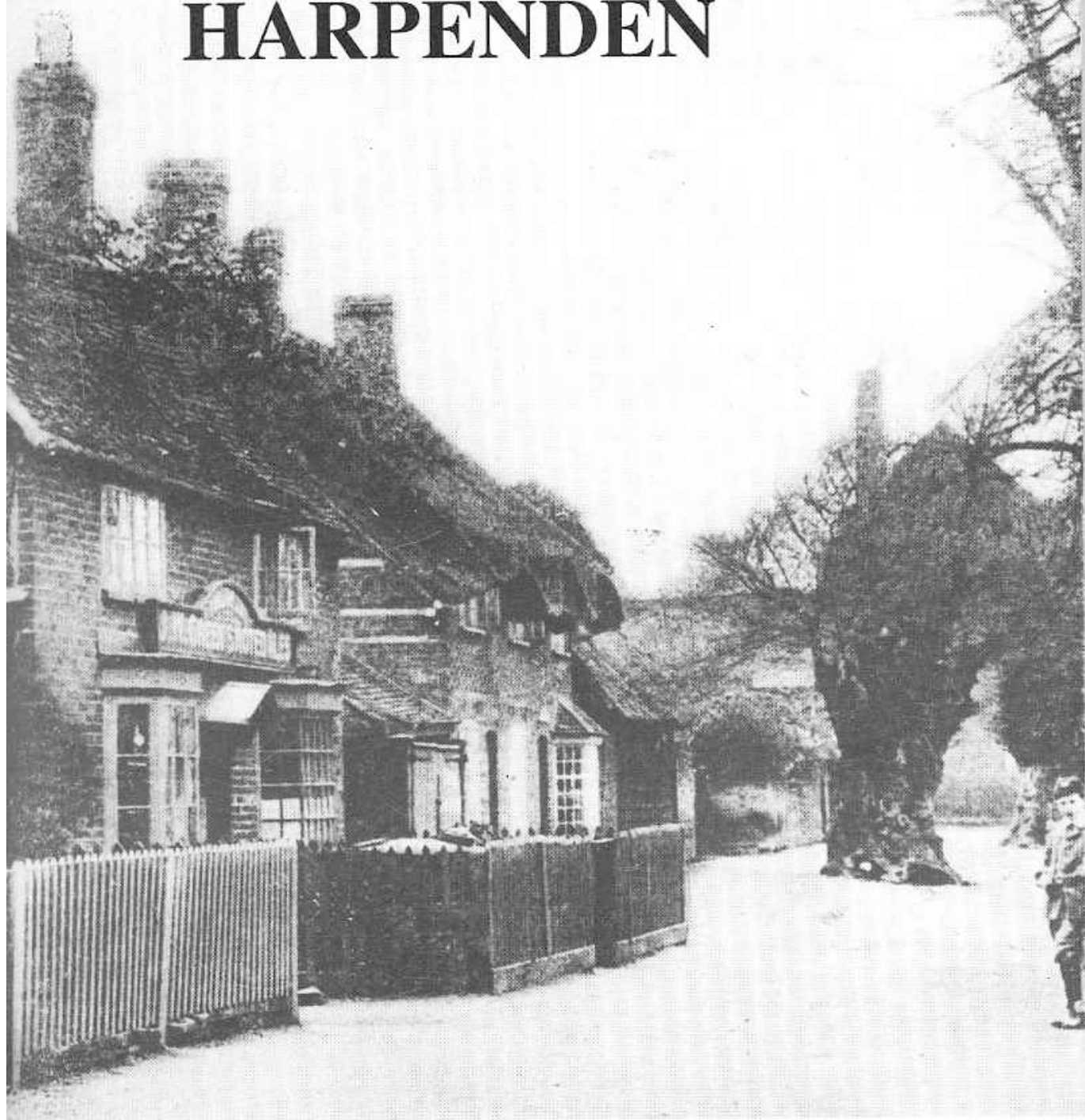


WHEATHAMPSTEAD & HARPENDEN



BOOK V

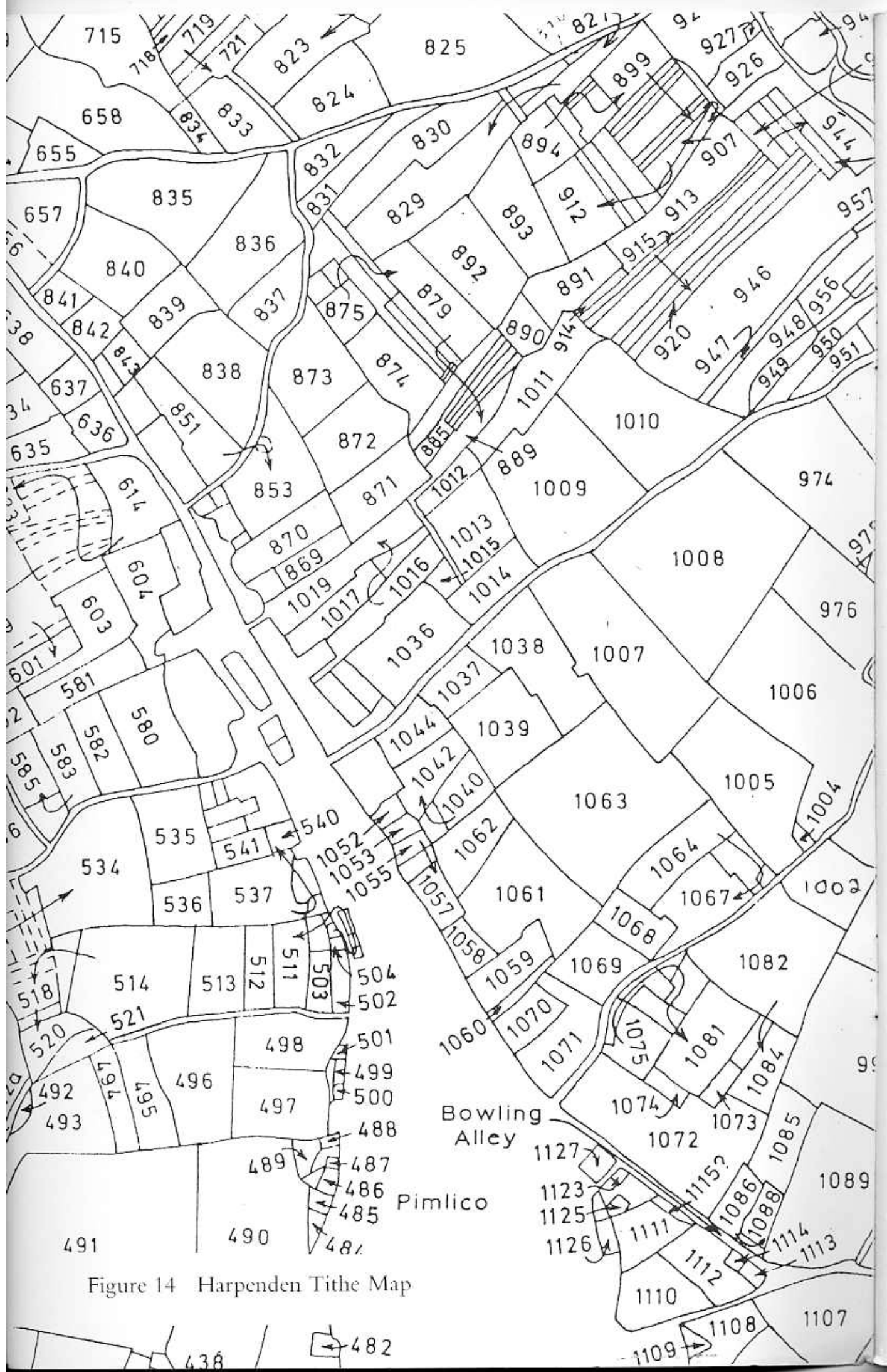


Figure 14 Harpenden Tithe Map

WHEATHAMPSTEAD
and
HARPENDEN

V

The Old Order Changeth:
The places, the people, their work, problems
and pleasures in the nineteenth century

1991

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Table 5 Farms and Farmers in Wheathampstead

SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations

HPH = *Harpenden, a picture history*. Harpenden branch of the
Workers' Educational Association, 1973

c = circa

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- Plate 21b Clark's Christmas display, c 1908
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HARPENDEN.

AMATEUR CONCERT.

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 12th, 1868.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

OVERTURE	"L'Italiana in Algeria"	Rossini.
	HERR PETZLER.	
QUINTETT	"Ballo in Maschera"	Verdi.
	Miss LAWES, Mrs. LAWES, Mr. WADE, Major PALLISER, Hon. A. STRUTT.	
SOLO	"O Mistress mine"	Sullivan.
	Mr. ONSLOW.	
SOLO	Violin	
SOLO	"The Message"	Blumenthal.
	Mr. WADE.	
DUETT	"Sul campo della gloria"	Donizetti.
	Mr. ONSLOW, Mr. C. LAWES.	
SOLO	"Sci vendicata assai"	Verdi.
	Hon. A. STRUTT.	
DUETT	"Je suis Alsacienne"	Offenbach.
	Miss LAWES, Mr. WADE.	
SOLO	Mr. C. LAWES.	
QUINTETT	"Martha"	Flotow.
	Miss LAWES, Miss WARDE, Mr. WADE, Mr. C. LAWES.	

PART II.

OVERTURE—DUETT	Herr RICHTER, Herr PETZLER.	
SOLO	"C'est l'histoire Amoureuse"	Auber.
	Miss LAWES.	
DUETT	"Masnadieri"	Verdi.
	Miss LAWES, Mr. WADE.	
CONIC SONG	Hon. A. STRUTT.	
SOLO	"No, non é ver"	Mattei.
	Major PALLISER.	
TRIO	"Vieni al Mar"	Gordigiani.
	Miss LAWES, Mr. WADE, Major PALLISER.	
SOLO	Mr. WADE.	
INFLAMMATUS		Rossini.
	TUTTI.	

Introduction

We are easily lulled into believing that change, so rapid in our time, is exclusively a twentieth century feature. Nothing is further from the truth and it could be argued that England will seem to have changed less during the twentieth century than in the previous hundred years. Throughout the nineteenth century there was continual pressure for social and political change: the magazine *Punch* started in 1841 as a mouth-piece for radical views. The building of the British Museum (1821) and the National Gallery (1834) reflect both changing cultural attitudes and the rising power of central government enabling large-scale works to be undertaken. While we are unlikely to forget that steam power transformed our country into a predominantly industrial one with excellent communications, it is easy to overlook a myriad of technical innovations which influenced daily life. The lawn mower, electric motor, typewriter, calculator, telephone, photograph, aspirin and disc record were all nineteenth century inventions. Naturally, some were slow to affect rural Hertfordshire – London was lit by electric light before Harpenden introduced street lighting by gas–, and many local events go unrecorded – we will never discover the first local to suffer the indignity of chest examination by stethoscope.

New in 1801 was the national census. Held every ten years, it has been one of the main sources for our study, but its value is limited by the paucity of detail before 1851. Trade directories, whose main purpose was advertisement, list businesses rather than individuals, and not all of those, but they were published frequently. The Tithe Award Schedule with map, drawn up about 1840 to commute into a local rate tithes in kind hitherto payable to the rector, lists all properties, their owners and occupiers, and the names, acreages and use (arable, pasture, etc) of associated fields.

We have drawn on the writings of those alive at the time, especially *Cottage Life*, written by Edwin Grey (1859–1955) in retirement. Grey grew up at Bowling Alley and spent almost all his working years, from age thirteen, at Rothamsted Experimental Station. Starting as an assistant sorting grasses, he eventually became Field Superintendent. He officially retired after fifty years' service but continued part-time for a further seventeen (Plate 23c).

We have attempted to distil the essence of our sources rather than analyse them rigorously, and hope to give a truthful impression of life in our villages in the nineteenth century. Some chapters pick up themes begun in Book IV, our study of the eighteenth century, but we have said nothing more about religious life or education, the subjects of Books III and VI.

V THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

The Rise of the Modern Villages

Harpenden in the eleventh century was a hamlet in the parish of Wheathampstead, but it grew so that by the seventeenth century its population was greater than that of the parent village. At the beginning of the nineteenth century Wheathampstead was still just slightly smaller than Harpenden but both villages were expanding faster than the national average and continued to do so until the 1830s. Then the explosive growth of the industrial Midlands and North dominated national population changes. From 1831 to 1861 Harpenden's population remained static at about two thousand, but that of Wheathampstead increased from seventeen hundred to just under two thousand. The national population, during the same period, rose from thirteen to eighteen million. In Wheathampstead slow growth continued until the end of the century but in Harpenden a dramatic change occurred in the 1860s.

A rapid population increase and change in character followed the coming of the Great Northern Railway to Harpenden and it is tempting to conclude that the railway was the direct cause of the expansion. But the same railway also came to Wheathampstead which was not similarly affected, so there must have been other factors. Initially Harpenden's increase was due to less movement away. Between 1851 and 1871 there was an increase of 628 people but only 381 of these were newcomers born outside the area. In Wheathampstead the increase was only 280 people but 238 were outsiders of whom many came as servants.

From the 1890s the population of Harpenden began to swell with outsiders following the sale of the large Packe and Pym estate. This land was released just at a time when the demand for residential sites in the country with access to London was mounting. In Wheathampstead there was no similar supply of land; the pattern of ownership was different and developments were small and mostly restricted to infill or replacement. Harpenden declined as an agricultural community as large areas of erstwhile cultivated land were developed into residential estates, but only the recent widespread car ownership has permitted similar changes to occur in Wheathampstead.

In 1851, before the coming of the railway, nearly half of the people of Harpenden lived in the central area comprising the High Street, Church Green and Leyton Green; the rest were scattered evenly over the hamlets of Bowling Alley, Hatching Green, Kinsbourne Green and Coldharbour. Only a third of the population of Wheathampstead lived in the central area: the High Street, Wheathampstead Hill and Brewhouse Hill, but a quarter lived at

Gustard Wood, a settlement developed during the eighteenth century. The remainder lived at Amwell, Nomansland, The Folly, Harpenden Common, Batford and Bowers Heath. (It was not until 1949 that these last three became part of Harpenden.) Both parishes had, in addition, a scatter of isolated farms.

HARPENDEN CENTRAL AREA had a much more open aspect than it does today: the Common continued northwards as a long green finger through the High Street into Church Green. Leyton Green was separated from the High Street by rows of cottages with gardens; the continuous terrace of shops, which lies to the south of Church Green, was not built until 1890. At the northern end of the village, just south of Sun Lane, stood a toll gate controlling the road to Luton. A large pond where cattle and sheep refreshed lay alongside the road opposite the Cock inn (Plate 22c). Joey Russell, who lived in one of the cottages flanking the Churchyard, was able to let his geese wander in and around the pond while he sat on the Churchyard wall plaiting straw. Joseph Leedham the ropemaker, who normally used Church Green as a rope walk, could extend across the High Street when he had an extra long rope to make. A little gully, which some people have honoured with the name 'River Harp', ran down the east side of the High Street, spanned by little rustic bridges. Probably the heaviest traffic the street had to withstand was the drays which rumbled in and out of the brewery yards.

Of the five central inns (p 167), the Cock, the Cross Keys and the George survive almost unaltered externally. The gardens of the George and the Cock were used for the very popular 'Beanfeasts' when people from as far away as London would take a trip by charabanc for a 'feast' at one of our pubs or inns. The Bull, which had been an inn since the sixteenth century (p 75) became a private house in the 1860s. Its landlord was responsible for the pound for stray animals near Park Hall, the fine being a pot or two of beer. The Red Lion has disappeared. Standing near the toll-gate it was, except for the tithe barn close by, the last building on the west side of the road before Mutton End (Moreton End).

The Oddfellows Arms on Leyton Green is one survivor of a number of smaller beerhouses. In the 1840s it was run by William Lewin, a cheesemonger and druggist. An unnamed beerhouse (3 High Street) later became the Royal Oak. The Leather Bottle (61 High St; HPH 14) was run by 'Mother Hughes', but before 1870 it was the site of Chase's, saddle and harness makers. The White Lion was first recorded in 1871 but its landlord William Robinson was earlier at the nearby Marten Cat. The Harpenden Arms opened in 1871 as the Railway Hotel. There were dilapidated buildings on this site in 1840, described as 'five tenements on the waste' but as they were owned by High Street brewer Joseph House, this probably decided their ultimate fate. Local tradition says it started

catering as a refreshment place for the railway navvies. Under landlord Richard Burnes Longland (a director of the Harpenden Gas Company) the 1890 Kelly's directory described it as a 'family and commercial hotel and posting house. Balls, wedding breakfasts etc. well catered for'. There was a livery stable which hired out horses for hunting and hacking, for weddings and even for the fire brigade.

In 1840 there were still three farmsteads in the village: Home Farm (HPH 17) on the corner of Stakers Lane (renamed Station Road in 1892 when streets were labelled with enamelled name plates), Bowers Farm (29b, Sainsbury's) and Yew Tree Farm, Leyton Green, the last to go early this century. A number of large houses have survived without much change in their external appearance. Harpenden Hall was extended this century but only to the rear; its orchard on the north side was given up in 1938 for the Public Hall. Its long life as a private house ended when it became a school in 1818 (p 63, 234). In the 1840s it was the private lunatic asylum of Dr John Quilter Rumball but it reverted to a school again early this century. It was acquired by the Council in 1931 for use as offices.

Bennetts (21 Leyton Rd, HPH 36), now occupied by the Royal British Legion, was, in the late eighteenth century, the Lawes family home and during the latter part of the nineteenth century the home of Marianne Warde (p 256), sister of Sir John Bennet Lawes (p 211). Their father spent a great deal extending the property during his friendship with the Prince Regent. Bowers House is difficult to picture for its attractive frontage leading down to the Cock Pond (HPH 6) was obliterated in 1936 by the shops of Bowers Parade. It became the home of Doctor Spackman (c 1852), the parish doctor for Redbourn and Wheathampstead as well as Harpenden, and Dr Blake (c 1892). Their predecessor, Dr Simons lived in the three-storey house next door. He died in 1857, highly respected having practised in the village for almost 50 years. Harpenden Lodge (HPH 11) was built in 1803 by General Hadden of the Ordnance Survey and later became the home of the Lydekker family. Only Townsend farmstead lay beyond it on the east side of the road before the Harrow at Kinsbourne Green.

Two buildings in the High Street are remembered in the names of their replacements: the Lineses' smithy occupied the site (51) of Anvil House from the early nineteenth century until 1942 and Kingston House (6) marks the site of Dr Francis Kingston's house. When he retired in 1861 his family had been treating people and their animals for over a hundred years (p 177). Only a few of the more modest dwellings have survived. The little house at 2 Southdown Road, a survivor of the group of cottages once clustered on the corner of Stakers Lane, was the home and premises of plumber James Ellerd in the 1840s. Betsy Crane who ran a plait school, John Archer a boot and shoe maker, and later Joseph

Trustram, saddle and harness maker, all lived in this group. Rose cottage and those adjacent (33–37 High Street) which were relatively new in the early nineteenth century survive as some of the oldest buildings in the street. Boot and shoe maker Thomas Hewson (Huson) and grocer James Varney lived there, while John Eyles, tailor and receiver of post, lived at Toll-gate Cottages (65–69 High Street, HPH 11). John Robinson, a carpenter, lived on the corner of Sun Lane which wandered up through fields to the farmhouse Starve Gut Hall (near St George's School). A large proportion of the buildings have now gone, particularly the poorer homes such as the two groups of cottages, described in the Tithe Award as 'cottages in the dell', near Anscombe's new (1886) shop adjoining Wellington House. A Wesleyan chapel, Centenary Chapel, was built amongst the cottages in 1839 (p 132, HPH 26). Rebuilt in 1866 and converted to the Regent cinema in 1929, it became Anscombe's furniture department until demolished and replaced by Waitrose in 1984.

