

*History of
Great Bradley*

*To
Commemorate the Marriage
of
HRH. the Prince of Wales
&
Lady Diana Spencer
on the 29th July 1981.*

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GREAT BRADLEY HALL

Of all the houses in a village the one of the greatest significance is, and undoubtedly always was, that owned by the Lord of the Manor, and Great Bradley Hall is no exception. The present house is stated in Pevsner's "Suffolk (Buildings of England)" as being 17th century; it is certainly late 17th or early 18th. In about 1877, the Hall had a drawing room, two bedrooms and a dressing room added which, again, Pevsner described as "good 19th century", but there were quite possibly early 19th century alterations made as well.

The Victorian addition to the house is easy to observe from the road, for it is the wing which faces the drive and which is built at right angles to the remainder of the house. It has a Burwell brick chimney as opposed to the red brick chimneys of the original part, and its architecture is very similar to that of the Old Rectory. In other words, the original part of the house was one rectangular building, with the main entrance to it being half way along the complete structure on the west side, the house being of room-width depth. A dairy also existed in earlier days at right angles to the main structure of the house.

The Jacobean quarters at the rear of the house are spacious, light and airy, and the present dairy, which is large and pleasant, is complete with marble slab; here butter was made and stored until the early 1950's. A pane of glass in one of the scullery windows has remained intact and has scratched upon it

E.I.S. 1805 and Emma Tillet,
 Eliza Swann ,
 Martha Sumpter

 All at Great Bradley Hall Suffolk 1877
(Those were obviously servants at the Hall in those days).

From the kitchen quarters there were two staircases, one of which has now been blocked in. There are cellars underneath and attics above extending the whole length of the roof space. There is a spring under the kitchen window the water from which runs down into a pond in the garden.

The interior of the house is beautifully maintained, whilst the additions and alterations which have taken place over the years have been sympathetically constructed and have contributed a charm all their own to the earlier manor house.

It is the grounds and outbuildings of Great Bradley Hall, which are particularly exciting for here one is able to contemplate how the manor may once have been. It is possible that the original house stood on a higher piece of ground, which adjoins the land at the rear of the churchyard within the moat. Parts of the moat surrounding the earlier manor can be clearly seen on the south side of the churchyard, for they are wide and deep. It would be very odd, if in keeping with all medieval manors, there were not cottages clustered around the house and the church, but evidence for these has not been discovered.

The part timbered, part brick barn, which runs along the west boundary of the churchyard, is magnificent in its proportions. The timbered section is said to be late 17th century and has recently been cleared inside to reveal massive oak timbers of great height and length. The pitch of part of the roof clearly indicates that it was designed to take a thatch. On the adjoining brick section the words "Wright 1821" are carved on one of the interior beams. The whole area of the barn makes one enormously long, high building which is unique in the area. Indeed, this perfectly preserved building must be a showpiece.

Some years ago, a Roman coin, which was identified as that of Constantine, was discovered on the land belonging to the Hall. A brief summary of this period is described by Cootes and Snellgrove in "The Ancient World" as follows: -

"Order was restored by Constantine (307-337) who was proclaimed emperor by his soldiers at York in Britain. Realising Rome was too far away from the threatened frontiers, Constantine transferred the capital to Byzantium; which he renamed Constantinople (330). The West had its own governor; and later its own emperor. Although Constantine did not intend to split the Empire, from then on Italy and the western provinces were seriously threatened. Christianity made slow progress in Britain until the early fourth century. Then, under the protection of the emperor Constantine it came out into the open. Even so, it is likely that the number of Christians in the province was small and that most of them were poor. Because of this, very few traces of Christian worship have been found among Roman remains in Britain of the e third century Britain began to be threatened by sea raids from Saxons". (Little Bradley Church is of Saxon origin, thought to be 10th Century).

As Roman remains have been discovered in Great Thurlow, and there is a Roman Road between Horseheath and Withersfield, leading from Cambridge to Colchester (The Roman Road), it is not unlikely that the Romans were in Great Bradley, although further evidence of this has still to be revealed.

In all Kelly's directories of the last and present century Great Bradley Hall is described as being "anciently held by the Somerie family, barons Dudley". "Yeoman" in "Pocket Histories of Suffolk Parishes" explains the detailed history of ownership as follows: -

" When the third Henry was on the throne the manor of Great Bradley seems to have been held by the well-known family of Bigod, but shortly afterwards it was owned by Sir Hugh de Lopham, who in 1305 granted the manor, with the advowson of the church, to Sir John de Cotecourt, and Matilda, his wife.

Sir John was a person of some importance in the land. Amongst the high offices he held being the Governorship of St. Briavel's Castle in Gloucestershire, whilst he was an Admiral of the King's Fleet and was summoned to Parliament as a baron.

He was succeeded by his grandson of the same Christian name and this John also played a prominent part in affairs of consequence, both as a soldier and as a politician, fighting in the French wars and sitting in Parliament for some 43 years'. Through the marriage of his granddaughter, Joyce, to Sir Hugh Burnell, the manor went to the latter, but there was no issue, and for some years it is doubtful who actually held them. Eventually, however, we find it in the hands of Bartholomew Brokesby, whose death occurred in 1524 and following various changes, it came to Thomas Brand in the middle of the 18th century.

In 1771, Thomas Brand married the Hon. Gertrude Roper, sister of the eighteenth Lord Dacre, and the manor passed to their son, the twentieth Lord. He chose for wife a daughter of Admiral Sir Charles Ogle, but, dying without issue, his brother succeeded. This brother, who, of course, was the twenty-first Lord Dacre, had fought well and bravely in the Peninsular War, and in 1824 assumed the surname of Trevor. His death occurred in 1853 upon which his eldest son inherited, and, he dying in 1890, was followed by his brother. Henry Bouerie William Trevor.

The latter had carved for himself a political career of considerable merit, as for some twelve years he filled the high office of Speaker, whilst he became a Privy Councillor, and in 1834 was created Viscount Hampden, It was only for a very short time that. <he enjoyed his new inheritance, as he died in 1892, when the estate passed to his eldest son» a Captain in the Coldstream Guards who, however, followed in his father's footsteps to a certain degree, entering Parliament, first of all for Hertfordshire, and later for the Stroud Division of Gloucester."

The following table hopefully makes the possession clearer:-

	Lord of the Manor	Tenant
1216 -1272	Bigod	
	Sir Hugh de Lopharn	
1305	Sir John de Cotecourt	
	Sir Hugh Burnell	Unknown
By 1524	Bartholomew Brokesby	
By 1709	Charles Fox (according to Church records)	
By 1750	Thomas Brand	
1771	Lord Dacre	
1842	ditto	.William Nice
1844	ditto	Daniel Kent Long
1884	Viscount Hampden	ditto
1892	Rt. Hon. Thomas Walter, Viscount Hampden	ditto
1919	Charles Foster Ryder	Henry Alfred Saltmarsh
1937		Robert Custerson
1951	Richard Stephen Ryder (occupier)	

The Lord of the Manor and St. John's College, Cambridge, have always been the principal landowners in the village. It is said that, at the turn of the century, the most marvelous sight of all was to see as many as 28 pairs of horses leaving from the Hall in the early morning to plough the fields. In 1935 there were 2 cowmen and 2 horsemen, with 14 horses, all Suffolk Punches. During the Second World War, three landgirls were employed at the Hall farm when it was mixed arable farming with a predominance of Brussel sprouts. There was a large dairy herd at this time, and stables and bullock yards existed where the pig farm is now, whilst some tractors were also used.

When Mr. R.S. Ryder first lived at the Hall in 1951, there were about 20 men and boys employed on the farm (most, but not all, men living in the village were still employed in agriculture at this time), but the number of cart horses by then was reduced to two, for tractors had finally come into their own. An Ayrshire herd of dairy cattle was started which lasted for about 13 years, together with a small herd of pigs, and there was a flock of breeding ewes. The crops were sugar beet, potatoes, corn and beans. Over the years the pig farming has extended until today there are 4,000 pigs. Crops grown are wheat, barley, oil seed rape and field beans.

PARISH REGISTERS OF GREAT BRADLEY

The earliest register of the parish dates from 1703 for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, although "West Suffolk Illustrated" which was published in 1907, records that register's date from 1560. The present whereabouts of the earlier registers is unknown.

However, from the register beginning at 1703, we learn of the population of the parish is as follows [I have followed the original text as closely as possible, although any words in brackets or underlined are my own]: -

1. "The number of Souls in Great Bradley

	Xmas 1733	June 1755	January 1 st 1785
On East Green	74	84	119
On Long Acre Green	30	30	46
On <u>Over</u> Green (Could this be Evergreen?)	35	28	20
In the Duddery (near the present post box)	4	59	166*
In the Town End	78	72**	
Total	221	273	351

Increasing last 32 years - 78 souls" *Duddery & Town End ** Town End and Hall

2. The following are also extracts from the same register; (included are those areas which are still familiar or are of interest to us today): - "A true Terrier (record) of the Glebe as it was exhibited at the Primary Visitation of the Rt. Revd. Father in God Charles Lord Bishop of Norwich the 20th of July 1709.

Item: 8 acres 1 Rood of Arable lying in the Common Field called Grove field parted by a Highway Butting Eastward on the land of St. John's College, and Mr. Fox's Westward on the Highway that leads to Burrough Green, on the South partly on a point of the Glebe and partly on Mr. Fox's land £8.10s.0d

Item. 2 Acres of Arable in the Common field called Waterfield Cutting Northward on a Grove called Ravenshold (now known as Raven's Hall) towards the South on a Brook running through the same Common field, Westward on St. John's College, and on the other part on Mr. Fox's. £2.0s.0d

Item 5 Acres and 25 P of Pasture enclosed and call'd by the name of the Hopground butting Westward on the highway that leads to Thurlow £5.0s.0d

Item 3 R lying in the bottom of the Common field called Millfield, cutting Eastward on the Lands of Mr. Stephen Fox, and on all other parts on the Lands of the Above-mentioned Charles Fox Esqr. Lord of the Manor of Great Bradley"

3. "Ashes (ash trees) Transplanted into the Hopground by William Nash, Rector

Nov.	11th 1751	57)
Nov.	28th 1752	57) About the Homestall
Nov.	14th 1755	47)

161 Tot "

4. Church goods purchased 1729 - 1766

"One Silver flaggon guilt	weighing	24 ounces
One Chalice	weighing	7 ounces
One Silver plate	weighing	5 ounces
Cnc Carpet for the Communion table of Green Cloth		
One pulpit cloth and Cushion of purple		
One fine dinner Cloth and Napkin for the Communion Table		
One large Surplice of Holland with a Silk hood		
One black Burying Cloth		
2 Common Prayer books		
One large bible of the last Translation (this item has been deleted)		
The Book of Homilies		
3 Bells with their frames the least that do weigh about		
6 Hundred, the 2nd 9 Hundred, the Biggest 12 hundred "		
"One large Bible of the latest and best Edition with One new Communion Prayer book were		
bought April 20 1729 by	Ralph Westley)	Church
	William Linton)	Wardens
	Willaim Nash	Rector"

"New Common Prayer Book

Hood Linen 1766"

"A New Hood bought Easter 1738 William Wheeler

A New Common prayer Book 1743 Jeffrey Hammond Church Wardens"

5. "Tha Dispute of the Land call'd Bacon Ditch betwixt Great Bradley & Little Thurlow. Mr. Nash left it as he found it never received any Tithe from it, tho' he had great Reason to think he had the Right, but is to commence a Law Suit."

In a later Register, dated 1786-1862, we are given the following information:

(1)	1811	1821	1831
Inhabited Houses	55	89	98
By how many families occupied	70	97	101
Houses now building	00	1	00
Uninhabited	00	00	00
Families chiefly employed in agriculture	55	87	84
Families mainly employed in Trade, Manufacture and Handicrafts	15	10	17
Males	205	243	266
Females	207	244	261
Total of Persons	412	487	527

These three schedules are signed as follows: -

For 1811 by Thos. Easle & Philip Danby

For 1821 by Wm B Nice and Philip Danby

For 1831 by Hanslip Nice and Philip Danby

(2) Houses occupied by two families each

At East Green One by Wm Coping & John Pearson

One by Beavis & Gibson

One by Edgeston & Myzen

One by Sharman

One by Rollinson & Copping

One by Wakeling & Moat [?]

Below Bradley Hill One by Thos & Wm Paxman

At Over Green One by John Hoy & Disby

In the Duddery One by Jas. Smith & Goldstone

One by Radfer & Ranner

Town End One by John Paxman & Frischen

One by Rob Finch & Hullier

One by Radfers & Hazel

One by John Goodchild & Wm Danby

One by Stiff & Balding

One by Wm Paxman and Goodchild

EAST GREEN

Most people know that St. John's College, Cambridge, owns land in Great Bradley but the question of how this came about has frequently arisen. The records of the College reveal the following story. A monastic hospital of St. John the Evangelist was founded on the site of St. John's College, Cambridge c. 1208, for the poor and infirm but not for lepers.

The Lady Margaret Beaufort, having founded Christ's College and having endowed a chair of Divinity, was intent on endowing further Westminster Abbey. John Fisher, bishop of Rochester and Lady Margaret's confessor, persuaded the countess to invest her money in another Cambridge college instead. On her death in 1509, however, nothing was said in her will about this and Fisher had to prove that she had 'made and declared her said will often and many times by the mouth' to convert St. John's Hospital into a College of which she would be 'chief foundress and patroness'. The remaining monks of the hospital were then duly evicted, and on 9 April 1511, the new college was born, replacing the hospital. As East Green Farm, or Warren's Farm, as it was then known, was owned by Lady Margaret, it became part of the endowment granted to the college by her executors, and it was at this stage that St. John's became the landowners. The original hospital already owned land at Hanley Hill, Great Bradley in 1470, so it was merely consolidating its lands in the area when it inherited East Green in 1511. (It is assumed that the land referred to at Hanley Hill is Evergreen Farm, purchased from the College in 1945 by the Vestey estate, thus accounting for the two cottages at the bottom of the hill being marked "St. John's College").

In 1737, according to a Terrier of the farm made upon renewal of the lease to the "Honble James Vernon", the acreage of East Green farm was 402 acres but, in addition, there was "land in Great Bradley aforesaid which belong to the said Farme and are Lett apart from It to the Reverend Mr. Nash containing in the whole about Forty Acres". Today, the farm, which has more recently become known as College Farm, has 470 acres.

From the same Terrier, we learn that, "The Dwelling House, Barns, Stables and Outhouses are all in good and Substantial Repair being lately made so by the said Mr. Vernon since He tooke the Lease from Mr. Coredale Firebrass. Except the Brewhouse which must be Rebuilt".

It is possible to trace more details of the farmstead, crops and tenants from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries from surveys and terriers held by St. John's College Archivist's Office, but it is felt that that this subject could be further explored on another occasion.

The present tenancy began under the following unusual circumstances. The grandfather of the present tenant, Mr. W. Cowans, became tenant of the farm in 1931, when he moved to Great Bradley from Northumberland, where he was a hill farmer, grocer, and owner of a small mill. He became tenant almost by accident; for he was visiting friends in Norfolk at the time and from there was asked to accompany a friend who was himself interested in renting the farm at East Green. Upon seeing the property, Mr. Cowans decided he would like to take it over. The decision having been made, he promptly moved his total stock, including a flock of 500 ewes, implements, and personal possessions, on a specially chartered train, which finally arrived at Dullingham station. From there, the stock were driven by road to College Farm. The total removal was such an unusual event that it was reported by many national newspapers at the time. The tenancy of the farm has remained in the Cowans family for three generations.

Water supply on the farm had always been a problem until that time. Although six ponds had been dug in separate fields, Mr. Cowans did not consider these sufficient for his stock and, under the tenancy agreement, he persuaded the College to accept responsibility for solving the problem. Holes were bored to a depth of 300 feet and water was eventually piped to the surface and stored in huge tanks, which could still be seen on the farm until a few years ago. Of the six original ponds, only two remain.

In those early days, there were as many as 250 head of cattle, including 100 cows, on the farm, tended by seven men. The farm was self-sufficient in that it grew all its own animal feed. During the second world war, much of the grazing land was ploughed and turned over to arable farming, although cattle are still kept at College Farm. The front of the house dates from 1860, but the earlier rear part dates from about 1760 and consisted of three storeys until 1967, when the third storey was removed. The house is large, with well-proportioned rooms and a very elegant staircase. The addition of the front half resulted in some of the rooms being on different levels, thus adding to the interest of the property.

The population of East Green remains something of a mystery. We know that in 1733 the number of souls living there was one-third of the total population of the whole village. Is it possible that East Green was the original village as opposed to the area of the village as we know it today being the main part? It is remembered there were three more cottages along the lane past Pettett's Farm, two on Horse Pasture Farm (across the fields behind College farm-house), two or three on the triangle of ground opposite Wychwood (formerly the Three Tuns pub), and six or seven more along the road towards Cowlinge. There are also indications that other houses existed alongside the Three Tuns and opposite the drive to College Farm. Most of the footpaths in the village are in the area of the church, the river and East Green, and it must be remembered that footpaths did not exist purely for pleasant walks in those days, but as a convenient short cut in order to reach a desired destination. When one remembers that St. John's College and the lord of the manor of Great Bradley were the two largest land-owners of the village, it is not difficult to imagine that the agricultural workers' cottages would not be too far removed from the farmsteads.

It is known that East Green used to have its own brass band, another fact supporting the theory that this area was populated by a much more thriving community than the acknowledged village area of today.

FILEDS AND AREAS SPECIFIED IN THE TITHE MAP DATED 1842

Derrid Wood	*Trefoil field
Fennells Wood	Upper Beyseys
*Buckles Ley	Shadrans
Paxmans Meadow	Hunts Hall field
First Waterfield	Upper Hunts field
Grove Field Bottom	Lower Hunts field
The Shalms *Paxmans	Burnt House field
Pightle	Tobbels field
Upper Up ton	Park Wood and Short Ridges
Small Breed	Spong
Great Breed	Rushfield
Occupation Road	Handy Bar Grove
Calves Pightle	*Wadgells
Hobs Croft	Great Hartwood field
Great Brackett field	Tunneys field
Little Brackett field /	Hindsley and Loose Ley
Sipsey Mead	*Eyles Ley
Chitlocks	Fennells Meadow & Hartwell
Nut Tree'close	* Lammas Meadow
*Slough pasture	Great Sandpit including pit
Maynards close	Little Sandpit
Earls pit field Long Acre	Camping Close
	Long Acre, colloquially referred to as 'Lanacre'

Ley	Land temporarily under grass
Lammas	1 st of August. Formerly the Harvest Festival
Trefoil	Probably clover
Slough	Quagmire
Pightle	Small field or enclosure, a close or croft
Eyles	Possibly land where barley was once grown
Wadgells	Possibly derived from 'wadge' or 'wodge' - a lumpy mass

GREAT BRADLEY CHURCH

It would be impossible to improve upon the comprehensive booklet written by R.W. Tricker in 1975 on St. Mary's Church, Great Bradley (copies of which are still available) but there are a few additional items, which may be of interest.

