joyce Bunting on the talk given to the Society by Ewan Murray at the Society's meeting held on 22 March 2022 at the Eric Morecambe Centre.

Ewan Murray joined Harpenden Cub Scouts in 1969 and took part in his first Gang Show two years later, aged 10½. He was a member of the cast between 1972 -1979 and 1986 -1988. He became Musical Director in 1989 and Producer in 1994. He still undertakes both roles. His illustrated presentation about the history and development of Gang Shows was greeted with great enthusiasm by the audience, which included many Scouts and Gang Show participants, both past and present.

### How it started – London

The original London Gang Show was founded by the late Ralph Reader CBE. It appeared from 1932 until 1938. RAF Gang Shows followed during the war years, and returned in 1949 until 1974. In 1937 the Gang Show became the first amateur production to have a Royal Command Performance - an honour repeated in 1957 and 1964. Ralph Reader wrote over 600 items



for these shows. Two songs are particularly well known: ‘*On The Crest of A Wave*’ - the signature tune of all Gang Shows - and ‘*Together*’ - the signature song for Harpenden Gang Shows.

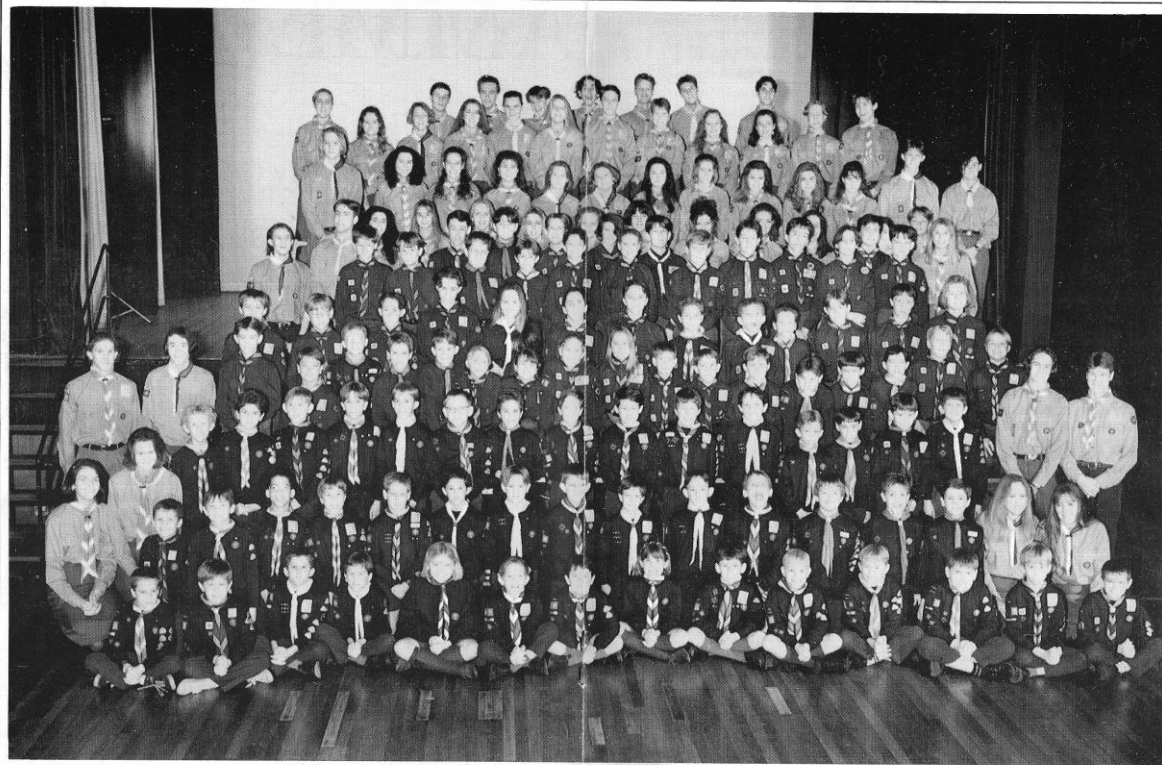
### Local development

Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Scout Gang Show has been performed at Harpenden Public Hall every year since 1949, making it the longest continuously running Gang Show in the world. Over the years, the number of the performers increased, and the musical accompaniment developed from two pianos to a full orchestra. So many Scouts wanted to take part that rehearsal space became problematic. In 2009, a purpose-designed rehearsal room was built at Crabtree Fields. In this spacious environment it’s OK to practise routines, tap dance, make music and plenty of enthusiastic noise. Props and scenery which had formerly been stored at Annables Farm can be accommodated here. Over the 70 years there have been just 4 producers – a remarkably stable environment.