BOWLING ALLEY

Southdown has an identity distinct from Harpenden which goes back some time. Seventeenth and eighteenth century sources refer to Bennetts Butts, a name applied to two cottages and a barn standing in an acre of land on the site of the Plough and Harrow. The name Bowling Alley (p 216) first began to be applied to the area in the mid-eighteenth century when maps indicate houses along the northern side of the small triangle formed by Southdown Road, Queen's Road and Walkers Road. In the first half of the nineteenth century few new buildings were erected. The terrace in Queen's Road overlooking the Common is referred to in a document of 1838 as 'Kingston's new houses', later called 'Physic Row' because they belonged to Dr Kingston. Soon after 1840 William Walker's straw-bleaching factory appeared on the Gorse-lands site. The census of 1851 lists 245 people living in 48 houses, in agreement with the number shown on the Tithe map. The 1861 census shows little change and in 1871 there were still only 51 houses on the triangle but there was extensive building along Providence Place, Grove Road and the newly opened Cravells Road, adding 98 houses and bringing the population of the whole area to 600. The 1861 census lists for the whole village, 2,164 people in 461 houses; ten years later the returns show an increase of 444 people and 116 houses, 80% of which was due to building at Bowling Alley.

The suggestion that the development was to accommodate railway workers does not withstand scrutiny: the navvies employed in construction were a large well-paid, but transient group and the permanent staff needed to run the railway was too small to account for the size of the expansion. In fact the 1871 census lists only five railwaymen in Bowling Alley compared with seventeen

in the whole village. Nevertheless the railway was indirectly responsible for the development because the surplus part of the land, bought in 1862 by the British Land Company from Limbrick Hall Farm, was available for building once it was no longer required for railway construction.

The 'New Town' attracted tradesmen from central Harpenden including William Biggs, a wheelwright from near the George, William Jeeves, a wheelwright from near the Cock, Edmund Halsey, a carpenter from Leyton Green, George Burgoyne a shoemaker and William Hale, a grocer, both of Stakers Lane. There were newcomers from outside Harpenden: George Grey, whose grocer's shop on Providence Place was a familiar site until 1974, and Charles Oggelsby, blacksmith, whose family business (HPH 22) developed with the times into a leading motor engineer's. There were four pubs before the expansion; three out of four new ones were in Cravells Road: the Carpenter's Arms, the George IV and the Bird in Hand, possibly the forerunner of the Engineer. The fourth, the Rose and Crown must not be confused with an earlier namesake (p 168). Of the old beerhouses, the Queen's Head replaced an earlier one behind the present site. The Plough and Harrow was probably a beerhouse long before the Tithe Award period because the seventeenth century owners, the Catlins, were brewers (pp 73-4).

WHEATHAMPSTEAD CENTRAL AREA

The elegant spire of St. Helen's, the narrow curving street and the river combine to give the village a quite different aura to Harpenden. The street was as much built-up last century as it is today but gradual replacement of old buildings has altered its character. About half of those standing 100 years ago have been demolished. Early in the century, one would have been conscious of the surrounding fields and, as a quarter of all houses had orchards, the village would not have felt so congested. Then, only the Bury Farm, Bury Farm Cottages and the new Rectory lay to the west of the Church. The Rectory, demolished about 1961, was built by Canon Pretymann soon after 1815 (p 118); he turned the old fire-damaged Rectory into a laundry (now Helmets). Part of the 'crinkum-crankum' garden wall survives. Early in the century there were only two cottages along Marford Road, and only the brewery lay on Hamwell Hill and that was new in the 1780s. On The Hill in 1840, the National School, built (1815) close to the road where Walnut Court is now, was the last building on the east side. High up on the west side were a few houses, the new Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (1839) and the Red Cow beerhouse at the top, on a different site to number 50 where it was in the 1950s. John Crisp, a registered surgeon, lived at Hill House in 1861 and The Laurels was the home of the Wynnters' school. It took both local children and boarders, boys and girls. In 1861, when run by George, its four

boarders were boys but under the Wynter sisters the boarders were mostly girls – twenty-one with only four boys in 1881.

Three of Wheathampstead's old inns (p 166) survive: The Bull looks just as it did when kept by the Hoopers, William in 1840, Joanna in 1851 and later by Eliza aged 70 in 1881. Two cottages on the river side have been taken into the pub, but all the outbuildings enclosing a yard have gone. In contrast the Swan Inn has been substantially rebuilt, a fire in 1910 having destroyed part of the timber-framed structure. The Bell (25, 27, now a restaurant) was kept by the Brays, 1851–71, but was owned by the Sibleys, maltsters, who lived at the White Cottage (41); both buildings are little changed since the early nineteenth century. Of about ten beerhouses not one continues to trade, most had ceased early this century. The Ship (demolished) was run by the Dunham family who were also bricklayers. Mary Dunham (1851) ran a beerhouse in Church Street, which became the Walnut Tree around 1900 and traded until the 1950s. The Boot (33, Doctor's surgery) was kept by Thomas Thrall the baker in 1851 and later by Rebecca Ward. The White Hart was kept by William Chennells in 1861 but it is not mentioned in later censuses. The Red Lion (demolished) was next to the bakery; the Two Brewers (Plates 21c, d) is now NSS Newsagents and behind it was Westwood's smithy, first mentioned in 1881. With the coming of the railway in 1860, the bridge across the street cut off the view of the cross-roads and there appeared, in the 1861 census, two new beerhouses. The Railway (until recently the Abbot John) was probably newly built; it later became the Railway Hotel (1871 and '81). The Locomotive on the Sunny Bank site, was run by bricklayer Thomas Dunham; it was not listed after 1871. Beerhouses commonly changed their names: the Ship became for a while (1881 census) the Free Trader but the Boot appears to have twice been the Bricklayer's Arms, first around 1871 and again around 1900.

The greatest changes to the nineteenth century streetscape are at Marford Road junction. Town Farm (demolished in 1971), which stood at the south corner, was the farmstead, slaughterhouse and shop of the Chennells family, stock-farming butchers since the mid-eighteenth century. Gone from the north side, Policeman's Corner, are the two policemen's houses, the Ship beerhouse and Thrall's bakery. John Chennells's grocery and Post Office was rebuilt (dated 1897) after a fire; the business continued well into living memory (35, 37, Midland Bank). The supermarket building near the Jessamine Garage is on the site of the White Hart and the Nash's drapery and general store. The garage itself occupies the premises of Wren's coachworks. Fortunately there are some good survivors, notably four open-hall houses of the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries. Lattimores, the home of Charles Lattimore the brewer, was given a new brick front around the beginning of the nineteenth century and has changed little since then. Place Farm

was the home of Charles Higby Lattimore, farmer and staunch Liberal pamphleteer, who died in 1889. The octagonal chimneys and plaster rendering have been lost and the setting of the house diminished, all since the last war. The Bell Inn and White Cottage, mentioned above, complete the quartet.

George Simons's butchery business at the Sunny Bank site profited well enough for him to have, between 1871 and 1881, a fine new house and shop next to John Gregory's old bakery (still a bakery, Ackroyd's). The miller, too, could afford a new house (Busby's chemist's) but the mill remained unchanged until about 1900 when it was stripped of most of its weatherboarding and encased in brick (Plate 22b). The bridge over the river was completely rebuilt about 1860 but damaged by severe floods on 2 August 1879. Bank Chambers, below the Church, replaced in 1936 the workhouse (p 154) and workhouse yard where seven families lived in 1851, but against the Churchyard survive several small buildings described in 1799 as workshops.

From the 1860s, steady but piecemeal building of villas, often in pairs, set a new pattern for the village. Some, like the policemen's houses and those below the railway station, replaced earlier cottages but most were on virgin sites, notably on The Hill and at New Marford.

THE FOLLY

The origin of the name is obscure although it might be connected with the fulling mill marked on Sellar's map of 1676. The name first appears on Dury and Andrews's map of 1766 which shows two or three buildings between the road and the river. One must be Royal Oak Cottage, which in 1799 was a pest house, an early form of isolation hospital and an indication that it was well away from populated areas. The Tithe Map (1840) shows two cottages on the Royal Oak site and one on the northern side of the road but the 1861 census lists 73 people in 14 houses, two being beerhouses, presumably the Royal Oak and the Rose and Crown. They ceased to be pubs only recently but the names survive as Royal Oak Cottage, Rose Cottage and Crown Cottage. A bootmaker, two cordwainers, an engine feeder and a sawyer, but mostly agricultural labourers, lived in the hamlet. By 1871 there had been even greater expansion to 49 houses with 231 inhabitants including a joiner, three carpenters and two sawyers, a general dealer, a blacksmith and a wheelwright. There were four plate-layers, an utterly insufficient number to substantiate the belief, which the Folly shares with Bowling Alley, that the new houses were for railway workers. Perhaps these were temporary accommodation sites for the navvies building the railways. The Methodist Chapel (p 136) was built in 1887 and Osbourne's hat factory was set up between the Chapel and the Royal Oak in the 1890s. Sadly, almost all the houses now have inappropriate doors and fenestration; 39 Folly Fields alone is not thus blighted.

MIDDLE CLASS DEVELOPMENTS

Artisans and labourers lived in the aforementioned new buildings and similar houses at Cold Harbour, Kinsbourne Green and Luton Road but the development which followed the sale of the Packe and Pym Estate was aimed at a very different stratum of society. The land belonged in the seventeenth century to Godman Jenkyn and was inherited by his nieces Elizabeth Kingsley and Ann Reading. Elizabeth's share passed to her daughter, also Elizabeth, who married William Pym, and later to his brother Francis. Ann Reading's share passed to her son Jenkyn Reading who in turn left it to his god-daughter Kitty Hort. Kitty married Charles William Packe and under the terms of the will adopted the name Reading. She died without issue in 1870. The estate was sold at auction in 1882, when the sale catalogue described the land as 'affording choice building sites within a convenient distance of London'. Much was bought by builders and property speculators. Henry Steer of Luton bought 97 acres near the Church, formerly Church Farm, at £57 per acre. He built on part, then in 1895 sold the remainder as building plots with frontages of 50 to 60 feet and depths of about 150 feet, with the roads already laid out. The sale catalogue specified the types of house to be built: detached at £400 or £500, or semi-detached at £700 the pair. About four hundred plots were sold during 1895-97 forming the St. Nicholas Estate, now referred to as 'The Avenues'. A typical house consisted of a cellar; three living rooms, entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen, scullery, larder, coal place and WC; four bedrooms, bathroom and landing, and an attic bedroom and boxroom.

The Park View Estate in the Milton Road area had developed along similar lines between 1884 and 1893; Amenbury Estate followed in 1905 and further portions of the St. Nicholas Estate in 1906. The sales literature boasts: 'Harpenden has during the past few years become a favourite residential place for professional and businessmen whose vocations are in London, Luton and St. Albans, and probably nowhere else in so short a distance from the Metropolis is there a spot so absolutely rural, picturesque and healthy and the rates so low as 3/-'. It was stipulated that the houses were not to be used for trade, business or manufacture, but certain professions like medicine and law were permitted. The newcomers who bought these 'superior residences' swelled the population of Harpenden from 3,064 in 1881 to 6,173 in 1911.

Not everyone approved of the new developments. Canon Davys, the first rector of Wheathampstead after the separation of the two parishes (p 120, Plate 14b), wrote: 'I was glad that when the time for my institution came, I found myself Rector of Wheathampstead without Harpenden, and have been more so since Harpenden, then said to be one of the most beautiful villages in England, has been made, by the coming of the Midland Railway, now largely a city of villas'.

Trades and Industries

At the beginning of the nineteenth century most working men of both villages were employed directly on the land. Others were in business to provide the community with the necessities of food, drink and clothing and to supply and repair working tools and equipment. A certain amount of industrial activity was related to farming: taking the straw, wheat and barley to convert them to hats, bread and beer, or it derived from geological assets. Pockets of brick-earth, in the clay which overlies the chalk, were the raw material for brick and tile making. Papermaking, introduced to the area in the eighteenth century (p 174), required the copious quantities of clear water available from rivers like the Lea.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century two factors helped to accelerate the end of this largely self-sufficient rural economy. The late 1870s saw the introduction of cheap agricultural products from abroad, and mechanisation on English farms meant fewer jobs for farm labourers. If there was no alternative work locally they were forced to leave home. In our two villages the rail links both brought employment and allowed people to find work outside. In Harpenden, far from declining, the population increased rapidly (HPH 19) and needed homes; so, many farms giving diminishing returns under the plough sold land to yield more profitable harvests under bricks and mortar.

FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS together represented, in 1851, 62% of the male working population in Wheathampstead and 57% in Harpenden. By 1871 the number was still 60% in Wheathampstead but had dropped to 43% in Harpenden; here already employment was moving away from agriculture. Around the middle of the century, farm labourers earned 11s to 13s a week while ploughmen, cowmen and shepherds could earn up to 15s. Bread was 7½d for a quartern loaf (about 4lbs). The week was of six days that normally lasted from 5 or 6am to about 5pm or later. The working day was longer in summer with hay to make and corn to harvest, so wages were adjusted accordingly. At the beginning of the century most work was still done by hand, mowing with a scythe and reaping by hook or sickle. Threshing was a skilled task, the whirling flail could be a dangerous weapon in inexperienced hands. Threshing machines became widespread after the Great Exhibition. At that time Joseph Trustram of the Cock, Harpenden, and Charles Lattimore of Wheathampstead each owned and hired 'the tackle' with a team of six horses to other farmers.

Many farm workers obtained their jobs at the annual hiring fair held on Lady Day in St. Peter's Street, St. Albans. Edwin Grey tells how each wore a symbol of his speciality: ploughmen had a piece of whipcord around their hats, shepherds a piece of wool, cowmen a wisp of cowhair. The traditional garments of a farm

worker in this area were a dark green smock and a 'billycock' or 'wide awake' hat – one with a broad brim which could be turned down to ward off sun or rain. On Sundays he wore, if he could afford it, a best smock with perhaps a 'cast-off top hat or boxer'.

FARMS

The Tithe Award survey of 1840 lists about 27 farms in each village. They range in size from as little as 10 acres to over 400 (Tables 4 & 5; Appendices 8a & 8b). The farms are also named in the censuses but in the later returns about a third are not mentioned because they had been amalgamated into larger units. Most of the 'lost' farms were of less than 100 acres but Great Cutts, 240 acres, was also not mentioned after 1840. Townsend Farm became Church Farm at about this time, possibly because the homestead moved from near Townsend Road to behind Batchelor's Row. Some farms seemed to disappear for a while but were mentioned again in later years. Ayres End Farm was not mentioned in 1851 but its acreage was included with Cross Farm where George Dickinson, who worked both farms, lived. Faulkners End and Dove House, both farmed by Robert Sibley in 1840, were included in the acreage ascribed to Matthew Redhead of Dove House in 1851. In these and other cases which can be found in the tables, the missing farms reappeared as separate entities under independent farmers later in the century. The complex of farms to the north of Wheathampstead: Lamer, Astridge and Delaport seem to have been unified by Charles Sibley who eventually moved from Astridge to Lamer Home Farm. However after his retirement in 1880, part of Lamer was farmed by William Seabrook the licensee of the Railway Hotel. The merging of some farms was permanent: Rough Hyde amalgamated with Lower Top Street and Castle Farm with Mackerye End Farm. George Burchmore's farm at Hatching Green, 150 acres in 1851, had doubled in size by 1871. Home Farm, which with Yew Tree Farm gave Joseph Freeman 119 acres in 1840, had increased to 320 acres in 1871 under Henry Willmott, but declined again during the next decade. Freeman's three central farms had land in small parcels all over Harpenden parish. His family had been butcher-farmers since the early eighteenth century. Poplars, the family concern of Henry Bunn and his son-in-law Reuben Scrivener, had been owned by Bunns over the same long period (p 161), and also noteworthy, the Dickinsons are at Cross Farm to this day.

The apparent dramatic expansion of Wheathampstead Place is probably an illusion because most of the 329 acres that Charles Lattimore farmed (1851 census) were owned by Lord Melbourne of Bocket Hall and lay in Sandridge parish so would not have been included in the Wheathampstead Tithe Award. Byelands, similarly, had a considerable acreage in Redbourn not counted in the Harpenden Tithe Award.

The Tithe Award records the owners of farms as well as occupiers and here we find an important difference between Harpenden and Wheathampstead. In both parishes the largest landowners were the old manorial landlords, John Bennet Lawes of Rothamsted with just over 1,000 acres and Charles Drake Garrard of Lamer with about 1,300 acres. Another large parcel, about 1,000 acres, of Harpenden was owned by the partnership of Charles Packe and Francis Pym. In Wheathampstead some farms belonged to great landowners from neighbouring parishes – Lord Melbourne, and the Rev. Kentish of Childwickbury – but there were no absentee landlords like Packe and Pym, and most of the land outside the Lamer Estate was owned by the men who farmed it. These include John Isaac House at Grove Farm and Bamville Wood (he also owned one of the Harpenden Breweries); Levi Ames, of The Hyde, at Great Cutts; John Dorrington at Delaport (he also worked Lamer Home Farm); David Phillpotts at Little Cutts; and Naphtali Norris at Hollybush Hall near Mackerye End Farm. In Harpenden, Byelands, Poplars, Moreton End, and 42 acres belonging to Joseph Freeman, in total 205 acres, accounts for nearly all the owner-occupied land.

STRAW PLAIT AND HATS

Luton was the centre of the straw hat industry but the basic commodity, the ribbons of plait which were sewn in spirals to make up the hats, was the product of a widespread cottage industry in every village around. Although well established in the seventeenth century, the scope of the industry was restricted before the nineteenth century because the coarse local straw could not compete with the fine Leghorn straw imported from Italy. Then, two developments gave a boost to the local industry: the Napoleonic Wars cut off the Italian supplies and the invention of a splitter enabled local straw to be divided longitudinally into a number of fine splints comparable with the imported straw. The 1851 census, taken near the height of the boom, records 448 straw plaiters in Harpenden: eight of these were men and boys, while the women and girls represented 43% of the total female population. The youngest was little Ellen Bassil, aged four, whose grandfather kept the Fox at Kinsbourne Green. The oldest was Martha Jennings, aged 88, who lived near Leyton Green. Wheathampstead census gives only 275 plaiters, 29% of the female population, but the true figure must have been similar to that of Harpenden, the enumerator failing frequently to note plaiting because it was commonplace. The industry provided valuable supplementary income for farm workers' families. With potential earnings of 2s to 5s a week, mother and children together could frequently surpass the father's wage as an agricultural labourer.

The youngest children acquired the skill at their mother's knee or at plait schools (p 242). Rhymes were recited to help them remember the plaits: 'Under one, over two, pull it tight and that will do'. At the plait schools, in theory at least, while little fingers

were trained to manipulate the plait, the little heads were acquiring some knowledge of letters. Edwin Grey describes Betsy Crane's school in Stakers Lane. 'I had to stand by Betsy's knee, whilst with her assistance I spelt, letter by letter, one or two easy words from a big book.' Each pupil took turns to read in this way while his companions worked on the quota of plait they were required to turn out for the day. The parents paid a few pence a week for the children to attend but very soon they produced enough plait to repay the investment, and in some cases they must have learnt to read as well.

Special varieties of wheat were grown for straw and were harvested a little earlier than those grown for grain. The reaping was done with care and the straw drawn and graded before being made up into bundles. Plaiters were supplied with the bundles by the straw merchants' agents who travelled round the villages also buying the finished plait. Local shopkeepers too acted as middlemen. William Pearce, whose grocery store was at the Folly, would trade straw for plait and also obliged by trading groceries when money was short. Grocers F. Wright in Wheathampstead and Jack Saunders, whose shop was near Bowers House, provided a similar service. Some, though, the hardier souls, preferred to trudge with the 'scores' (20 yard coils of finished plait) over their arms, to St. Albans or Luton market where they could sell direct to the merchants for a better price, and spend their earnings in the town.

The plaiting trade began to decline in the second half of the century with the importation of rice straw from the Far East. By 1871 there were in Harpenden only 238 plaiters: three boys and 235 women and girls, only 17% of the female population. But the hat trade continued, employing many women as bonnet sewers, stiffeners, ironers, blockers, liners, trimmers and finishers. Bonnet sewers frequently worked at home; the others mostly travelled to the Luton factories, but some were employed locally. Solly Isaacs was making straw hats in Harpenden in 1829. In the 1850s, the Walker family made straw bonnets near Leyton Green. Their straw-bleaching yard was at Gorselands on Harpenden Common, having moved from Nomansland Common, its site in the 1830s. In 1873 Field's factory was in Leyton Road but later moved to Kingcroft Road. Osbourne's, at the Folly, started in the 1890s and continued until the 1920s. Felt, which in other parts had been used for hats for centuries, was introduced commercially to the area in the 1870s but did not displace straw from its commanding position until after the 1914-18 War. Now, the one remaining hat factory uses materials the straw plaiters could never have dreamed of; Helmets of Wheathampstead make protective headware from fibreglass and high-impact polystyrene.