There is reputed to be a reason why there have been no graves dug on the West Side of the churchyard. There may be some superstition regarding this, or merely a practical reason, but it now seems impossible to unravel this mystery.

The three bells have been the subject of correspondence, still in our records (some dating back to the last century); from persons who made a study of church bells. Mr. Tricker mentions the bells, together with "a simply paneled Stuart chest, with three locks". A postcard, dated 1927, from Claude Morley of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History addressed to the Revd. W.B.C. Wilder, covers both these subjects:

"When with you on 28th, I quite forgot to ask, and can't remember your saying, whose are the arms of W & S on Bradley m tower? I guess it to be the coat of the Brokesbys, who presented from 1437 to middle of next century; Thanks for telling me of the 1303 tenor Bell, it is quite correct; it was cast by Richard de Wimbis of London, Prior of Trinity Monastery in Aldgate, and is the oldest in Suffolk, excepting only one at Workington. The painted (ugh!) vestry chest is of circa 1620; the box standing against it, Georgian."

It is sad to record that the "simply paneled Stuart chest", decried by Mr. Morley because it was "painted", was stolen from the Church in 1979 and has never been recovered. We would gladly have it back today, with or without its coat of paint.

On another subject, John Seymour, in his "Companion Guide to East Anglia" (Collins, 1970), says, "There is some corking glass in the east window - of a Rupert Brooke-style young soldier in the trenches. It will be a collector's piece in fifty years time." Indeed, this window is hauntingly beautiful. It was dedicated by Burnard Wilder in 1919 to his young son Rex, who was killed in the First World War.

In 1894, when extensive repairs were carried out by Richard Hayward, Builder, of Great Bradley, the total cost was £278.5.0d. Today, our Church needs fourteen thousand pounds spending on the fabric to keep it in repair. Because the Church of St. Mary's has provided such an invaluable source of information in the compilation of this booklet, all monies resulting from sales will be donated to the Church.

THE WILDER FAMILY

For more than a century, the Wilder family has had close connections with the parish Church of Great Bradley. The Rev. John McMahon Wilder had a total of 17 children, of which the eldest was Charles C. Wilder (born 1842, died 1880), the second eldest John Trafalgar Wilder (born 1843, died 1892), the second youngest, William Burnard C. Wilder (born 1866, died 1931) and the youngest, Percival H.E. Wilder (born 1868, died 1942), and it was in this order they became Rectors. (As you will note, there was a space of 26 years between John and Percival). In his Sermon Register, Burnard wrote not only of his family, but about the members of his flock, their illnesses, behavior, their attendance at Church, the weather, the condition of the roads, the members of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, village celebrations, his servants, and numerous other subjects, until one is able to obtain a fairly accurate picture of social and economic conditions of the period. Unfortunately, permission has not been given to produce Burnard's notes in full, but some of those relating to general matters are included here. Perhaps one day the opportunity will arise for his complete notes to be made public.

He was, without doubt, the greatest "character" of all the Rectors of our church. He is reputed to have had coins made inscribed "1 pint" and "1/2 pint". The story goes that if the male members of his congregation attended Church once a day they were given a 1/2 pint token and, if twice a day, then they were given a 1 pint token. These tokens could be exchanged at the pub for the relative quantity of beer!

Percival, the much more gentle brother, was followed in turn as Rector of the Parish by his daughter's husband, the Rev. E.S. Barrington Barnes, from 1942 to 1952. The Rev. and Mrs. Barrington Barnes still live at Thurlow. Burnard's last surviving son, Eric, was a regular visitor to Great Bradley church until his death in 1980. His ashes are interred in our churchyard.

SERMON NOTES OF JOHN T. WILDER (dated 1873-1892) AND W. BURNARD WILDER (dated 1892-1920)

In 1873, John T. Wilder records the following in a notebook:

"5th - 14th July.

Began cutting 5th July - 14 acres, good crop. The 4 acres coarse so stacked in the yard by itself. Webb of Boro' Green and John Taylor of Carleton [sic] cutting, at 5/- and 1 gallon of tea per acre - they did it well. From the 5th to the 12th, a beautiful fine week got up the 8 acre Park Piece in beautiful order, 13th, 14, 15 & 16 very wet and stormy. Carted the 4 acres and 2 acres, the latter piece not thrown out but made on little grass cocks. Beer £2.10.0, Thatching, Polly Taylor 1/6d. Extras 15/-." The whole of this work was carried out by men named Taylor, Webb, Thurgood, Desborough, Paxman, and 'Women'. They were involved in Cutting, Making Hay, Thatching, Burning, Digging, Tarring places. Total cost £9/18/2d.

On Monday, 23rd February, he writes, "All union men locked out by the farmers on the 20th."

There continues until September 1874, an account of work carried out by various men. The tasks involved Stubbing, Ditching, Burning, Trimming Stacks, Cleaning Cesspools, Digging, Cutting, Thatching, getting Potatoes up. Well Digging. For this work the men were paid something between 6/- and 13/- per week, with extra at harvest time.

After this date, he begins to record his Sermon Notes in the same book, with accounts of the sums collected in the offertory and the name of the person giving the sermon (sometimes there were visiting clergy and sometimes John T. Wilder preached at neighbouring churches). He also records whether or not he had good congregations. It seems that most attendances were either good or very good, although we have no idea of how many people attended. For instance, on Advent Sunday, 1885, at the 11.00 a.m. service, the Preacher was J.T. Wilder, there were 11 communicants, the sum collected was 10/2d, and it was a wet day, with a good/congregation. On 9th March, 1879, the Rev. J.M. Wilder took the 11.00 a.m. service and he reports, "A fair congregation, and attendance of Lads especially good. The farmers also. A scarcity of Women and Labourers. In afternoon (3.00 p.m.) a very good congregation but "2 farmers present. The good conduct was very laudable but the Hats of the Men were put on before leaving the Church."

On 6th January, 1886, it is recorded, "Fire smoked, so had to close service." From this date, we are rewarded with other tantalising snippets of information such as, "Bad in left foot, got on as well as I could"; "Seedy with influenza - no service"; "Chapel School Anniversary (1891)."

W. Burnard Wilder then records, "The Rev. R. Jackson of Little Thurlow took sole charge of this parish from March 28th 1892 until August 7th 1892," and from this date, Burnard becomes the rector. On 7th May, 1893, he records, "Had no music at the Services, owing to the incompatibility of Miss Beards' temper. She received her notice to quit on May 6th. D.... came over and preached on both occasions. He foams at the mouth!!" And on 4th June - "The Chapel Anniversary. S. School had only 12 children. It thinned my congregation in the evening." On November 19th of the same year, "A very heavy snowfall, with strong wind. Roads practically impassable. Had only 6 adults in aft."

26. 6.1887: Jubilee Sunday. Very full church - 160 present.

2. 9.1888: In the School Room.

30.11.1890)

21. 1.1891): -The frost left end of this week. This winter of '90 to this date of '91 - sharpest and longest since 1860. Chapel School Anniversary.

6.12.1891: This appears to be the last time J.T. Wilder appeared in the Church.

W.B Wilder takes over the living

31.12.1893: A reformation of the Choir was undertaken today, some men having joined.

4.1894: Had Service in the School room because the Church was undergoing repairs.

29. " : On this day the Church was re-opened after having been closed about 3 months. All the Services during this period were held in the School room.

10. 3.1895: Mrs Wilder was delivered of a son on the Saturday night

The Sermon Register from 1895-1906 is missing

28. 4.1907: generously gave me £1 for erecting church- yard.

25. 8. " : Chapel had an outdoor service, poorly attended.

15. 9. " : Had some insubordination from some Sunday School boys.

22. 9. " : During the last month B... and I have been digging up the top end of churchyard, and burning it. Tonight the last of it was burnt.

6.10. " : The D... boys caused a lot of trouble today, so that I had to complain to the father after service in the evening.

8.12. " : Nasty weather. Chimney smelt owing to its having been re-blackened.

5. 1.1908: Very sharp weather. Ice bears and is good. I went to Branches Park (at Cowlinge) on Saturday and played hockey on the lake.

19. 1. " : Mr. Smith consented to become Rector's Warden. Roads very muddy.

Ash Wednesday: Had most of the School children at a children's service at 11 a.m.

Lady Day t Mrs. Smith gave members of Mothers' Union tea at 5 o'clock and afterwards they attended 7.30 service. Nasty wet day. About 6 sat down to tea.

20. 4.1908: 5" of snow fell, but quickly disappeared during the next two days. Again on Thursday, April 23 snow began to fall at 2 o'clock and continued.

2. 8. " : Beautiful day. Mary Smith happened to be unwell the playing fell on Mrs. Smith, who had no choir.

15.11. " : Held Jumble Sale on Saturday the 14th - realised £8/11/-.

20.12. " : The Parish roads for the last month have been in disgusting condition.

24. 1.1909: T. . . came, proved ineffective in stables and garden, but more useful in the house, into which he has been imported.

4. 7. " ; Had Church thoroughly cleaned. Weeded paths, etc.

26. 9. " : During the past week, augmented the choir by the addition of some lads. Sang well this a.m. service.

17. 5.1910: I went to marry Percival [his brother] on 12th May. King Edward VII died at 12 o'clock Friday night, May 6th.

20. 5. " : Hold a 'Memorial Service' on behalf of King Edward VII at 3 p.m. The greater portion of the Parish attended. Very warm day. Full Church.

27. 5.1910: Mr Long returned thanks this a.m. for recovery from his illness. This Sunday, a new Harmonium was used, raised by gifts and otherwise, the Choir removing from the West End of Church to the seats in the Choir. Rather damp morning. Chapel held its "white frock" anniversary. 17. 7. " : Rev. C. Smith preached at 6.30 p.m. I read the prayers. This was relieving to me, after my long cycle ride to Grafham this Saturday.

23.10. " : Held a Mission Service in School at 6.30 and at 7.30- afterwards a service for men only which was attended by 6 or 7 only. The Church Army Van left the Parish on Friday for Boro' Green, after having conducted several Mission Services, sometimes with 'lantern' in the School room.

13.11. " : May and I went to Dr. Gilbertson's on Monday, witnessed eclipse of Moon on Wednesday, Nov. 16 - a beautiful sight

27.11. : Stove worked unsatisfactorily this day which gave rise to some acrimonious discussion at the hands of those who ought to have known better ! The week Dec. 11-10 was excessively wet. Floods appeared in the Bradleys, Thurlows and Wrattings.

9. 4.1911: The new Altar Rails and stone steps - a gift from Mrs. G..., were put in position during the week and looked very nice.

25. 4. " :Chs. Smith gave a Magic Lantern entertainment in the School room on the Oberammergau Passion Play.

21. 5. " : Mr. Green began putting in new Stone Window in Chancel during the week.

Whit Sunday: Dedicated new window at p.m..

6 " : Began cutting grass on June 16; in the same night, the 4 1/2 weeks' drought broke and rain fell. On Thursday, June 22, King George V Coronation took place. Order of events observed in this Parish was that all the Parish attended a short Coronation Service at the Church and afterwards a public dinner, resorting afterwards to a meadow where a Cricket match took place married and single sports for both sexes. In School, children were given 'Tea' and enjoyed games on Mrs. F.J. Smith's premises.

16.7." : No Choir men at a.m. Service. I suppose recovering from Thurlow Poultry Show which was held on Saturday.

23. 7 " : Removed organ to West End on Saturday, owing to the weakness, slackness and inefficiency of the choir. Better at West End from all points of view. During the week the Marble Floor in the Sanctuary was laid - a gift from Major H. Wilder in memory of his parents. This morning Mr. F... objected to the harmonium being at West End.

21. 8. " : This morning came to an end one of the driest and hottest summers known for many years - the drought, which had lasted since June 25, broke, and a pleasant rain generally. The Harvest is practically all gathered throughout the country. The rain, however, turned out to be but slight and the drought was again resumed.

23. 9 " : A slight rain fell on the night of Sept 23.

1.10 " : Rainy again this week. A very cold northerly wind has been blowing for the last 3 days

23.10 to 6.11.1911; Away on holiday. During our absence, the Queen had a stroke and died. Buried the Queen on Nov. 11, 1911.

30.12. " : Planted this day 14 young apple trees of various kinds on top back lawn.

31.12. " : Went to the Church with Rex and rang the old year out at 11.45 p.m. and the New Year in at 12.01 a.m. "May it be a happy one, both spiritually and materially to all"

29. 2.1912: Social club held a meeting tonight, which was addressed by Major Tippet (Conservative Agent). The beer and baccy proved too strong a temptation to some Churchmen.

10. 3. " : A good congregation to whom I preached very indifferently, not being able to deliver the Sermon with fluency and conviction.

19. 5. " : My birthday! May I improve in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, as my years lengthen! Prayed again for rain, altho' we had some in answer to last weeks petitions.

8.6." : A very heavy thunderstorm came on 12 noon.

16. 9 to 20. 9,1912: During the week, "Army Manoeuvres were held in the Eastern Counties. The important battle took place at West Wickham and Horseheath - result indecisive. Entertained several Officers during the week, they are camping on Meadows below the Church.

24.11. " : E... and. A... forgot where they were and indulged in talking and laughing. On being spoken to, they left the Sacred building. I shall have to see them privately about this. Have seen those two lads and they deny they were behaving improperly. They are without the grace of truth!

16. 2.1913: Mostly men, only 6 women (in the congregation).

30. 2. " : Poor congregation - nearly all men.

27. 4. " : This being Rogation Sunday, the Carlton Church Band under the leadership of Mr. C. Long arrived at the Rectory at 10.15 a.m. Processions were then made throughout the Parish, to East Green, Churchyard, Thurlow Road, where short services were held. The morning was windy and inclined to be wet. A Collection was taken at East Green which amounted to 19/8d. The band played Hymns at 6.30 p.m. A great many people were unable to find accommodation in Church owing to the large number. The Collections were handed to the Band to defray expenses, as also those of the Bandmaster, a Mr. Blane of "The Suffolks". The Band was provided with luncheon, very kindly, by Mr. D.K. Long, and tea was partaken of at the Rectory at 5 p.m.

17.'8. " < During the last week the pews on N. side had to be taken up to have partially new floors and joists.

4. 1.1914; Mrs. Tirrble (?) the new assistant School teacher at a.m. She undertook her School duties on Jan. 2.

11. 1. " : Had stove removed to Haverhill on Tuesday Jan. 13 to be relined and recovered (50/- d). Had same back in time for Jan. 18.

9. 8.1914: WAR broke out between Russia, France and England on the one part and Germany and Austria on the other on Aug. 8 1914. Special intercessory Services used this day on behalf of all engaged in the War. No D...sat a.m. or p.m. as they had motored into Bury. Will their Motor Car be commandeered for Army use purposes!

11.10. " : I offered up Eucharist with 'special intention' for all engaged in the War, and requested all to stay, although they might not be communicants. This all did - the children as well.

25.10 " : A long drought came to an end this week, copious rains falling on several days - it was of more lengthy duration than that which occurred in 1911.

29. 11." : On Monday, November 23. A telegram from War Office announcing the death of my 2nd son. Rex C.P. killed in action Nov. 19 1914, "R.I.P." Held a Memorial Service for the poor old fellow at 3 p.m. on the afternoon of the 29th. Church more than full. Service conducted by Rev. B. Fleming. May, who feels the blow-terribly, still in bed with neuritis, but slightly better today.

3.1.1915: The year 1914 was a most distressing one to us from many points of view. About March May became ill and in July it developed into neuritis. Confined to her bed for many months, under the doctor's hands. She has become somewhat better now. The European war, which broke out in August, was the cause of our losing Rex, who was killed in action. Thus I may say the year 1914 has proved the worst I ever experienced. May the New Year be of a different stamp! This Sunday has been set apart as a Day of Intercession in all Churches that we, as a Nation, may humble ourselves before God and petition Him to give us victory over our enemies. Special 'Forms' have been provided.

Palm Sunday: May had to reprove B... for giggling behaviour this p.m. H..' was probably the cause of the bad behaviour

Ascension Day:It being wet in the morning, I did not take the schoolchildren to Church. Mrs. MacKean is indisposed with influenza. A Miss Coward from Haverhill takes charge of school.

13.6.1915: Several lads, soldiers also present at a.m.

18. 7. " : 6.30 p.m. Church Parade of V.T. Corps of Newmarket, Saxon Street and Thurlow. Collection amounting to £3/14/6 given to Red Cross Society. I addressed mer ??? and numerous other civilians in meadow opposite "Fox"

22.8." : Boy scouts at a.m.Ditto some soldiers working in harvest here.

28.11. " :About 40 children ill with measles.

12.12. " R... was fined £3 at Newark for not having lamps on his haulage engine!

26.12 " :Leslie [Burnard Wilder's son] in winding up Motor, got struck by handle and broke his arm.

19.2. " :Mr. Felton, who had an accident - by being kicked By a horse - did not light Church fire.

7. 5.1916: The V.T.C. of Thurlow, 29 strong, attended Evensong under Sergeant Campling of Gt. Wrattling. Full Church.

21. 5. " : On Saturday night all clocks advanced 1 ^{1/2} hours.

3. 8." : 6 soldiers and 6 boy scouts at a.m. One soldier communicated. These soldiers and scouts are here for the harvest. Very wet week. Bad for harvest.

17. 9. " : The boy scouts have left the Parish.

1917: The whole of January and February - very cold easterly winds prevailing -with severe frost.

18. 3. " :Had a tramp working in garden from March 10 to 17.

15. 4. " : Visited Chap. General April 11 in London with the view of obtaining an Army Chaplaincy. Shall know later.

5. 8. " : I engaged myself to Church Army for war work Aug. 2 1917. Services in remembrance of Aug. 4 1914, our day of entry into the War.

