



THE REEPHAM SOCIETY



Magazine

Middlemarch . Broomhill Lane . Reepham
Telephone Norwich 870936

The front cover of this magazine shows the Moor House, an impressive building built in the mid part of the nineteenth century by the Bircham family. William Bircham was living in The Ollands when he built the Moor House and initially the House was lived in by other members of the family but from the early 1900's it was rented out until it was eventually sold after the last war.

Whilst there are many photos and considerable detail available about The Ollands little is known about the history of the Moor House, indeed some of the oral history imparted to me by local residents proved to be incorrect and it took a lot of cross referencing to establish the detail that I have given about this House. The history of the Moor House is just part of an article that details a general history of the Moor during the past 100 years. I'm grateful for the reminiscences of a number of local people that have helped me with this and I must also acknowledge the considerable help gained from the long article entitled 'Past News' written in 1949 by the late Harry Hawes. He was a builder who lived in Reepham all his life, as had his father, and his recollections of Reepham and its residents go back to the mid/late part of the last century.

Contributions in this issue include a article from Edwin Prockter about William Alfred Pask. I am sure many people will remember the outfitters and drapers that the Pask family had at Towns End Corner (the site occupied today by Reepham D.I.Y.).

Margaret Rowe and her sister Pat Swinhoe-Phelen, daughters of the late Rev Bernard Luscombe, (who was vicar of Whitwell and Kerdiston during the 1930's and 40's), recall their childhood in Reepham during these years.

In the last magazine many people enjoyed the article about the Ironmongery business of Edward Gibbs and Son; Wesley Piercey now recalls his grandfather Thomas who worked for this firm until he retired in the early 1930's. I apologise for repeating a photograph that was printed in the last issue but as it shows Thomas Piercey with Edward Gibbs it seems more significant to this issue.

George Kett, a regular contributor, has sent an article about the last days of Robert Kett who was captured at Swannington after the unsuccessful revolt of 1549. Another regular contributor, Tony Ivins, recalls the Bircham Brewery Well which is historically linked to the old post mill which first stood in Reepham and then was moved to Booton.

Finally John Ricketts has sent 'Memories of Cricket at Reepham'. There is nothing more evocative than memories of the sound of leather on willow on summer afternoons of the past and although local club cricket has had its ups and downs during the past 70 years it is going as strong now as it ever was and John has captured somewhat fondly, this sport that is so beloved by many.

This magazine contains a large amount of local historical detail, please do not read and accept it as being definitive. If you know that any of the facts given are fundamentally wrong then I would welcome comments, corrections or even constructive criticism. I hope also that some of you readers will have memories (of Reepham) that you would like to recount for the next issue, if you can help then please get in touch with me.

Reepham has a wealth of documented and oral history and I'm pleased that the Society's magazine allows this to be brought to a large number of people in this area; I hope you will read it and enjoy it.

Michael Black

REEPHAM



SOCIETY

William Alfred Pask

— *Tailor*

'REEPHAM TAILOR WORKING AT 91 . . .'

'50th ANNIVERSARY OF THIRD WEDDING . . .'