BREWING

Wheathampstead's two breweries were owned by William Lattimore and George Sutton; both were also corn dealers and

maltsters and Sutton worked Wheathampstead mill as well. Only Lattimore's brewery survived the century: it was sold in 1904 but its site on Brewhouse hill is marked by the pyramidal roof of the maltings. There were also three other maltsters in 1839: John Dorrington, Henry Sibley and, at Mackerye End, Ralph Thrale. Robert Bray and later George Bray of the Bell were brewers and coopers.

The two breweries in Harpenden stood side by side in the High Street. The more southerly, on land now occupied by Argos (no. 27) and the Methodist Church (a triumph for Temperance!), belonged to James Curtis at the beginning of the nineteenth century. In the 1860s, when owned by George Healey and later his wife Elizabeth, twelve men and one boy were employed. From about 1870 until well into this century it was run by the Dunstable brewer, Benjamin Bennett. His monogram, BB, can be seen on the wall of the Plough and Harrow, Southdown Road. By 1922 the brewery site had become a hosiery factory. The Peacock brewery occupied the sites (29, 29a) of Eastern Electricity and that vacated in 1989 by C & A. Bricked-up windows of a former brewery building can be seen in the passage leading to the rear yard. Early in the century it was owned by Joseph House of Grove Farm. After his death his wife continued to run it until the mid 1870s, employing six men. Then James Mardall and his wife Martha, who had earlier farmed at Leasy Bridge, ran it until the late 1890s when Glovers took over until the early 1920s.

BRICKMAKING never reached the importance it attained in Bedfordshire. The clay required by the brickmaker occurred locally in isolated pockets only and this may explain why early references are to people in trouble for encroaching on common land in search of the clay (p 172). As early as 1572 a man called Potter was amerced for digging clay in 'Harden Green' for the making of tiles. A map, drawn in 1838, shows a spot on Harpenden Common opposite the end of Crabtree Lane where Lines 'built a house and made bricks'. The notes accompanying the map record that 'Mr Bennett made him pull his house down and clear away his brickyard'. The same map shows a brickfield on the Common, west of St. Albans Road and south of Hatching Green. The Tithe maps show a brickyard behind Joseph Freeman's butchers shop in Stakers Lane, a brickfield near Annables, another near Ayres End and a brick ground at Nomansland occupied by John Dunham. Excavation of the clay leaves its mark in the form of irregular declivities. The 'Prickle Dells' on Harpenden Common, south of Walkers Road, were almost certainly formed in this way and referred to as Brick Kiln Dells before the gorse and hawthorn colonised to justify the present name.

The census returns of 1851, 1861 and 1871 list several brickmakers in Harpenden: Samuel Morley in Bowling Alley, James Morley at Rothamsted Lodge and Thomas Morley on the Common near Bowling Alley. During the 1870s and later years of

the century there were others: Frederick Gostelow Lockhart, also a coal merchant, and Thomas Dawson of Cravells Road, described in the 1890 Kelly's Directory as 'builder, contractor, brickmaker and complete funeral furnisher'.

MILLS

During the nineteenth century the River Lea turned the wheels of four mills as it had done since before Domesday (p 24). Hyde Mill, on the Bedfordshire border, is not mentioned until Kelly's Directory of 1874 when it was worked as a flour mill by Edmund Illott and Sons. In 1879 it was taken over by Benjamin Cole and is still worked by his family as a grain mill. For a time from the 1880s it was steam-powered. Pickford Mill had been used for paper making from the mid-eighteenth century (p 174) and was still so used in 1851 when the census lists the occupant as Philip Weedon, a paper maker. It reverted to flour milling and in the '70s and '80s was run by George Bates who had introduced steam by 1886. In 1897 it was converted to a gutta percha factory by Vaughan Stevens of the Red House, Harpenden. It was followed by several factories involved with rubber or plastics which have flourished in the Pickford and Batford area ever since. Bourne Bros and Co. were manufacturing indiarubber goods at Pickford Mills in 1899 and 1902. The New Motor and General Rubber Company was in Batford in 1910, followed by a rubber manufacturing company called Almagam in 1912 and Associated Rubber Manufacturers in 1917. Meanwhile, Sir Charles Lawes had founded the Millwall Rubber Company, making soles and heels at the White City Works in Grove Road. Before all these, Abbott, Anderson and Abbott were producing waterproof fabrics at the Heathfield works in Leyton Road from 1895.

Batford Mill, used before the 1939-45 War for making fertiliser, and more recently for plastics, was a flour mill for most of its long life. Early in the nineteenth century it was worked by Edmund Bates, the farmer and baker of Limbrick Hall. During the '50s and '60s the Divers family ran it and by 1871 it was in the hands of Ernest Dixon who had a mill at Redbourn and Prae Mill at St. Albans. William Rosson was working Batford Mill with steam power in 1886. It was capable of grinding two hundred sacks of flour per week in 1901 when, for £1,400, it was bought by George Titmus, who had been at Wheathampstead Mill since before 1871. Wheathampstead Mill was worked by Edward Bruton during the '50s and '60s and before him by George Sutton, corn miller and coal dealer, maltster and brewer.

BLACKSMITHS produced every requirement made of iron, not only horseshoes but hand tools and pieces for horse-drawn vehicles and the agricultural machinery which became more widely used and more elaborate as the century progressed. At times, there have been forges at Kinsbourne Green, Bowling Alley, Bowers

Heath, Gustard Wood, The Folly, St. Albans Road near Beeson End and Batford as well as in the village centres. Many of them had been flourishing in the eighteenth century (p 175-7) but only three survived into the twentieth. The aptly named Anvil Parade in Harpenden High Street replaced the forge run by Joseph Lines and his descendants (p 177) from the 1820s until 1942. Batford forge, next to the Gibraltar public house, was operated by George Lines in the 1840s. It was (1986) one of the last two working forges in the area but was located near the ford in Crabtree Lane. Other members of the Lines family had worked the forges at Bowers Heath, Gustard Wood, Upper Top Street Farm and Harpenden Common. This last, situated near where the golf club-house now stands, was run by Edward Lines in the 1860s and '70s and before him by Robert Dunkley who had acquired it from his uncle in whose family it had been since the eighteenth century (p 176). Charles Oggelsby opened a smithy in 1873 in Bowling Alley (HPH 22; now the site of South Harpenden Cars). By the turn of the century the family business was repairing then later making bicycles. After the Great War it began servicing motor cars and had some of the earliest petrol pumps in Harpenden.

SADDLE AND HARNESS MAKING in Harpenden seems to have been very much a family business. John Chase, the saddler at the beginning of the century, had handed over, by the 1850s, to his son Frederick who had been landlord at the Cock in the 1840s. Frederick's sister, Caroline, was running the business in the 1860s with William Dudmesh as foreman. Dudmesh continued as a saddler until the end of the century but from the 1870s was running a business in his own name. Joseph Trustram, who was listed as a saddle maker in 1871, also had connections with the Cock because his father had taken the licence after Frederick Chase. The Trustrams continued as saddle makers in the little shop at the bottom of Stakers Lane until well into the twentieth century when they gradually changed to selling newspapers and stationery. During the 1860s and '70s Joseph Doggett had a saddlery next to the Cross Keys.

In Wheathampstead, saddlers are not mentioned earlier than the 1874 directory when Mrs. Ann Walklate is listed as a saddle, harness and collar maker; apparently this was a branch of a St. Albans business. Joseph Bayford, 1878-82, then Thomas Bayford, then during the last years of the century Edward Augustus Roots were all working saddlers.

WHEELWRIGHTS AND COACH BUILDERS

The eponymously named Samuel Wright had his workshop in Harpenden High Street, next to Joseph Freeman's Home Farm in the first half of the century. Later, Harpenden had several wheelwrights - six in the 1871 census - some of whom were also publicans: Joseph Martin at the Marquis of Granby in the 1880s, George Samwells and son Thomas at the George in the 1870s and

'80s and Thomas Walker at the Cock in the 1890s. Walker and his son continued their business in Station Road until 1914. Wheathampstead had two wheelwrights throughout the century. In the first half Robert Bray worked in the Swan yard; Robert Dickinson, in East Lane near the Bull, later moved to Bury Green where, from the 1880s to the 1900s, Whitton Smith, described as a van and light cart manufacturer, ran the business. Towards the end of the century the Wrens of Kimpton opened a wheelwright's business on the corner of East Lane, opposite the Bull. It developed into building coaches, tradesmen's turn-outs and farm carts.

BUILDING TRADES were more independent of each other in the early nineteenth century than they are today (p 171). William Wells appears as a **bricklayer** from the 1830s to 1850s but he and his son, Thomas, are listed as builders in later years. Ann Dunham, referred to as a bricklayer in the 1830s was almost certainly managing her deceased husband's business. These examples show that a change in the organisation of the building industry was taking place around the middle of the nineteenth century. Earlier, the different craftsmen were approached individually but the modern practice of engaging a builder, who either employed or contracted the craftsmen, was evolving. The term 'builder' does not appear in the directories until the 1870s; 'bricklayer' does not occur very frequently after that period. There were never more than two bricklayers/builders listed in the Harpenden directories in the years before 1886, William and Joseph Doggett occurring most often. The directories, however, do not give a true account because the 1871 census lists seven men described either as master builders or as builders employing so many men. The 1886 directory lists five names so it seems that more builders thought it was worthwhile to advertise in the later years. In Wheathampstead the position appears to have been similar. Only two builders are mentioned up to 1882, the Dunhams and the Kilbys. An increase to four in 1886 and five in 1890 included Thomas Dawson of Cravells Road, who also advertised in the Harpenden directories.

Each Harpenden directory lists two or three **carpenters** in the years up to 1882, but none after. The most prominent names are John Robinson (1839-71 directories), Edmund Halsey (1861-78) and the Trustrams: Joseph, landlord at the Cock in 1851, Walter, described as a carpenter in 1871 but a builder in 1874, and William, listed as a carpenter in 1871, 1874 and 1878. In Wheathampstead George Arnold, George Brown and John Kilby are listed in 1832 and in 1837 but only one appears in any later directory, Samuel Samwells in 1878. Thomas Joseph Wells was the last in Harpenden to advertise as a carpenter, in 1874, '78 and '82, but by then he was thought of as a builder by the census enumerators. Carpenters, like bricklayers, were experiencing a changing role within the building industry. George Brown was considered a builder by 1851. The Kilby's builder's business (p 171) employed in 1861 20 men and a

boy. John, aged 64, and his son Alfred were listed as carpenters, and William, although a master carpenter, was described as an upholsterer. John advertised as a builder in 1866, but by 1871 William ran the business with 28 employees. He sold it in 1877 to the partnership of Joseph Fenwick Owen, aged 26 and born in Reigate, and James Williams, a builder and decorator born in Uxbridge. Owen, who in 1910 built St. Peter's, Gustard Wood, was listed in directories from the 1880s to 1900s as a builder and contractor. His workshop, sawpit and yards were on both sides of Lamer Lane at the southern end of Gustard Wood Common, a spot still known as Owen's Corner. His bricks, inscribed in the frog with OSTA for Owen St. Albans, were made at Ayot Green and at Hill End, St. Albans. At one time his craftsmen included two sawyers, two carpenters, three bricklayers and three painters. He was also an undertaker; people nearby could tell when a death had occurred by the hammering which sometimes continued late into the night.

Plumbers combined their trade with that of painter and glazier but none are mentioned in Wheathampstead directories until 1866 when the Kilbys added plumbing and glazing to their carpentry and bricklaying skills. For the rest of the century only George Clark is listed as a plumber. The only Harpenden plumber in the 1820s and 30s was James Ellard continuing an established family business (p 172); the number rose to four in the 1890s. Henry Salisbury moved to Harpenden from Northamptonshire in 1862 and set up an ironmongery and builder's yard at his home, The Great House next to Bennetts in Leyton Road. The 1871 census describes him, at the age of 32, as a master plumber, glazier and painter, employing six men. He advertised in the 1892 directory as 'wholesale and retail ironmonger, sanitary plumber, steam, hot water and gas engineer, house painter and decorator, locksmith, bell hanger etc'. He died in 1923 but the firm continued for another half century under the name Kingston House. He took an active role in parish and District Council affairs and was a most dedicated member of the Methodist Church (p 132, Plate 14c). Of his large family, James, the eldest son, continued the glaziers' tradition in the manufacture of stained glass at St. Albans and Edgar worked in the family business. Eustace became an architect; several of his houses can be seen in Harpenden: 47 Luton Road, Grey Gates at East Common and Red Gables at West Common, which he designed for his brother Frank, who achieved world renown as an artist (p 214).

A ROPE MAKER, Henry Joseph Leedham, lived and plied his trade in the old poor house on Church Green, Harpenden. He made ropes for wells and for general use on the farms and in workshops. John Lydekker, writing of Harpenden in the 1860s, recalls how the rope maker could often be seen walking backwards with strands of rope festooned about his body while a small boy turned the wheel that twisted the strands at the other end.

FOOD SHOPS

Richard Batchelor, one of four Harpenden **bakers** early in the century, had a shop next to Dr. Kingston's house. He appeared in directories from 1826 to 1874. Over the same long period John Missenden's bakery was next to the Cock where he was landlord from 1826 to the late '30s; by 1871, John Irons, who had been Richard Batchelor's assistant, had taken over. It remained a bakery (Rowe's) until the 1970s. George Simons's bakery (34 High St.) continued under the Simons name until the 1950s but latterly as a grocery. The fourth baker, Edmund Bates, was the miller at Batford and farmer of Limbrick Hall Farm. Two more names appear later in the century: James Borders in Bowling Alley and Daniel Dunham whose shop was in Cravells Road. William Lattimore, the miller at Wheathampstead, was also a baker and John Gregory (p 170), whose bakery was opposite Wheathampstead Place just above the mill, was also a grocer. At Gustard Wood, first Thomas Sibley then, from the 1860s for the rest of the century, Henry Sibley ran a shop and bakery. In the later period Wheathampstead had several other bakers: John McCulloch also a coal merchant, Thomas Thrall, Thomas Batchelor and, at the Folly, Thomas Wilsher. Many villagers baked their own bread using communal bakehouses such as those at the south ends of Physic Row and Pimlico Place. The baking and roasting for Christmas and special days was done there or taken to the bakers' ovens because most cottagers had only small ranges or open fires that could cope with little more than boiling.

Five **butchers** appear in the earlier Harpenden directories although only three were there for any appreciable time. The farmer Joseph Freeman was the last of a line of butchers established in the early eighteenth century (p 161, 170); his shop was in Stakers Lane close to Home Farm. George Heath had a shop in the Leyton Road area (1820s-60s) and John Farnell traded next to House's brewery in the High Street (1830s-70s). Later in the century the village was served by four butchers. When first mentioned in 1861, Henry Skillman's shop was next to the Cock but he, his wife and seven children moved next to the Cross Keys. Thomas Skillman continued the business in the 1880s followed by Mrs. Mary Ann Skillman. Walter Steabben's shop, first mentioned in 1866, was also near the Cock Inn but in the present century 'Steabbens' was on the corner of Rothamsted Avenue and Church Green. In the 1880s William Sears and William Dunkley had shops in the High Street and by 1890 there were four more butchers in Harpenden. Stephen Swales was in the High Street, Thomas Sears and Alfred Grey, who had branches at St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead, were at Bowling Alley and Charles Henry Willmot had Joseph Freeman's former business.

In Wheathampstead, three butchers are mentioned in the 1839 directory: Amelia Chennells, William Mowbray and John Mumford. By 1861 Mumford, a journeyman, was employed by Amelia

Chennells and by 1866 she alone remained. She was succeeded by her son Jesse by 1871 but the butcher's business, which had existed for over a hundred years (p 169), is not mentioned after 1874 although Town Farm continued in the hands of the family for many years more. George Simons's first shop, in the 1860s, was where Sunny Bank cottages now stand but he moved nearer to the mill. In 1889 he was fined £1 plus costs for using scales which weighed light by seven drams. William Clark, aged 52, was described in 1871 as a grocer and carrier but later sources list him and his son John, born 1854, as butchers with a shop and slaughterhouse at 6 Church Street (Plates 21a, b). Dave Dimock was born in Wheathampstead and is described in the 1861 census as a brewer's man but the 1871 Harpenden census lists him as a journeyman butcher. In '81 he was an agricultural labourer! For most farm labourers' families 'butcher's meat', that is beef and mutton, was a luxury; many kept a pig or could claim a share in a neighbour's pig by contributing kitchen waste. Edwin Grey vividly describes Dave Dimmock turning up with his scalding tub, pig rack and steelyard to dispatch the villager's pig and convert it to usable joints.

The number of shops selling groceries increased steadily through the century; often they were **general stores** dealing in hardware as well as foodstuffs. Five advertised in the 1826 Harpenden directory, eighteen in 1890. The Tithe Award shows the location of the five. William Hunt was at Cold Harbour and Thomas Patmore, for a time, occupied the Old Red Lion site (p 209). William Nott and his family (1820s to late '80s) were in the High Street where Vaughan Road is now. James Varney was near the bottom of Vinegar Lane (Thompsons Close) and William Lewin, variously described in the early directories as a druggist or cheesemonger, had a store next to his beer shop – later the Oddfellows Arms – on Leyton Green. Lewin's apprentice, James Winterborn, had his own grocer's and chemist's by 1861 approximately where Busby's is today (19 High St.). James Busby, himself, started in 1869 near Kingston House as a chemist and druggist who also pulled teeth. He regularly advertised his concoctions: Busby's Neuralgia Mixture and Nerve Tonic, Busby's Red Cherry Cough Mixture, and Busby's Toothache Essence. When Batchelor's Row cottages (HPH 13), overlooking Church Green, were demolished in 1958 to make way for the Premier Supermarket, the sign board of Brash's shop was found. Helen Brash came from Scotland and set up as a tea dealer before 1851 but her reputation was built on the toffee she made. She died in December 1881 aged 62.

In Wheathampstead there were three stores in 1839, seven in 1890. The early three included John Gregory, already mentioned. George Nash's forebears had been butchers (p 169); his shop in the High Street (Plate 22a) continued throughout the century and sold a great range of goods. In 1866 George and John Nash were described as 'drapers, grocers and china, glass and earthenware

dealers'. John alone is mentioned 1871-1900s. Edward Sibley ran a store at Gustard Wood. John Chennells's general store was first mentioned in the 1861 census but it continued well into the twentieth century. John, the son of Amelia, was described as a druggist and grocer; he was also the postmaster.

The first **fishmonger** recorded in Harpenden, George Lawrence (1866), kept a beerhouse near the Queen's Head appropriately named the Fishmonger's Arms. Charles Chapman, Wheathampstead's first recorded (1871) fishmonger was next to Simons the butcher. **Greengrocers** were unnecessary when nearly everyone had a vegetable patch and grocers sold the exotic seasonal treats such as oranges at Christmas. The earliest indication of a greengrocer is the 1871 Harpenden census which describes Edwin Harris as fruiterer and poulterer. Kelly's 1890 directory mentions Mrs. George Fell, a greengrocer near the Silver Cup, but many will remember the shop in Station Road which closed in the 1980s. She was the first, in Harpenden, to sell bananas.