26. 8. " : Very good congregation. 70 present at p.m.

From Sept. 2 1917 to Jan. 13 1918: I was away at Krummel, Flanders in charge of a Church Army Hut under the auspices of Preb. Carlile. During my absence, Services were held once a Sunday by the Revs. Gower, Ramsey, Jones - the major portion of the work fell on Mr. Ramsey. I returned to the Parish on Jan. 18 and resumed usual services on Jan. 20 1918.

20. 1. : Have had report from Mr. Ramsey on the scanty number of Communicants during my absence. This is deplorable.

24. 3. " : The month of March has been exceptionally fine and warm. The finest March for many years.

14, 4. " : Mr. Woods, of the Mill House, acted for the first time in the capacity of my 'Warden'

16. 6. " : The Rev. Wilson, Headmaster of Ardingly College, here to arrange for school boys coming for Harvest.

4. 8. " : Remembrance Day Aug. 4th. In the evening, held a "United Service" on my lawn.

11. 8. " : 30 boys from Ardingly College arrived in Parish for the Harvest on Friday,

18. 9. " : The Camp broke up on Sat. and left the Parish.

3.11. " Parish down with Influenza.

10.11, " : Influenza slightly better in Parish.

17.11. " : Thanksgiving Day for Victory over Central Powers.

2. " In afternoon held "Memorial Service" for those who had died in the War, particular mention being made of Parishioners (3).

5. 1.1919 : The prisoners of War present at a.m.

10. 3. " : Fire badly laid, therefore went out at 10 a.m.

27. 4. " : A heavy fall of snow commenced at 2.30 p.m.

6. 7." : Collection this day for providing a 'Tea' to all the Children on Thanksgiving Sunday for Peace. Full Church. 18/8d collected.

19. 7. " : "Peace Thanksgiving" festivities took place today. A cricket match of returned soldiers v. civilians of the Parish began at 11 a.m. Luncheon, given by the Rector, was partaken of by all the returned soldiers at 1 p.m. Cricket match resumed at 3. Tea for all the Children and others on the field at 4.15. Sports for Children at 7 p.m. Weather fine but rain commenced at 9 p.m. Some 40 or 50 people had a 'meat tea' at the Crown Inn.

31. 8.1919: Church closed on Aug. 27 to have new floors and benches etc. , School being used temporarily commencing Aug. 31.

1. 1920: Held a concert on Jan. 16 to raise Funds for "Roll of Honour". Realised £6/16/-

15. 2. " : Very fair congregation. More men than women.

During the week March 21-28, the stained glass East End window and stone work were inserted to the memory of Rex. Following this, on 28th March at Evensong there was a good congregation.

After 17th October 1920, Burnard Wilder records that his Notes are "carried on in new exercise book" but, sadly, this has not come to light

THE OLD RECTORY

The origins of this house are linked inevitably with the Church, and it is from the Glebe land documents dating back to 1709 that we first hear of the Rectory:

"A parsonage house with Barn and an Hayhouse and stable and a Cowhouse with 3 other little outhouses with, an Orchard, Gardens & Yard belonging those to containing 1 Acre, 1 rood." In 1794, however, we are given further details, and it would seem that the whole has been extended:

A Parsonage House, lath and Plaistor, partly tiled and thatched in part consisting of a Parlour, Kitchen, Backhouse, Dairy, Cellar and Pantry with Chambers over the same and two Garrots. Also one large Building partly lath and plaistor partly boarded and covered with thatch containing under the same roof Barn, Stalls, Cowhouse, Haybarn and Cart lodge. Also Pig Stys boarded and thatched and Privy with orchard Garden and Yards belonging thereto containing the Homestall called the Barn Close butting on the Highway to Burr. Green."

In 1834, the house is exactly the same as above, but in White's "Suffolk 1891-2" we are told, "the rectory house was built in 1876". It is known that one of the Wilder brothers travelled from Newmarket whilst he was Rector of the Church in Great Bradley, so it was probably somewhere during the period 1844 -1876 that the old parsonage was pulled down and the Victorian Rectory was built and re-sited, for the original rectory stood much closer to the present Post Office [box] probably near the Coach house. It remained the Rectory until 1965, when the combined parishes of Great Bradley and Cowlinge were administered by the Rev. A. Johnson, who lived in the rectory at Cowlinge. The house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. MacRae and it remains the same as when it was first built with the addition of a new wing (the part which is nearest to Mill Farm). The old Burwell brick elevations have also been whitened as Burwell bricks were unobtainable when the extension was built. At the same time, the coach house which stands in the ground was converted into living accommodation. Mrs. Barrington Barnes, who was the daughter of the Rev. Percival Wilder, recalls living in the Rectory as a girl, when there was no electricity and no water in the house, and a trap was kept in the coach house and a hunter [horse], in the stalls. The house occupies a very fine position in the village, commanding excellent views over Carlton.

THE COTTAGE

The Cottage, the home of Mr. & Mrs. I Radclyffe for the last 20 years was probably a farmhouse set amid a smallholding of 10 to 15 acres at one time, although the tithe map of 1842 describes the property as "cottages, orchard and garden" consisting of a little over 3 acres. The owner was then Philip Danby. The thatched part of the house is 17th century, and is certainly of the size and substance of something larger than a "cottage" as recognised in the days it was first built. Originally, this part had two exterior doors, two staircases and two inglenook fireplaces, but now has one of each, the one remaining fire- place being exceptionally wide and deep. The house consisted of a number of small adjoining rooms but, over the years, interior walls have been demolished to form a larger living area. The first floor windows are set deep into the thatch. It is complete with its own dairy and washhouse. The newer section was added in two phases, the first being pre-1920 and the second built in 1923. Because this newer part, in contrast to the old, is mainly south facing, the rooms are light and sunny, and it is this area of the property which forms the greater portion of The Cottage today.

The house is now set in about 8 acres of attractive gardens and paddocks. Until recent times, the present vegetable garden revealed the remains of two cottages. The range of outbuildings still in existence in the grounds are 'fascinating. All the buildings are adjoining. On the left-hand side there is a pantiled brick single storey structure with a large fireplace and chimney. It is difficult to imagine what the two interior rooms could have been used for unless the whole was a very small,, cottage. The alternative theory is that it could have been a bakehouse. Because the outer wall is curved, the second small room is almost triangular - most unusual and, if this was a cottage, one of the smallest and oldest in the village. Next door is a large ancient wooden store with loft above, and next to this a 17th century barn with three small windows. The barn originally had a Steep-pitched roof complete with thatch but, unfortunately, the roof was in such a poor state of repair when Mr. & Mrs. Radclyffe moved into their home they were obliged to remove the angle and replace it with a lower-pitched iron roof. Nevertheless, we are most fortunate to have in our village three good examples of 17th century barns - this at The Cottage, the second at Matthews Farm, and the third at Great Bradley Hall. Next, come the three brick stables, probably 19th century and, finally the last in the range, now a garage but most probably the original cow shed. All these buildings, although small, are of such age and variety that, collectively, they represent most vividly the changing architecture of husbandry throughout the last three centuries.

Between The Cottage and The Fox there is a wide track, known as Pump Row many years ago. There are no pumps there today, but it is remembered that this area served all the nearby houses with their supply of water; certainly there is one if not two wells in existence, although the second has not been located. The track leads behind the outbuildings of The Cottage and round a bend to a pond so deep it is reputed that a cart-horse drowned there many years ago, for all the cart-horses in the immediate area would be led there to be watered. The pond is banked along one side by a high flint wall, like many other walls in the village. In the paddock stands a small, single-room, wooden house with fire- place. This house, again, has a history, for it stood in the churchyard until some 50 years ago, and was occupied by a Jimmy Wicker. Wilder would take Jimmy a flask of tea each day and read to him a passage from the Bible. Jimmy was obviously a man of few words for one morning, after Rex had carried out his usual duties, he looked hard at Jimmy and finally realised he had been reading to a corpse. Jimmy had been dead for two days! Eventually, DK Long's daughter, Mrs Webb moved into the cottage. At the same time, the little

house was moved into the garden, and there it remains and can be seen close by from the road.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

The school, which was Church controlled, is first mentioned in "White's Suffolk 1891-2" as "an elementary school, attended by about 40 children". By 1916, it was attended by 74 children, when the schoolmistress was Mrs. Annie LackKean; she was succeeded in time by Mrs. J. Angood. Children from Little Bradley, Sipseley Bridge and from East Green (at one time as many as 45 children!) also attended Great Bradley School and they would be taught in one big and one small classroom by two teachers and a monitor. Most children left at the age of 12-13 years after they had passed the Fifth Standard, but there were some children who were able to pass before the age of 13; Mr. Harry Martin (Matthews Farm) remembers a girl called Norah Claydon passing at the age of 10. The monitor was always an exceptionally able child who was chosen to stay on at school, but acted in a supervisory capacity only.

Naturally, all children walked to school, and most of them brought food to eat at mid-day. For many, their meal consisted of bread-and-butter and jam with a drink, out of the brook. During the Second World War, Mrs. Martin cooked 44 school dinners on a 3-burner oil stove at her home, and she would wheel these meals down to the school on a trolley. After this time, meals were brought out to Great Bradley by the Education Authority and they were eaten in the old Primitive Methodist Chapel. Because of the lack of transport and opportunities in the area, most girls, when they left school, went into service, and the boys into farm work. Boys were paid something between 10s and 12s per week but girls were paid only 2/6d. The occasional boy would work outside the immediate area; for instance Mr. Martin's uncle walked to Haverhill and back each day, and he was obliged to commence duties at 6 am! There were short cuts over foot-paths, but nonetheless the journey would take a good hour to one hour-and-a-half.

The school was considered to have a very high standard of education. Each year there would be at least one pupil who passed the Scholarship at the age of 10 or 11, and those pupils would go on as boarders, the girls to the East Anglian School and the boys to the Edward VII School, both at Bury St. Edmunds. (In more recent years, the East Anglian School and Culford School have amalgamated to be known as Culford School).

When the village school closed in July 1967, Mrs. I. Rolph had been headmistress for 14 years, with one assistant prior to two years of her leaving. Mrs. Rolph was appointed to Ousden School, and her 17 pupils were transferred to the new school at Thurlow. Today, approximately 15 children to the age of nine years are transported by coach to Thurlow Voluntary Controlled School, whilst the older children attend the Middle and Upper Schools in Haverhill.

THE CONVERSION OF THE SCHOOL INTO A VILLAGE HALL

Prior to the school closing, a village hall had been the subject of several Parish Council discussions, for the need of such a facility had obviously been expressed by many parishioners. It was in the form of a mixed blessing, therefore, when the school finally closed in 1967, for at last a solution to the hall problem was found. On Thursday, 29th June, 1967, a Parish meeting took place when it was agreed that negotiations should proceed with the Diocesan Authorities with the view of purchasing the school for use as a village hall, and the following year a Village Hall Committee was established. Naturally, a major problem with such a project was the question of how to raise sufficient money to launch it. After the War, when it seemed that a new school in Thurlow might mean the early closure, of the Great Bradley school, a fund was raised in the village to buy the school for a village hall. The proceeds of this fund were invested and the total standing on the account at this time was £339. The proceeds from the sale of plots of land in Evergreen Lane were added to the fund as part of the land belonged to Thurlow Estate, the Parish Council was given 50 %, and £4,444 was contributed in grants from the Department of Education and Science, the West Suffolk County Council and Clare Rural District Council. The total cost of the scheme was £6,602, and the remainder of the money required was raised by various events organised by the Sub-Committee. Meanwhile, in order to keep costs as low as possible, buildings at the rear of the school were demolished, whilst some materials were cleaned for re-use, all this work being carried out by voluntary labour.

The Village Hall was finally opened officially by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C. on 30th June 1973. The Hall was filled to capacity for the occasion, with many people being unable to gain access and having to stand outside. Since that time, the Village Hall has proved to be of great benefit to the whole community, and the Committee have continued to improve the facilities with the installation of a false ceiling for insulation purposes, and recently a more effective form of central heating. It is used on a regular basis by the following organisations: -

1. The Playgroup on Tuesdays and Thursdays from .30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mrs. J. Mathias from Thurlow runs the playgroup for children from 2 years of age, and she can take up to 25 children, who do not necessarily have to come from our own village. Charges per term are very reasonable.
2. The Women's Institute, which was established in 1934, met at the various homes of the Committee until the Village Hall was opened. The W.I. now meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m., when a varied programme takes place. Usually a guest speaker is invited, and frequent visits are made to places of interest. Coffee mornings and jumble sales are held to raise funds, and there is a thriving Drama Group. The W I. Members have recently donated a tree to the village and this stands at the corner of Evergreen Lane

3. Keep Fit Classes, run by the Castle Manor Adult Centre in Haverhill, have also proved to be very popular; these take place on Thursday evenings from 8 p.m. to 9.30 pm. during the school term (for 5 weeks only during the summer term).

4. The Over-Sixties, who meet fortnightly on a Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This club is organised on a voluntary basis by Mrs. M. Knight and Mrs. O. Cowans and is very popular because of its social activities. It is possible to hire the Hall for private functions, and application should be made to Mr. D.C. Rowlinson of 17 Clarendale Estate, Great Bradley.

PARISH COUNCIL 1894 - 1981

Parish Council records show that the first meeting took place on 14th December 1894, under the new Local Government Act, and the school was normally used for meetings from that date.

It seems that in those days the council only met annually; however, it was as concerned then as it is today with the state of the roads and particularly the footpaths. Below are examples of some of the more interesting subjects discussed and comments made at Parish Council meetings: -

1. "June 7th, 1902: The best means of celebrating the King's Coronation (Edward VII) it was proposed by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Watson that all men over 13 contribute no less than 1s and that all between the ages of 13 and 18 contribute 6d and this will enable those who subscribe to bring their wives and families. This was carried."

2. "5th March, 1904 ... So little interest seems to be taken in this Parish in matters which affect all that only two were found to be present. Their signatures are herewith appended.

(Signed) W.B. Wilder

A. Jolly "

3. "27th December, 1906 (Copy of letter from Lord Hampden to the Rev. W.B. Wilder) ... I am not inclined to do anything at Great Bradley Churchyard if there is to be any question raised as to proprietary rights. In this case I would rather sit still and let others waste their substance in legal expenses over a matter, which is not worth a £5 note to anyone. If matters can be quietly and amicably arranged and Mr. Smith is willing to take away his shed and let the waste on which it stands revert to the Church, I will put up the fence as I proposed and throw the small corner piece which is now waste into the Churchyard. You were with me when the fence was staked out so that you can understand my proposal exactly without my further explaining it."

(signed) Hampden

4. "November 28th, 1910 to consider the question of exterminating the rats in the Parish. It was proposed by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Penchey that Messrs. Cooper and Brooke to appointed Rat Catchers in Chief assisted by two convenient lads, the wages to be 15/-s a week between the two chief Rat Catchers, as fixed by the District Council of this Union; and further that Mr. Wilder be appointed Surveyor in Chief to view the dead rats and keep a record thereof. The same to be buried at once. Rat destroying commenced in the Parish on November 30th 1910 and terminated on February 13th 1911, total numbers destroyed and buried 2506. Payment to Rat Catchers for same £8.5s.0d."

5. "June 12th, 1911 To take into consideration the Coronation Festivities (George V) It was proposed by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Webb that the men work for half the day on June 22nd.... Further it was proposed that all men pay 1s, all women 6d and lads up to the age of 18 - 6d Mr. Smith said his family were prepared to undertake the entertainment of all the schoolchildren, this to be his donation to the village fund With respect to all aged people it was agreed to invite them to the public dinner free of cost. The Chairman made a note that 7 dozen ginger beer were to be procured. ..."

Between 1919 and 1929 there are no records of minutes. The next entry is on 12th February 1930, when it is recorded: -

6. "A Parish meeting was convened to elect Parish Councillors, but as no one attended, the Chairman was later informed that he was the Parish Council!"

(Signed) W.B. Wilder
Chairman

7. "March 16th, 1935 concerning the method of celebrating the Silver Jubilee of George V on May 6th Mrs. Pemberton- Barnes' kind invitation to entertain the parishioners of Gt. and Lt. Bradley was discussed and accepted, so far as the adult population was concerned, to dinner. It was decided to entertain the children to dinner in Great Bradley and to have a parochial tea for all parishioners in the afternoon. Mr. Deacon kindly offered to lend his ground for sports between hours to be arranged. Mrs. Wilder was asked to consult with the wives of those present about arrangements for tea."

8. "April 24th, 1935 The Committee decided to celebrate the occasion as follows:

10.30 Children to assemble at the School. Flags to be distributed and march to Church.

11.00 Service in Church broadcast from St. Paul's Cathedral.

2.00 Cricket match; Married v Single.

4.30 All parishioners to be entertained to a Meat-Tea in Mr. Custerson's barn.

5.30 Sports and Dancing in Mr. Deacon's grounds.

10.00 Fireworks.

The Boys Band to be in attendance for the dance.

Hampers to be sent to certain aged or infirm parishioners

Again, between 1935 and 1946, there are no minutes, on 16th April, 1946, a new Parish Council was formed and a Special Meeting was held on 25th April of that year" ... by request of the Parishioners relating to the closing down of "The Three Tuns", the chair being taken by Mr. R. Custerson. After discussing the matter, it was decided that the Secretary should send a letter to the Clerk of the Clare Divisional Bench to ask that it should be placed before them at the next sitting, the letter to recommend that "The Three Tuns" was not closed."

After this date, the Council met and still meets at regular intervals, subjects having come under discussion being mains drainage for the village, electricity for East Green, coppers for council house bungalows in Evergreen Lane, Great Bradley's entry into the Best Kept Village Competition (which we finally won in 1966), street lighting, planning applications, speed limits, and the provision of a Village Hall.

One of the most important items discussed in recent years followed a Public Notice published in the Cambridge News on Friday, 24th January 1969. The essence of the Public Notice was that the Essex River Authority planned to construct boreholes, trial pits or other works and to install and operate machinery or equipment for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the subsoil, and the lands over or under which the Notice would be exercisable were parts of; Brinkley, Burrough Green, Dullingham, Kirtling, Stetchworth, Woodditton, Carlton cum Dullingham, Weston Colville and the greater part of Great Bradley. The point of this operation was to eventually construct a reservoir. In other words, most of our village would have been under water!