### Inclusivity and purpose

Boy Scouts in the early Gang Shows hadn’t shown much enthusiasm for dancing. But each year the producers insisted some of them have a go, and a team would learn tap dancing - with some success. In 1969, for the first time, a dance team of 16 Ranger Guides joined the cast to great acclaim. Scouting was changing, and by 1979 they had all become Venture Scouts so it was back to being an all-Scout show. Girls in Scouts and Cubs first appeared in the Harpenden Gang Show in 1992 (in 1991

## THE GANG



1993

The Cast of the 1993 Gang Show

*HDLHS Archive: RB 102.39A*

Scouting became fully mixed). Enthusiasm for dance grew, and with the advent of 'Strictly' on TV, *real* dancing became popular with the boys. Hilarious drag acts, usually involving Scout Leaders, had been very popular – but gradually fizzled out.

Nowadays Scouts of all ages appear on stage. No one has to audition to be in the Show, but if a Scout is keen, they can be selected for sketches, solos and the Dance Team. Working together in this way encourages the development of new talents - in some cases leading to professional stage management, stage

production or musical work. It promotes confidence, team work and great fellowship - lasting long after Scouting years.

Scouting aims to be inclusive. Parents of children with mental or physical disabilities may work with the leaders. It's amazing what the Gang can produce with the right support - they sometimes surprise themselves!

Nowadays there's always a waiting list of lively Scouts wishing to take part in promotional videos for Harpenden's Gang Show U-tube channel:

*<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR8HHCTIrpEhAvoSxHP3cHdWkYaBMA84>*

Scout Gang Shows everywhere raise money for charitable causes, both at home and abroad, just like the very first one – which was to provide a local swimming pool.

New show venue: Eric Morecambe Centre (EMC)

The new venue for the Harpenden Gang Show is a great improvement on the old Harpenden Public Halls, especially front-of-house where seating is more comfortable. Backstage, the team has had to adapt in order to overcome a few shortcomings – some suggestions for improvement got lost during development of EMC, due to cost.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Harpenden Gang Show will take place from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 in the Eric Morecambe Centre, Harpenden.

Joyce Bunting

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOUGLAS ROAD

A bundle of papers relating to a house called 'Lavendon' in Douglas Road, Harpenden was recently donated to the Society. The papers relate to the purchase of Lavendon in 1917 by Douglas Edwin Cooke from Francis Hollingworth. The abstract of title included in the bundle summarises all transactions and other relevant documents, such as wills and copies of previous indentures of sale. This was required to demonstrate that Hollingworth had a good title to the property which would pass to Cooke. These abstracts of title are most useful for historical research.

### The developer: Charles Henry Willmott

In this case the abstract of title and other documents in the bundle records the conversion of farmland into a building estate by Charles Henry Willmott. Born in Harpenden in 1859 Willmott was a son of Henry Willmott of Yew Tree farm. The family had several local branches whose occupations included farming, grocery, publicans and coal merchants.

Charles is recorded in the 1881 Census as a visitor at the house of Charles Dawson, builder, of Linslade, Bucks. The 21-year old gave his occupation as 'farmer's son'. In 1882 he married Ellen Aldridge of Bromley Locks, Bromley-by-Bow. By 1891 he was living at Glenholme in Shakespeare Road and put Coal Merchant as his occupation. In later Censuses his occupation is Builder. He was one of the three (male) Harpenden Guardians for the St Albans Union who stood for re-election in 1907. A fourth candidate, Miss Annie Rouse Broughton Spackman, received the highest vote and replaced Willmott, who received the least.

## The development

In 1897 Willmott purchased about 13.75 acres of land between Moreton End Lane and Townsend Lane with a short frontage on the Luton Road from Robert Mather, then resident at Kirkwick.

The land Willmott purchased lies on the west side of the dry valley that runs through Harpenden. It was bounded to the north by Moreton End Lane and to the south by Townsend Lane. The bulk of the property consisted of three fields which lay along the higher ground and a small field on the south side of Moreton End Lane which ran down the side of the dry valley and linked the higher land to the Luton Road.