CLOTHING TRADES

Throughout most of the century there were four **tailors** in Harpenden and two in Wheathampstead. John Iles is listed in 1826 and the firm of J. Eyles and Son, at 65 High Street (HPH 11), was still advertising in Harpenden directories at the end of the century. John Eyles was receiver of post in the 1850s. Child or Childs was another recurring name among tailors. Henry advertised in the 1839 directory; Elizabeth, a spinster born in Wiltshire, lived near Bowers House and was described in the 1851 census as a milliner and dressmaker. William, a tailor in the 1850s, '60s and '70s, lived between Home Farm and the breweries. A gravestone to a Henry Child who died in 1848 shows he had been 'many years Overseer to the Board of Ordnance of the Works at the Tower'. Herman Humphrey, tailor of Cravells Road, first appeared in the 1871 census return. The firm, under Mrs. Harriet Humphrey, who also ran a post office, was still in Cravells Road in the 1920s. Tong's tailoring shop was in Wheathampstead Street just above the mill. Thomas Tong's business (1839 directory) was carried on by his widow May and then by his three sons, Thomas, Charles and William. John Tong was the last tailor of that name (1874 directory) but Sarah, the daughter of Thomas and May, worked as a dressmaker until she died in 1903. William Howard, aged 28, appeared first in the 1861 census as a tailor and retailer of beer at the Boot. His tailoring flourished during the 1870s and '80s but Rebecca Ward was then the publican. Alfred Amos Warren set up his business in the early 1870s in the then developing New Marford. His entry in Kelly's 1902 directory reads 'Tailors and habit makers established over 25 years. Ladies tailor-made garments of every description and design executed on the most moderate terms and on the shortest notice. All letters receive prompt attention'. His son Harry carried on the business.

Tailors often had a drapery side to their business. In Harpenden the first **draper** to be described as such, Samuel Oliver, appears in the directory but not the census for 1851. Allen 'Grab-all' Anscombe opened a draper's shop in 1855; by 1861 he was employing two young men, two youths and three young women in the workrooms at Leyton Road. His entry in the 1890 directory reads: 'Family drapers, silk mercers, dress and mantle makers, outfitters, carpet warehousemen, boot and shoe factors, wholesale and family grocers and provision merchants, china and glass etc'. The overhead wire system for carrying money to and from the cashier's desk was still in place when the shop closed in 1981. Oliver Jewers's shop was at the corner of Vinegar Lane. Old residents remembered that, when buying underwear, they were asked to 'Come into the vestry'. George Nash and his sister Sarah ran the only firm of drapers in Wheathampstead (1839-51). Sarah was not mentioned in 1861 and by 1866 George's name was linked with John Nash running a general store.

Bootmakers James Arnold and George Grover were the only ones listed in Kelly's 1839 Wheathampstead directory. The Tithe map places Arnold in a cottage near the Bull, but although neither man is mentioned again, Wheathampstead was not without boot and shoe makers. The censuses list eighteen in 1851, thirteen in 1861 and ten in 1871 but it is impossible to say how many were their own masters, clearly many were employees. Several were also publicans, notably: John Sibley at the Cross Keys, Gustard Wood, Abraham Brothers at the Royal Exchange, James Johnson at the Railway beerhouse and the George Grays, father, son and grandson at the Three Horse Shoes on Harpenden Common. Thomas Seabrook of Brewhouse Hill and William Gatward, at first on Brewhouse Hill but later near the Bell, were shoemaking for the last thirty years of the century. Gatward was, for many years, Parish Clerk and Sexton and sometime secretary of the Wheathampstead Reading Club. John Sibley who was first mentioned in 1851 had died by 1878 but his nephew John Wilsher continued making shoes into this century.

The early Harpenden directories, like those for Wheathampstead, mention only a few boot and shoe makers - three in 1826, two in 1837, four in 1839 - but census returns give many more - ten in 1851, twelve in 1861, thirteen in 1871. Many of the Archer family were bootmakers but their relationships have yet to be unravelled. Beginning in 1826 the name John Archer recurs regularly until 1878. John, aged 60 in 1871, worked near the White Lion Passage but close by was George (1839-61) near the Wesleyan Chapel in Leyton Road. William was in the West Common area (1851-71) and Edward, listed as a journeyman bootmaker in the census, evidently came into the family business, as it is his name which appears in directories for 1886 and 1890. Perhaps it became Gibbons's which flourished 1900-60 (Plate 23b). Thomas Huson was mentioned over a long period till 1878 when he was 71. He was helped

by his brother George, the well-loved Sunday School teacher (p 123), and sister Mary at the shop near Rose Cottage. William Henson, first mentioned in 1839 but retired by 1871, lived and worked near Henry Salisbury. John Davis, listed in 1871-82, was followed in 1886 by John Winter Davis who was running a coffee house in 1890. George Burgoyne was near the Marquis of Granby in 1861. In 1871 George and Peter Burgoyne, possibly brothers, were shoemakers in Bowling Alley and George's nephew, Alfred Gray, served as his apprentice. The 1878 directory lists the firm as Burgoyne and Gray but in 1890 only Peter was named.

All these were craftsmen selling their own handiwork; in the later years dealers in factory-made footwear began to appear. Miss Adelaide Massingham was running a 'boot and shoe warehouse' in 1882, and soon after, Oliver Jewers and Allen Anscombe, principally drapers, were each selling shoes as well. By 1917, Freeman, Hardy and Willis had opened in Station Road, Harpenden – the first nationwide chainstore to come to the area.

OTHER SHOPS

The middle-class residents who moved to Harpenden towards the end of the century had money for luxuries so a number of new services appeared. There was a coffee house in 1882 run by Mrs. Lena Hamer. Four years later there were two more, Mrs. Jane Austin's and Henry Gibbin's. Wheathampstead could then boast a piano tuner. Harpenden had three music teachers in 1899: Miss Mary Cookson at East Common, Charles Bennett Kaye in Milton Road and Edwin Richard Billingham, the church organist, at Myrtle Cottage, West Common. Henry Rushworth Cooper was a music dealer in the High Street and Billingham had opened a piano warehouse in Station Road by 1902 which later sold gramophones, records and wireless sets. By 1890, Harpenden street had two jewellers and watchmakers, Samuel Moorhead and William Pellant. Both were also opticians and Moorhead was agent for Humber bicycles. They were not the first local watchmakers, for the 1851 census lists Joseph Starkings in the Church Green area. As he had been born in Harpenden and was then aged 81, he had, presumably, been in the trade for many years. William Ashwell, aged 33, was listed as a watchmaker near Wheathampstead Mill in 1861. His name was still appearing in the 1910 directory. By 1886, the bankers, Smith, Marten and Co., found it worthwhile to send a representative from St. Albans to Harpenden on Tuesdays and Fridays. By 1902 this had become a full branch of Barclay and Co.

In 1871, a cottage near Pickford Mill was occupied by Thomas Parrott, a marine store dealer – the term for second-hand dealers. Dr. Blake, writing in the *Harpenden Echo* in 1919, referred to 'Old Tom Lovat, the marine store dealer yclept rag and bone man'. Tom Lovett, who lived near the Silver Cup, was also Town Crier and cricket umpire and at Christmas time his powerful voice boosted the carol singers.

Transport

COACHES AND CARRIERS

Before the coming of the railways, horse-drawn coaches provided a relatively speedy means of transport for passengers and some parcels while carriers handled goods and those passengers for whom time was more plentiful than money, or comfort a luxury readily foregone. Coaches passed through Harpenden on the turnpike road from an early date. 'The Favourite' left the Cross Keys for London every morning at 6.30 and returned in the evening at 8.30. Another coach picked up passengers for London at the Bull on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and passed through again on its way back to Bedford on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. In 1826, Wheathampstead people wishing to travel to London boarded a van which left the Swan at 6.30 a.m. to join the coach at St. Albans. However by 1837 'The Luton Industry Omnibus' called at the Swan at noon, travelling to London on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and arriving back in Wheathampstead at 3 p.m. the following day. By 1845, 'The Albert' from Luton was calling at the Bull at 9 a.m. returning there at 8 p.m. everyday except Sunday.

The 1826 directory for Harpenden mentions one carrier, Thomas Clarke, travelling through St. Albans and Barnet to the Cross Keys in St. John Street, Islington on Mondays and Thursdays. By 1837 there was considerable competition. Three carriers, Clark, Reynolds and Whitbread, all travelled from Barton, Luton and Silsoe to London three times a week, returning the following day; while one Haydon, made the journey from Luton just twice. In 1839 Wheathampstead carrier, Thomas Humphreys, left for London every Monday and Friday morning and George Munday set out every Thursday evening.

RAILWAYS

In 1858 the Hertford, Luton and Dunstable Railway was proposed in order to link those towns to the Great Northern Railway at Hatfield and thence to London. The scheme went ahead quickly and brought the first railway to our area. The Harpenden station was behind the Dolphin public house which was once called the Great Northern and later the Railway. Its present name honours Dolphin Smith of Mackerye End Farm (p 126). Wheathampstead's station was on the corner of Codicote Road; the line opened on 1 September 1860 and was commemorated with a fete on the nearby meadow. There were sports, amusements, a dinner and refreshments provided by Charles Burgess, innkeeper of the Swan (at moderate prices), and the brass band of the Hertfordshire Yeomanry. Shortly after, an excursion was advertised to leave Harpenden at 8.04 a.m. and Wheathampstead at 8.12, returning from Kings Cross at 8.15 p.m. The return fare was 4s first class or

2s in 'covered carriages'. The line continued to carry passengers between Luton and Hatfield until it fell victim to Dr. Beeching's axe in 1967. The trackway from Batford to Leasey Bridge became part of the Lea Valley Walk.

Harpenden's surviving railway, which gave a direct link with London, did not arrive until 1868. It is said that George Stephenson, offended by the people of Luton who were opposed to railways, had vowed that there would be no direct link between Luton and London as long as he lived. He died in 1848 but his 'curse' was effective for another twenty years. The Midland Railway, based on Derby, had extended as far south as Bedford by 1857. In 1863 Royal Assent was given to a bill permitting continuation of the line from Bedford to London and construction began in 1865. Stakers Lane was lowered to pass under the line. What is now Westfield Road was diverted and some houses in Bowling Alley were demolished to make room for the remarkable skew bridge. Four tracks were planned from the outset but only two were laid at first, the others followed in about 1882. Harpenden Midland Station opened for goods and coal in December 1867 and for passengers to Moorgate on 13 July 1868. St. Pancras Station was opened on 1 October 1868 with a daily service of six trains each way. By 1875 it had increased to seven and there were six on the Great Northern via Hatfield to Kings Cross. Single fares were 3s 8d for first class and 2s 2d for third class – the Midland Railway Co. had just abolished second class fares. The Great Northern charged 3s 4d first class, 2s 6d second class and 2s for third class.

Schemes for other lines did not materialise: a proposed link between the Euston line and the Great Northern would have cut through Hatching Green and Harpenden Common. Another line from St. Albans to Hitchin was never built but Hemel Hempstead did become linked to Luton – the Nickey Line, just a single track, skirted Redbourn, passed through a halt at Roundwood and joined the Midland line by Holly Bush Lane bridge. It opened on 16 July 1877. The single fare from Harpenden to Hemel was 1s 4d first class and 8d third class for a daily service of four trains each way. Of the explanations proposed for the origin of the name, the most plausible is that Nickey is a diminutive of St. Nicholas in whose parish a quarter of the line lay. But the name, used only at the Harpenden end, is as old as the line and its origin is lost. The line closed after nearly 100 years although passenger traffic had ceased in 1946.

The expansion of the railways effectively killed the coach services and initiated a decline of the inns. As early as 1855 'The Albert' had stopped running to London and went only as far as Hatfield station. It had ceased altogether by 1862. The disappearance of two Harpenden inns may have been linked to the loss of coach trade: by 1871 the Bull had become a private house and the