Needless to say, this proposal caused general alarm and consternation, and the Parish Council promptly met to discuss the matter. As a result, on 7th February 1969 letters were sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Parliamentary Agents, and the West Suffolk County Council, objecting to the application on the grounds of disruption of life in the community due to the flooding of housing, cutting of roads and consequent increase of traffic on alternative routes, spoiling of the character of the area, the loss of natural resources from the flooding and of good agricultural land, and the lack of present evidence that alternative water storage was not available, e.g. Wash Barrage.

Following this, application for planning permission was made by the Essex River Authority, to drill temporary bore-holes or other works at Great Bradley and Cowlinge, to ascertain the nature of the subsoil, and on 14th April, 1969 the West Suffolk County Council granted planning permission for this work to be done, upon the condition that "the sites shall be restored to their former condition".

The outcome of these lengthy discussions was that no decision to build such a reservoir was taken and it is unlikely that the reservoir will ever be built. The scheme was not included in the list of proposals considered by the Water Resources Board for augmenting water supplies in the area up to the year 2001. For the information of anyone new to the village, the present Parish Council members are:

Messrs. R.S. Ryder J.P. (Chairman)

E.E. May (Clerk)

W. Cowans

D.C. Rowlinson

A.W. Knight

Mrs. O. Cowans

Mrs. B.J. Buchs

TWO JUBILEES

We are fortunate in that we have written records of the two Jubilee celebrations held during the last century in Great Bradley, those of the two Queens, Victoria and Elizabeth II

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 1887 (recorded by the Revd. W.B. Wilder):

"At a Vestry Meeting held in the Parish Church on 23rd May 1887, it was resolved to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by giving the whole parish a dinner accompanied by games (and fireworks, funds permitting), and for the carrying out of this scheme the following names were selected to act on the Committee - Rev. J. Wilder, D.K. Long, Josiah Nice, George Dawson, Joseph Mitchell, Frank Smith, C. Rusby and Richard Hayman. It was agreed to hold the Jubilee 'Demonstration' on Wednesday, 22nd June, with dinner at 4 o'clock, preceded by a short service at 3 o'clock.

On Wednesday, 22nd June, the day was observed chiefly as a holiday. The number of parishioners being just 300, 280 met on the Square opposite the Fox Inn at ^{1/4} before 3 o'clock, headed by the Rector, the Clerk and the band playing God Save the Queen, the rear being brought up by the Donors of the Feast. Those people marched to the Parish Churchyard where a short service, authorised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was held, the Church being too small to accommodate so many on such a hot day. The Service concluded with the lesson being read, and all proceeded, headed by the band playing "Rule Britannia", to the park adjoining the Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. D.K. Long. Cold dinner was provided for everyone, all kinds of sports were indulged in and, during the afternoon, a meat tea was served and to finish up with, a splendid display of fireworks. It was Bradley Fair day so the swing boats were removed to the park (for the sum of 10/-s), which the children much enjoyed. The flesh was provided by voluntary subscriptions, the meat, vegetables and plum puddings were cooked at the several houses in the village, and to the credit of the parish there was not a single disturbance or the intoxicated person, though there was an abundance of beer and to spare. Tobacco, calico, tea and toys for the children were given as prizes and Mr. Pryke, butcher of Great Thurlow gave a shoulder of Mutton for the greasy pole which was won by Tim Gregory. The next day the meat puddings were distributed amongst the 20 persons who could not attend the feast.

The meat was supplied at 7/6d per stone by Mr. Pryke. Mr. Turner gave an 18 gallon cask of beer as a present, and the bread was supplied by Mr. J. Nice of the Mill at 5d per loaf. Subscriptions amounted to £29.0.6d, expenditure was £28.15.10d, leaving a balance of 4/8d in hand. The band has not been paid, so it was agreed to make a collection for them and £1 was handed over to them."

Queen Elizabeth II' s Silver Jubilee 1977 (recorded by Mr. D. Rowlinson):

At an Open Meeting held at the Village Hall on 22nd November 1976, initial preparations were made to commemorate the forthcoming 25th Anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. In the following months, various meetings and fund-raising events were held to finance what, for a small community, would prove to be a memorable 2-day programme of sports, competitions and merry-making following the Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday.

Monday, 6th June brought unseasonal weather for the children's sports but, despite this, an enthusiastic crowd of competitors and supporters turned up on Clarendale Green to encourage and participate. After a full programme, which included races for parents, prizes of Jubilee Crowns, Pens and Pencils were awarded. Later in the day, a Tea Party and Whist Drive was held in the Village Hall for about 30 senior villagers.

Jubilee Day, 7th June, was eagerly awaited, for the climax was to be a big celebration Barn Dance for everyone. At first, however, there was more serious business to be dealt with, starting with the judging of the best decorated house competition, and the judges had the unenviable task of selecting the three best entries from a large entry of a very high standard. In the afternoon, the Fancy Dress competition was held, the theme of "The Last 25 Years" being well represented with an imaginative display of costumes and ideas.

After the judging of the Fancy Dress, the entrants paraded with a large proportion of villagers to Clarendale Green for the Tug of War competition. This proved to be a similarly colourful occasion for which the sun shone and, after what proved to be some not-too-serious rounds, commemorative trophies were presented to the winners.

Next followed the Children's Tea Party, held at the Fox Farm Barn, involving a great deal of lovely food for the youngsters of the village, who surely will remember the event for years to come. Afterwards, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr. Stephen Ryder, presented commemorative mugs to all children up to school-leaving age.

Finally, to provide a fitting climax to the celebrations, the barn became the stage (literally, 2 trailers) for an Old Time Music Hall, featuring many Women's Institute members ably assisted by some male songsters. During the evening, a bonfire was lit in accordance with tradition, and the celebrations were brought to a close with dancing.

PUBLIC HOUSES

As elsewhere, the public house was, after the Church, the focal point of village life and the sole means of relaxation and entertainment for the many hard working labourers at the end of their day's toil. This probably accounts for there having been three public houses and possibly a fourth at one time, in the village. They were: -

1. The Fox
2. The Crown
3. The Three Tuns (East Green)

1. The Fox

The Fox used to be known as the Fox and Goose. In 1893, it was still a possession of the Hampden family, and it was purchased from the Rt. Hon. Thomas Walter Viscount Hampden (Lord of the Manor) and the Rt. Hon. Katherine Mary Viscountess Hampden by

Greens King in 1919.

Its earlier recorded landlords are as follows:

- 1842 John Bocking
- 1844 William Barker (also a wheelwright)
- 1855 Samuel Collett
- 1888 Richard Hayward
- 1916 George Shore (by this time it was named "The Fox")
- 1925 Mrs. Rose Anna Gooch
- 1937 Nathan Gooch

Nathan Gooch is remembered today as being the blind landlord. Strangers, unaware of his disability, would be astounded to learn that he was blind, for he would serve them with their drinks, take their money and give them change with the confidence of a sighted person.

Pitch penny was played at The Fox. A hole was cut into a seat and each person played with 12 pennies (2 people per side). Those who threw the most pennies into the hole won the lot. There was also a Pin Shed where skittles were played.

The Fox was described in 1936 by "Yeoman" in his "Pocket Histories of Suffolk Parishes" "Perhaps one of the most imposing landmarks in Great Bradley is the hostelry which still bravely flaunts the sign of the fox, and thus symbolises the ancient inns of England, for today so many of the local houses of refreshment bear a kind of mass produced sign, in which there is nothing either beautiful or enlightening. And the Fox at Great Bradley is one of those places which well deserves a touch of originality, for the building itself is not only old, with all the attractions of age, but congenial of aspect, and thus certainly inviting, so that it seems like some pleasant survival of a friendly past, existing nobly amid the less appealing atmosphere of an age far more hurried and much less colourful"

What more can be said about The Fox? Judging from the photo taken by "Yeoman" at this time, our sole surviving inn remains unchanged, apart from the fact that the white fence which partially surrounded the front in 1936 has been replaced by a hedge. The present landlord is Mr D Pugh.

2. The Three Tuns

The Three Tuns at East Green is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. More: The house is known as Wychwood. It was purchased by Greene King with Thomas Jenner's Kedington

Brewery in 1887, and was sold by Greene King in January 1947. The record of previous ownership is most interesting, and is as follows:

1815 Freehold of land acquired by Philip Frost, Blacksmith

1837 Philip Frost sold to William Chapman, Butcher, and

The Sale Notice described it as follows:

"A very neat Freehold messuage, with Grocer's and Draper's Shop, and an excellent Garden pleasantly situated in the Village of Great Bradley, together with a Cottage, large blacksmith's Shop with double Forge, Penthouse, Stable, Mangle Room, Woodhouse, and other convenient Outbuildings, and a neat paved Yard, in which is a Pump with a Well of excellent Water.

The Messuage, with Grocer's and Draper's Shop, and Garden adjoining, which is neatly fenced in, partly with a Stone Wall and partly with Iron Palisades, was late in the occupation of Mrs. Frost, deceased, and of which the Purchaser will have immediate Possession; but the Cottage, with Blacksmith's Shop, Penthouse, Mangle Room, Wood-house, Chaff-house, Piggeries, and Garden in front of the Cottage, are now occupied by William Herbutt, Tenant from year to year, at the rent of £8 per annum, including the use of the Tools in the Blacksmith's Shop, which the Purchaser is to take by valuation on the completion of the Purchase.

A small Plot of Ground in front of this Lot, containing about 27 yards in length and 6 yards in breadth, was formerly part of the Waste, and is held by Copy of Court Roll of the Manor of Great Bradley, and subject to the customary Fine on death or alienation.

Land Tax to be apportioned, 2s. Quit Rent, 2s. "

(Lot 2 on this Sale Notice was: "A Freehold inclosure of very excellent Arable Land, called Mill Field, or otherwise, abutting on the Road leading from Great Bradley to Cowlinge, containing 1a. 3r. 34p more or less, now occupied by Mr. Smith, at the Rent of £5 per annum).

After this sale, the owners were:

1865 William Chapman to Mary Chapman

1881 Mary Chapman to Fuller Chapman, Builder

1882 Fuller Chapman to John Price, Brewer (when it first became licensed property)

1883 John Price to Thomas Jenner's Kodington Brewery

1887 Thomas Jenner to Greene King & Sons Limited.

The Three Tuns changed hands several times after this. Mr. and Mrs More have in their possession a fine photograph taken outside the public house when a Mrs Nash was the landlady, and it depicts the landlady with her children several male customers leaning against a wall, and a man with a pony and trap.

It is remembered that, because of the low ceilings, darts players stood in a hole cut into the floor in order to give them headroom.

The pub finally closed in 1947, but it was always a very popular public house because it was the only one of the three in the village which had a cellar, so the beer was always cool (important, of course, in the days before keg beer).

Today, Wychwood has been very well converted, thanks to the efforts of the More's. The cellars remain, and it has additional rooms built on during the last three years, but it retains the charm of an old village inn.

3. The Crown Inn

The Crown Inn is known to have existed in 1842, for a Tithe Map of that date denotes the owner of "The Crown Public House Cottages and Pastures" as being William Paxman, whilst Richard Paxman was the landlord. In 1891, Christopher Richardson was landlord (it was known then as the Rose and Crown), followed by Richard Hay-ward in 1916, and Mrs. Sophia Hayward in 1925. It was purchased by Greene King with Kedington Brewery in 1887, when Mrs. Ann Richardson was the victualler, and was sold by Greene King prior to 1924. It is quite likely that, soon after 1925, the pub closed and became a private dwelling. After this date, Mr. A.A. Hayward (who was also a bricklayer and carpenter) is remembered as having been the sub-postmaster at the Crown House, but upon his death the Post Office was also closed down (It was probably after this date that the Post Office moved to the Fantails, next to the Crown, but there are no dates available to confirm this).

Mr. Will Hayward, A.A. Hayward's father, used to have a pony and trap which was available for hire to take passengers to Dullingham Station; at one time, there was a hitching post, with a ring in it, at the front of The Crown where customers could leave their horses. There used to be a well in the back garden of the public house, fed by a rising spring, and there was also a pump which served ten houses in the immediate area, including the Yew Trees (opposite) which was, at that time, three cottages.

In the 1930's, when the one petrol pump was established, many a passing motorist must have heaved a sigh of relief, for it was the only petrol pump between Haverhill and Newmarket, a distance of some fifteen miles.

In March 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Beavis bought the Crown House, and it was re-opened as a Post Office by Mrs. A.R. Beavis on 2nd October 1965. On 19th September 1976, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Knight took possession of the property, and Mrs. Knight became sub-postmistress. It has had two petrol pumps for many years, the petrol having recently been changed from Esso to Bulldog, and these pumps, together with the with the shop, provide key facilities for the village.

THE MILL

From details recorded by Mr. Frank Farrow of Dalham: Bradley Mill stood on the piece of ground opposite Mill House at the top of Bradley Hill. It occupied an unrivalled position, providing a fine panorama of the countryside surrounding, and it was a well-known landmark, particularly for the R.A.F. during the Second World War.

The Mill, as it is remembered, is said to have been built in 1839. It was a Tower mill, that is brickwork up to the top, which turns to keep the sails face to the wind. The turning of the top into the wind was done by hand, the miller pulling on an endless chain. This turned the gears on the kerb at the top of the brickwork (later mills had a fantail which turned if the wind changed); it had four patent sails, that is, sails filled with shutters as against common sail, covered, when at work, by a cloth spread over the sail frame.

The miller provided bread from the mill for the whole village and his services would have been invaluable in the days when Great Bradley was a comparatively isolated community. We have some most interesting records of the last miller to have worked there, a man by the name of Josiah Nice. His father, Hanslip Nice, was also a corn miller before him, and he, too, lived at the Mill House. Hanslip Nice was miller until approximately 1888, when his son took over from him. At that time, Jo Nice is described as farmer baker and miller.

In 1908, Jo Nice decided to have extensive renovations carried out on the mill, and for this he employed Hunts, the millwrights and General Engineers, of Soham. (Hunts were well known millwrights and they worked on most of the mills in this area from 1836 to 1954, when their business was sold). The renovations had almost been completed when a bad thunderstorm occurred, causing the miller and millwrights to take shelter in Mill House. A few minutes later, a flash of lightning struck the sails, and a tremendous amount of damage was done. The poor miller, having spent all his savings on repairs, could not afford the added expense, and a few days later he hanged himself.

This tragic event is recorded in the Church Vestry Notes as follows:

"A Vestry Meeting was held in the Vestry on April 20th, 1908, at which the usual business of Vestries was transacted. During the past year the Rector had the misfortune to lose, in an untimely manner, his harden, Mr. Josiah Nice, who died on Jan. 16, 1908. He lies beside his wife who had predeceased him some 4 years. For upwards of 30 years, he had acted as Rector's Warden, and the Vestry in silence recorded their sense of the loss of so long an inhabitant of the Parish."

And from other notes recorded by the Rector:

"On Thursday, 16th Jan. 1908, Mr. J. Nice committed suicide by shooting and hanging himself. He was buried at 2.30 p.m. on Jan. 19, and several people from Carlton and Thurlow, as well as some who seldom attend our Church in this Parish, were present at the funeral and stayed to service at 3 p.m."

It is not difficult to imagine how great a shock this incident would have been to the parish, and the mill was never worked again. It is recalled that Mr. Smith, who took over the house and farm, used to smoke hams in the bottom part of the mill and for this he used wood dust which came from the sawmill at Thurlow Hall.

From "Pocket History of Suffolk Parishes 1936":

"Further along the road is another old relic, but in this case rather a sad one, for here is but the stump of what once was a busy mill, whose sails for many years turned sweetly in the wind which so often blows across this delightful prospect of hill and valley. For certainly the prospect here is delightful, providing as it does a vista of fields tinted by nature into various shades from yellow to green, the whole intersected by hedges and dotted by stacks and a few red-roofed or thatched inhabitations, so that the panorama seems like a lovely picture transferred to canvas by the skilled craftsmanship of some pastoral artist."

And so the mill stood until 1949 when it had only the remains of two sails. By that time, there were two or three bad cracks in the brickwork and it was thought to be unsafe. It is a theory that if only steel bands had been fixed around the brickwork, it would have stood there now, a fine reminder of days gone by. Instead, it was pulled down, not without considerable difficulty, and all that remains is a mound of earth.

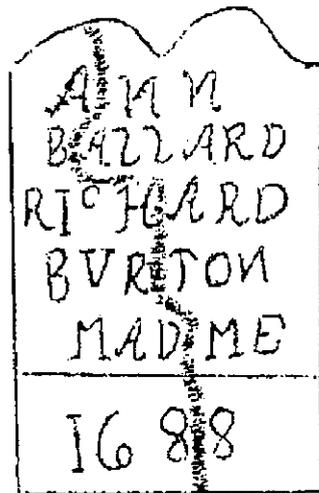
MATTHEW'S FARM

This old farmhouse, with its beautiful chimney, and its interesting buildings and outbuildings, has provided the village with important facilities in its past. Under the corrugated roof, the old thatch still exists. If you observe the house from the road, you- will see that it is divided roughly into four sections, but all adjoining. From left to right they are

- (1) The barn
- (2) The Primitive Methodist Chapel
- (3) The double fronted part of the house
- (4) A small single storey wooden building.

The Barn

From the front, the barn appears to be like many another old, black wooden building, but the view from the rear is truly surprising, for it is obvious that it dates back from centuries ago. It is typically Suffolk in character, with its pitched roof and great high door. Inside, it is divided into two halves, with steps leading up from one half to the other. It is constructed of marvellously strong, old oak timbers, one of which has a carving on it.



The whole building is constructed of intricate King Posts The barn has three small high windows at one end. The whole of this building is quite enchanting for it is in its perfect original state

The outbuildings, also at the rear of the house, again provide much of interest. The stables, which are unchanged, are divided into three - one for storing hay, one a manger and the third a stall. In the manger there is a strong old feeding trough which runs the length of the wall, and in the second an old, wrought iron hayrack. The floor of the stables is made of small-hewn, oblong bricks, again a sign of the age of the building. Nearby, there are other outhouses, including a work- shop and a brew house. The workshop contains many interesting items - several pairs of shears with different shaped handles, oil cans, a large kettle stand, a scythe with its original thick» strong handle, obviously made from a branch of a tree as it still retains this shape, and a double Beatrice burner; this is really unusual - it is a kind of mini portable oil stove, used for cooking - the original of the present-day Belling stove. The brew house was used years ago, when everyone in the village came to brew their own beer if they wished to do so.