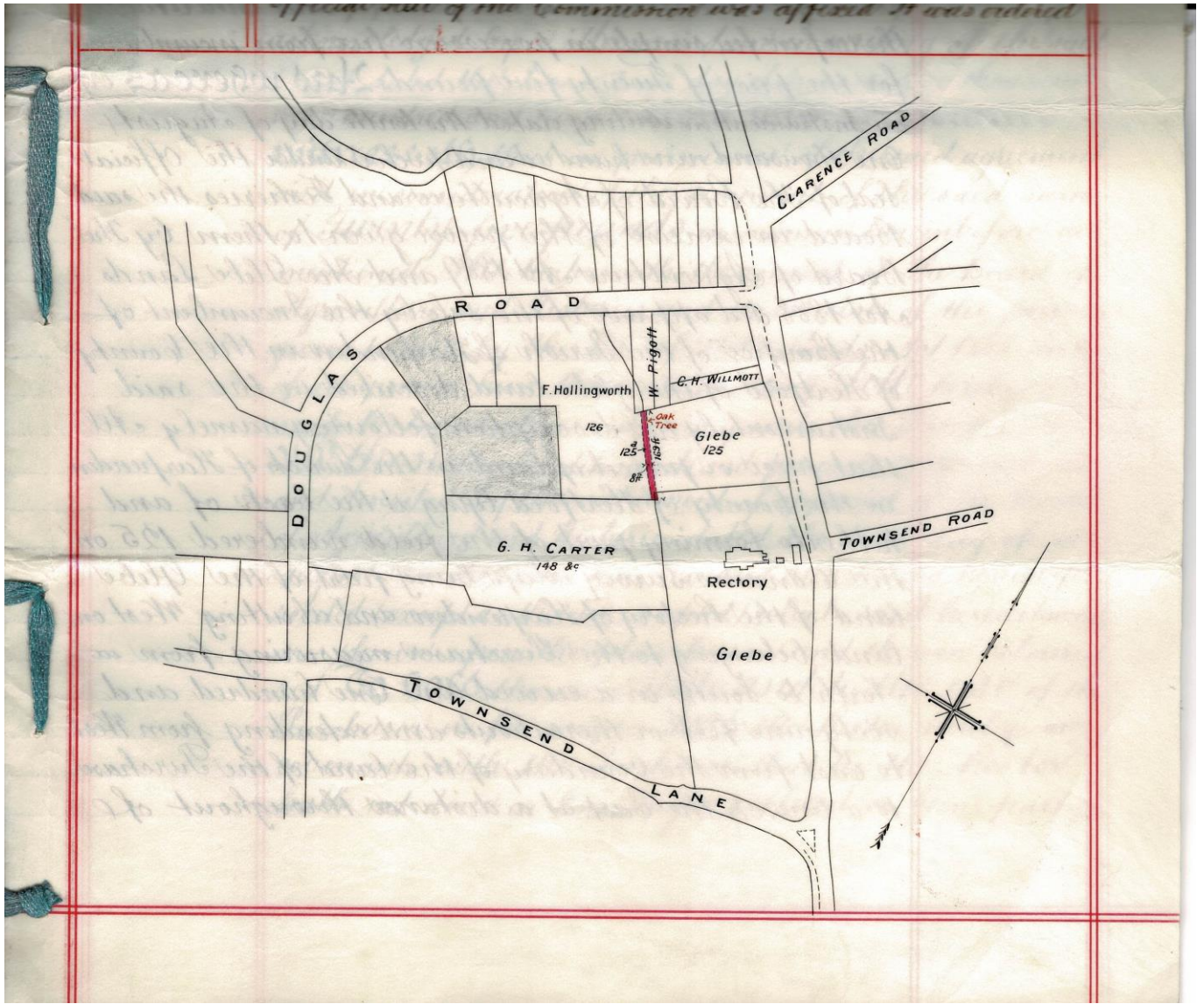
‘When I began to go to Hardenwick School in 1916 I went by bicycle. It was normal to go down Douglas Road with your brakes off and shoot across Luton Road as fast as you could so as to keep up speed for climbing Byron Road ahead of you’

From E. A. William’s memories of Harpenden in the Kaiser’s war; he lived in Moreton Avenue. (the full memoirs are reproduced on the Society’s website)

Willmott commenced the development by laying out a road through the property from Townsend Lane to the Luton Road and was thus responsible for one of the smaller ‘estates’ that were laid out in Harpenden after the sale of the Packe & Pym estate in 1882. A few years before Willmott’s purchase Henry Steers laid out the St Nicholas Estate to the south of Townsend Lane. By happy chance the location of Willmott’s land allowed the road he laid out to terminate on Townsend Lane directly opposite Steers’ Salisbury Road.