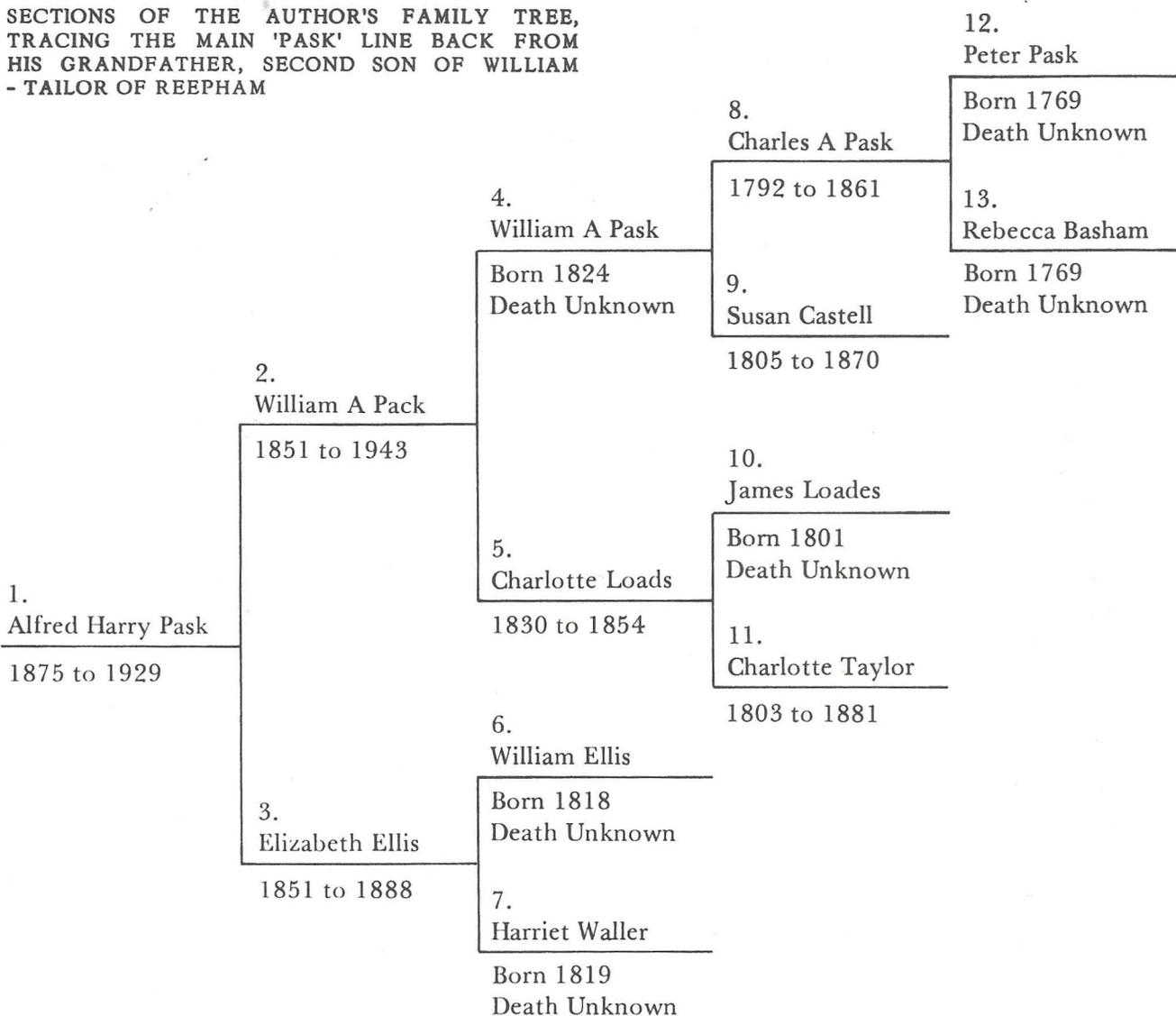
These were the local headlines which people read in the newspapers of January 4th 1943. A little under four months later on 1st May, the same papers were recording a death the previous day of William Alfred Pask - Tailor of Reepham for more than 80 years.

THE EARLY YEARS . . . Not a lot is known about the early years of 'Billy Pask's' life. He was born in Ipswich to a travelling man, also called William Alfred and his Reepham born wife Charlotte, nee Loades. The next time we find his family is in Norwich, where his only brother Charles Alfred was born in 1853. Only one year after this his mother Charlotte dies in Ipswich of cholera, aged just 24. What happens next is a mystery, but it seems that William and his baby brother Charles were taken to the 'Loades' grandparents in Reepham to be brought up, and this is where the Reepham Pask dynasty begins.

THE WORKING YEARS . . . Billy used to tell his grandchildren that his first ever job was scaring crows for a farmer. However, going back to the newspaper articles of January 1943, we learn that he first entered tailoring at the age of seven, and at the age of 10 became apprenticed to the Reepham firm of Bircham and Amos. In 1875, possibly with money received from the estate of his late grandmother, he set out in business on his own, and built up a very high class tailoring business with wealthy customers in many parts of the country.