In the yard there stands an old pump in perfect working order.

(2) The Primitive Methodist Chapel

This building is reached by two steps leading up from the road and it has shutters at the windows which were removed when services took place. It is a smallish, square room, which is used, at present, for a store but once inside, it is easy to imagine how it used to be. It has a continuous bench fixed to the walls of three sides of the room, where the congregation would sit, and on the fourth side the organ would stand and the minister would conduct the service. The room is whitewashed and because, years ago whitewash flaked off the walls, the walls immediately behind the benches are lined with a very fine rush matting, still in excellent condition. There are still a few pictures hanging on the walls which the Sunday school children brought for decoration. The most interesting item of furniture, not at all connected with the chapel but merely stored there, is an armchair with FIVE legs. The fifth leg supports a footstool, which can be drawn forward from the base of the chair if required.

It would be relevant to mention here what is known and remembered about the chapel. In 1891, the chapel was already established, for the Martin family were leading Methodists. Services were held each week, and the Harvest Festival and Anniversaries were also celebrated there. 40 children attended the services at that time and, after the Harvest Festival, it was usual for the produce to be sold off to the village the next day. Indeed, Mrs. Martin remembers her son being born on the day when one such produce sale was being held in the barn next door. The Rev. Rose from Haverhill was the last minister to take services there, and the Chapel closed 30 years ago. After this time, when no Post Office existed in the village, the pensions and stamps were brought out from Newmarket Post Office once a week and issued from the old chapel. This 'sub-office' was open for one hour on a Friday morning.

3) The House

This old farm house, which the tithe map of 1842 shows as being owned by George Smith, Corn Merchant, is surely one of the gems of the village. It has a large cellar (which is occasionally damp underfoot because it has a spring running up into it), complete with a wine rack; two staircases, one at each end of the house; six bedrooms, including two attic rooms each reached, again, by 2 separate staircases, one narrow and almost spiral. The Martins' present-day kitchen once housed a bread oven; the peel, the long-handled shovel used for taking loaves out of the oven, still exists. One cupboard halfway up the "spiral staircase" reveals another gem. The walls of this cupboard are papered with old newspapers dating back to the end of the Boer War, each item of immense interest, e.g. the mention of Pretoria and the War nearing its end (1902); advertisements for a set of dentures for 1 guinea or a single tooth for 2/6d, and Enfield motors and cycles. On passing from one bedroom to the next, one notices a cupboard in one corner. This cupboard reveals the bricks of the huge chimney breast, maybe 3'-4' thick, which rises through the house. The wall at the back of the cupboard has been boarded over but, if this were removed, it would be possible to walk through to the next door bedroom alongside the chimney breast. This is evidence that the downstairs rooms must contain great inglenook fireplaces which, at this time, are concealed by comparatively modern ones although these, in themselves, are quite interesting as they probably date back to the turn of the century.

(4) The single storey wooden building

This was a second kitchen, again now used as a store, the most interesting feature being the double arched fireplace made of brick, in which Mrs. Martin remembers there being a cast iron grate. Note the huge chimney from the outside, which is quite overwhelming for the size of the building.

The house was, at one time, divided into two, hence the two kitchens. It is known that an official of the Primitive Methodist Chapel occupied the left-hand side of the house when the chapel was so frequently used. Note also the tiny square shuttered window between the chapel and the house. From the inside, the shutter can be removed to let in the daylight and to let out the steam, for in the area behind this window there is a copper house, complete with the perfectly preserved old copper used on wash-days years ago. The matching boot scrapers on either side of the front door are also noteworthy - it is most unusual to see a pair.

ROSE COTTAGE

Newcomers to the village would be unaware that Rose Cottage (on the main road) has been enlarged to a considerable degree during the last five years. This charming cottage, with its timbered beams and pantiled roof, has been so cleverly renovated by its present owner, Mr. R. Walkyier, that it is impossible to see where the end section nearest the Village Hall has been added. The front porch, too, is a recent addition, but gives a very authentic appearance to the house. The interior is equally immaculate, and is a tribute to Mr. Walkyier's craftsmanship.

Rose Cottage once boasted a fine dome-shaped bread oven, constructed of brick, clunch and rubble, and capable of holding around two-dozen large loaves. This supports the belief that the cottage at one time provided bread for the local inhabitants, and in fact on the tithe map, dated 1842, the dwelling is marked as "bakehouse". Unfortunately, during the building of the North end of the cottage it was necessary to remove the bread oven, due to its dilapidated condition and in order to gain access to the new extension, but care has been taken to preserve the original hatch cover and this can be seen in the kitchen, formerly a lean-to shack or outhouse.

Whilst initial renovation work was in progress a number of oak beams were discovered, hidden under plaster board, in a past attempt to 'modernise' the dwelling. These have now been exposed and form a feature of the sitting room. The original staircase was narrow and encased but in a very poor condition and has been replaced with a pine open-plan stairway.

Traces of original pargetting can still be seen on the front walls and the cottage at one time had wooden shutters. The original plasterwork, when uncovered, proved to be of a lime, fine sand, and bullocks hair mixture, as used in the 17th century. Part of the original cobble-stone path around the cottage has been uncovered and left exposed. Great care was taken in building the new North elevation to use only material authentic to the period and all the oak timbers were obtained locally from two former dwellings - one at Westley Waterless, a former religious house, dating from the Tudor period and destroyed by fire in recent years, and another at Wood Ditton, known as Church Hall Farm, believed to date from the 15th century.

Pantiles to match the original roof were also obtained locally, and it is interesting to record that work on the roof revealed it had been 'removed' and replaced three times in past years, and was originally constructed of peg-tiles. A good roof is reputed to last around one hundred years and we can therefore assume that Rose Cottage has stood for at least three hundred years!

Work on the garden uncovered a quantity of large flint-stones and old red bricks, so many in fact it was possible to build two retaining garden walls. This gives rise to the possibility that there may have been a range of outbuildings, or perhaps even another dwelling on the site. Further excavation work in the garden produced a quantity of horse shoes, mainly of the type used for shoeing the 'Shires' which were the work-horses of the area. Also discovered were a number of salt-glaze pots (of the type used for pickling), two very early Medicine vials, and one or two early lemonade and ale bottles.

SUGAR LOAF

It is not known how or why this cottage is called Sugar Loaf, but it can only be surmised that it is so called because of its mansard roof, which is a rather unusual feature in villages of the immediate area. The original "cottage" part, probably 17th century, was as it stands now, with only the addition of a tin- roofed scullery. In 1972, the scullery was demolished, the "front door", as it was then, was blocked-in (for the single room had four doors in it), the narrow staircase leading up to the one bedroom was replaced by a wider and safer one, and one of the two accesses to the stairs was also blocked-in. The inglenook fire- place was exposed, to great delight, in perfect order. This, like many others in the village, is made of Tudor brick and goes right through to the roof of the house. It was necessary to strip off the old exterior plasterwork of the cottage in order to make it sound and, after this had been renewed, it was realised too late that it was not possible to replace a small amount of pargetting which had existed previously on the front wall .of the cottage, for this work must be carried out before the plastering is completed.

The modern part of the house, which was built in 1972, whilst being in complete contrast to the old, contains quite a few unusual interior features which will, hopefully, prove to be of architectural interest in years to come and will be considered of merit in their own right. It has been entered by its architects: Messrs. C. Bourne and Partners, of Swaffham Bulbeck, in national and international competitions but did not feature in the finals.

Until 1936, there were two thatched cottages at right angles behind Sugar Loaf, but these were destroyed by fire. Adjacent to Sugar Loaf towards Fox Farm, there were two other small cottages which were finally demolished in 1974.

(Recorder's note)

It is regretted it is not possible to record further details here of other interesting cottages in the village, for it is a subject requiring' painstaking work. Owners of properties not mentioned may rest assured that careful recording has already commenced, but it would be extremely helpful if owners themselves could let me have any details which would assist with this project.

THE POST OFFICE

A Post Office has existed- in the village since 1855, when it is recorded that Joseph Jakeling, who was also a blacksmith, was the sub-postmaster. He lived in the house opposite The Fox, presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher. We know that by 1888, Miss Ellen Plumb was sub-postmistress and grocer, and she and her sister lived at the house still known as the Old Post Office until his Emma Plumb died, aged 58, in 1911, having succeeded her sister as postmistress.

By 1916, Mrs. A.M. Haylock was sub-postmistress, followed by Mrs. E.H. Lane by 1925. During and since this time, it is believed that the Post Office moved to other houses in the village, including the Crown and Fantails, for a period, but it was transferred again to the Old Post Office from about 1952 when Mr. Jack Chapman was sub-postmaster for a number of years.

After Jack died, Mrs. A. Beavis re-opened the Post Office at the Crown House and it has remained there ever since, although Mrs. M. Knight has been sub-postmistress since she and her family moved to the Crown House in September, 1976.

The Old Post Office is one of the most picturesque houses in the village. The interior has been renovated recently and it is pleasing to note that its truly unique feature, the "jack" (an ancient elaborate, wrought-iron appliance on which kettles and pans can be lowered over the fire by pulling a lever) remains over the inglenook fireplace and is still in good working order. There is also a pump in the back garden, which worked until recent times.

CLARENDALE ESTATE

In 1966, land which had previously belonged to Mr. R.S. Ryder was sold in order that a mixed development of 40 homes could be built. By the time all these homes were occupied, the population of the village had increased by 50%, and it is probably of value today, when great concern is being expressed over the "dying" villages of Suffolk, to consider the change brought about by the advent of such a development in a rural area. Many of the properties were purchased at a reasonable price when compared to the market price of properties in the more heavily populated areas, particularly those in Cambridge. Whilst most people moving on to the estate originated from other areas of the country, young couples whose families had lived in the immediate area of the village for many years and who did not wish to leave their familiar environment but to remain within the village structure, were also accommodated. In other Suffolk villages where such development is not permitted, it is impossible, for economic reasons, for young people to purchase a property, and so the decline in population begins.

It would be unfair to say that the prospect of the proposed development was regarded with a little concern and apprehension by the older inhabitants of the village, for it is a natural instinct to resist change and to protect one's environment. However, these fears quickly abated with the advantages brought about by the development. It provided the village -with "young blood" and afforded new ideas for providing the whole of the community with a more active social scene. It enabled a playgroup to function, thereby giving the young mothers an opportunity to become acquainted. The "newcomers" have also demonstrated their willingness to be a part of a community and to integrate without intruding into the traditional village way of life. It is generally felt that the benefits have not been purely one-sided, however, for whilst the established members of the community have benefited from the introduction of new ideas, the newer residents have shown great interest in and have learned from the values maintained by the 'natives' of Great Bradley. On the whole it would seem that the balance struck between the number of houses built and the number of those already existing, some of which were hundreds of years old, was just about right. To have more could have upset the scale and created resentment - a "them and us" situation. As it stands, Great Bradley is accepted by most for what it is - an old village in a rural setting which has been realistically and vigorously updated by the establishment of the Clarendale Estate.

RISE, DECLINE, FALL AND RISE

Hence, we can see that in 1733 the population totalled 221 and by 1831 it totalled 527. Over approximately the next 100 years, population figures were as follows: -

1844 544

1855 542

1888 359

1891 317

1911 247

1921 215

1931 189

1979 300 (on electoral roll)

It would seem that by the last quarter of the 19th century the Industrial Revolution affected Great Bradley as much as other rural areas. People were leaving the land to work in the higher paid jobs in industry, and the rural life simply did not appeal to them any longer. It is interesting to note, though, how the situation has changed over the last 60 years. Slowly, the countryside has regained its attractions. Many families grew tired of suburban life with its accompanying worries; they wished to live their lives at a mere leisurely pace and, most important, they found that rural areas were less expensive places in which to live.

Who knows what the next 50 years may bring to villages such as Great Bradley? The number of adults employed in agriculture is probably below 20; men and women commute to towns such as Newmarket, Haverhill and Cambridge; the cost of that transportation is rising in leaps and bounds, and the rates in towns and villages are now on a par. Could it be that there will be another decline? We shall have to wait and see.

In 1855 the community was provided for by

1 Innkeeper

3 Beerhouse keepers (one of whom was a cooper)

1 Surgeon

1 Rector, together with his Curate

2 Tailors

1 Butcher

1 Horsedealer

1 Blacksmith (who was the sub-postmaster)

1 Carpenter

2 Corn merchants

1 Corn miller

1 Shoemaker

2 Shopkeepers

1 Bricklayer

Today, we have one innkeeper and one shopkeeper, together with two petrol pumps and a Post Office. It is true that we have other people of various trades and professions, but these people do not and could not rely on the immediate area to carry out their businesses. Instead, we have a milkman delivering daily, a baker delivering bread three times a week, and a greengrocer delivering weekly. For the rest, we rely on our bus service and our cars. Will the day ever come when we are again independent and self-sufficient as a community? It is unlikely. However interesting the past may have been, we must and should look to the future. Our predecessors changed, and WG must change.

As long as we keep our village a lively place in which to live, take an interest in what is happening around us and do our best to protect that which is left of the old village without stifling reasonable innovations, it is to be hoped there will -be something of note for future generations to cherish.

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GREAT BRADLEY HALL

Of all the houses in a village the one of the greatest significance is, and undoubtedly always was, that owned by the Lord of the Manor, and Great Bradley Hall is no exception. The present house is stated in Pevsner's "Suffolk (Buildings of England)" as being 17th century; it is certainly late 17th or early 18th. In about 1877, the Hall had a drawing room, two bedrooms and a dressing room added which, again, Pevsner described as "good 19th century", but there were quite possibly early 19th century alterations made as well.

The Victorian addition to the house is easy to observe from the road, for it is the wing which faces the drive and which is built at right angles to the remainder of the house. It has a Burwell brick chimney as opposed to the red brick chimneys of the original part, and its architecture is very similar to that of the Old Rectory. In other words, the original part of the house was one rectangular building, with the main entrance to it being half way along the complete structure on the west side, the house being of room-width depth. A dairy also existed in earlier days at right angles to the main structure of the house.

The Jacobean quarters at the rear of the house are spacious, light and airy, and the present dairy, which is large and pleasant, is complete with marble slab; here butter was made and stored until the early 1950's. A pane of glass in one of the scullery windows has remained intact and has scratched upon it

E.I.S. 1805 and Emma Tillet,
 Eliza Swann ,
 Martha Sumpter

 All at Great Bradley Hall Suffolk 1877
(Those were obviously servants at the Hall in those days).

From the kitchen quarters there were two staircases, one of which has now been blocked in. There are cellars underneath and attics above extending the whole length of the roof space. There is a spring under the kitchen window the water from which runs down into a pond in the garden.

The interior of the house is beautifully maintained, whilst the additions and alterations which have taken place over the years have been sympathetically constructed and have contributed a charm all their own to the earlier manor house.

It is the grounds and outbuildings of Great Bradley Hall, which are particularly exciting for here one is able to contemplate how the manor may once have been. It is possible that the original house stood on a higher piece of ground, which adjoins the land at the rear of the churchyard within the moat. Parts of the moat surrounding the earlier manor can be clearly seen on the south side of the churchyard, for they are wide and deep. It would be very odd, if in keeping with all medieval manors, there were not cottages clustered around the house and the church, but evidence for these has not been discovered.

The part timbered, part brick barn, which runs along the west boundary of the churchyard, is magnificent in its proportions. The timbered section is said to be late 17th century and has recently been cleared inside to reveal massive oak timbers of great height and length. The pitch of part of the roof clearly indicates that it was designed to take a thatch. On the adjoining brick section the words "Wright 1821" are carved on one of the interior beams. The whole area of the barn makes one enormously long, high building which is unique in the area. Indeed, this perfectly preserved building must be a showpiece.

Some years ago, a Roman coin, which was identified as that of Constantine, was discovered on the land belonging to the Hall. A brief summary of this period is described by Cootes and Snellgrove in "The Ancient World" as follows: -

"Order was restored by Constantine (307-337) who was proclaimed emperor by his soldiers at York in Britain. Realising Rome was too far away from the threatened frontiers, Constantine transferred the capital to Byzantium; which he renamed Constantinople (330). The West had its own governor; and later its own emperor. Although Constantine did not intend to split the Empire, from then on Italy and the western provinces were seriously threatened. Christianity made slow progress in Britain until the early fourth century. Then, under the protection of the emperor Constantine it came out into the open. Even so, it is likely that the number of Christians in the province was small and that most of them were poor. Because of this, very few traces of Christian worship have been found among Roman remains in Britain of the e third century Britain began to be threatened by sea raids from Saxons". (Little Bradley Church is of Saxon origin, thought to be 10th Century).

As Roman remains have been discovered in Great Thurlow, and there is a Roman Road between Horseheath and Withersfield, leading from Cambridge to Colchester (The Roman Road), it is not unlikely that the Romans were in Great Bradley, although further evidence of this has still to be revealed.

In all Kelly's directories of the last and present century Great Bradley Hall is described as being "anciently held by the Somerie family, barons Dudley". "Yeoman" in "Pocket Histories of Suffolk Parishes" explains the detailed history of ownership as follows: -

" When the third Henry was on the throne the manor of Great Bradley seems to have been held by the well-known family of Bigod, but shortly afterwards it was owned by Sir Hugh de Lopham, who in 1305 granted the manor, with the advowson of the church, to Sir John de Cotecourt, and Matilda, his wife.

Sir John was a person of some importance in the land. Amongst the high offices he held being the Governorship of St. Briavel's Castle in Gloucestershire, whilst he was an Admiral of the King's Fleet and was summoned to Parliament as a baron.

He was succeeded by his grandson of the same Christian name and this John also played a prominent part in affairs of consequence, both as a soldier and as a politician, fighting in the French wars and sitting in Parliament for some 43 years'. Through the marriage of his granddaughter, Joyce, to Sir Hugh Burnell, the manor went to the latter, but there was no issue, and for some years it is doubtful who actually held them. Eventually, however, we find it in the hands of Bartholomew Brokesby, whose death occurred in 1524 and following various changes, it came to Thomas Brand in the middle of the 18th century.

In 1771, Thomas Brand married the Hon. Gertrude Roper, sister of the eighteenth Lord Dacre, and the manor passed to their son, the twentieth Lord. He chose for wife a daughter of Admiral Sir Charles Ogle, but, dying without issue, his brother succeeded. This brother, who, of course, was the twenty-first Lord Dacre, had fought well and bravely in the Peninsular War, and in 1824 assumed the surname of Trevor. His death occurred in 1853 upon which his eldest son inherited, and, he dying in 1890, was followed by his brother. Henry Bouerie William Trevor.