The Development of Douglas Road: A plan taken from the Abstract of Title showing in red the Fernee fields as sold to G W Lydekker in 1871. The residue of Further Pondwick is still owned by Charles Reading, the then owner of the estate generally known as the 'Packe & Pym' estate.



Plan from the Indenture of 24 September 1912 for Hollingworth's purchase of a strip of land (marked in red) from the Rector of Harpenden.

The curved line across Hollingworth's property north of the red strip is the original field boundary, now superseded. Mrs Stanier's property (Bankcroft) has been shaded – see page 21.

The purpose of the plan is solely to identify the property being sold. It was copied from an earlier plan and amended as necessary. By 1912 most of the plots had houses on them but none of them or Aplins Close are shown here as they are irrelevant. Four pairs of semi-detached houses occupy the 8 narrow plots on the north side of Douglas Road.

Willmott named this road Douglas Road after his son Douglas Blaine Willmott. (*see the memories of Charles D H Kidman, a maternal grandson of Charles Willmott, Newsletter 72 page 9. The Kidman family were also connected to Robert Mather: Fanny Kidman, 28, is listed as 'companion' to the Mather family at Kirkwick in the 1891 Census – see below*)

The land on the higher ground was once part of Moreton End Farm, formerly in the ownership of the Fernee family. The small field that connected to the Luton Road was once part of the Packe & Pym estate. Willmott bought both parcels of land in 1897 from Robert Mather of Kirkwick – see below.

### The origin of Willmott's estate

As the estate had two separate origins the abstract gives details of the title to each one:

1. The title to three fields formerly part of Moreton End Farm formerly in the possession of Thomas Fernee.
2. The title to a small plot of land formerly part of the Packe & Pym estate. As the plot was a part of the whole estate, the abstract recites the complex inheritances of the entire Harpenden estate. All sales of any part of the Packe & Pym estate after 1882 would have had their title proved by a similar copy, thus keeping solicitors' clerks in employment.

Anyone wishing to study the history of the Packe & Pym estate in detail is strongly recommended to consult the family tree in the centrefold of Newsletter 107.



Prior to 1874 there was a customary rule that title deeds should provide proof of the seller's title going back at least 60 years. This was reduced to 40 years under the Vendor and Purchaser Act, 1874 and then to 30 years in 1925 (Law of Property Act, 1925).

'Title deeds' is a term used to describe all relevant documents included in the conveyance of a property and contained in a 'bundle' of papers. The key documents are the contracts (known as indentures during the period covered by the bundle) signed and sealed by both parties. All other documents such as wills, marriage certificates, survey reports etc and the abstract of title are known as 'muniments of title'

## 1. The Fernee property:

The 1842 Harpenden Tithe Awards show Thomas Fernee (misspelt as 'Ferne') as the owner and occupier of the 64-acre Moreton End Farm. In his will Fernee left his property to his wife Esther for her life and to be sold on her decease with the proceeds divided equally between his children Thomas, John and Emma. Thomas Fernee died on 20 September 1850 and his will was proved on 22 April 1851. Following Esther's death in 1868 the property was unsuccessfully put up for auction in 1870. The abstract of title shows that Thomas Fernee bought Moreton End Farm in 1830 from Thomas and Mary Atterbury.

Moreton End Farm included three fields: Pond Field (633 in the Tithe Awards), Church Field (634) and an unnamed grass field (635). These fields lay along the higher ground as described above. They can be identified as Lot 3 of an auction advertised for October 1871 as Lot 3's total acreage (11a 0r 22p) is the same as the total of the three fields as listed in the Tithe Awards.