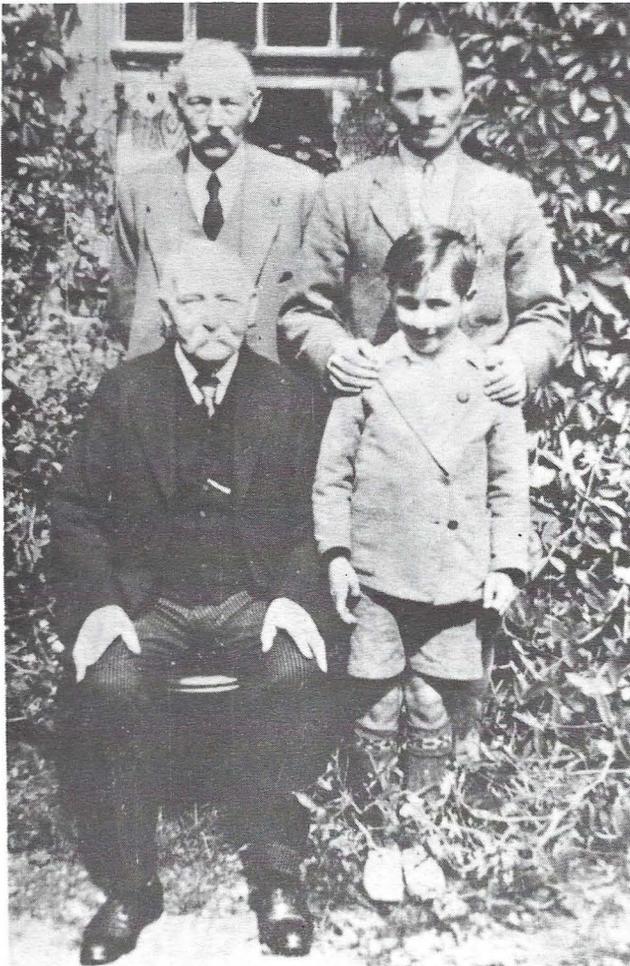
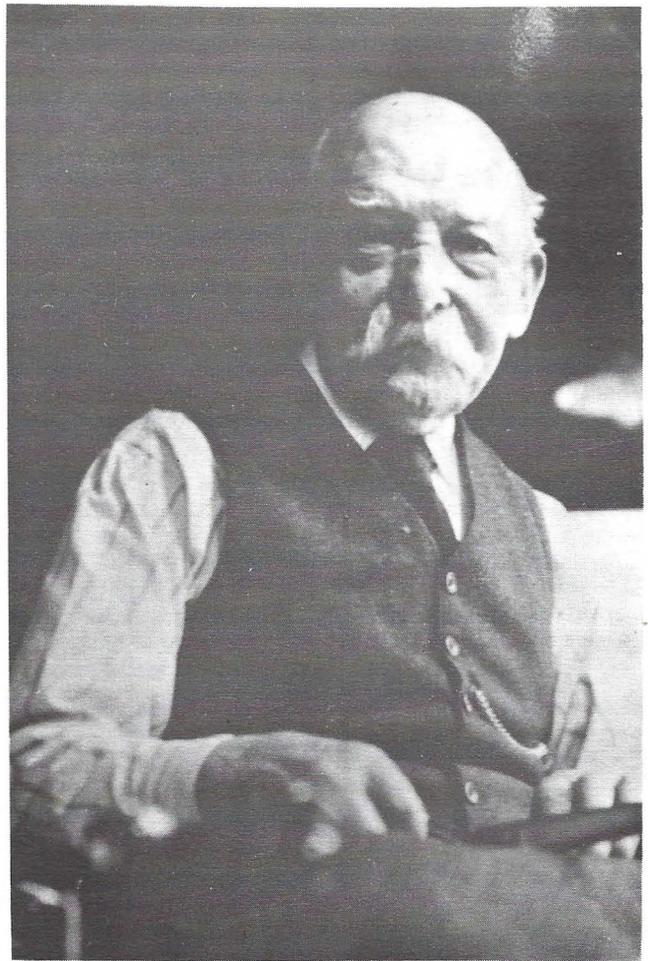
SECTIONS OF THE AUTHOR'S FAMILY TREE,
TRACING THE MAIN 'PASK' LINE BACK FROM
HIS GRANDFATHER, SECOND SON OF WILLIAM
- TAILOR OF REEPHAM