The latter had carved for himself a political career of considerable merit, as for some twelve years he filled the high office of Speaker, whilst he became a Privy Councillor, and in 1834 was created Viscount Hampden, It was only for a very short time that. <he enjoyed his new inheritance, as he died in 1892, when the estate passed to his eldest son> a Captain in the Coldstream Guards who, however, followed in his father's footsteps to a certain degree, entering Parliament, first of all for Hertfordshire, and later for the Stroud Division of Gloucester."

The following table hopefully makes the possession clearer:-

	Lord of the Manor	Tenant
1216 -1272	Bigod	
	Sir Hugh de Lopharn	
1305	Sir John de Cotecourt	
	Sir Hugh Burnell	Unknown
By 1524	Bartholomew Brokesby	
By 1709	Charles Fox (according to Church records)	
By 1750	Thomas Brand	
1771	Lord Dacre	
1842	ditto	.William Nice
1844	ditto	Daniel Kent Long
1884	Viscount Hampden	ditto
1892	Rt. Hon. Thomas Walter, Viscount Hampden	ditto
1919	Charles Foster Ryder	Henry Alfred Saltmarsh
1937		Robert Custerson
1951	Richard Stephen Ryder (occupier)	

The Lord of the Manor and St. John's College, Cambridge, have always been the principal landowners in the village. It is said that, at the turn of the century, the most marvelous sight of all was to see as many as 28 pairs of horses leaving from the Hall in the early morning to plough the fields. In 1935 there were 2 cowmen and 2 horsemen, with 14 horses, all Suffolk Punches. During the Second World War, three landgirls were employed at the Hall farm when it was mixed arable farming with a predominance of Brussel sprouts. There was a large dairy herd at this time, and stables and bullock yards existed where the pig farm is now, whilst some tractors were also used.

When Mr. R.S. Ryder first lived at the Hall in 1951, there were about 20 men and boys employed on the farm (most, but not all, men living in the village were still employed in agriculture at this time), but the number of cart horses by then was reduced to two, for tractors had finally come into their own. An Ayrshire herd of dairy cattle was started which lasted for about 13 years, together with a small herd of pigs, and there was a flock of breeding ewes. The crops were sugar beet, potatoes, corn and beans. Over the years the pig farming has extended until today there are 4,000 pigs. Crops grown are wheat, barley, oil seed rape and field beans.

PARISH REGISTERS OF GREAT BRADLEY

The earliest register of the parish dates from 1703 for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, although "West Suffolk Illustrated" which was published in 1907, records that register's date from 1560. The present whereabouts of the earlier registers is unknown.

However, from the register beginning at 1703, we learn of the population of the parish is as follows [I have followed the original text as closely as possible, although any words in brackets or underlined are my own]: -

1. "The number of Souls in Great Bradley

	Xmas 1733	June 1755	January 1 st 1785
On East Green	74	84	119
On Long Acre Green	30	30	46
On <u>Over</u> Green (Could this be Evergreen?)	35	28	20
In the Duddery (near the present post box)	4	59	166*
In the Town End	78	72**	
Total	221	273	351

Increasing last 32 years - 78 souls" *Duddery & Town End ** Town End and Hall

2. The following are also extracts from the same register; (included are those areas which are still familiar or are of interest to us today): - "A true Terrier (record) of the Glebe as it was exhibited at the Primary Visitation of the Rt. Revd. Father in God Charles Lord Bishop of Norwich the 20th of July 1709.

Item: 8 acres 1 Rood of Arable lying in the Common Field called Grove field parted by a Highway Butting Eastward on the land of St. John's College, and Mr. Fox's Westward on the Highway that leads to Burrough Green, on the South partly on a point of the Glebe and partly on Mr. Fox's land £8.10s.0d

Item. 2 Acres of Arable in the Common field called Waterfield Cutting Northward on a Grove called Ravenshold (now known as Raven's Hall) towards the South on a Brook running through the same Common field, Westward on St. John's College, and on the other part on Mr. Fox's. £2.0s.0d

Item 5 Acres and 25 P of Pasture enclosed and call'd by the name of the Hopground butting Westward on the highway that leads to Thurlow £5.0s.0d

Item 3 R lying in the bottom of the Common field called Millfield, cutting Eastward on the Lands of Mr. Stephen Fox, and on all other parts on the Lands of the Above-mentioned Charles Fox Esqr. Lord of the Manor of Great Bradley"

3. "Ashes (ash trees) Transplanted into the Hopground by William Nash, Rector

Nov.	11th 1751	57)
Nov.	28th 1752	57) About the Homestall
Nov.	14th 1755	47)

161 Tot "

4. Church goods purchased 1729 - 1766

"One Silver flaggon guilt	weighing	24 ounces
One Chalice	weighing	7 ounces
One Silver plate	weighing	5 ounces

Cnc Carpet for the Communion table of Green Cloth

One pulpit cloth and Cushion of purple

One fine dinner Cloth and Napkin for the Communion Table

One large Surplice of Holland with a Silk hood

One black Burying Cloth

2 Common Prayer books

One large bible of the last Translation (this item has been deleted)

The Book of Homilies

3 Bells with their frames the least that do weigh about

6 Hundred, the 2nd 9 Hundred, the Biggest 12 hundred "

"One large Bible of the latest and best Edition with One new Communion Prayer book were bought April 20 1729 by

Ralph Westley)	Church
William Linton)	Wardens
Willaim Nash	Rector"

"New Common Prayer Book

Hood Linen 1766"

"A New Hood bought Easter 1738

William Wheeler

A New Common prayer Book 1743

Jeffrey Hammond Church Wardens"

5. "Tha Dispute of the Land call'd Bacon Ditch betwixt Great Bradley & Little Thurlow. Mr. Nash left it as he found it never received any Tithe from it, tho' he had great Reason to think he had the Right, but is to commence a Law Suit."

In a later Register, dated 1786-1862, we are given the following information:

(1)	1811	1821	1831
Inhabited Houses	55	89	98
By how many families occupied	70	97	101
Houses now building	00	1	00
Uninhabited	00	00	00
Families chiefly employed in agriculture	55	87	84
Families mainly employed in Trade, Manufacture and Handicrafts	15	10	17
Males	205	243	266
Females	207	244	261
Total of Persons	412	487	527

These three schedules are signed as follows: -

For 1811 by Thos. Easle & Philip Danby

For 1821 by Wm B Nice and Philip Danby

For 1831 by Hanslip Nice and Philip Danby

(2) Houses occupied by two families each

At East Green One by Wm Coping & John Pearson

One by Beavis & Gibson

One by Edgeston & Myzen

One by Sharman

One by Rollinson & Copping

One by Wakeling & Moat [?]

Below Bradley Hill One by Thos & Wm Paxman

At Over Green One by John Hoy & Disby

In the Duddery One by Jas. Smith & Goldstone

One by Radfer & Ranner

Town End One by John Paxman & Frischen

One by Rob Fincch & Hullier

One by Radfers & Hazel

One by John Goodchild & Wm Danby

One by Stiff & Balding

One by Wm Paxman and Goodchild

EAST GREEN

Most people know that St. John's College, Cambridge, owns land in Great Bradley but the question of how this came about has frequently arisen. The records of the College reveal the following story. A monastic hospital of St. John the Evangelist was founded on the site of St. John's College, Cambridge c. 1208, for the poor and infirm but not for lepers.

The Lady Margaret Beaufort, having founded Christ's College and having endowed a chair of Divinity, was intent on endowing further Westminster Abbey. John Fisher, bishop of Rochester and Lady Margaret's confessor, persuaded the countess to invest her money in another Cambridge college instead. On her death in 1509, however, nothing was said in her will about this and Fisher had to prove that she had 'made and declared her said will often and many times by the mouth' to convert St. John's Hospital into a College of which she would be 'chief foundress and patroness'. The remaining monks of the hospital were then duly evicted, and on 9 April "1511, the new college was .born, replacing the hospital. As East Green Farm, or Warren's Farm, as it was then known, was owned by Lady Margaret, it became part of the endowment granted to the college by her executors, and it was at this stage that St. John's became the landowners. The original hospital already owned land at Hanley Hill, Great Bradley in 1470, so it was merely consolidating, its lands in the area when it inherited East Green in 1511. (It is assumed that the land referred to at Hanley Hill is Evergreen Farm, purchased from the College in 1945 by the Vestey estate, thus accounting for the two cottages at the bottom of the hill being marked "St. John's College").

In 1737, according to a Terrier of the farm made upon renewal of the lease to the "Honble James Vernon", the acreage of East Green farm was 402 acres but, in addition, there was "land in Great Bradley aforesaid which belong to the said Farme and are Lett apart from It to the Reverend Mr. Nash containing in the whole about Forty Acres". Today, the farm, which has more recently become known as College Farm, has 470 acres.

From the same Terrier, we learn that, "The Dwelling House, Barns, Stables and Outouses are all in good and Substantial Repair being lately made so by the said Mr. Vernon since He tooke the Lease from Mr. Coredale Firebrass. Except the Brewhouse which must be Rebuilt".

It is possible to trace more details of the farmstead, crops and tenants from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries from surveys and terriers held by St. John's College Archivist's Office, but it is felt that that this subject could be further explored on another occasion.

The present tenancy began under the following unusual circumstances. The grandfather of the present tenant, Mr. W. Cowans, became tenant of the farm in 1931, when he moved to Great Bradley from Northumberland, where he was a hill farmer, grocer, and owner of a small mill. He became tenant almost by accident; for he was visiting friends in Norfolk at the time and from there was asked to accompany a friend who was himself interested in renting the farm at East Green. Upon seeing the property, Mr. Cowans decided he would like to take it over. The decision having been made, he promptly moved his total stock, including a flock of 500 ewes, implements, and personal possessions, on a specially chartered train, which finally arrived at Dullingham station. From there, the stock were driven by road to College Farm. The total removal was such an unusual event that it was reported by many national newspapers at the time. The tenancy of the farm has remained in the Cowans family for three generations.

Water supply on the farm had always been a problem until that time. Although six ponds had been dug in separate fields, Mr. Cowans did not consider these sufficient for his stock and, under the tenancy agreement, he persuaded the College to accept responsibility for solving the problem. Holes were bored to a depth of 300 feet and water was eventually piped to the surface and stored in huge tanks, which could still be seen on the farm until a few years ago. Of the six original ponds, only two remain.

In those early days, there were as many as 250 head of cattle, including 100 cows, on the farm, tended by seven men. The farm was self-sufficient in that it grew all its own animal feed. During the second world war, much of the grazing land was ploughed and turned over to arable farming, although cattle are still kept at College Farm. The front of the house dates from 1860, but the earlier rear part dates from about 1760 and consisted of three storeys until 1967, when the third storey was removed. The house is large, with well-proportioned rooms and a very elegant staircase. The addition of the front half resulted in some of the rooms being on different levels, thus adding to the interest of the property.

The population of East Green remains something of a mystery. We know that in 1733 the number of souls living there was one-third of the total population of the whole village. Is it possible that East Green was the original village as opposed to the area of the village as we know it today being the main part? It is remembered there were three more cottages along the lane past Pettett's Farm, two on Horse Pasture Farm (across the fields behind College farm-house), two or three on the triangle of ground opposite Wychwood (formerly the Three Tuns pub), and six or seven more along the road towards Cowlinge. There are also indications that other houses existed alongside the Three Tuns and opposite the drive to College Farm. Most of the footpaths in the village are in the area of the church, the river and East Green, and it must be remembered that footpaths did not exist purely for pleasant walks in those days, but as a convenient short cut in order to reach a desired destination. When one remembers that St. John's College and the lord of the manor of Great Bradley were the two largest land-owners of the village, it is not difficult to imagine that the agricultural workers' cottages would not be too far removed from the farmsteads.

It is known that East Green used to have its own brass band, another fact supporting the theory that this area was populated by a much more thriving community than the acknowledged village area of today.

FILEDS AND AREAS SPECIFIED IN THE TITHE MAP DATED 1842

Derrid Wood	*Trefoil field
Fennells Wood	Upper Beyseys
*Buckles Ley	Shadrans
Paxmans Meadow	Hunts Hall field
First Waterfield	Upper Hunts field
Grove Field Bottom	Lower Hunts field
The Shalms *Paxmans	Burnt House field
Pightle	Tobbels field
Upper Up ton	Park Wood and Short Ridges
Small Breed	Spong
Great Breed	Rushfield
Occupation Road	Handy Bar Grove
Calves Pightle	*Wadgells
Hobs Croft	Great Hartwood field
Great Brackett field	Tunneys field
Little Brackett field /	Hindsley and Loose Ley
Sipsey Mead	*Eyles Ley
Chitlocks	Fennells Meadow & Hartwell
Nut Tree'close	* Lammas Meadow
*Slough pasture	Great Sandpit including pit
Maynards close	Little Sandpit
Earls pit field Long Acre	Camping Close
	Long Acre, colloquially referred to as 'Lanacre'

Ley	Land temporarily under grass
Lammas	1 st of August. Formerly the Harvest Festival
Trefoil	Probably clover
Slough	Quagmire
Pightle	Small field or enclosure, a close or croft
Eyles	Possibly land where barley was once grown
Wadgells	Possibly derived from 'wadge' or 'wodge' - a lumpy mass

GREAT BRADLEY CHURCH

It would be impossible to improve upon the comprehensive booklet written by R.W. Tricker in 1975 on St. Mary's Church, Great Bradley (copies of which are still available) but there are a few additional items, which may be of interest.

There is reputed to be a reason why there have been no graves dug on the West Side of the churchyard. There may be some superstition regarding this, or merely a practical reason, but it now seems impossible to unravel this mystery.

The three bells have been the subject of correspondence, still in our records (some dating back to the last century); from persons who made a study of church bells. Mr. Tricker mentions the bells, together with "a simply paneled Stuart chest, with three locks". A postcard, dated 1927, from Claude Morley of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History addressed to the Revd. W.B.C. Wilder, covers both these subjects:

"When with you on 28th, I quite forgot to ask, and can't remember your saying, whose are the arms of W & S on Bradley m tower? I guess it to be the coat of the Brokesbys, who presented from 1437 to middle of next century; Thanks for telling me of the 1303 tenor Bell, it is quite correct; it was cast by Richard de Wimbis of London, Prior of Trinity Monastery in Aldgate, and is the oldest in Suffolk, excepting only one at Workington. The painted (ugh!) vestry chest is of circa 1620; the box standing against it, Georgian."

It is sad to record that the "simply paneled Stuart chest", decried by Mr. Morley because it was "painted", was stolen from the Church in 1979 and has never been recovered. We would gladly have it back today, with or without its coat of paint.

On another subject, John Seymour, in his "Companion Guide to East Anglia" (Collins, 1970), says, "There is some corking glass in the east window - of a Rupert Brooke-style young soldier in the trenches. It will be a collector's piece in fifty years time." Indeed, this window is hauntingly beautiful. It was dedicated by Burnard Wilder in 1919 to his young son Rex, who was killed in the First World War.

In 1894, when extensive repairs were carried out by Richard Hayward, Builder, of Great Bradley, the total cost was £278.5.0d. Today, our Church needs fourteen thousand pounds spending on the fabric to keep it in repair. Because the Church of St. Mary's has provided such an invaluable source of information in the compilation of this booklet, all monies resulting from sales will be donated to the Church.

THE WILDER FAMILY

For more than a century, the Wilder family has had close connections with the parish Church of Great Bradley. The Rev. John McMahon Wilder had a total of 17 children, of which the eldest was Charles C. Wilder (born 1842, died 1880), the second eldest John Trafalgar Wilder (born 1843, died 1892), the second youngest, William Burnard C. Wilder (born 1866, died 1931) and the youngest, Percival H.E. Wilder (born 1868, died 1942), and it was in this order they became Rectors. (As you will note, there was a space of 26 years between John and Percival). In his Sermon Register, Burnard wrote not only of his family, but about the members of his flock, their illnesses, behavior, their attendance at Church, the weather, the condition of the roads, the members of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, village celebrations, his servants, and numerous other subjects, until one is able to obtain a fairly accurate picture of social and economic conditions of the period. Unfortunately, permission has not been given to produce Burnard's notes in full, but some of those relating to general matters are included here. Perhaps one day the opportunity will arise for his complete notes to be made public.

He was, without doubt, the greatest "character" of all the Rectors of our church. He is reputed to have had coins made inscribed "1 pint" and "1/2 pint". The story goes that if the male members of his congregation attended Church once a day they were given a 1/2 pint token and, if twice a day, then they were given a 1 pint token. These tokens could be exchanged at the pub for the relative quantity of beer!

Percival, the much more gentle brother, was followed in turn as Rector of the Parish by his daughter's husband, the Rev. E.S. Barrington Barnes, from 1942 to 1952. The Rev. and Mrs. Barrington Barnes still live at Thurlow. Burnard's last surviving son, Eric, was a regular visitor to Great Bradley church until his death in 1980. His ashes are interred in our churchyard.

SERMON NOTES OF JOHN T. WILDER (dated 1873-1892) AND W. BURNARD WILDER (dated 1892-1920)

In 1873, John T. Wilder records the following in a notebook:

"5th - 14th July.

Began cutting 5th July - 14 acres, good crop. The 4 acres coarse so stacked in the yard by itself. Webb of Boro' Green and John Taylor of Carleton [sic] cutting, at 5/- and 1 gallon of tea per acre - they did it well. From the 5th to the 12th, a beautiful fine week got up the 8 acre Park Piece in beautiful order, 13th, 14, 15 & 16 very wet and stormy. Carted the 4 acres and 2 acres, the latter piece not thrown out but made on little grass cocks. Beer £2.10.0, Thatching, Polly Taylor 1/6d. Extras 15/-." The whole of this work was carried out by men named Taylor, Webb, Thurgood, Desborough, Paxman, and 'Women'. They were involved in Cutting, Making Hay, Thatching, Burning, Digging, Tarring places. Total cost £9/18/2d.

On Monday, 23rd February, he writes, "All union men locked out by the farmers on the 20th."

There continues until September 1874, an account of work carried out by various men. The tasks involved Stubbing, Ditching, Burning, Trimming Stacks, Cleaning Cesspools, Digging, Cutting, Thatching, getting Potatoes up. Well Digging. For this work the men were paid something between 6/- and 13/- per week, with extra at harvest time.