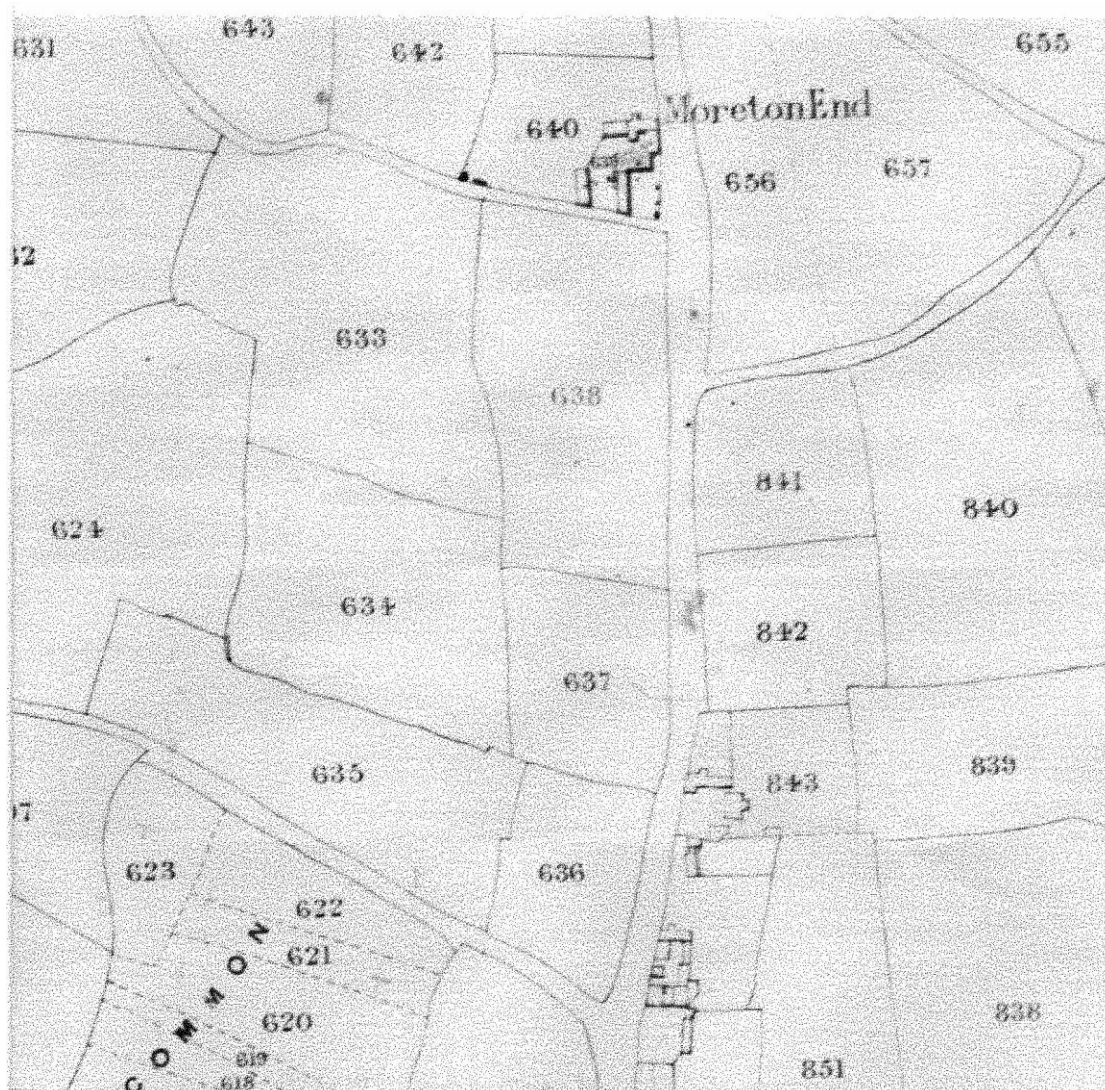
In December 1871 Gerard Wolfe Lydekker of Harpenden Lodge purchased the three fields for £1,499; it is not clear whether Lydekker bought at the auction or by private treaty. Gerard died in 1881 and the three fields passed to his widow Martha Margaret Lydekker who sold them in 1882 to Evan Owen Williams, builder and timber merchant of Luton, for £1,000. Williams built a house on the property adjacent to Townsend Lane; the house is mentioned in connection with his sale of the property in 1886 to Robert Mather, who held it in trust for his wife Emily. Emily died in 1891 and left her interest in the property (with the house named therein both as ‘Aplins’ and ‘Aplins Close’) to Robert in trust for their daughter Louisa. It is unclear whether it was Williams or the Mathers who chose the name. On 13 August 1897 Robert Mather sold the three fields to Charles Henry Willmott for £4,200.