THE CHART ABOVE HAS BEEN SHORTENED IN
DETAIL TO MAKE IT EASIER TO FOLLOW, IT
INCLUDES SEVERAL REEPHAM PEOPLE OF THE
19C. FOR FURTHER DETAILS REFER TO
NUMBERED INFORMATION BELOW:

1. Alfred Harry married in Abingdon, Berkshire and later became the tailor of Lowestoft.
2. William was married three times. First to Elizabeth Ellis who I believe was born in Gt Witchingham, from 1871 to 1888. Second to Clara Elizabeth Neale a widow of Reepham from September 1890 to November 1891. Third to Annie Sarah Rowe who was born at Peasenhall, from 1893 until his death in 1943.
3. Elisabeth's father was a coachman, she had a sister Maria who is buried next to her in Whitwell Road Cemetary. Her brother John later lived in North Walsham.
4. William the first, is a man of mystery as he never stayed in the same place for very long. By trade he was a hawker or book canvasser.
5. Charlotte had six brothers and sisters all born in Hackford. Margaret, Samuel, Mary, Robert, Sarah and James after his father, who was a blacksmith by trade.
8. Charles Alfred was born at Stoke by Clare, Suffolk. He married at St. Matthew's Church, Ipswich in 1824. Most of his life he was a bookbinder/bookseller, but for a few years he was Innkeeper at the Cornhill Tavern in Ipswich.
9. This Peter was possibly the second ancestor by this name, but at this stage his parentage has not been confirmed conclusively.

THE FAMILY MAN . . . William was no stranger to tragedy, having lost his mother at three years old and seemingly being deserted by his Dad soon after. However, sorrow continued with him for many years to come. He first wife Elizabeth died of T.B. aged 36, just three days after the death of their youngest son Donald, leaving William with eight small children to cope with. Such was the scale of these events that a 'fund' was set up in the village to support him through these dark days. However, more grief was to come, on 30 September 1890 he was married to Clara, only to be widowed again for a second time a little over 3½ years in November 1891. Just nine months after this his ten year old daughter Ethel died in a tragic accident whilst out playing. However, after his third marriage in January 1893 to Annie things did begin to go better at least for a time. It is not perhaps surprising that at one stage William took to heavy drinking and his wife lived in fear of him coming home at night, but in his latter years he reformed after a 'conversion experience' at the Methodist Chapel. William was the father of 18 children, including one step-child from his second wife. Of these 15 lived into adult life - eight boys and seven girls. From this family have come hundreds of descendants still living today in many parts of the world.

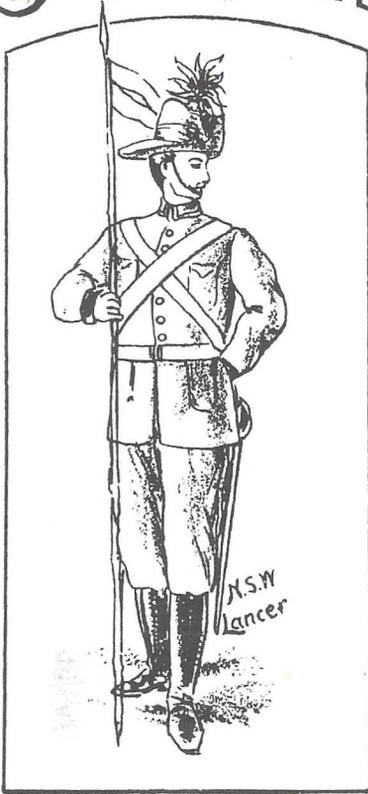


THE WILLIAM ALFRED PASKS . . . William was very proud of his family, as he loved children, but he had a special pride in the four living generations of William Alfred and three known pictures were taken of them at stages in life. Few know that his father was also William Alfred, and with William Alfred V - still alive and well, living in Aylsham there has now been a William Alfred Pask for 166 years.