After this date, he begins to record his Sermon Notes in the same book, with accounts of the sums collected in the offertory and the name of the person giving the sermon (sometimes there were visiting clergy and sometimes John T. Wilder preached at neighbouring churches). He also records whether or not he had good congregations. It seems that most attendances were either good or very good, although we have no idea of how many people attended. For instance, on Advent Sunday, 1885, at the 11.00 a.m. service, the Preacher was J.T. Wilder, there were 11 communicants, the sum collected was 10/2d, and it was a wet day, with a good/congregation. On 9th March, 1879, the Rev. J.M. Wilder took the 11.00 a.m. service and he reports, "A fair congregation, and attendance of Lads especially good. The farmers also. A scarcity of Women and Labourers. In afternoon (3.00 p.m.) a very good congregation but "2 farmers present. The good conduct was very laudable but the Hats of the Men were put on before leaving the Church."

On 6th January, 1886, it is recorded, "Fire smoked, so had to close service." From this date, we are rewarded with other tantalising snippets of information such as, "Bad in left foot, got on as well as I could"; "Seedy with influenza - no service"; "Chapel School Anniversary (1891)."

W. Burnard Wilder then records, "The Rev. R. Jackson of Little Thurlow took sole charge of this parish from March 28th 1892 until August 7th 1892," and from this date, Burnard becomes the rector. On 7th May, 1893, he records, "Had no music at the Services, owing to the incompatibility of Miss Beards' temper. She received her notice to quit on May 6th. D..... came over and preached on both occasions. He foams at the mouth!!" And on 4th June - "The Chapel Anniversary. S. School had only 12 children. It thinned my congregation in the evening." On November 19th of the same year, "A very heavy snowfall, with strong wind. Roads practically impassable. Had only 6 adults in aft."

26. 6.1887: Jubilee Sunday. Very full church - 160 present.

2. 9.1888: In the School Room.

30.11.1890)

21. 1.1891): -The frost left end of this week. This winter of '90 to this date of '91 - sharpest and longest since 1860. Chapel School Anniversary.

6.12.1891: This appears to be the last time J.T. Wilder appeared in the Church.

W.B Wilder takes over the living

31.12.1893: A reformation of the Choir was undertaken today, some men having joined.

4.1894: Had Service in the School room because the Church was undergoing repairs.

29. " : On this day the Church was re-opened after having been closed about 3 months. All the Services during this period were held in the School room.

10. 3.1895: Mrs Wilder was delivered of a son on the Saturday night

The Sermon Register from 1895-1906 is missing

28. 4.1907: generously gave me £1 for erecting church- yard.

25. 8. " : Chapel had an outdoor service, poorly attended.

15. 9. " : Had some insubordination from some Sunday School boys.

22. 9. " : During the last month B... and I have been digging up the top end of churchyard, and burning it. Tonight the last of it was burnt.

6.10. " : The D... boys caused a lot of trouble today, so that I had to complain to the father after service in the evening.

8.12. " : Nasty weather. Chimney smelt owing to its having been re-blackened.

5. 1.1908: Very sharp weather. Ice bears and is good. I went to Branches Park (at Cowlinge) on Saturday and played hockey on the lake.

19. 1. " : Mr. Smith consented to become Rector's Warden. Roads very muddy.

Ash Wednesday: Had most of the School children at a children's service at 11 a.m.

Lady Day t Mrs. Smith gave members of Mothers' Union tea at 5 o'clock and afterwards they attended 7.30 service. Nasty wet day. About 6 sat down to tea.

20. 4.1908: 5" of snow fell, but quickly disappeared during the next two days. Again on Thursday, April 23 snow began to fall at 2 o'clock and continued.

2. 8. " : Beautiful day. Mary Smith happened to be unwell the playing fell on Mrs. Smith, who had no choir.

15.11. " : Held Jumble Sale on Saturday the 14th - realised £8/11/-.

20.12. " : The Parish roads for the last month have been in disgusting condition.

24. 1.1909: T. . . came, proved ineffective in stables and garden, but more useful in the house, into which he has been imported.

4. 7. " ; Had Church thoroughly cleaned. Weeded paths, etc.

26. 9. " : During the past week, augmented the choir by the addition of some lads. Sang well this a.m. service.

17. 5.1910: I went to marry Percival [his brother] on 12th May. King Edward VII died at 12 o'clock Friday night, May 6th.

20. 5. " : Hold a 'Memorial Service' on behalf of King Edward VII at 3 p.m. The greater portion of the Parish attended. Very warm day. Full Church.

27. 5.1910: Mr Long returned thanks this a.m. for recovery from his illness. This Sunday, a new Harmonium was used, raised by gifts and otherwise, the Choir removing from the West End of Church to the seats in the Choir. Rather damp morning. Chapel held its "white frock" anniversary.
17. 7. " : Rev. C. Smith preached at 6.30 p.m. I read the prayers. This was relieving to me, after my long cycle ride to Grafham this Saturday.

23.10. " : Held a Mission Service in School at 6.30 and at 7.30- afterwards a service for men only which was attended by 6 or 7 only. The Church Army Van left the Parish on Friday for Boro' Green, after having conducted several Mission Services, sometimes with 'lantern' in the School room.

13.11. " : May and I went to Dr. Gilbertson's on Monday, witnessed eclipse of Moon on Wednesday, Nov. 16 - a beautiful sight

27.11. : Stove worked unsatisfactorily this day which gave rise to some acrimonious discussion at the hands of those who ought to have known better ! The week Dec. 11-10 was excessively wet. Floods appeared in the Bradleys, Thurlows and Wrattings.

9. 4.1911: The new Altar Rails and stone steps - a gift from Mrs. G..., were put in position during the week and looked very nice.

25. 4. " :Chs. Smith gave a Magic Lantern entertainment in the School room on the Oberammergau Passion Play.

21. 5. " : Mr. Green began putting in new Stone Window in Chancel during the week.

Whit Sunday: Dedicated new window at p.m..

6 " : Began cutting grass on June 16; in the same night, the 4 1/2 weeks' drought broke and rain fell. On Thursday, June 22, King George V Coronation took place. Order of events observed in this Parish was that all the Parish attended a short Coronation Service at the Church and afterwards a public dinner, resorting afterwards to a meadow where a Cricket match took place married and single sports for both sexes. In School, children were given 'Tea' and enjoyed games on Mrs. F.J. Smith's premises.

16.7." : No Choir men at a.m. Service. I suppose recovering from Thurlow Poultry Show which was held on Saturday.

23. 7 " : Removed organ to West End on Saturday, owing to the weakness, slackness and inefficiency of the choir. Better at West End from all points of view. During the week the Marble Floor in the Sanctuary was laid - a gift from Major H. Wilder in memory of his parents. This morning Mr. F... objected to the harmonium being at West End.

21. 8. " : This morning came to an end one of the driest and hottest summers known for many years - the drought, which had lasted since June 25, broke, and a pleasant rain generally. The Harvest is practically all gathered throughout the. country. The rain, however, turned out to be but slight and the drought was again resumed.

23. 9 " : A slight rain fell on the night of Sept 23.

1.10 " : Rainy again this week. A very cold northerly wind has been blowing for the last 3 days

23.10 to 6.11.1911; Away on holiday. During our absence, the Queen had a stroke and died. Buried the Queen on Nov. 11, 1911.

30.12. " : Planted this day 14 young apple trees of various kinds on top back lawn.

31.12. " : Went to the Church with Rex and rang the old year out at 11.45 p.m. and the New Year in at 12.01 a.m. "May it be a happy one, both spiritually and materially to all"

29. 2.1912: Social club held a meeting tonight, which was addressed by Major Tippet (Conservative Agent). The beer and baccy proved too strong a temptation to some Churchmen.

10. 3. " : A good congregation to whom I preached very indifferently, not being able to deliver the Sermon with fluency and conviction.

19. 5. " : My birthday! May I improve in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, as my years lengthen! Prayed again for rain, altho' we had some in answer to last weeks petitions.

8.6." : A very heavy thunderstorm came on 12 noon.

16. 9 to 20. 9,1912: During the week, "Army Manoeuvres were held in the Eastern Counties. The important battle took place at West Wickham and Horseheath - result indecisive. Entertained several Officers during the week, they are camping on Meadows below the Church.

24.11. " : E... and. A... forgot where they were and indulged in talking and laughing. On being spoken to, they left the Sacred building. I shall have to see them privately about this. Have seen those two lads and they deny they were behaving improperly. They are without the grace of truth!

16. 2.1913: Mostly men, only 6 women (in the congregation).

30. 2. " : Poor congregation - nearly all men.

27. 4. " : This being Rogation Sunday, the Carlton Church Band under the leadership of Mr. C. Long arrived at the Rectory at 10.15 a.m. Processions were then made throughout the Parish, to East Green, Churchyard, Thurlow Road, where short services were held. The morning was windy and inclined to be wet. A Collection was taken at East Green which amounted to 19/8d. The band played Hymns at 6.30 p.m. A great many people were unable to find accommodation in Church owing to the large number. The Collections were handed to the Band to defray expenses, as also those of the Bandmaster, a Mr. Blane of "The Suffolks". The Band was provided with luncheon, very kindly, by Mr. D.K. Long, and tea was partaken of at the Rectory at 5 p.m.

17.'8. " < During the last week the pews on N. side had to be taken up to have partially new floors and joists.

4. 1.1914; Mrs. Tirrble (?) the new assistant School teacher at a.m. She undertook her School duties on Jan. 2.

11. 1. " : Had stove removed to Haverhill on Tuesday Jan. 13 to be relined and recovered (50/- d). Had same back in time for Jan. 18.

9. 8.1914: WAR broke out between Russia, France and England on the one part and Germany and Austria on the other on Aug. 8 1914. Special intercessory Services used this day on behalf of all engaged in the War. No D...sat a.m. or p.m. as they had motored into Bury. Will their Motor Car be commandeered for Army use purposes!

11.10. " : I offered up Eucharist with 'special intention' for all engaged in the War, and requested all to stay, although they might not be communicants. This all did - the children as well.

25.10 " : A long drought came to an end this week, copious rains falling on several days - it was of more lengthy duration than that which occurred in 1911.

29. 11." : On Monday, November 23. A telegram from War Office announcing the death of my 2nd son. Rex C.P. killed in action Nov. 19 1914, "R.I.P." Held a Memorial Service for the poor old fellow at 3 p.m. on the afternoon of the 29th. Church more than full. Service conducted by Rev. B. Fleming. May, who feels the blow-terribly, still in bed with neuritis, but slightly better today.

3.1.1915: The year 1914 was a most distressing one to us from many points of view. About March May became ill and in July it developed into neuritis. Confined to her bed for many months, under the doctor's hands. She has become somewhat better now. The European war, which broke out in August, was the cause of our losing Rex, who was killed in action. Thus I may say the year 1914 has proved the worst I ever experienced. May the New Year be of a different stamp! This Sunday has been set apart as a Day of Intercession in all Churches that we, as a Nation, may humble ourselves before God and petition Him to give us victory over our enemies. Special 'Forms' have been provided.

Palm Sunday: May had to reprove B... for giggling behaviour this p.m. H..'. was probably the cause of the bad behaviour

Ascension Day:It being wet in the morning, I did not take the schoolchildren to Church. Mrs. MacKean is indisposed with influenza. A Miss Coward from Haverhill takes charge of school.

13.6.1915: Several lads, soldiers also present at a.m.

18. 7. " : 6.30 p.m. Church Parade of V.T. Corps of Newmarket, Saxon Street and Thurlow. Collection amounting to £3/14/6 given to Red Cross Society. I addressed mer ??? and numerous other civilians in meadow opposite "Fox"

22.8." : Boy scouts at a.m.Ditto some soldiers working in harvest here.

28.11. " :About 40 children ill with measles.

12.12. " R... was fined £3 at Newark for not having lamps on his haulage engine!

26.12 " :Leslie [Burnard Wilder's son] in winding up Motor, got struck by handle and broke his arm.

19.2. " :Mr. Felton, who had an accident - by being kicked By a horse - did not light Church fire.

7. 5.1916: The V.T.C. of Thurlow, 29 strong, attended Evensong under Sergeant Campling of Gt. Wrating. Full Church.

21. 5. " : On Saturday night all clocks advanced 1 ^{1/2} hours.

3. 8." : 6 soldiers and 6 boy scouts at a.m. One soldier communicated. These soldiers and scouts are here for the harvest. Very wet week. Bad for harvest.

17. 9. " : The boy scouts have left the Parish.

1917: The whole of January and February - very cold easterly winds prevailing -with severe frost.

18. 3. " :Had a tramp working in garden from March 10 to 17.

15. 4. " : Visited Chap. General April 11 in London with the view of obtaining an Army Chaplaincy. Shall know later.

5. 8. " : I engaged myself to Church Army for war work Aug. 2 1917. Services in remembrance of Aug. 4 1914, our day of entry into the War.

26. 8. " : Very good congregation. 70 present at p.m.

From Sept. 2 1917 to Jan. 13 1918: I was away at Krummel, Flanders in charge of a Church Army Hut under the auspices of Preb. Carlile. During my absence, Services were held once a Sunday by the Revs. Gower, Ramsey, Jones - the major portion of the work fell on Mr. Ramsey. I returned to the Parish on Jan. 18 and resumed usual services on Jan. 20 1918.

20. 1. : Have had report from Mr. Ramsey on the scanty number of Communicants during my absence. This is deplorable.

24. 3. " : The month of March has been exceptionally fine and warm. The finest March for many years.

14, 4. " : Mr. Woods, of the Mill House, acted for the first time in the capacity of my 'Warden'

16. 6. " : The Rev. Wilson, Headmaster of Ardingly College, here to arrange for school boys coming for Harvest.

4. 8. " : Remembrance Day Aug. 4th. In the evening, held a "United Service" on my lawn.

11. 8. " : 30 boys from Ardingly College arrived in Parish for the Harvest on Friday,

18. 9. " : The Camp broke up on Sat. and left the Parish.

3.11. " Parish down with Influenza.

10.11, " : Influenza slightly better in Parish.

17.11. " : Thanksgiving Day for Victory over Central Powers.

2. " In afternoon held "Memorial Service" for those who had died in the War, particular mention being made of Parishioners (3).

5. 1.1919 : The prisoners of War present at a.m.

10. 3. " : Fire badly laid, therefore went out at 10 a.m.

27. 4. " : A heavy fall of snow commenced at 2.30 p.m.

6. 7." : Collection this day for providing a 'Tea' to all the Children on Thanksgiving Sunday for Peace. Full Church. 18/8d collected.

19. 7. " : "Peace Thanksgiving" festivities took place today. A cricket match of returned soldiers v. civilians of the Parish began at 11 a.m. Luncheon, given by the Rector, was partaken of by all the returned soldiers at 1 p.m. Cricket match resumed at 3. Tea for all the Children and others on the field at 4.15. Sports for Children at 7 p.m. Weather fine but rain commenced at 9 p.m. Some 40 or 50 people had a 'meat tea' at the Crown Inn.

31. 8.1919: Church closed on Aug. 27 to have new floors and benches etc. , School being used temporarily commencing Aug. 31.

1. 1920: Held a concert on Jan. 16 to raise Funds for "Roll of Honour". Realised £6/16/-

15. 2. " : Very fair congregation. More men than women.

During the week March 21-28, the stained glass East End window and stone work were inserted to the memory of Rex. Following this, on 28th March at Evensong there was a good congregation.

After 17th October 1920, Burnard Wilder records that his Notes are "carried on in new exercise book" but, sadly, this has not come to light

THE OLD RECTORY

The origins of this house are linked inevitably with the Church, and it is from the Glebe land documents dating back to 1709 that we first hear of the Rectory:

"A parsonage house with Barn and an Hayhouse and stable and a Cowhouse with 3 other little outhouses with, an Orchard, Gardens & Yard belonging those to containing 1 Acre, 1 rood." In 1794, however, we are given further details, and it would seem that the whole has been extended:

A Parsonage House, lath and Plaistor, partly tiled and thatched in part consisting of a Parlour, Kitchen, Backhouse, Dairy, Cellar and Pantry with Chambers over the same and two Garrots. Also one large Building partly lath and plaistor partly boarded and covered with thatch containing under the same roof Barn, Stalls, Cowhouse, Haybarn and Cart lodge. Also Pig Stys boarded and thatched and Privy with orchard Garden and Yards belonging thereto containing the Homestall called the Barn Close butting on the Highway to Burr. Green."

In 1834, the house is exactly the same as above, but in White's "Suffolk 1891-2" we are told, "the rectory house was built in 1876". It is known that one of the Wilder brothers travelled from Newmarket whilst he was Rector of the Church in Great Bradley, so it was probably somewhere during the period 1844 -1876 that the old parsonage was pulled down and the Victorian Rectory was built and re-sited, for the original rectory stood much closer to the present Post Office [box] probably near the Coach house. It remained the Rectory until 1965, when the combined parishes of Great Bradley and Cowlinge were administered by the Rev. A. Johnson, who lived in the rectory at Cowlinge. The house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. MacRae and it remains the same as when it was first built with the addition of a new wing (the part which is nearest to Mill Farm). The old Burwell brick elevations have also been whitened as Burwell bricks were unobtainable when the extension was built. At the same time, the coach house which stands in the ground was converted into living accommodation. Mrs. Barrington Barnes, who was the daughter of the Rev. Percival Wilder, recalls living in the Rectory as a girl, when there was no electricity and no water in the house, and a trap was kept in the coach house and a hunter [horse], in the stalls. The house occupies a very fine position in the village, commanding excellent views over Carlton.

THE COTTAGE

The Cottage, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Radclyffe for the last 20 years was probably a farmhouse set amid a smallholding of 10 to 15 acres at one time, although the tithe map of 1842 describes the property as "cottages, orchard and garden" consisting of a little over 3 acres. The owner was then Philip Danby. The thatched part of the house is 17th century, and is certainly of the size and substance of something larger than a "cottage" as recognised in the days it was first built. Originally, this part had two exterior doors, two staircases and two inglenook fireplaces, but now has one of each, the one remaining fire- place being exceptionally wide and deep. The house consisted of a number of small adjoining rooms but, over the years, interior walls have been demolished to form a larger living area. The first floor windows are set deep into the thatch. It is complete with its own dairy and washhouse. The newer section was added in two phases, the first being pre-1920 and the second built in 1923. Because this newer part, in contrast to the old, is mainly south facing, the rooms are light and sunny, and it is this area of the property which forms the greater portion of The Cottage today.