Plate 21a Church Street, Wheathampstead, Clark's c 1908

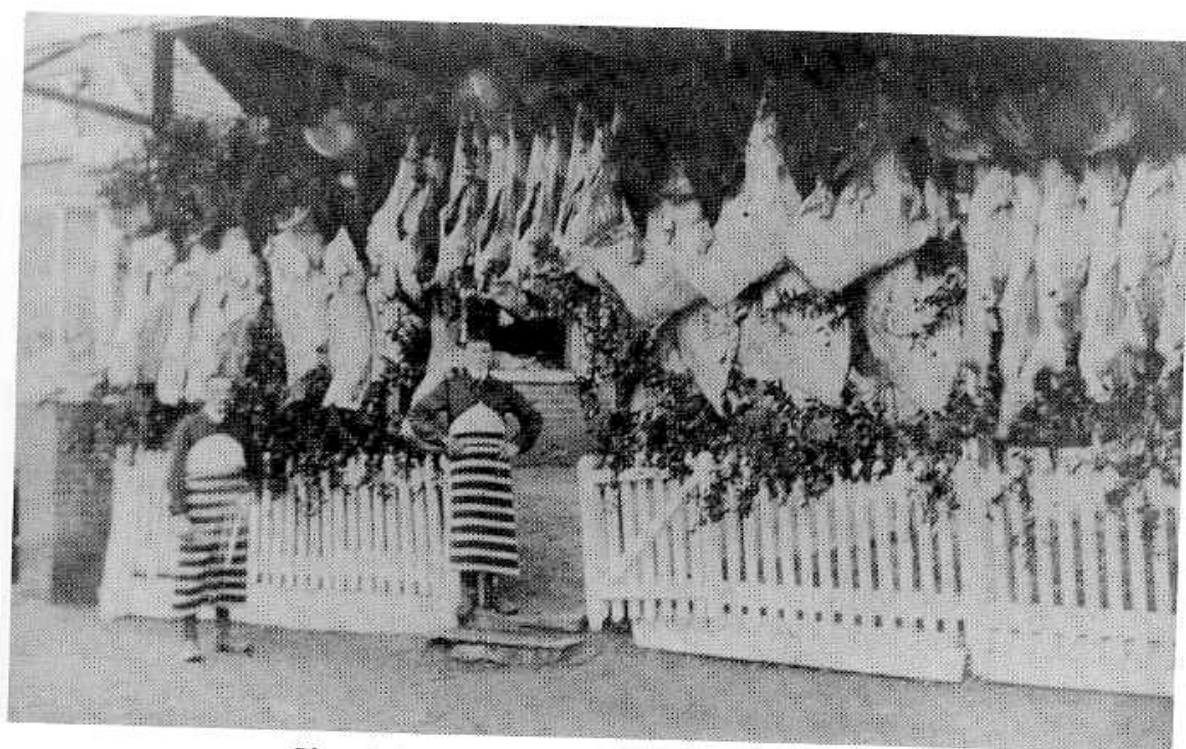


Plate 21b Clark's Christmas display, c 1908



Plate 21c High Street, Wheathampstead, west side, c 1900



Plate 21d High Street, Wheathampstead, west side, c 1885



Plate 22a High Street, Wheathampstead, east side, c 1885

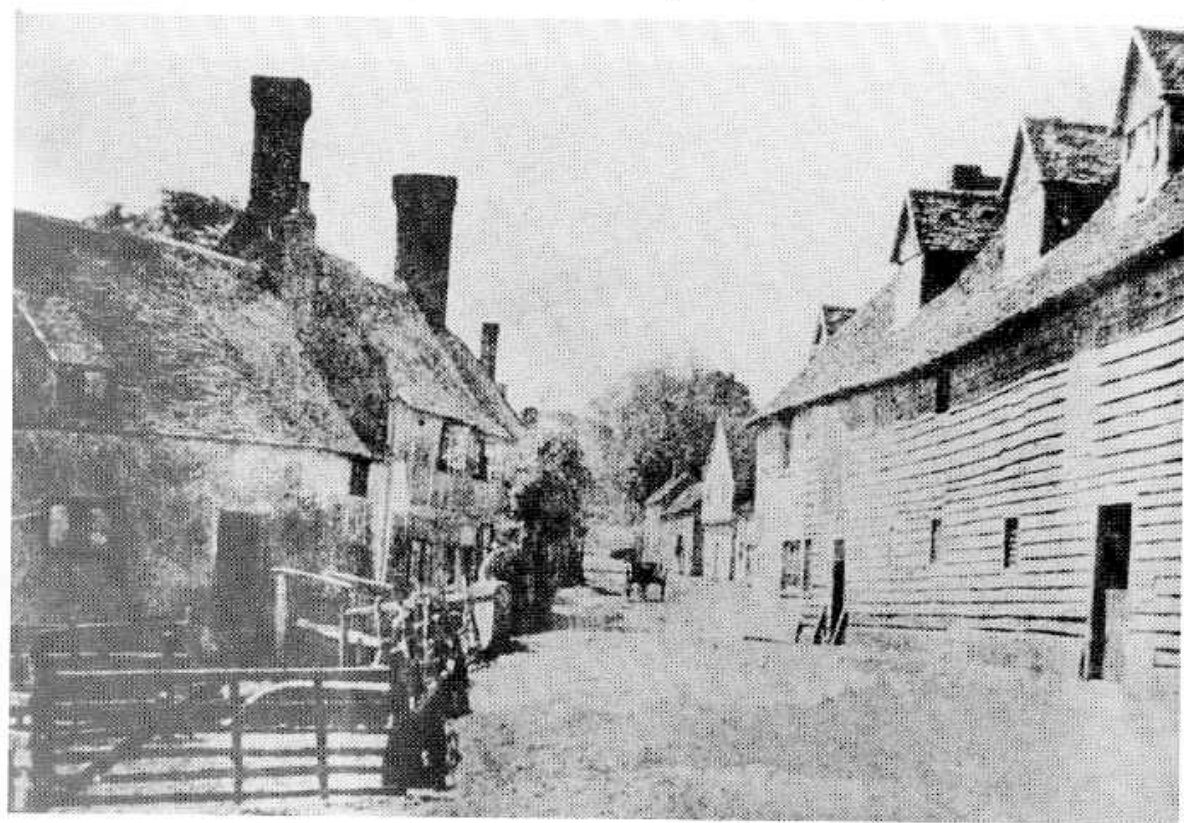


Plate 22b The Bull and the mill, Wheathampstead, c 1885

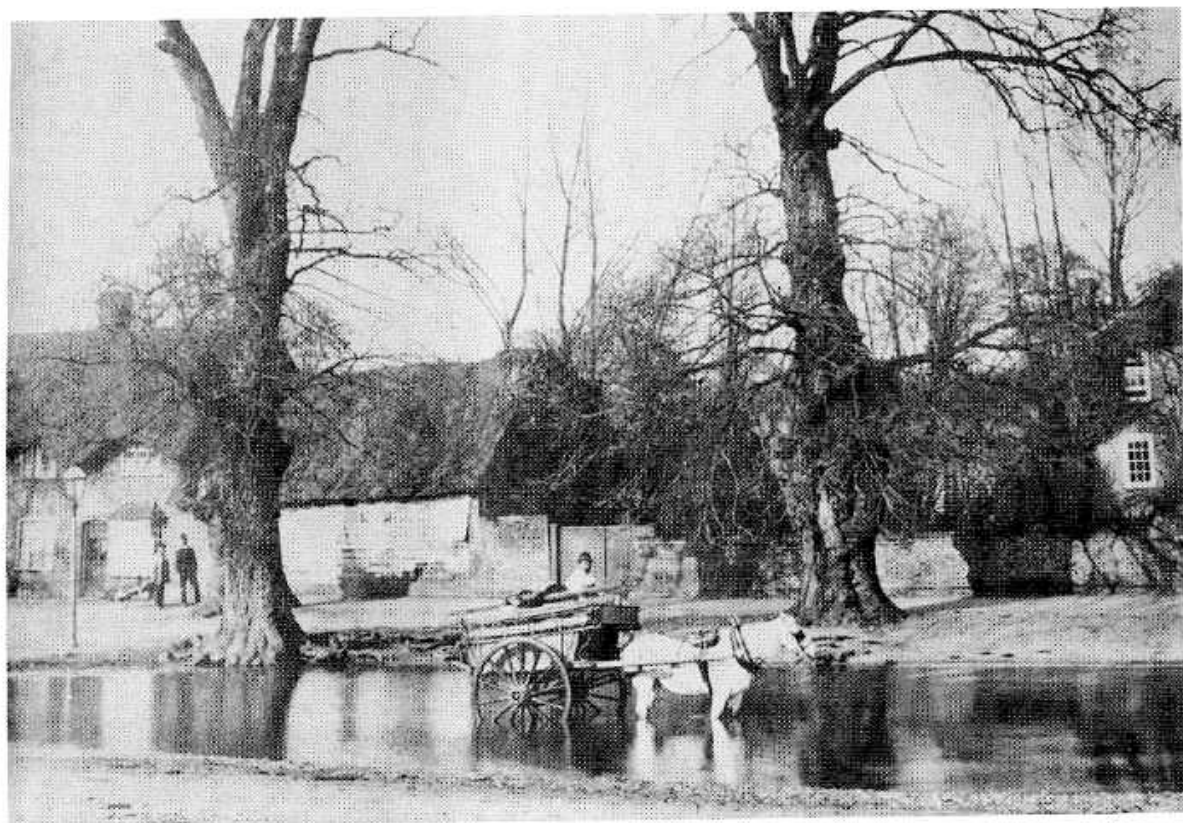


Plate 22c The Cock Pond, c 1900



Plate 22d High Street, Harpenden, now Bowers Parade, c 1900



Plate 23a Harpenden, watercolour by Evacustes A Phipson, 1901



Plate 23b Gibbons the bootmaker, Harpenden, c 1900

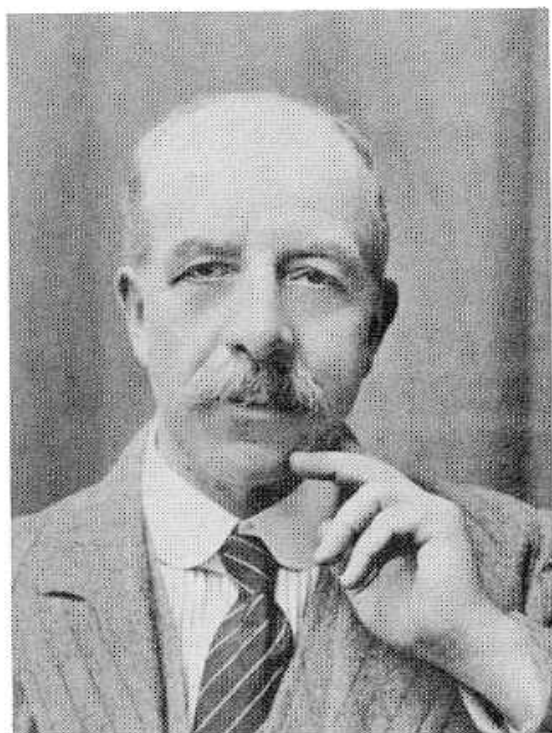


Plate 23c Edwin Grey

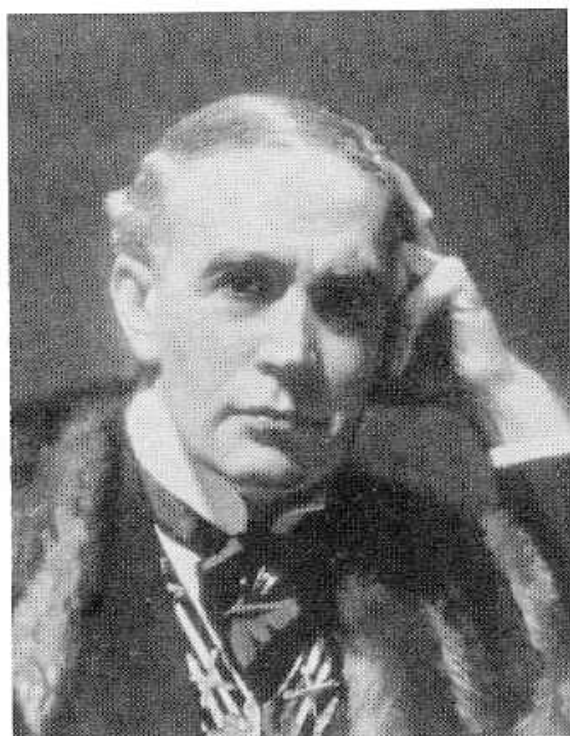


Plate 23d Frank Salisbury, a self-portrait

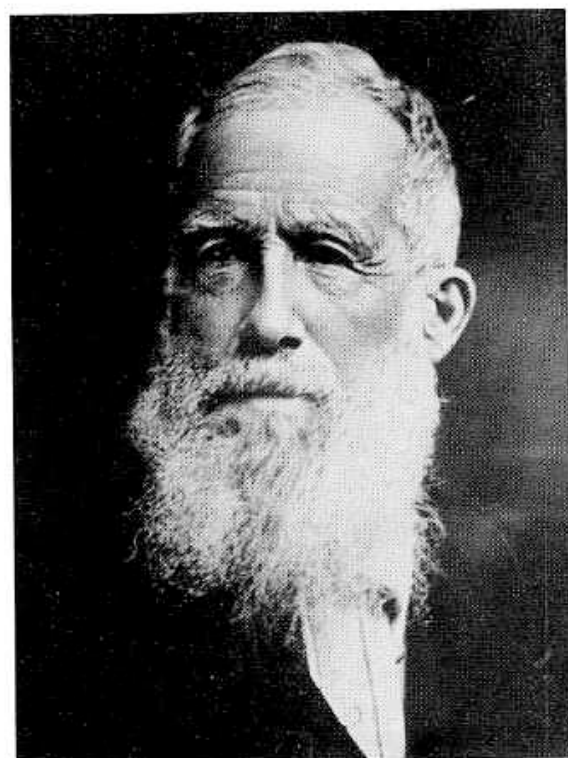


Plate 23e Sir John Bennet Lawes

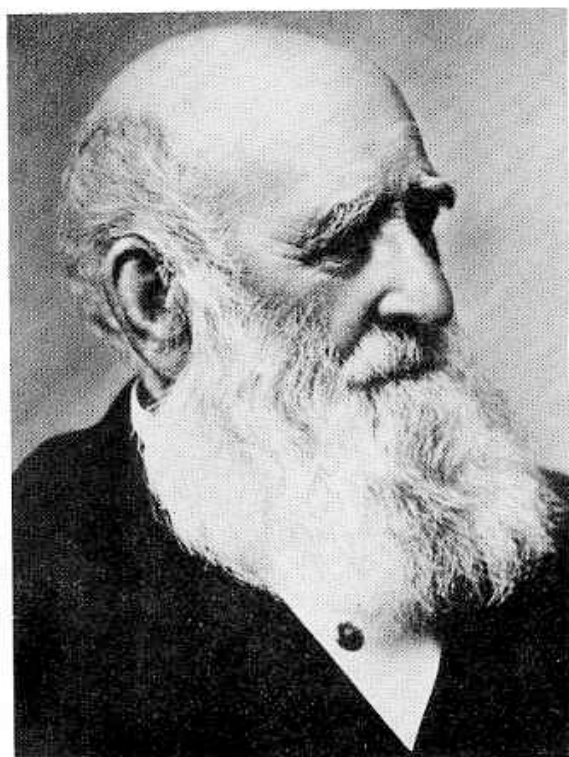


Plate 23f Sir Henry Gilbert



Plate 24a The Testimonial Laboratory of 1855



Plate 24b The Allotment Club House, c 1960

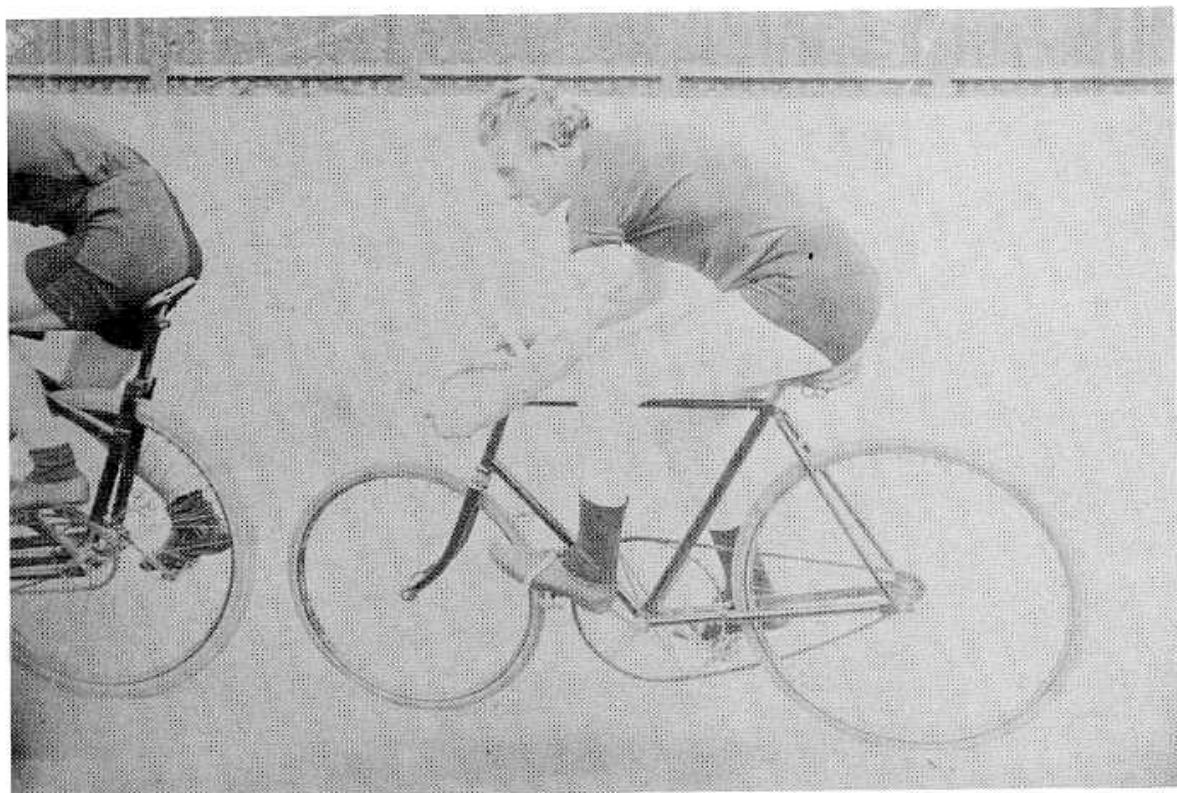


Plate 24c Charles Lawes being paced, c 1899

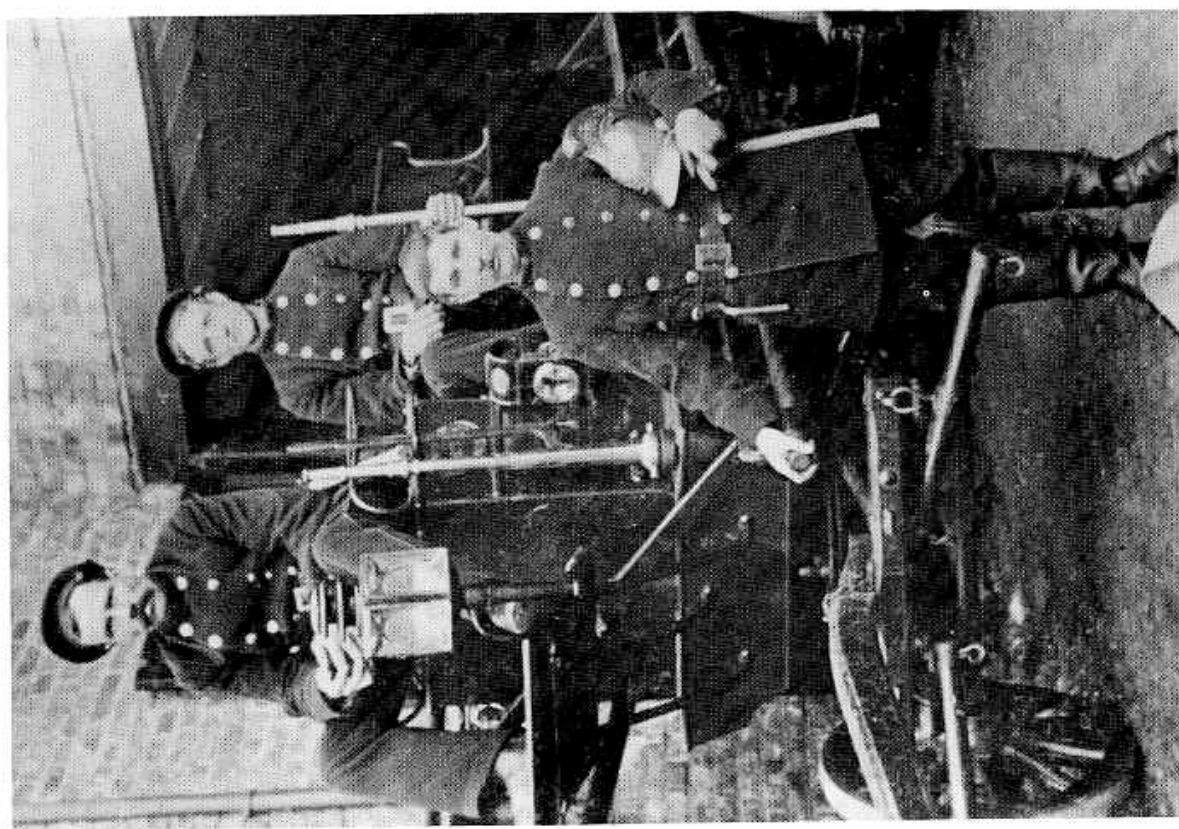


Plate 24d Wheathampstead firemen, c 1910

New Red Lion no longer functioned as an inn. Shortly after, it reopened as a beerhouse on the adjacent site to the south (72 High Street). This building had been, since the beginning of the nineteenth century, a shop but in the eighteenth century it too had been an inn – the Old Red Lion. This name was revived with the change of use after 1871.

The coaches may have been superseded but the carriers continued, perhaps for the same kinds of reason that so much freight is moved by road today. The 1861 census lists Joseph Matthews as 'carrier and victualler' at Hatching Green, presumably at the White Horse; his successor William Piggott was running a service to St. Albans and London until the 1890s. During the same period John Deacon went daily to St. Albans. From Wheathampstead, during the 1860s and 1870s, William Clark operated a service on Mondays and Thursdays to the Oxford Arms, Warwick Lane, Newgate Street.

BICYCLES

The horse continued to provide power for transport for many years to come; but about 1869 bicycles began to be made in Coventry following development in France where in that year the first cycle show and cycle race took place drawing wide public attention to the new form of private transport. Edwin Grey tells how, in his youth, he could hire a 'bone shaker' from Jarman the blacksmith for 3d an hour. A little later Charles Oggelsby was repairing, then subsequently making, bicycles. In Wheathampstead, Wrens the coach builders hired bicycles. At the turn of the century, when the 'safety bicycle' had replaced front wheel drive machines, Harpenden had at least three cycle makers or dealers. The Salisburys included cycle making among their many activities (p 201). Samuel Moorland added the Humber company's bicycle and tricycle agency to his watchmaking and jewelry business. Daniel Skillman, who ran the Post Office and various insurance agencies, also advertised as a cycle agent and 'athletic depot'. D. B. Skillman, perhaps his son, became the first president of Harpenden Cycling Club formed in 1919.

Cycling, at the turn of the century, was very much a leisure time activity taken up by the liberated young ladies and their devoted young men who feature in the novels of H. G. Wells. They found it pleasant to explore the countryside, and villages like ours were ready to welcome them. The Park Hotel, Nomansland (now the Wicked Lady) was in 1899 advertising 'every convenience for cyclists and beanfeast parties'. The Bull, Wheathampstead, offered 'good stabling' but also claimed to be 'nicely situated to accommodate commercial gentlemen and cyclists'; while in Harpenden the George proclaimed 'First class accommodation and special terms to tourists and cyclists'. Sir John Lawes's daughter, Caroline, writing in 1897 in the magazine *The Nineteenth Century*, paints a

picture of the bicycle as the plaything of the upper classes. 'Cycling as a fashionable craze is played out. Girls no longer go for a spin down to the Tower Bridge in the cool of the evening when the City streets are almost deserted, before they dress for the ball; nor do they race round the square in their ball gowns at 4 a.m. on a summer morning before retiring to bed. But we question if cycling as a convenient means of locomotion will ever be dispensed with. For country visiting, when carriages are not available or for shopping in London for those to whom the dangers of the traffic have no terrors and are only looked upon as a pleasurable excitement, cycles will always hold their own; especially as the long-talked-of motor car seems likely to end in smoke and a bad smell'.

Caroline's brother, Charles, had a more serious interest in cycling, especially the athletic forms of speed cycling and pace following. He ran a private racing team at Crystal Palace and in 1899 at the age of 55 he himself held a 25 mile amateur speed record of 51 minutes 15.8 seconds (Plate 24c). He regularly cycled the 26 miles from Rothamsted to his sculptor's studio in Chelsea and on the occasions when he used the train he raced his bicycle along the platform of Harpenden station.

Caroline's prophecy about the motor car was to prove true in only one particular and very soon people, such as Charles Read, who had promoted the bicycle did the same for the car. At about the time Caroline was writing her article, Read was taken on by Edgar Salisbury as an errand boy. He was quickly promoted to work in the cycle shop which later took on car engine repairs. Read left Salisbury to join Dudley Clark of Harpenden; they made motor bicycles at London Road, St. Albans. After the 1914-18 War, Charles Read and his brother William opened their own motor works first in Amenbury Lane but later in the High Street where they used the Red Lion site for cars and converted the Old Red Lion to a cycle and pram shop. The cycle shop will be remembered by many as Rolt's. Cecil Rolt started his career with Chirneys, who had been selling bicycles in Station Road since before 1910.

Our sources suggest that for a long time the bicycle remained a toy of the wealthy; yet it was sufficiently common in 1898 for there to be contingents of both lady and gentleman cyclists in the Harpenden Carnival procession. Only early this century did it become more generally affordable and so begin to affect where people could take employment. In those times many regularly walked to work a distance greater than would be considered practical by bicycle today.

Arts and Science

More than a few people who have made their mark in the world have lived in our area, though some, like Ellen Terry, were but birds of passage. Space permits biographies of three who had roots here and who made reputations acknowledged beyond our shores: a scientist who stayed at home and whose benevolence still enriches our lives, a much-travelled artist and an explorer of the most remote part of the globe.

SIR JOHN BENNET LAWES, BART (1814–1900)

John Bennet Lawes was born at Rothamsted on 28 December 1814, the son of John Bennet Lawes, lawyer and Deputy-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire (p 183), and a seventh generation descendant of Sir John Wittewronge (p 66 and *The Manor of Rothamsted and its Occupants*). Lawes attended private schools in Hatfield and Brighton before going to Eton. He spent two years at Brasenose College, Oxford but came down without taking a degree. In 1834 he assumed the management of Rothamsted Estate and pursued an interest in chemistry by fitting out one of the bedrooms as a laboratory, to his mother's consternation. His father had died when he was barely eight. At first he was interested in the active principles of medicinal plants, and grew poppies, hemlock, henbane, belladonna and colchicum from which to extract them. About 1838 he took up a farm problem: bones were highly effective as manure on some soils but not on his. He knew that calcium phosphate, present in bones, was insoluble in water but became soluble when treated with sulphuric acid so converting it to what was then known as superphosphate of lime. This substance had a striking effect on the growth of some crops, particularly turnips. Lawes took out his patent in May 1842 and in that same year, on his 28th birthday, he married Caroline, the 20-year-old daughter of Andrew Fountaine of Narford Hall, Norfolk. A foreign tour honeymoon was cancelled in favour of a day in a boat on the Thames looking for riverside premises, suitable for manufacturing fertiliser. The Deptford factory started production, and Lawes placed his first advertisement in the *Gardener's Chronicle* of 1 July 1843.

J. B. LAWES'S PATENT MANURES, composed of Super Phosphate of Lime, Phosphate of Ammonia, Silicate of Potass, &c., are now for sale at his Factory, Deptford-creek, London, price 4s. 6d. per bushel. These substances can be had separately; the Super Phosphate of Lime alone is recommended for fixing the Ammonia of Dung-heaps, Cesspools, Gas Liquor, &c. Price 4s. 6d. per bushel.

Another great disappointment awaited Caroline as Lawes considered it prudent to let his house. They lived in London until returning to Rothamsted in the spring of 1847. Their two children were born during this interlude, Charles in 1843 and Caroline the following year. A second factory was set up at Barking Creek in 1853. Lawes maintained his interest in the business for nearly thirty years then sold it for about £300,000.