Author's Note: The preceding article is in no way a history of the Pask family, a book would be needed for that. However, Edwin Prockter does have an ongoing interest in family research. If you can help with any memories of any persons mentioned on the 'tree chart', please contact Edwin at the following address:

149 Carholme Road
Lincoln LN1 1RU
Tel: 0522 522975

The
SOUTH AFRICAN
PUZZLE.



PRETORIA - FIND KRUGER

ESTABLISHED 1875.

W. A. PASK,
Civil & Military Tailor,
Hosier, etc.,
MARKET PLACE, REEPHAM.

MOURNING & LIVERIES AT SHORT NOTICE.
Ladies' Riding Habits and Jackets in Latest Fashions.
Good Fit. Workmanship Guaranteed.
All Work done by Experienced Men on the Premises,
under personal supervision.

Reepham Moor

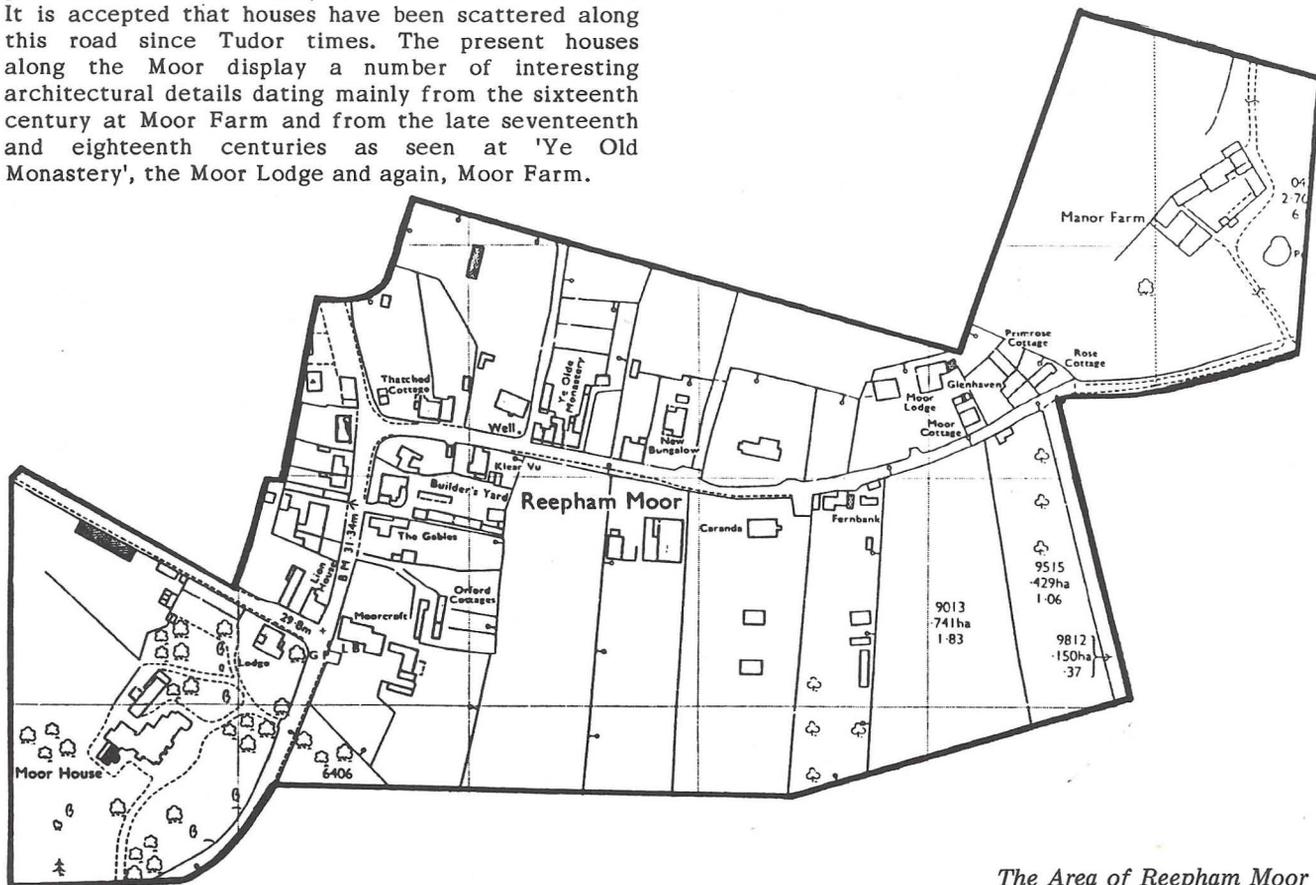
By the County of Norfolk Review Order, 1935, the civil parishes of Hackford, Reepham and Kerdiston and Whitwell were united to form the new parish of Reepham. Prior to this unification Reepham was always described 'as a small town and parish on the banks of the Eyn'. Reepham Moor is, and always seems to have been, a separate part of the Reepham parish situated to the east of the town. 'Moor' means low wet land and this area was originally the common of Reepham. The river Eyn is the boundary between the parishes of Reepham and Booton and although the low wet land on the Reepham side was long ago drained and cultivated the land on the other side is Booton Common an area of wetland which remains today as it probably was hundreds of years ago.