The house is now set in about 8 acres of attractive gardens and paddocks. Until recent times, the present vegetable garden revealed the remains of two cottages. The range of outbuildings still in existence in the grounds are 'fascinating. All the buildings are adjoining. On the left-hand side there is a pantiled brick single storey structure with a large fireplace and chimney. It is difficult to imagine what the two interior rooms could have been used for unless the whole was a very small,, cottage. The alternative theory is that it could have been a bakehouse. Because the outer wall is curved, the second small room is almost triangular - most unusual and, if this was a cottage, one of the smallest and oldest in the village. Next door is a large ancient wooden store with loft above, and next to this a 17th century barn with three small windows. The barn originally had a Steep-pitched roof complete with thatch but, unfortunately, the roof was in such a poor state of repair when Mr. & Mrs. Radclyffe moved into their home they were obliged to remove the angle and replace it with a lower-pitched iron roof. Nevertheless, we are most fortunate to have in our village three good examples of 17th century barns - this at The Cottage, the second at Matthews Farm, and the third at Great Bradley Hall. Next, come the three brick stables, probably 19th century and, finally the last in the range, now a garage but most probably the original cow shed. All these buildings, although small, are of such age and variety that, collectively, they represent most vividly the changing architecture of husbandry throughout the last three centuries.

Between The Cottage and The Fox there is a wide track, known as Pump Row many years ago. There are no pumps there today, but it is remembered that this area served all the nearby houses with their supply of water; certainly there is one if not two wells in existence, although the second has not been located. The track leads behind the outbuildings of The Cottage and round a bend to a pond so deep it is reputed that a cart-horse drowned there many years ago, for all the cart-horses in the immediate area would be led there to be watered. The pond is banked along one side by a high flint wall, like many other walls in the village. In the paddock stands a small, single-room, wooden house with fire- place. This house, again, has a history, for it stood in the churchyard until some 50 years ago, and was occupied by a Jimmy Wicker. Wilder would take Jimmy a flask of tea each day and read to him a passage from the Bible. Jimmy was obviously a man of few words for one morning, after Rex had carried out his usual duties, he looked hard at Jimmy and finally realised he had been reading to a corpse. Jimmy had been dead for two days! Eventually, DK Long's daughter, Mrs Webb moved into the cottage. At the same time, the little

house was moved into the garden, and there it remains and can be seen close by from the road.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

The school, which was Church controlled, is first mentioned in "White's Suffolk 1891-2" as "an elementary school, attended by about 40 children". By 1916, it was attended by 74 children, when the schoolmistress was Mrs. Annie LacKean; she was succeeded in time by Mrs. J. Angood. Children from Little Bradley, Sipsey Bridge and from East Green (at one time as many as 45 children!) also attended Great Bradley School and they would be taught in one big and one small classroom by two teachers and a monitor. Most children left at the age of 12-13 years after they had passed the Fifth Standard, but there were some children who were able to pass before the age of 13; Mr. Harry Martin (Matthews Farm) remembers a girl called Norah Claydon passing at the age of 10. The monitor was always an exceptionally able child who was chosen to stay on at school, but acted in a supervisory capacity only.

Naturally, all children walked to school, and most of them brought food to eat at mid-day. For many, their meal consisted of bread-and-butter and jam with a drink, out of the brook. During the Second World War, Mrs. Martin cooked 44 school dinners on a 3-burner oil stove at her home, and she would wheel these meals down to the school on a trolley. After this time, meals were brought out to Great Bradley by the Education Authority and they were eaten in the old Primitive Methodist Chapel. Because of the lack of transport and opportunities in the area, most girls, when they left school, went into service, and the boys into farm work. Boys were paid something between 10s and 12s per week but girls were paid only 2/6d. The occasional boy would work outside the immediate area; for instance Mr. Martin's uncle walked to Haverhill and back each day, and he was obliged to commence duties at 6 am! There were short cuts over foot-paths, but nonetheless the journey would take a good hour to one hour-and-a-half.

The school was considered to have a very high standard of education. Each year there would be at least one pupil who passed the Scholarship at the age of 10 or 11, and those pupils would go on as boarders, the girls to the East Anglian School and the boys to the Edward VII School, both at Bury St. Edmunds. (In more recent years, the East Anglian School and Culford School have amalgamated to be known as Culford School).

When the village school closed in July 1967, Mrs. I. Rolph had been headmistress for 14 years, with one assistant prior to two years of her leaving. Mrs. Rolph was appointed to Ousden School, and her 17 pupils were transferred to the new school at Thurlow. Today, approximately 15 children to the age of nine years are transported by coach to Thurlow Voluntary Controlled School, whilst the older children attend the Middle and Upper Schools in Haverhill.

THE CONVERSION OF THE SCHOOL INTO A VILLAGE HALL

Prior to the school closing, a village hall had been the subject of several Parish Council discussions, for the need of such a facility had obviously been expressed by many parishioners. It was in the form of a mixed blessing, therefore, when the school finally closed in 1967, for at last a solution to the hall problem was found. On Thursday, 29th June, 1967, a Parish meeting took place when it was agreed that negotiations should proceed with the Diocesan Authorities with the view of purchasing the school for use as a village hall, and the following year a Village Hall Committee was established. Naturally, a major problem with such a project was the question of how to raise sufficient money to launch it. After the War, when it seemed that a new school in Thurlow might mean the early closure, of the Great Bradley school, a fund was raised in the village to buy the school for a village hall. The proceeds of this fund were invested and the total standing on the account at this time was £339. The proceeds from the sale of plots of land in Evergreen Lane were added to the fund as part of the land belonged to Thurlow Estate, the Parish Council was given 50 %, and £4,444 was contributed in grants from the Department of Education and Science, the West Suffolk County Council and Clare Rural District Council. The total cost of the scheme was £6,602, and the remainder of the money required was raised by various events organised by the Sub-Committee. Meanwhile, in order to keep costs as low as possible, buildings at the rear of the school were demolished, whilst some materials were cleaned for re-use, all this work being carried out by voluntary labour.

The Village Hall was finally opened officially by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C. on 30th June 1973. The Hall was filled to capacity for the occasion, with many people being unable to gain access and having to stand outside. Since that time, the Village Hall has proved to be of great benefit to the whole community, and the Committee have continued to improve the facilities with the installation of a false ceiling for insulation purposes, and recently a more effective form of central heating. It is used on a regular basis by the following organisations: -

1. The Playgroup on Tuesdays and Thursdays from .30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mrs. J. Mathias from Thurlow runs the playgroup for children from 2 years of age, and she can take up to 25 children, who do not necessarily have to come from our own village. Charges per term are very reasonable.
2. The Women's Institute, which was established in 1934, met at the various homes of the Committee until the Village Hall was opened. The W.I. now meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m., when a varied programme takes place. Usually a guest speaker is invited, and frequent visits are made to places of interest. Coffee mornings and jumble sales are held to raise funds, and there is a thriving Drama Group. The W I. Members have recently donated a tree to the village and this stands at the corner of Evergreen Lane

3. Keep Fit Classes, run by the Castle Manor Adult Centre in Haverhill, have also proved to be very popular; these take place on Thursday evenings from 8 p.m. to 9.30 pm. during the school term (for 5 weeks only during the summer term).

4. The Over-Sixties, who meet fortnightly on a Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This club is organised on a voluntary basis by Mrs. M. Knight and Mrs. O. Cowans and is very popular because of its social activities. It is possible to hire the Hall for private functions, and application should be made to Mr. D.C. Rowlinson of 17 Clarendale Estate, Great Bradley.

PARISH COUNCIL 1894 - 1981

Parish Council records show that the first meeting took place on 14th December 1894, under the new Local Government Act, and the school was normally used for meetings from that date.

It seems that in those days the council only met annually; however, it was as concerned then as it is today with the state of the roads and particularly the footpaths. Below are examples of some of the more interesting subjects discussed and comments made at Parish Council meetings: -

1. "June 7th, 1902: The best means of celebrating the King's Coronation (Edward VII) it was proposed by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Watson that all men over 13 contribute no less than 1s and that all between the ages of 13 and 18 contribute 6d and this will enable those who subscribe to bring their wives and families. This was carried."

2. "5th March, 1904 ... So little interest seems to be taken in this Parish in matters which affect all that only two were found to be present. Their signatures are herewith appended.

(Signed) W.B. Wilder

A. Jolly "

3. "27th December, 1906 (Copy of letter from Lord Hampden to the Rev. W.B. Wilder) ... I am not inclined to do anything at Great Bradley Churchyard if there is to be any question raised as to proprietary rights. In this case I would rather sit still and let others waste their substance in legal expenses over a matter, which is not worth a £5 note to anyone. If matters can be quietly and amicably arranged and Mr. Smith is willing to take away his shed and let the waste on which it stands revert to the Church, I will put up the fence as I proposed and throw the small corner piece which is now waste into the Churchyard. You were with me when the fence was staked out so that you can understand my proposal exactly without my further explaining it."

(signed) Hampden

4. "November 28th, 1910 to consider the question of exterminating the rats in the Parish. It was proposed by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Penchey that Messrs. Cooper and Brooke to appointed Rat Catchers in Chief assisted by two convenient lads, the wages to be 15/-s a week between the two chief Rat Catchers, as fixed by the District Council of this Union; and further that Mr. Wilder be appointed Surveyor in Chief to view the dead rats and keep a record thereof. The same to be buried at once. Rat destroying commenced in the Parish on November 30th 1910 and terminated on February 13th 1911, total numbers destroyed and buried 2506. Payment to Rat Catchers for same £8.5s.0d."

5. "June 12th, 1911 To take into consideration the Coronation Festivities (George V) It was proposed by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Webb that the men work for half the day on June 22nd.... Further it was proposed that all men pay 1s, all women 6d and lads up to the age of 18 - 6d Mr. Smith said his family were prepared to undertake the entertainment of all the schoolchildren, this to be his donation to the village fund With respect to all aged people it was agreed to invite them to the public dinner free of cost. The Chairman made a note that 7 dozen ginger beer were to be procured. ..."

Between 1919 and 1929 there are no records of minutes. The next entry is on 12th February 1930, when it is recorded: -

6. "A Parish meeting was convened to elect Parish Councillors, but as no one attended, the Chairman was later informed that he was the Parish Council!"
(Signed) W.B. Wilder
Chairman

7. "March 16th, 1935 concerning the method of celebrating the Silver Jubilee of George V on May 6th Mrs. Pemberton- Barnes' kind invitation to entertain the parishioners of Gt. and Lt. Bradley was discussed and accepted, so far as the adult population was concerned, to dinner. It was decided to entertain the children to dinner in Great Bradley and to have a parochial tea for all parishioners in the afternoon. Mr. Deacon kindly offered to lend his ground for sports between hours to be arranged. Mrs. Wilder was asked to consult with the wives of those present about arrangements for tea."

8. "April 24th, 1935 The Committee decided to celebrate the occasion as follows:

10.30 Children to assemble at the School. Flags to be distributed and march to Church.

11.00 Service in Church broadcast from St. Paul's Cathedral.

2.00 Cricket match; Married v Single.

4.30 All parishioners to be entertained to a Meat-Tea in Mr. Custerson's barn.

5.30 Sports and Dancing in Mr. Deacon's grounds.

10.00 Fireworks.

The Boys Band to be in attendance for the dance.

Hampers to be sent to certain aged or infirm parishioners

Again, between 1935 and 1946, there are no minutes, on 16th April, 1946, a new Parish Council was formed and a Special Meeting was held on 25th April of that year" ... by request of the Parishioners relating to the closing down of "The Three Tuns", the chair being taken by Mr. R. Custerson. After discussing the matter, it was decided that the Secretary should send a letter to the Clerk of the Clare Divisional Bench to ask that it should be placed before them at the next sitting, the letter to recommend that "The Three Tuns" was not closed."

After this date, the Council met and still meets at regular intervals, subjects having come under discussion being mains drainage for the village, electricity for East Green, coppers for council house bungalows in Evergreen Lane, Great Bradley's entry into the Best Kept Village Competition (which we finally won in 1966), street lighting, planning applications, speed limits, and the provision of a Village Hall.

One of the most important items discussed in recent years followed a Public Notice published in the Cambridge News on Friday, 24th January 1969. The essence of the Public Notice was that the Essex River Authority planned to construct boreholes, trial pits or other works and to install and operate machinery or equipment for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the subsoil, and the lands over or under which the Notice would be exercisable were parts of; Brinkley, Burrough Green, Dullingham, Kirtling, Stetchworth, Wooddittcn, Carlton cum Dullingham, Weston Colville and the greater part of Great Bradley. The point of this operation was to eventually construct a reservoir. In other words, most of our village would have been under water!

Needless to say, this proposal caused general alarm and consternation, and the Parish Council promptly met to discuss the matter. As a result, on 7th February 1969 letters were sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Parliamentary Agents, and the West Suffolk County Council, objecting to the application on the grounds of disruption of life in the community due to the flooding of housing, cutting of roads and consequent increase of traffic on alternative routes, spoiling of the character of the area, the loss of natural resources from the flooding and of good agricultural land, and the lack of present evidence that alternative water storage was not available, e.g. Wash Barrage.

Following this, application for planning permission was made by the Essex River Authority, to drill temporary bore-holes or other works at Great Bradley and Cowlinge, to ascertain the nature of the subsoil, and on 14th April, 1969 the West Suffolk County Council granted planning permission for this work to be done, upon the condition that "the sites shall be restored to their former condition".

The outcome of these lengthy discussions was that no decision to build such a reservoir was taken and it is unlikely that the reservoir will ever be built. The scheme was not included in the list of proposals considered by the Water Resources Board for augmenting water supplies in the area up to the year 2001. For the information of anyone new to the village, the present Parish Council members are:

Messrs. R.S. Ryder J.P. (Chairman)

E.E. May (Clerk)

W. Cowans

D.C. Rowlinson

A.W. Knight

Mrs. O. Cowans

Mrs. B.J. Buchs

TWO JUBILEES

We are fortunate in that we have written records of the two Jubilee celebrations held during the last century in Great Bradley, those of the two Queens, Victoria and Elizabeth II

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 1887 (recorded by the Revd. W.B. Wilder):

"At a Vestry Meeting held in the Parish Church on 23rd May 1887, it was resolved to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by giving the whole parish a dinner accompanied by games (and fireworks, funds permitting), and for the carrying out of this scheme the following names were selected to act on the Committee - Rev. J. Wilder, D.K. Long, Josiah Nice, George Dawson, Joseph Mitchell, Frank Smith, C. Rusby and Richard Hayman. It was agreed to hold the Jubilee 'Demonstration' on Wednesday, 22nd June, with dinner at 4 o'clock, preceded by a short service at 3 o'clock.

On Wednesday, 22nd June, the day was observed chiefly as a holiday. The number of parishioners being just 300, 280 met on the Square opposite the Fox Inn at ^{1/4} before 3 o'clock, headed by the Rector, the Clerk and the band playing God Save the Queen, the rear being brought up by the Donors of the Feast. Those people marched to the Parish Churchyard where a short service, authorised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was held, the Church being too small to accommodate so many on such a hot day. The Service concluded with the lesson being read, and all proceeded, headed by the band playing "Rule Britannia", to the park adjoining the Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. D.K. Long. Cold dinner was provided for everyone, all kinds of sports were indulged in and, during the afternoon, a meat tea was served and to finish up with, a splendid display of fireworks. It was Bradley Fair day so the swing boats were removed to the park (for the sum of 10/-s), which the children much enjoyed. The flesh was provided by voluntary subscriptions, the meat, vegetables and plum puddings were cooked at the several houses in the village, and to the credit of the parish there was not a single disturbance or the intoxicated person, though there was an abundance of beer and to spare. Tobacco, calico, tea and toys for the children were given as prizes and Mr. Pryke, butcher of Great Thurlow gave a shoulder of Mutton for the greasy pole which was won by Tim Gregory. The next day the meat puddings were distributed amongst the 20 persons who could not attend the feast.

The meat was supplied at 7/6d per stone by Mr. Pryke. Mr. Turner gave an 18 gallon cask of beer as a present, and the bread was supplied by Mr. J. Nice of the Mill at 5d per loaf. Subscriptions amounted to £29.0.6d, expenditure was £28.15.10d, leaving a balance of 4/8d in hand. The band has not been paid, so it was agreed to make a collection for them and £1 was handed over to them."

Queen Elizabeth II' s Silver Jubilee 1977 (recorded by Mr. D. Rowlinson):

At an Open Meeting held at the Village Hall on 22nd November 1976, initial preparations were made to commemorate the forthcoming 25th Anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. In the following months, various meetings and fund-raising events were held to finance what, for a small community, would prove to be a memorable 2-day programme of sports, competitions and merry-making following the Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday.

Monday, 6th June brought unseasonal weather for the children's sports but, despite this, an enthusiastic crowd of competitors and supporters turned up on Clarendale Green to encourage and participate. After a full programme, which included races for parents, prizes of Jubilee Crowns, Pens and Pencils were awarded. Later in the day, a Tea Party and Whist Drive was held in the Village Hall for about 30 senior villagers.

Jubilee Day, 7th June, was eagerly awaited, for the climax was to be a big celebration Barn Dance for everyone. At first, however, there was more serious business to be dealt with, starting with the judging of the best decorated house competition, and the judges had the unenviable task of selecting the three best entries from a large entry of a very high standard. In the afternoon, the Fancy Dress competition was held, the theme of "The Last 25 Years" being well represented with an imaginative display of costumes and ideas.

After the judging of the Fancy Dress, the entrants paraded with a large proportion of villagers to Clarendale Green for the Tug of War competition. This proved to be a similarly colourful occasion for which the sun shone and, after what proved to be some not-too-serious rounds, commemorative trophies were presented to the winners.

Next followed the Children's Tea Party, held at the Fox Farm Barn, involving a great deal of lovely food for the youngsters of the village, who surely will remember the event for years to come. Afterwards, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr. Stephen Ryder, presented commemorative mugs to all children up to school-leaving age.

Finally, to provide a fitting climax to the celebrations, the barn became the stage (literally, 2 trailers) for an Old Time Music Hall, featuring many Women's Institute members ably assisted by some male songsters. During the evening, a bonfire was lit in accordance with tradition, and the celebrations were brought to a close with dancing.