John Lawes regarded June 1843, when he engaged the chemist Joseph Henry Gilbert, as the date marking the foundation of the Rothamsted Experiments. It began a scientific partnership, the longest in history, which lasted until Lawes died of dysentery on 31 August 1900. Lawes provided the inspiration, a feel for practical farming and the capital; Gilbert contributed the discipline of a rigorous and painstaking scientific method (Plates 23e & f). They studied the effects of various chemicals containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sodium and magnesium, and of farmyard manure on the crops, and the consequences of omitting any of them. Chemical analyses of plants, soils, rain-water and manure, made to obtain a balance sheet of what was put into the soil and what was taken out by the crop, showed the differing nutritional requirements of crops. Lawes and Gilbert were stimulated by the ideas of Liebig, the distinguished German chemist, who insisted that although plants took most of their requirements from the soil, nitrogen came, in quite adequate amounts, from ammonia in the air and only the former needed to be supplied as fertilisers. Lawes and Gilbert did not agree and demonstrated that yields increased as more nitrogen fertiliser was given. The Rothamsted Experiments became internationally famous and to ensure their continuation after his death, Lawes set up, in 1889, a trust with £100,000 in addition to the laboratory and the use of 52 acres of experimental fields.

Hertfordshire farmers soon benefited from Lawes's and Gilbert's work and in 1853 started a collection for a testimonial. The collection became nationwide and raised £1,200, sufficient to replace the adapted barn by a new laboratory (Plate 24a, HPH 38, 39), which opened in 1855 and remained in use until 1912. Both men received knighthoods and many honorary degrees and both were elected Fellows of the Royal Society. 1893 brought further public recognition: with £700 subscribed, the Royal Agricultural Society presented an inscribed granite memorial, set in the lawn in front of the laboratory, commemorating fifty years of continuous experiments. Lawes received his portrait painted by Hubert Herkomer, and Gilbert received a silver salver. Their work had been mainly chemical but one of the staff, Robert Warington, showed the vital role of microorganisms in the up-take of nitrogen by plants. Now research at Rothamsted includes almost all disciplines applicable to crop improvement. Research was supported, almost entirely, by the Trust Fund until 1911 when the Board of Trade provided a capital grant of £3,000 and £2,500 p.a.

As the number of staff increased steadily from 28 in 1912 to 800 in 1980, so did the level of public support.

John Lawes had a basic sympathy with common folk which set him apart from other progressive entrepreneurs which the Victorian age produced so abundantly. As Lord of the Manor of Rothamsted, he was an archetype of the good old English squire but he maintained his manorial rights with a strict benevolence (p 231). Notices posted around the Common forbade the gathering of furze, not as an absolute prohibition but to reserve it, for kindling, for the more needy villagers. In his *Reminiscences*, Edwin Grey records a number of incidents which illustrate Lawes's unaffected kindness. On one occasion, when leaving the station he overtook an old lady carrying a heavy parcel and learnt that she was walking through Rothamsted Park to Redbourn. He offered to carry the parcel as he was going the same way for some distance. When they reached the path off to Rothamsted House, Lawes handed her the parcel, saying he was going to the house. She thanked him for his kindness, offering him a penny to get himself half a pint of beer.

Lawes was instrumental in setting up schools in Harpenden (pp 240-2) and started or supported many other local institutions. He provided the first allotments in 1852, and in 1857 he set up the Club House (Plate 24b) where allotment holders could meet for beer and tobacco. Once again he showed understanding of the working man's needs. His insistence on providing beer ran contrary to the thinking of many public benefactors for whom abstinence was the only dictum. Lawes, who later became president of the Temperance Society, argued that the restricted accommodation of a labourer's cottage was bound to drive a man out for relaxation and refreshment and that the pressure to drink would be far greater in a public house than in the Clubroom. Lawes, himself, supervised the Club for the first year, then handed over to a committee known as the 'Twelve Apostles'. About a year later, Charles Dickens visited the Club and recorded his impressions in the article 'The Poor Man and His Beer' in the first issue of *All the Year Round*, published in 1859. In 1877 there were 180 members – about a third of all households had a connection with the Club. The principal annual event was a dinner on the first Saturday in June. It was a prodigious feast: enormous joints of meat for boiling or roasting, 'twelve large peas puddings, twelve tins of potatoes..., ten loaves of bread, two barrels of beer and, in later years, one or two cases of mineral waters for the newer teetotal members'. Edwin Grey, himself Club secretary for over 30 years, says that Sir John, as president, always presided over the dinner, and provided and carved the largest joint – a round of salt beef weighing about 95lbs, so large that two well-cleaned garden forks were used to manoeuvre it out of the copper.

The club flourished until the 1960s when the land was taken for new laboratory buildings and a car park.

FRANCIS OWEN SALISBURY, CVO (1874-1962)

Frank, one of the family of five sons and six daughters of Henry and Susan Salisbury, suffered from poor health in his young days and so was largely taught at home by his sister Emmie. He recollected attending the British School only from the age of twelve but that his artistic talent became apparent at about seven. At fifteen he was apprenticed to his eldest brother James at the St. Albans stained glass works but soon started to attend Heatherley's Drawing Academy, London for three days a week. At eighteen he won a scholarship at the Royal Academy Schools for five years. Several awards, including a Landseer Scholarship enabled him to visit Italy in 1896. His first studio was over a workshop in the yard of the family home in Leyton Road and there he painted 'The Finding of Moses', his first gold medal picture. Towards the end of the R.A. course he painted Sir Henry Gilbert, but at Gilbert's home because his studio was too small for sittings.

His first Royal Academy picture, 'Reflections' (1899), was a portrait of Alice Maud Greenwood, his wife-to-be. Although a constant exhibitor at the R.A. he was never offered membership, a cause of much disappointment. He and Alice were married in 1901 and lived at Elmkirk, a house they had built near St. Nicholas's Church. Their twin daughters, Sylvia and Monica, were born there and his pictures of them resulted in many commissions, particularly for children's groups. In 1906 he built Red Gables on the site of Chapel Row cottages, West Common, a house planned by Eustace his younger brother, then studying architecture. Here he had a large studio essential for the panoramic portrayal of pageantry such as the sixteen foot long 'The Passing of Queen Eleanor' (1907) and 'The Trial of Queen Catherine', a panel for the Palace of Westminster. Frank was visited regularly on Saturday mornings by Charles Lawes, a sculptor, who spent Friday nights at Rothamsted but otherwise lived at his Chelsea studio. Charles said that the test of the merit of a picture is whether you want to run away with it, and he never wanted to run away with any of Frank's. Frank commented that he could hardly have run away with the 'Queen Eleanor', nevertheless the picture was stolen from St. Albans Abbey in 1973. He began to lose interest in Red Gables when the view was spoiled by the felling of some elms between the house and the laboratory. Harpenden was difficult to reach for many sitters and in 1913 he moved to Avenue Road, Regent's Park. Then in 1932-3 he built Sarum Chase by Hampstead Heath, a large house designed by Eustace's son Vivyan. Here Frank indulged his passion for gardening.

The Great War increased the demand for portraits but the Royal Exchange panel commemorating the visit of the King and Queen to the battlefields must have been the most demanding. This 18ft x 12ft canvas was completed in eight weeks, including all the studies made at the front. Later works recorded many state

occasions: the national thanksgiving service in St. Paul's (1919), the burial of the unknown warrior (1920), Princess Mary's wedding, George V's Silver Jubilee thanksgiving service, George VI's coronation, and the opening of the Festival of Britain by George VI are but a fraction. His portraits are distinguished as much by the many celebrated names as by the sheer number: Roosevelt, Churchill and Mussolini are but three. In fact he painted five British Prime Ministers, five American Presidents, many of the Royal Family and several Church leaders. His interest in religious subjects was expressed in a series of the prophets of Israel and in three windows for Wesley's Chapel. Others can be seen in Harpenden Methodist Church. His memorial window to his parents embodies in its design their ideals: Love of God, Love of King and Country, Love of Work. (Plate 23d).

APSLEY GEORGE BENET CHERRY-GARRARD, (1886-1959)

Major General Apsley Cherry, grandson of Charles Drake Garrard (p 183), inherited Lamer, adopted the name Garrard and in 1893 moved in with his young family. In the course of time his son also called Apsley inherited and made his home there. In 1908, aged 22, the young Apsley made the acquaintance of Dr. Bill Wilson, the polar explorer, from whom he learned that Robert Scott was planning a second expedition to the Antarctic. With Wilson's help and encouragement, Apsley persuaded Scott to include him in the team. The expedition sailed in June 1910. The story of that heroic but ill-fated adventure has been told by Cherry-Garrard himself in his book, *The Worst Journey in the World*. The five men who set out on the last leg to the pole all died and Apsley might have been among them but lost the toss to Captain Oates.

He accompanied a less arduous expedition in 1914 under Robert Leiper, the helminthologist, to investigate the liver fluke disease, which was infecting British seamen in the China Seas. Later Professor Leiper came to live at Leasey Bridge Farm. Cherry-Garrard served in the Great War until invalided out in 1915. In 1916 he instigated a successful campaign against the cruel practice of hunting King Penguins into boiling water to extract the oil. At Lamer, he laid down the woodland plantations which now cover about 300 acres of the estate. By 1947 the upkeep of Lamer had grown too expensive, the house was sold and partially demolished. Apsley moved to London where in 1959 he died but he is buried at St. Helen's, Wheathampstead. A small statue of him in arctic outfit, by Ivor Roberts-Jones, was unveiled in 1962. It stands among the old Garrard monuments in the north transept.

Pleasures and Pastimes

The district of Bowling Alley takes its name from a field – the present Longfield Road – which was so called (1784) almost certainly because of its shape, not because of any connection with the game. Even so, skittles was a favourite pastime for at times there were three or four alleys around Harpenden, one at Bowling Alley and another at Pimlico. Dr. Blake, writing in 1919 about the 1870s lamented that 'the game was most popular but too closely associated with beer'.

The first recorded cricket match on Harpenden Common was in 1829. By 1897, there were four clubs: 'Village', 'Bowling Alley', 'Lea' and 'St. John's'. Cricket was played on Nomansland Common and in 1824, in the first recorded match, Watford beat a Hertfordshire County eleven by 104 runs. Nomansland was a venue for shooting matches and, until the turn of the century, for prize fights, the pugilists using the Park Hotel as a training base. A notorious battle in 1833 between Simon Byrne, champion of Ireland, and Deaf Burke ended in fatality. The fight went on for 99 rounds and lasted three hours sixteen minutes. Byrne was knocked out and was taken to the Woolpack in St. Albans where 'notwithstanding the best medical skill' he died four days later. Burke and his seconds were tried for manslaughter but were acquitted on medical evidence that Byrne's death was not caused by the injuries received in the fight.

THE MAY RACES, held on Harpenden Common on the last Friday of the month, were the biggest sporting event of the year. The course formed a long narrow horseshoe, starting near what is now the cricket pavilion, crossing Walkers Road and sweeping out into the country beyond Cross Lane, over the fields of the Childwickbury Estate behind what is now Horse and Jockey Farm, and turning near Ayres End Lane to return along the Common. Occasional races were held during the 1830s and '40s but regular racing started in 1848. In the early years it was essentially a local affair attended by county gentry and local people but with the coming of the railways the crowds increased and the character changed. Train loads of day-trippers poured into Stakers Lane and were met by queues of carriages and horse-drawn omnibuses. The George laid out trestle tables with refreshments and barrels of beer while chains of 'tic-tac' men extending to the course kept customers informed of the progress of the betting. Inevitably the crowd included pickpockets and trouble makers and so extra police were drafted from Hatfield and London. The *Herts Advertiser* in 1873 commented 'Notwithstanding that these meetings are under the most exceptional patronage as regards the Stewards, yet for two days in the year all the London pickpockets, sharps and blackguards who happen to be out of gaol, are permitted to make Harpenden their own, and to make travelling in a first-class

carriage of the Midland Railway a danger to men and an impossibility to ladies'. After the outbreak of the Great War all racing, except at Newmarket, was cancelled. In Harpenden it was never revived because the Jockey Club did not like temporary open courses and local people were ambivalent about it because of the trouble makers. An unexpected outcome of the races was that in 1918 a minesweeper of the race-course class was named 'Harpenden'; its flag and ship's bell are now at the Public Library.

So many children stayed away from school on race days that it became impossible to carry on normally. After a while schools bowed to the inevitable and made race day a holiday (p 248). The other great distraction for children was the 'Statty Fair' held in September on Church Green (HPH 7), but transferred to the 'Triangle' after improvements to the Green. The roundabouts and stalls were audible from the National School so children who did not play truant must have found concentrating difficult. Because of the unruly crowd, children of some respectable families were not allowed out on race days, but everyone went to the fair, 'even the Lydekker children'.

Children looked forward to the ancient seasonal festivals of May Day and November 5th. On May Day they dressed in fancy clothes adorned with ribbons and streamers and carried a branch of may. They went from door to door begging coppers and singing:

'A branch of may we bring you here,
And at your door we stand,
It is but a sprout, well budded out,
The work of the Lord's hand.'

On November 5th, or 'membring' as it was known locally, there was a carnival procession with decorated floats as well as the normal bonfires and fireworks. The hazardous game of rolling a blazing tar barrel was practised in both villages and led, at least once in Wheathampstead, to a young man being scarred for life. On one occasion some wilder characters started an extra large bonfire on Church Green. The 'establishment' thought this was going too far and sent the village bobby to put it out. The unfortunate man was ducked in the Cock pond. A trap, sent to confiscate the faggots, was soaked in tar and piled onto the fire. When the miscreants were at last brought to book, they apologised for ducking the policeman claiming they had mistaken him for the Rector.

The Hertfordshire Hunt, meeting on Harpenden Common, must have been a familiar colourful sight (HPH 36) although local people were not conspicuously involved; the master for many years was Lord Dacre of Kimpton. The 1871 census names as living at the kennels at Kinsbourne Green, Charles Ward the huntsman, five grooms and three whippers-in. The kennels, built by Richard Leigh, the master 1866-75, and described (*Victoria County History*) as the finest bar none in Europe, still stand.

THE LECTURE INSTITUTION, SOCIETIES AND CLUBS

A significant innovation, which can now be seen as part of the general movement towards mass education, was the formation in 1858 of Harpenden Lecture Institution – an attempt to provide spare-time cultural and intellectual activities. Sir John Lawes, its president, offered to pay for the first six lectures provided they were held at his laboratory and as many labourers admitted free as could be accommodated. 'The Natural History of Creation', subject of the first lecture and given by Dr. Edwin Lankester, was an extremely controversial and topical subject – Charles Darwin published his first note on the 'Origin of species' in 1858. In 1865, the society was refounded as the Lecture Institution and Reading Club. It subscribed to Mudie's lending library and started its own collection of books. Lectures, discussions, readings and concerts (Figs. 15 & 16) were held in the winter months. On 10 January 1887 the society opened its own building (now the Friends' Meeting House), provided by its vice-president, deputy chairman of the Midland Railway, Henry Tylston Hodgson of Welcombe. It had a lecture hall and games room where smoking was allowed. There were four classes of membership ranging from restricted use of reading and recreation rooms from 5 to 10 p.m. at a subscription of 4s to full family membership at £1 per annum. In 1891 there were 119 members. The Institute committee organised classes in such subjects as art, elementary chemistry, first aid and choral singing. Similar evening classes were organised in Wheathampstead by other bodies. A Young Men's Improvement Society was associated with the Institute and rooms were let for use by other groups.

Although the Institute was well supported during the first thirty years, in the 1890s interest waned and losses were reported by the treasurer. Some journals were stopped and the discontinuation of the subscription to Mudie's Library was discussed. Gaps between committee meetings lengthened and lectures became less frequent. In 1897, the University Extension Scheme began with a short course of six lectures on 'Contemporary English Literature', followed in 1898 by 'Insect Life' and in 1899 by 'The Forces of Nature'. The behaviour of some boys in the recreation room was not always good and improvements were noted with pleasure. In 1901 a special General Meeting was held to present the poor financial situation to the members; letting receipts had fallen, partly due to the opening on 12 September 1899 of the Public Hall, formerly the British School in Leyton Road. In spite of an occasional concert in aid of funds, the opening of a rifle range in 1908 and a series of lectures, the decline was not reversed and the Institute closed, after 53 years, on 14 December 1911.

The annual Dedication Festival held at St. Helen's Church on the Saint's Day, from the time of its reopening in 1866 after restoration, had become by 1890 a well-known county festival for

church music. Harpenden had several groups dedicated to music: The Instrumental Society gave a concert in 1887 at the National Schoolroom in aid of funds. The Harmonic Society (flourished 1880s & '90s) gave concerts both vocal and instrumental; in the parade of cars in the 1898 Carnival procession, theirs was first. There was an association of Handbell Ringers and a brass band. Mr. Spratley's Instrumental Band played in the Park at the 1892 open-air meeting of the Church Temperance Society, formed in 1881.

There were evening classes teaching the more prosaic reading, writing, arithmetic and English history to men and boys over 13. An interesting system for encouraging pupils to stay the course was used. Each pupil paid 1d for each of the first 20 evenings; after that the lessons were free and at the end of the course (40 evenings) the pupil received 1d for every attendance after the twentieth.

Harpenden Horticultural Society was formed in 1879 'to encourage the cultivation of fruit, flowers and vegetables and the production of honey by exhibition and other means'. The subscription was 2s 6d. An annual show was held in August in Rothamsted Park. In the first year a prize fund of £80 was given by several of the well-to-do of West Hertfordshire; later, seedsmen and nurseries sponsored prizes. Special trains were laid on and in 1894 the August show attracted more than 1,500 visitors.

Youth groups flourished towards the end of the century. The Harpenden Church Guild for Young Women held its summer meeting in 1885 at Markyate Cell Farm. A branch of the Girls' Friendly Society was started in 1879 through the efforts of Miss Spackman to provide moral support to young women living away from home – all its members were in service. They had meetings locally and attended festivals at St. Albans, Luton Hoo and the London headquarters. 1898 marked the formation of a club for the young men of Bowling Alley and the Cold Harbour Girls' Club, which, the following year, performed 'Red Riding Hood's Rescue', a juvenile cantata, in the Mission Room. The Church Lads' Brigade was founded in 1898 'to advance Christ's Kingdom amongst lads of all classes'. At the inaugural meeting the drum and fife band of the Peckham Company performed. The Brigade demonstrated for Hospital Sunday in 1899 and later formed its own football club.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE celebration on 21 June 1887 was the great social event of the century. In Harpenden, dinner and tea were laid on in the Park for the whole parish. The organising committee's report, quoted extensively in appendix nine, conveys the atmosphere splendidly. It listed 140 subscribers in order of the size of their contribution from £25 to 3d, totalling £194 17s 5d, but notes that many others contributed in kind or 'horse labour, hand labour or head labour'. Needless to say, Lawes headed the list but Sir John Blundell Maple, MP, of Childwickbury, also gave £25. There must have been celebrations in Wheathampstead too but no

record has been traced. St. Helen's lychgate, built to commemorate the occasion, stands as a lasting reminder.

Railway excursions to the seaside were always very popular; the Great Northern Company often laid on trains to east coast resorts. The educational value of travel was recognised by the *Herts. Advertiser*, which reported, when St. Helen's choir went on a trip to Ramsgate in August 1889, that 'they especially enjoyed the journey across London because it enabled them to form a good idea of the size of the Capital'. The event did not please everyone: 'Tom O'Tudlams' was disgruntled because the bell ringers were not included in the church outing. John Lawes twice arranged trips to the Crystal Palace for his employees, the allotment holders, and their families. The first occasion was when his only daughter married Walter Creyke in August 1870. Lawes provided the 290 trippers with dinner and tea and gave each a small sum to spend whilst there. Edwin Grey says the event 'was the most talked of and longest remembered...for many had never been on a railway train, and more still had never travelled so far from home'. The second occasion was in July 1893, the Rothamsted Jubilee, to see one of the famous firework displays, but as some of the elderly were hesitant because of the late hours entailed, he also laid on a display over the Common.




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To _____ 19

Hardships

POVERTY, PREGNANCY AND PASSING ON

Queen Victoria's Jubilee was proudly and justifiably celebrated as marking a period of social and technological advance but the nineteenth century was also a period of great poverty. Contemporary writers like Dickens and Mayhew have left us a grim picture of poverty in the towns; it was no rarer in the countryside but perhaps a little more bearable. It was an unfortunate villager indeed who could not grow his own vegetables, and locally life was made easier by John Lawes's allotment scheme (p 213) started some thirty years before the Allotments Act of 1887 introduced the idea on a national scale. The fields and hedgerows provided some food, literally for the picking, and even sparrows were eaten freely. Rabbits were protected by the strictly enforced poaching laws. John Latchford of Gustard Wood, sentenced in 1858 to one month's hard labour for stealing a dead rabbit from a game-keeper, and Charles Franklin and William Ramsden, ordered in 1861 to pay costs of 7s 6d or face ten days' hard labour for trespassing in search of rabbits, were typical cases.