Aplins Close first appears in the 1891 Census. It was then the only house between Kirkwick – also a newly built house - and the Rectory.

In 1893 Robert Mather married Selina Louisa Spackman (sister of Annie Spackman, mentioned above) and was not resident in Harpenden by 1894, when Charles Braithwaite, owner of Kirkwick and commander of the Harpenden company of the Bedfordshire Volunteer Corps\*, gave a dinner at Kirkwick for the Company. Research into Mather continues; he only appears in the 1891 Census, resident at Kirkwick, aged 56, and ‘living on his own means’.

*\*in the 1881 Cardwell reforms Hertfordshire was included in the Bedfordshire Regiment’s district, an arrangement that ended in 1908.*

It is possible that he intended to develop his holdings but the death of his wife and remarriage may have altered his plans.



The fields as shown in the 1842 Harpenden Tithe Awards  
Thomas Fernee: 633, 634 and 635 - Francis Pym  
& Charles William Packe: 638, 637 and 636

## 2. The Packe & Pym field

The 1842 Harpenden Tithe Awards show Francis Pym and Charles William Packe as the owners of three fields; Hither Pondwick (field 636 in the Tithe Awards), Middle Pondwick (637) and Further Pondwick (638).

In 1859 the parish of Harpenden ceased to be a chapelry of Wheathampstead; the parish church was rebuilt and a new Rectory built for the first Rector, Canon Edward Vaughan (1813-1900). The new Rectory was built on a plot of land acquired from the Packe & Pym estate. This plot comprised Hither Pondwick, Middle Pondwick and part of Further Pondwick. The remainder of Further Pondwick (2a 2r 25p) was bought in 1882 by Robert Mather (presumably in the Packe & Pym auction), who subsequently sold it to Charles Willmott on 1 August 1897 for £1,000.

Canon Vaughan's daughter wrote a memoir of his time in Harpenden ('Thirty-three years in Harpenden') in which she noted that the building of the new Rectory caused some local resentment as two of the best local fields for wild flowers were lost

Robert Mather had also purchased Packe & Pym land south of Townsend Lane in 1882 and sold it to Henry Steers in 1895.

## Lavendon

In January 1902 a substantial plot was purchased from Willmott for £575 by Francis Hollingworth (1841–1918), a Solicitor who had an office at 19 Gresham Street in the City of London for many years. He was the son of Archdeacon John Banks Hollingworth. In 1884 he married Caroline Tompkins, daughter of the late Rev. William Tompkins of 'Lavendon', Alderley Edge, Cheshire; hence the name he gave to the house that he subsequently built on the plot.

Part of Hollingworth's land abutted on the northern part of the Rectory (see plan) and in 1912 Hollingworth bought a narrow strip of land from the Rector, the Reverend Mottram Keen Pitt. As this was a purchase of Glebe land, the transaction had to be approved under the Sale of Glebe Lands Act, 1888. Under the Act power of approval was held by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and their approval was duly obtained. The conveyance and related papers are included in the bundle.

In 1917 Hollingworth sold Lavendon to Douglas Edwin Cooke, a Solicitor, and moved to the Cheshire Lavendon, where he died in December 1918.

Lavendon was demolished c1969 and four houses (11 to 11d) now occupy the 137-foot frontage.

### Bankcroft

Included in the bundle are papers relating to Cooke's purchase in 1924 of a narrow strip of land from Mrs Lillian Emma Stanier, the owner of an abutting property called Bankcroft, in order to level off the boundary between them. The bundle includes a summary abstract of Mrs Stanier's title to Bankcroft going back to the 1882 sale by Mrs Lydekker in accordance with the 40-year rule referred to above. There is no reference to Packe & Pym because no part of Bankcroft was formerly part of that estate.

Lillian Emma Stanier was the wife of Arthur Allan Stanier, a stockjobber at the London Stock Exchange. She purchased the plot and the newly-built house thereon from Willmott in November 1902 for £1,800. As a member of the Stock Exchange, Arthur had unlimited liability for his business,

whether as a sole trader or in a partnership, which is probably the reason that the purchase was in Lillian's name.