The straw plait industry allowed villagers a certain degree of independence, too much according to a comment by Arthur Young (1804), 'Farmers complain of it as doing mischief for it makes the poor saucy and no servants can be found or any fieldwork done'. But some parents who put their children to plaiting insisted: 'they must do it or we could not support them'. Misfortune could strike hard with no Welfare State to cushion the blow. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 was based on the philosophy that poverty was a crime not to be encouraged and the poor were poor, not through the workings of providence but as a result of their own failings. The Act laid down that 'poor relief should be granted...only in well regulated workhouses under conditions inferior to those of the humblest labourers outside'. The Poor Law Commissioners argued that 'Every penny bestowed that tends to render the condition of the pauper more eligible than that of the independent labourer is a bounty on indolence and vice'. Not everyone subscribed to this harsh philosophy and many honest folk who came upon hard times were grateful for the help their more fortunate neighbours provided. The Harpenden Parish Magazine for April 1882 records the setting up of a subscription for the destitute families of men killed in a collapsed gravel pit along the lower road to Wheathamstead - workmen's compensation was not introduced till 1897. In August the magazine reported that £41 16s 6d had been raised. William Fisher of Batford recalled the occasion in the 1890s when his uncle died of typhoid fever leaving a wife and seven children, 'and not one of them earning. My father went to a good lady who lived at the Folly and she wrote out my Aunt's case in a letter which my father took to the magistrate to be signed;

with it we were able to collect enough money for my Aunt to buy a treadle sewing machine by which she provided for her family.'

Birth as well as death could be a misfortune to a hard-pressed family and many were glad of the 'baby bundles' described by Edwin Grey – 'Parcels of linen etc. necessary for maternity cases were loaned to any of the respectable poor who cared to apply for them'. Such charities were commonplace. Harpenden has a box used for this purpose with the legend: 'Arden L.I. SOC'Y – THE Stores'. The hand-written rules of the Lying-in Charity of 1860 have been preserved.

CHARITY

Old age was, perhaps, the hardest tragedy of all for the poor to bear. The Union Workhouses enforced strict segregation of the sexes, so in addition to the stigma of poverty, it meant the breaking up of a lifetime partnership. No wonder that the custom of 'a-Thomasing', which allowed old women to go begging from door to door on St Thomas's Day (21 December), persisted early this century. Two wills from the late 1860s included charitable bequests which illustrate where the need lay. Miss Kingston's will of 1869 gave the interest on £1,000 in consols to be laid out in the purchase of bread, blankets, coals or warm clothing and distributed at the discretion of the Minister and Churchwardens among deserving poor widows of sixty years of age and upwards who have lived in the parish seven years and among fatherless girls under sixteen years of age; also the interest on £500 to be laid out in a similar way and distributed among deserving poor widowers of seventy years of age or upwards, who had lived seven years in the parish. Dr Francis Kingston's will of 1868 similarly donated the interest on £536.

Many local gentry were generous in their acts of charity. Some, like John Lawes, had the knack of dispensing help without patronage, others had their shortcomings. 'Madam' Robins of Delaport, when visiting the cottagers, looked into cupboards and into cooking pots to see what the family were eating. She even lifted babies' dresses to inspect their underclothing. Little girls who forgot to curtsy were admonished with 'Bob, child, bob!' and little boys had to touch their caps or forelocks. No doubt she considered she was doing her duty to make sure that the lower classes were bringing up their children correctly, but she simply lost their respect.

Charity was not always graciously received and did not always reach the people who most needed it. Canon Davys, at his first sermon in Wheathampstead in 1859, expressed pleasure at the large number of the 'labouring classes' in the congregation. The clerk told him it was likely to continue up to Christmas: 'You've come lucky, just before gift time'. The Canon describes the 'gift time' when it arrived. 'My worthy predecessor, in his absence, used to send £10 to be distributed in bread to the poor at Christmas, and

I received a generous cheque from his widow asking if I would expend it in the same way. I accepted the responsibility at my first Christmas here, but handed it over to the Churchwardens afterwards for I thought there would be murder in my kitchen yard on the distribution day for more than a hundred people struggled and fought and women shrieked and fainted. Nobody seemed ashamed of coming. The blacksmith was represented and some smaller tradesmen, till all became so comic that I told them, that, as everybody seemed to think they had a right to a loaf, I had better tell my cook to take one'.

On the positive side, the age can be remembered for the generation of stalwart individuals who were determined that they and their families should remain independent of charity. George Wren was born in Wheathampstead in 1846 in a small cottage, which housed three generations. He started at the National School at the age of three and left at eight to work at Bride Hall as a horse boy. When grown up he applied himself to a wide range of occupations: he carried coals and salt, thatched roofs, swept chimneys and dug graves. He bought coppiced woodland and sold the undergrowth as pea sticks and firewood. With the help of a bricklayer he built himself a house, transporting all the materials and digging a well. George and his wife raised a family of nine children and he still found time to lead the bellringers at the parish church.

THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' UNION

As the century wore on unemployment increased amongst agricultural workers and those who still had work were forced to accept near starvation wages. The situation gave birth to Joseph Arch's Agricultural Workers' Union in 1872. In his autobiography Arch does not list Hertfordshire among those counties which rallied to his call, however there was a large meeting of agricultural labourers on Harpenden Common in 1872 at which several hundred joined the union and in 1885 'a crowded meeting of labouring men was held to discuss emigration to Queensland' because of 'the distress of the poor of this and other districts during the past year which it seemed would be unlikely to improve in the next year'. Free passages were available for agricultural labourers and female domestic servants. The existence today of Rothamsted Park can be at least partly attributed to those labour troubles, for Edwin Grey makes clear that this land was part of a larger area 'mostly laid down to pasture at the time of the great strike of agricultural labourers under the late Mr Joseph Arch'; ie the land was removed from the cycle of arable crop rotation. The local gentry showed imagination in dealing with the unemployment which followed the especially severe winter of 1895. Men were employed cutting up trees provided by some local landowners including Lawes, Loder and Lydekker. They worked for three days a week, eight hours a day, at 3d an hour, from 1 February until 12

March. As part of the same initiative, the old gravel pits on the Common were filled in and landscaped into the ponds which exist today. Work was found for 103 men including 52 agricultural labourers, 20 artisans, 17 bricklayers and 14 railway labourers.

SELF-HELP SOCIETIES flourished. Both villages had Clothing and Coal Clubs, which worked on the principle that members could save a small amount each week and collectively buy more favourably. Special concessions were made to more needy members: the Harpenden Coal Club introduced a rule in 1878 entitling widows and infirm labourers to receive full benefit of the Club, while any parishioner occupying a cottage rated at not more than £6 could buy coal at wholesale price and receive interest on deposits. A flour club, a pig club, the Harpenden Labourers' Store Society and a death fund were associated with the Allotment Club. The Store Society was a co-operative run on 'principles similar to those which had been established with so much success at Rochdale', where the first shop had opened in 1844. Only the death fund, an insurance to help meet funeral and other expenses arising from the death of a member or his wife, lasted for any appreciable time. The Women's Medical Society, opened in 1881 for wives of labourers whose wages did not exceed 16s per week, accepted 1d per week subscription.

Friendly Societies were active and both villages had a lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters; its Harpenden headquarters was at the Railway Hotel. The Oddfellows Arms in Harpenden is presumably so named because that society held its meetings there; in Wheathampstead, the Oddfellows met at the Swan. The Cross Keys at Gustard Wood had its own benefit society as did the Old Cock, the Red Lion and the Silver Cup in Harpenden. At this last, The Friendly Benefit Society was founded in 1832. Its rules of 1839 are introduced in verse:

- I First is the name and the design.
- II The place to meet and at what time.
- III Who cannot here a member be,
- IV And he who is a member free.
- V How each must enter and the way
- VI And then what each one has to pay
- VII When each and all must clear the book,
- VIII And when each for a feast may look,
- IX The officers, and what they be,
- X The box, and who shall keep the key.
- XI What each receives when lame or ill,
- XII The duties each have to fulfil.
- XIII Some cautions not designed to shock,
- XIV Then what is said about the stock.
- XV This club shall never broken be
While five to keep it up agree.

- XVI Rules may be altered if they need
When by a majority agreed.
XVII Lastly, to wind the rules all up,
The landlord of the Silver Cup,
How he will lend his friendly aid,
And when and how he shall be paid.

HELPING OTHERS

Less fortunate people farther afield were not forgotten. Both villages provided London children with country holidays, a scheme which continued into the twentieth century. The October 1886 issue of the Harpenden Parish Magazine describes how 85 children enjoyed two or three weeks' summer holiday: 'The bracing air of Harpenden Common soon gave the pale faces a ruddier glow, and the cottagers who boarded the children gave most commendable care and attention to their visitors'. Nearly 600 children spent a fortnight's holiday in Wheathampstead during the summer of 1889, some returning to the same homes as on previous visits. Most were in weak health on arrival and some carried diphtheria and scarletina causing an out-break amongst local children and consequent closing of Gustard Wood School. Canon Davys commented that 'while villagers were pleased to receive the children, it should be the business of sanitary authorities to see that no children are sent without a medical certificate'.

A Guild of Needlework met in Harpenden to make 'useful garments for the benefit of the poor'. From 1886 to 1897 these were given to the Railway Arch Mission in East London. There was a great interest in overseas missionary work and in 1879 the Rectory Working Party made 21 suits to be sent to a missionary school in Chota Nagpore, India. The Church Missionary Society with its Ladies' Working Party, met often to learn about religions in other countries, and the centenary of the Society in 1899 was celebrated. A branch of the Gleaners' Society was formed in May 1899 and subsequently met every month. In 1900 the proceeds of a sale of work by the Zenana Missionary Society went to support an orphan Indian girl. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) was also well supported and its branch, the Women's Mission Association, helped to send women missionaries to work with women and children. The Guild of Children of the Church, the King's Messengers, also a branch of the SPG, raised £16 by a sale of work in 1898 to maintain an Indian girl in the Mission school at Delhi. A branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was formed in 1819; Maria Gilbert, wife of Sir Henry, was its secretary from 1859 to 1905. In 1900 there was a Ladies' Home Mission Association.

Force and Brigade

CRIME

Despite the many self-help schemes, there were those for whom the struggle to stay respectable proved too difficult. The criminal records are a pathetic catalogue of petty crimes. The Quarter Sessions records for 1841 illustrate the indictments occurring throughout the period:

Aaron Huckelsby of Harpenden, labourer, for stealing a fowl value 1s from Joseph Freeman. As he had been convicted before, he was sentenced to transportation for ten years.

James Tomalin of Harpenden, labourer, for stealing bran and barley value 10s 6d from his master, Thomas Cox, miller. Sentenced to one month's hard labour, first and last weeks spent in solitary confinement.

Thomas Hartley of Harpenden, labourer, for stealing 2lbs of bread value 3d from John Kerl. Sentenced to two months' hard labour and whipped.

George Lowe of Wheathampstead, labourer, for stealing food value 10d from Thomas Collyer of Harpenden, labourer. Convicted before so transported for ten years.

The *Herts Advertiser* was reporting similar crimes and sentences twenty years later. In 1860, Elizabeth Wren, a charwoman, stole 2s 6d from the baker, Thomas Batchelor, and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. These examples show that most thieving was simply to satisfy immediate and pressing needs.

Other common offences were assault, being drunk and disorderly, and the failure of publicans to keep to hours. Eliza Addington of No Man's Land was fined (1855) 1s with 10s 6d costs for assaulting her step-mother. In 1860 George Carter alias 'Smashum', of Gustard Wood, was convicted of assaulting and beating Mary his wife but the Bench, not wishing to bring suffering to the family, fined him 1s and 13s costs. He did not pay and was imprisoned at Hertford Gaol for the eleventh time. Frederick North of Gustard Wood complained, when fined 2s 6d with 11s 6d costs for assaulting his wife Susan in 1861, that she had sold all his working tools when he was away from home at the hay-harvest.

POLICE

In response to a questionnaire about crime, sent in 1839 by J.P.s to parishes, Harpenden replied that the most prevalent offences were 'poaching, wood, turnip and vegetable stealing and lately sheep stealing'. Wheathampstead's reply that stolen goods were disposed of 'by the passing of carts and waggons to London' hints at more organised crime. The purpose of the questionnaire (p 159) was to sound out the feasibility of introducing rural police forces following the success of Peel's Metropolitan Force, instituted by the 1829 Act, and those formed subsequently in other cities. The maintenance of law and order had been the responsibility of the parish constable (p 158) who had to fulfil the duty in addition to earning his livelihood. Sometimes he was assisted by associations of property owners like the one that attached the notice to the 'cage', the parish lock-up at Harpenden.

The Redbourn, Harding, St. Michael, Kensworth & Flamstead Association for the Security of the Persons and Property of the Subscribers of the said Parishes, or elsewhere within the distance of Ten Miles therefrom. Instituted 1801. The following rewards shall be paid by the Treasurer, out of the Public Fund, to any Person or Persons who shall give information leading to conviction of anyone guilty of the following offences, viz:

Burglary, £10; Highway or Footpad Robbery, £5; Stealing or Maiming any Horse, Mare, or Gelding, Ox, Cow, Calf or other meat Cattle, Sheep, Lambs or Swine, £15; Wilfully setting fire to any House, Outhouse, Barn, Stable, Stack or Rick of Corn, Hay-Stack, Wheat or Furze, £20; Breaking and Entering any Barn, Mill or other Outhouse detached from Dwelling House, with intent to Steal, £5; Buying or Receiving any Stock, Goods or Effects the Property of a Subscriber, knowing the same having been stolen, £2; Cutting down, Barking, or wantonly damaging Trees, Underwood or Quickset growing, £1; Robbing or Maliciously Damaging any Garden, Orchard or Fishpond, £1 10s; Stealing or Maliciously Killing Poultry or Dogs, £2; Stealing Flour or Meal, Corn or Grain thrashed or unthrashed or stealing Hay out of any Barn, Rick or Hovel, £3; Stealing Corn, Grain, Grass or Hay either growing or in Shocks or Cocks, £2; Stealing or Damaging any Waggon, Carts, Ploughs or Drays, or other Appliances of Husbandry, £2; Breaking or Stealing any Hedges, Hurdles, Firewood or Fences whatsoever, £1; Breaking or Stealing any Gates, Posts, Rails, Pales, or any Iron Work thereunto belonging, £1; Stealing Green Pease or any other Vegetable from the Fields, 10s; Cutting the Manes or Tails of Horses, Mares or Geldings or the Tails of Bulls, Oxen or Cows or otherwise disfiguring them, £5; Wilfully destroying, maiming or Damaging any part of the Property of a Subscriber, £1.

The 'cage', standing next to the Churchyard on Church Green, was used for short time confinement for such as drunks or as overnight accommodation for longer term prisoners on their way to St. Albans gaol. The Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, the joint owners, sold the 'cage', in 1855 to James Vass who paid £15 for 'the building called the Parish Cage with half a pole of ground adjoining'. He replaced it with a cottage.

Hertfordshire's police force was established on 12 April 1841 when Captain Archibald Robinson was appointed as Chief Constable. The County Police Act of 1839 had laid down a guideline of one constable for every thousand head of population but this was not achieved in Hertfordshire for some time. The original force consisted of one Chief Constable, four superintendents, six inspectors and sixty constables to a population of 120,000.

We do not know when our first 'bobbies' were appointed but the 1851 census lists as police constables, Edward Beckwith of Brewhouse Hill and Edmund Townsend at one of the Island cottages in Harpenden street. By 1855 the policeman in Wheathampstead was George Knight living at the 'Police Station' – nothing more than Jessamine Cottage, where, it is said, the cupboard under the stair was used as a lock-up. The *Herts. Advertiser* reported in June 1858 'that under the operation of policeman Knight (an efficient officer) our village prodigalities...have been to a great degree suppressed, and if a strict watch is kept on all public houses, it will effectively avert the open crime and immorality which was formerly as notorious as revolting to the peaceable and well conducted inhabitants'. Knight did keep

watch because in February 1861 Amelia Nash, landlady of the Red Lion was find £3 and 12s 6d costs for refusing to admit him to check that there were no customers in the house at 10.30. She had been convicted before for selling beer during prohibited hours.

The policeman in Harpenden in 1861 was Constable George Best; in 1871 he was Sergeant Best of Pimlico Cottages. Edwin Grey described him as 'a very pleasant personage, seemingly by no means depressed or worried by the responsibility of his office, and when on his beat, attired in his official top hat and with his staff dangling at his side, he would, as he perambulated the various parts of his wide and scattered parish, be met with many a cheery greeting, not much sign of fear being evinced'. The 1861 census presents him as a widower of 28 with a four year old daughter and a baby son. By 1871 he was remarried and had another little daughter, by '81 he had moved on.

FIRE BRIGADE

Both Fire Brigades were voluntary organisations at the end of the nineteenth century although they had close links with the local authorities. Wheathampstead and Harpenden had engines by the 1840s (p 119) and kept them in the south porch of St. Helen's and at the west end of St. Nicholas's. In January 1858 a barn belonging to William Clark, the farmer and carrier at Leasy Bridge, was burnt to the ground with the loss of a van, a cart and agricultural implements in the barn. It was reported that the small parish engine worked well, and the house and stable were saved. Clark sold up and got out of farming in September 1861. Wheathampstead Parish Council decided in March 1895 that in future the engine should be kept at the Bull at £2 10s p.a. rent instead of at Gustard Wood. The Brigade had 13 volunteer members; uniforms were ordered for them in December 1898, the cost to be met by public subscription. The engine was a manual pump, which had to be towed to the fire by horses, hired when required (plate 24d). Each Brigade consisted of a Captain and firemen, and call boys whose job it was to rush around the village to call out the firemen when an alarm was raised.

The formation of the Harpenden Brigade was triggered by a disastrous fire in the early hours of 11 December 1880 which completely destroyed the carpenter's shop, the furniture warehouse and contents and the timber yard of Thomas Samwells. There was substantial damage to the premises and stock of chemist and grocer James Busby and to the home of Albert Parrott. The Luton and St. Albans engines were summoned by telegram but the fire had been contained by the time they arrived. The Prince of Wales watched the glow from the grounds of Luton Hoo. Some of the losses were covered by insurance. Just over two years later, Samwells was saved by the Harpenden Brigade when he set fire to his new workshop by spilling on a flame the alcohol with which he was making furniture polish.

Local Government

POOR LAW AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The replacement of parish constables by a professional police force was just one of the progressive moves away from the Vestry system of local government (p 149). Another change consequent upon the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, transferred the duty of looking after the poor of the parish from local overseers to combined parish Unions with a Board of Guardians to administer them. Harpenden and Wheathampstead were in the St. Albans Union. The old parish poorhouses were closed and the inmates transferred to the new Union Workhouse at St. Albans where, it seems, a stricter regime was imposed: husbands were separated from wives, parents from children. The Guardians appointed Medical Officers to treat the paupers; they were, in effect, beginning to operate a public health service. It was the M.O.s, for instance, who administered the first vaccination programmes following the widespread outbreaks of smallpox in the 1850s. Even though it was an offence not to have one's children vaccinated, Dr West, the M.O., reported on 16 April 1853 considerable opposition among the poor people of Wheathampstead to the vaccination of their children. He attended the village every Monday for this purpose but the inhabitants would not come. On 23 May 1857, Esther Fitzjohn of Wheathampstead was fined 6d with 7s costs for not having her child vaccinated; William Meyer of Wheathampstead was fined 2s 6d with 10s 6d costs on 18 February 1860 for the same offence.

The health side of local administration was consolidated by the Public Health Acts of 1848 and 1875. A Local Government Board was set up as the central authority with Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities corresponding to the Unions. Harpenden and Wheathampstead were included in the St. Albans Rural Sanitary Authority. The Acts also defined sanitary codes for the guidance of the local authorities.