Unlike Hollingworth, who was over 60 when he came to Harpenden, Arthur and Lillian were 31 and 26 respectively in 1902. Arthur had advanced from Stockbrokers' clerk in 1891 and evidently had the necessary skills to prosper as a stockjobber (or market maker) who was required to quote both a buying and a selling price for any stock in which he made a market to stockbrokers seeking to buy or sell on behalf of their clients.

Arthur's parents, Allan and Kate Stanier, also came to live in Harpenden; they occupied St Martin's Lodge in Salisbury Avenue until their deaths in 1910 and 1923 respectively.

As both Hollingworth's and Arthur Stanier's occupations required them to work in the City of London they would have been early commuters from Harpenden. Allan Stanier gave his occupation in 1911 as Solicitors' Managing Clerk with the Corporation of London. It is not clear whether or not he had retired at that date; he was 71 in 1911. Arthur and Lillian retired to Worthing in 1929 where Arthur died in 1932 and Lillian in 1953.

Bankcroft still exists as no. 17; part of the frontage was sold and an extension to 'Stairways' (no 19) was built on it. Much of the garden areas of both Lavendon and Bankcroft were developed into the cul-de-sacs of modern Aplins Close.            John Wassell

Due to limited space in the Newsletter sources of information have been omitted; please contact the Editor for further information

## REDBOURN IN OLD FILMS TAKEN BY JOHN HEATHER

A report by Jean Gardner on the presentation by John and Pauline Ridgwell at the Society's meeting held on 24 May 2022 at the Eric Morecambe Centre.

John and Pauline presented a show of old films of Redbourn taken between 1947 and 1953. John (Dickie) Heather lived in Harpenden at 1 Ash, West Common and moved to Redbourn after a few years. He was a keen photographer and showed films in what was grandly known as Redbourn Cinema, in other words the Village Hall. This was usually on a Friday night and the tickets were priced 6d for children and 1/- for adults. He made superb sketches to link the shots. A film of 1 Ash shows two scouts in the garden carefully making the legends to insert between the shots.

One film begins with a grand picture of Redbourn Cinema with Velvet curtains and all the trimmings. Reality revealed it as the village hall with men standing on ladders to black out the windows from the outside. The first film showed John Heather precariously standing on the porch roof loading the equipment into the hall via an upper window ably assisted by some scouts. He must have had many willing helpers because he appears in several of the films and they are seen loading the equipment into his Vauxhall car.

An old train is shown steaming along to Redbourn Station at the south end of the village. A visit to Bretby Hall, Derbyshire, afforded a grand day out and during a children's hospitality



*John Heather and helpers  
©Redbourn Village Museum*

*'Mysterious Intruders' - a film noir starring Richard Dix, released in 1946 by Columbia Pictures.*

*'False Clues' was the British release of 'North of the Rockies' - about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and fur smugglers, released in 1942 by Columbia Pictures.*

fortnight John entertained them with magic and films. He also played the double bass and is seen at the back of a children's orchestra supporting the players. He moved in theatrical circles and met such stars as Dame Edith Evans and Flora Robson. And



in his spare time he ran the Scout troop. Pauline explained that the original reels of film were in poor condition and had been digitally copied at a cost of £800 to make them easy to show.



The audience leaving the Cinema  
*©Redbourn Village Museum*

The Queen's Coronation in 1953 was shown on television in the Village Hall. The audience were dressed in their best clothes to attend in despite the rain. It was a big day in the village with box teas given to everybody. People are seen sheltering under trees from the rain eating soggy cake and smiling through it all. The sports were postponed until the evening. Some of the contests would not be allowed today. Pillow fighters balanced astride a

pole beat each other around the head until they fell off. No sign of crash helmets in the bicycle races. The bonfire and fireworks which were delayed until the Saturday featured a woman carrying a bundle of rockets bigger than herself and a man smoking a cigarette while setting off the fireworks.

The films showed scenes of everyday life. School children playing on the Common, riding battered bikes around and pushing go-carts along the High Street. The highlight of the year was the annual outing to the seaside. People of every age loaded down with bags trudged up the slope to the old railway station at the south end of the village. Not for them the beach wear of today. They wore three piece suits and warm cardigans. The smiling engine driver waited patiently while they all boarded the train.

Through all the films the overwhelming impression is one of happiness and people enjoying the simple country life.

Jean Gardner