The great battle for clean water was about to be enjoined. Dr Saunders, M.O. in 1877, reported on Wheathampstead that 'Wells throughout the village are numerous and usually shallow...frequently, water, (even when) unpolluted by sewage from usual sources, viz. adjacent cesspools, is rendered impure by filth washing off the surface of the ground... It is very desirable that as many houses as can be should be connected with the sewer so that the present objectionable system of cesspools and middens may be abolished; but until more efficient means of sewage treatment are adopted, I would suggest that the connections be reserved for those cases most urgently needing them by reason of close proximity of the privy to the dwelling or public road or by there being no available garden ground on which to dispose of slop-water. The plan of putting slops together with other refuse into holes is greatly

to be condemned'. Dr Saunders concluded his report with a general criticism of working class housing: 'It is to be regretted that more house accommodation is not afforded the labouring classes for either they must leave the village and find a home elsewhere or they must indecently herd together.' Not surprisingly the report was unfavourably received by the Board, who were appointed from property owners and who would have to foot the bill for any improvements. Mr Blain is on record as saying that Dr Saunders knew nothing about the subject and that the water was of good quality. The sewer had been constructed in 1873 when land at East Meads was bought for the purpose from Lord Cowper for £307; the total cost was £2295 10s 7d. Saunders acknowledged that the majority of houses had been connected but he was dissatisfied with every aspect of the construction and operation of the system. Harpenden did not get a main sewer until 1909.

PARISH COUNCILS

The Vestry continued to administer local affairs in general until the last decade of the century. The Local Government Act of 1888 set up elected County Councils and the subsequent Act of 1894 brought about similar reforms for the smaller communities. The Act created Urban and District Councils to which were transferred the powers and duties of the Rural Sanitary Authorities, including serving as Guardians of the Poor. The larger parishes were to have Parish Councils while the smaller ones annual Parish Meetings. The main innovation was that members of the various councils would be elected by ballot of voters on a parochial register. This was a combination of all the names on the Parliamentary and County Registers. Wheathampstead's Parish Council met for the first time on 2 January 1895 and Harpenden's soon after on 14 January. In 1898 much of Harpenden became an urban district while the sparsely populated areas to the west became Harpenden Rural Parish. Wheathampstead remained a Parish under the jurisdiction of St. Albans Rural District until the Local Government reorganisation of 1974.

WATER remained a contentious subject for the new councils who had to reconcile needs for improvement with resistance to paying higher rates. All Harpenden's water came from wells until 1885 when a private company was formed to supply water to the new Park View Estate. This proved so successful that others wanted a piped supply. Even so, the company was in financial difficulties and, in 1889, it was offered to the Parish for £5,000. The offer was made again in 1895, this time at £13,550 later reduced to £12,000. The parish was divided. Mr Hitchcock, a farmer, 'Speaking as one of the largest rate payers in Harpenden', said 'He would never want water from the works but he would not object to a 1½d rate for five years in order that the Parish would have

control of its own water works.' Mr Sibley, another farmer, doubted the capacity of the water works: '...if they thought they were going to supply the whole of Harpenden from 1895 to 1900, they were labouring under a great mistake'. But his real objection is clear: 'if the Council was going to buy up the water works and give that most exorbitant sum for them, and make farmers pay rates for benefits they did not get, it would have to seize' – he would not pay. The debate continued for another three months but Harpenden Water Co. remained independent until taken over by the Colne Valley Water Co. in 1960.

Wheathampstead Parish was still resisting a piped water supply in 1923 when it came under pressure from St Albans RDC who had a legal obligation to ensure an adequate supply of water. The Parish Council made it clear that they did not want a water scheme forced on the people of the village and the matter was not finally pressed until 1926 when the Ministry of Health issued an order that Wheathampstead be included in the Harpenden Water Co. statutory area. The Parish Council resisted the order to no avail; it was confirmed by Parliament in October 1926.

STREET LIGHTING in Harpenden was discussed at a meeting in 1884 attended by 21 gentlemen. They agreed that 'It is desirable and expedient to light the village with gas during the winter months'. Subsequent discussions centred on which areas should be included. One speaker said that for the sake of young girls who went to Luton and St. Albans daily for straw work, it was most desirable to light the road at Bowling Alley. He had seen them waiting until a number could go home together. At night the district was not pleasant for a man to be alone. In July 1887, a meeting of ratepayers carried the resolution to charge a 3d rate to pay for about 50 lamps at 37s 6d each a year in an area from Pimlico to Moreton End, the limit of the existing gas main. The lamps would be lit from dusk to 11 o'clock each evening from 14 September to 30 April with the exception of three nights before full moon and one night after, to preserve the romance of moonlight. The first lamplighter was William George Read who did the round twice daily for 7s 6d a week.

Harpenden Gas Co. was formed in 1864. St. Nicholas's Church paid bills of over £20 a year for a stove and lighting, of which £1 was for the lamp in the Churchyard. It was not until 1922 that Wheathampstead had gas street lighting.

HARPENDEN COMMON

Sir John Lawes was so much disturbed at the damage being done to the Waste by outsiders and by the increasing population, that, on 27 January 1888, he called a meeting of copyholders of Rothamsted living in the two parishes, 'To discuss ways and means of protecting the pasture, etc'. The question of obtaining powers by Act of Parliament to protect the Common was discussed but

since this would have taken considerable time and cost approximately £150, it was considered inadvisable. Sir John then proposed that a committee of parishioners be nominated by him, which would represent him as Lord of the Manor and would act for him, putting his powers into force. He made it clear that the position of copyholders would not in any way be affected.

Having obtained the agreement of the copyholders, Sir John called a public meeting on 24 February 1888 with a view to gaining general acceptance of his plan to appoint a committee. He suggested that roads might be cut in places where the turf was being destroyed, one for the Cravells Road people, one for Bowling Alley and another for Pimlico and if necessary railings and posts be put up. The heated discussion again centred around rights over the Common. Sir John insisted that his committee 'can only use what power I choose to give them', that he did not wish to do anything he had no right to do, and unless he had the feeling of the whole parish with him, he would rather leave it alone and let the whole Waste be destroyed. Again he assured the copyholders that their rights would remain exactly as they were. His proposals were approved and the 'Harpenden Common Preservation Committee' came into being. Under the scheme, Sir John built a Common Keeper's cottage and paid the Keeper. Also, he gave the drinking fountain, and the Water Company gave a free and constant supply of water. Canon Vaughan opened the fountain to the strains of the Instrumental Society Band on 18 July 1890. Ten years later in September 1900, Sir Charles Lawes, who had now succeeded Sir John as Lord of the Manor, wrote to the Council of his willingness to hand over the future management of Church Green provided they undertook to maintain it, in perpetuity, in the state in which it was proposed to be placed. On 10 December the Council decided to ask Sir Charles to give up also his rights over the village greens from the fountain to the Cock pond. He agreed to make over all the Waste excepting the trees, as far as Station Road and the property Bennetts. In March 1891 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Lords of the Manor of Wheathampstead with Harpenden, offered to sell for £25 the whole of their Rights over the Manorial Wastes in the village, from a point north of the Railway Hotel to the corner of Townsend Lane; the Council duly accepted.

In 1920 the Council initiated moves to acquire the Common from the Lawes family, but it was 1935 before the matter was settled and a price of £3000 agreed to include the freehold of the Keeper's cottage and orchard and the adjoining Golf Clubhouse. Sir Halley Stewart of the Red House agreed 'to purchase for the Village the Manorial Rights of the Common proper, excluding the two dwellings, for the sum of £2,500'. The Council paid for the rest. So by intelligent co-operation the wastes and commons were preserved from enclosure and could be used in the public interest.

INSTITUTE LECTURE HALL, MONDAY & TUESDAY NEXT, NOVEMBER 19 & 20.

Two Enjoyable and Profitable Evenings!



Learn
to
Know
Yourself!

Learn
to
Know Your
Fellow Man!

Figure 16

Two Entertainments MUSICAL & PHRENOLOGICAL!

TICKETS NOW READY, may be had of Mr. Cooper, Mr. Valentine, and Mr. Skillman,
Post Office.

At the close of the Meetings the audience will be invited
to join the newly-formed Local Phrenological Society.

"LAMER" HABITATION OF THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

RULING COUNCILOR · MRS. DRAKE GARRARD.

A DEMONSTRATION WILL BE HELD IN LAMER PARK, ON TUESDAY, 28TH JULY, 1891.

A POLITICAL ADDRESS WILL BE GIVEN,
AND

VICARY GIBBS, ESQ.

The Conservative Candidate for the Division will be present and
address the Meeting.

The Chair will be taken by
THE REV. CANON DAYDS.

ATHLETIC SPORTS

Will be held, for Prizes given by Mrs. DRAKE GARRARD.
100 Yards Handicap, Boys under 14.
100 Yards Egg and Spoon Race, Men over 45.
100 Yards Sack Race, Males over 16.
100 Yards Race, Women over 45.
Hurdle Race (8 Hips), Males over 16.
High Jump, Boys under 14.

THERE WILL BE A VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.

ST. ALBANS (C.E.T.) PRIZE BAND WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. FREE to Members of the "Lamer" Habitation.
Non-Members, 3d. Tickets to be obtained from the Ruling Councilor, and Mrs. DAYDS,
Hon. Sec., Pipers, Harpenden.

GATES OPEN AT 4.30. CLOSE AT 10 P.M.
For further particulars see Programmes. Badges should be worn
R. A. HODGKINSON, PAINTER, HIGH STREET, ST. ALBANS.

Appendix Nine

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Report of the Jubilee Proceedings at Harpenden.

The day began with a peal on the Church bells at 6 a.m. At 11.30 there was a special Commemoration Service at the Parish Church, which was very fully attended, especially by Parishioners from the outlying districts, though many of those who would like to have been there were kept away by the necessary work of preparation for the festivities in the Park.

At 12.30 the Village Band, for the first time wearing uniform, played the National Anthem on the Church Green, and then, followed by members of the Volunteer Corps and a large number of the inhabitants, marched to Rothamsted Park.

At 1 o'clock the first dinner was served, to which 1,400 people sat down, not including many babies and small children not invited, but too young to be left away from their parents. At 2 o'clock the remaining diners sat down to the number of 905. Invitations had been issued by ticket to all Parishioners who it was thought would care to attend, of 6 years of age and upwards; also to all children not living in the Parish, but who were attending any of the weekday schools; these numbered between 50 and 60. Tickets were also given to any Parishioners who did not care to avail themselves of the feast, but wished to send children or servants; about 2,400 tickets were issued, and, including the members of the Band, Police and other paid assistants, for whom dinners were provided, 2,305 persons sat down to the dinners.

At 3 o'clock the sports commenced, and were continued throughout the afternoon, with one short rest. ...prizes, in the form of the new Jubilee coins, which were distributed in the evening by Mrs. Hodgson, gave much satisfaction.

At 5.15, Sir John Lawes gave a short address in front of the dining tents, on the Queen's life and reign, after which a verse of "God save the Queen" was heartily sung by those present, and cheers were given for the Queen and Royal Family, and then for those who had contributed in various ways towards the successful celebration of the Jubilee Day at Harpenden. Sir John Lawes afterwards planted an oak tree on the spot from which his address was given, and this it is hoped may prove a lasting memorial of the day.

At 5.30, tea was served, the arrangements for which were not quite so satisfactory as those for the dinner; the portable boilers which had been intended only to provide tea, as the supply of water boiled beforehand became exhausted, were taxed beyond their capabilities, and some water was used from them which proved the truth of the old adage, "Unless the kettle boiling be, filling the teapot spoils the tea."

Later on, but too late to be of use to some of the guests, there was a large supply of excellent tea, that quite satisfied in quality and quantity those that had it.

At 9.15 the display of fireworks commenced near the gravel pits on the Common, and gave great enjoyment to all who were able to witness it; the only failure was the collapse of the fire balloon. The simultaneous illumination of the Common by coloured lights will not easily be forgotten by young or old.

The dinners were served in tents, with some extra tables placed alongside and at the ends, affording ample accommodation for all the adults, the children being seated on planks laid upon the grass. The tables were covered with new white calico, and decorated with garden and wild flowers by the lady helpers, many of the flowers being gathered by the village children and brought as their contributions to the feast. A large picture of the Queen was on the front of the carving tent in the centre of the dining enclosure, and royal standards and union jacks floated in profusion about the Park. The dinner consisted of 2,000 lbs weight of roast and boiled beef, mutton and pork, meat pies, 300 quartern loaves of bread, 10 cwt of new potatoes, and 1,600 lbs of plum puddings; 250 gallons of lemonade, and 180 gallons of pale ale, so giving a pint of beer each to all who desired it (being 15 years of age and upwards), and a pint of lemonade each to the children and many others. With the tea was given bread – 200 quartern loaves – and butter, and 1,000 lbs weight of plum cake, towards which many kind friends – whose names do not appear in the Subscription List – contributed in various ways. In the evening there were many houses in the Village illuminated, and the pond and baa-lamb trees were hung with Chinese lanterns.

Medals were distributed to all children attending the dinner, and since to all other children in the week-day schools; also to a good many others under 6...in all, to between 900 and 1,000 children. There was a distribution of small prizes among the younger children, who took part in games arranged for them after the tea.

The climbing of the greasy pole for a leg of mutton gave amusement to some performers and many spectators. The prize was finally given to a stranger, whose gallant and persevering efforts, though unsuccessful in reaching the top, gained general approval.

The whole proceedings of the day ended with the Band playing the National Anthem, and all those present singing it, at about 10.30.

Where (ticket) holders had been unable to avail themselves of their invitation, portions of tea, pudding, and meat were sent to them at home. There was also a large surplus of bread, caused by the liberal supply of potatoes, pudding, and cake; this, together with some 200 gallons of excellent soup, has been distributed among the poor.

Henry Tylston Hodgson, Chairman
J. Wright Salisbury, Secretary & Treasurer

Table 4
Farms and Farmers in Harpenden

Farm	Owner	1840	1851	1861	1871	1881	Acres
Harpenden Bury	D. C. Westminster†	John Bates	John Bates	John Bates	Henry Cox	Henry Cox	380
Rothampstead	J. B. Lawes	J. B. Lawes	J. B. Lawes	J. B. Lawes	J. B. Lawes	J. B. Lawes	539
Annables	Rev. Wm. Smyth	Wm. Kerl Jr.	Rbt. Sibley	Rbt. Sibley	Rbt. Sibley	Rbt. Sibley	371
Hammonds End	F. Vander Meulen	Wm. Kerl Sr.	William How	William How	James Field	Tho. Duckworth	330
Cooters End	F. Pym & C. Packe	William How	Jos. Willmott	Jos. Willmott	Geo. Tingey	Geo. Tingey	230
Schute	J. B. Lawes	Thomas Farr	Thos. Farr	Sarah Farr	Sarah Farr	Edward Farr	241
Turners Hall	Sir J. Sebright	Jos. Wilkins	George James	Chas. Hester	Wm. Taylor	Eliza Taylor w	200
New (Wood End)	F. Pym & C. Packe	Wm. Davis Jr.	Thos. Davis	George Guess	Ephr. Guess	Ephr. Guess	332
Dove House	Rev. Jas. Jenkins	Rbt. Sibley	Matt. Redhead	Matt. Redhead	Geo. Davies	Geo. Davies	180
Upper Top Street	C. Packe	Jos. Jennings	Geo. Davies	Geo. Davies	Charles Nott	Charles Nott	230
Pollards	Lady Anne Bray	Thomas Bowman	John How	Alfred How	Fred Willmott	William Smith	301
Townsend	F. Pym & C. Packe	Thomas Kidman	William Nott	Charles Nott	Geo. Burchmore	Hy. Willmott	200
Old	J. B. Lawes	J. B. Lawes	Geo. Burchmore	Geo. Burchmore	Hy. Willmott	Hy. Willmott	190
Home & Yew Tree	F. Pym & C. Packe	Jos. Freeman	Hy. Willmott	Hy. Willmott	Wm. Davies	Wm. Davies	177
Rough Hyde	J. B. Lawes	Sarah Ellis	Sarah Ellis	G. Timberlake	John London	John Woolston	435
Lower Top Street	J. B. Lawes	Thos. Fernie	Wm. Davies	Wm. Davies	John Woolston	Jas. Salisbury	38
Moreton End	Thos. Fernie	Thos. Fernie	Wm. Davies	Wm. Davies	John Woolston	William Olney	40
Bowers	Mary Law	Jos. Freeman	Wm. Davies	Wm. Davies	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
Limbrick Hall	Richard Oakley	Edm. Bates	John Hawkins	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
Byelands	John Hawkins	John Hawkins	John Hawkins	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
Faulkners End	Rev. Jas. Jenkins	Rbt. Sibley	John Hawkins	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
The Bull	J. B. Lawes	Hy. Oldacre	Hy. Oldacre	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
Poplars	Henry Bunn	Henry Bunn	Henry Bunn	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
Hyde Mill	Marquis of Bute	Thos. Cox	Thos. Cox	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
Starve Gut Hall	William Simons	Wm. Manning	Richard Elmer	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
The Old Bell	William Berner	Matt. Tomalin	Matt. Tomalin	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38
Kinsbourne Green	Jonathan Payne	Jon. Payne	John Clark	William Olney	John Woolston	R. Scrivener	38

† Dean & Chapter of Westminster

* occupier not the farmer, usually a farm worker

w widow

Schute = Scout, includes Whitlocks End

Moreton End = Envy Hall

Starve Gut Hall = Bowers Hall

Table 5

Farms and Farmers in Wheathampstead

Farm	1840	1851	1861	1871	1881	Acres
Bury	D. C. Westminster†	James Dover	James Dover	John Ransome	John Ransome	443
Lamer Home	C. Drake Garrard	James Dover	James Dover	Chas. Sibley	Chas. Sibley	437
Delaports	J. Dorrington	*	Jas. Thrussell	*	*	365
Astridge	C. Drake Garrard	Esth. Sibley	Chas. Sibley Jr.	John Kilby	Wm. Russell	235
Piggots Hill	Jos. Gutteridge	Eliz. Bates	*	George Bates	George Bates	300
Great Cutts	Levi Ames	*	*	Dolphin Smith		400
Mackerye End	C. Drake Garrard	Eliz. Wilcott	Dolphin Smith		Eliz. House w	290
Grove	John House	Thomas House	Thomas House	Wm. Davies	Jno. Dickinson	250
Bamville Wood	John House	*	Wm. Davies	Joseph Finch	Joseph Finch	168
Herons	Earl of Verulam	Thos. Ephgrave	Joseph Finch	Hy. Dickinson	Hy. Dickinson	180
Cross	Rev. J. Kentish	Geo. Dickinson	Geo. Dickinson	Jno. Dickinson	*	144
Ayres End	Rev. J. Kentish	Geo. Dickinson	Jno. Dickinson	Thomas Blain	Thomas Blain	172
Turners Hall	Rev. C. Martyn	Thomas Blain	Thomas Blain	Edward Bruton	Geo. Dickinson	130
Leasy Bridge	James Mardall	*	William Clark	*	William Smith	61
Castle	C. Drake Garrard	William Grigg	*			
Hill	C. Drake Garrard	Eliz. Iloft	Edmund Iloft			
Bower Heath	C. Drake Garrard	Edmund Iloft	George Farr			
Bull	Benjamin Young	George Farr	Ch. Lattimore	Ch. Lattimore	Ch. Lattimore	360
Wheat's Head Place	Visc. Melbourne	Ch. Lattimore	Geo. Scabrook	Geo. Scabrook	John Scabrook	87
Dane	Richard Hall	Widow Scabrook	Geo. Scabrook	Jes. Chennells	Jes. Chennells	100
Town	C. Drake Garrard	Am. Chennells	Am. Chennells	*		
Little Cutts	Dav. Phillpotts	*	*	Ernest Dixon		170
Batford Mill	John Hawkins	Wm. Divers	Wm. Divers			
Nomansland						
Common	Richard Oakley	John Raggett	John Raggett			
Hollybush Hall	Naphtali Norris	Chas. Wilcott	Chas. Wilcott			
Amwell		Jos. Freeman	Jos. Freeman			
Harpenden Common		Thomas Sears	Thomas Sears	John Sears	John Sears	40

Piggots Hill = Aldwick

† Dean & Chapter of Westminster

* occupier not the farmer, usually a farm worker

w widow

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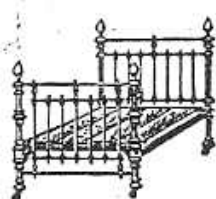
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