It seems likely that the road through the Moor was the original road from Reepham to Cawston, the map shows the present road which finishes at Moor Farm and the route restarts at the Green Lane which proceeds in a reasonably direct line to Cawston. It is accepted that houses have been scattered along this road since Tudor times. The present houses along the Moor display a number of interesting architectural details dating mainly from the sixteenth century at Moor Farm and from the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as seen at 'Ye Old Monastery', the Moor Lodge and again, Moor Farm.

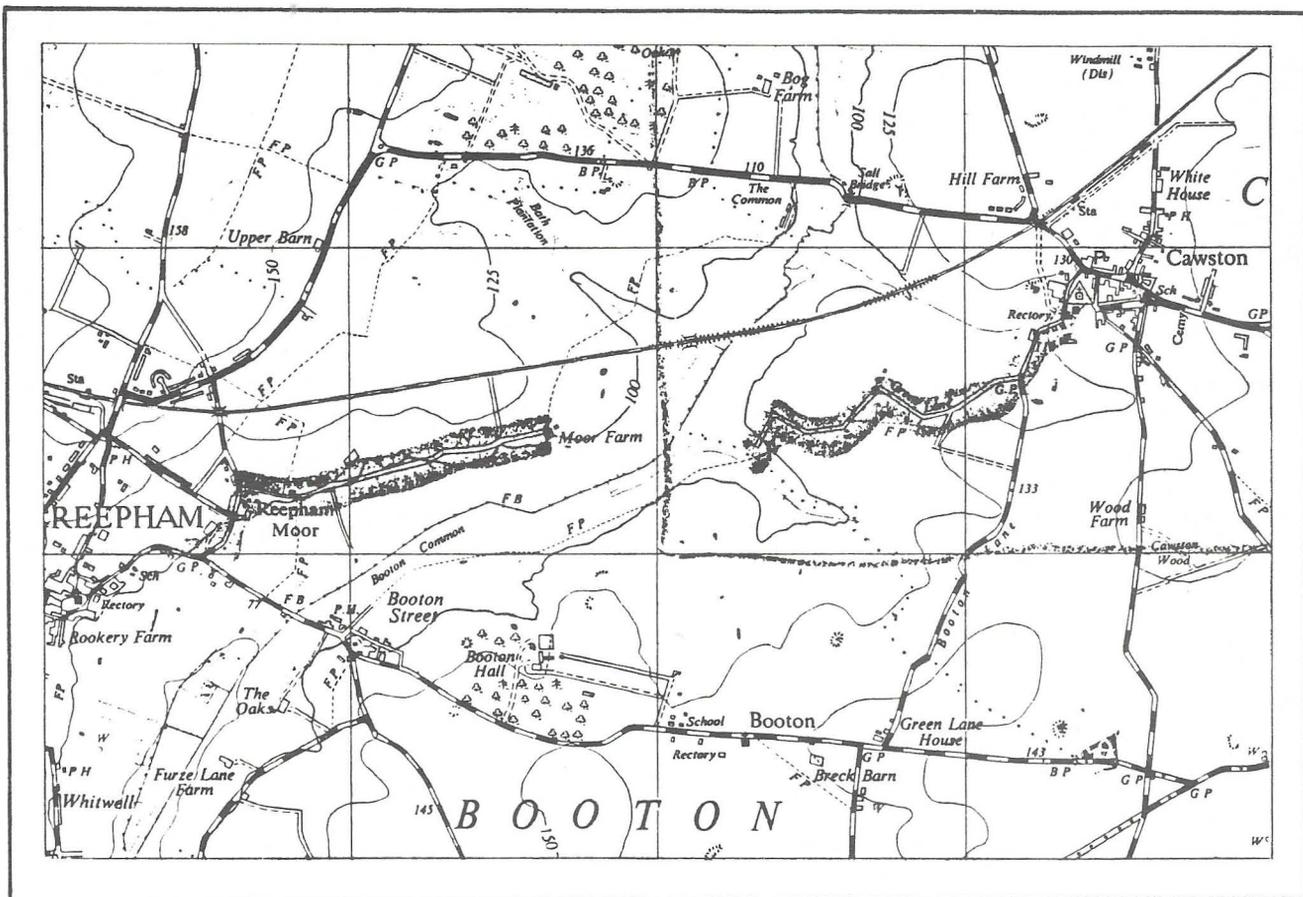
Whilst in recent years the town area of Reepham parish has grown and commercially prospered the Moor has declined in a commercial sense and today this leaves the Moor as a much quieter almost totally residential area. During the 19th and early part of the 20th century however the Moor was commercially prosperous and the residents living in this area formed up to half the population included in the census returns for the parish of Reepham. The population level was about 400 during the period 1851 - 1931 (with up to 200 living at Reepham Moor). In 1883 the commercial side of the Moor included William Baker, chimney sweep; Thomas Dewing, shopkeeper; William Gillingwater, bootmaker and shopkeeper; Henry Porter, landlord of the Black Lion and at least three farmers.

All of Reepham Moor is contained within the Reepham Conservation Area, the main objectives of conservation include the resistance of development which would be out of keeping with the character of the area or detrimental to its appearance and to ensure that new development is of a type and design which will blend with the appearance of the area and add to its interest and attraction. Future changes at the Moor will be strictly controlled.

However changes to Reepham Moor in the past have been minimal, but with two main exceptions during the past 100 years. The first change in the period 1850 - 1890 and the second between 1910 and the late 1980s.



The Area of Reepham Moor



The shading shows the road along Reepham Moor and the Green Lane to Cawston. Originally this was the main route between Reepham and Cawston.

THE MOOR HOUSE

The first change concerns the area now occupied by the Moor House and its grounds. The tithe map of 1846 shows the area as a general collection of farm buildings and other dwellings, the next map of the area is the detailed work carried out by the Ordnance Survey of 1885. This detail shows quite clearly that in the intervening years a large house had been built in the middle of the site and that a road shown in the 1846 map had been moved further to the north. In the 1885 map the straight line which reaches to the north west from the back of the House is the line of the original road.

The present House and Lion House (the old Black Lion Public House) are dated 1888 and 1889 respectively and it is widely believed that they and the New Road were all built at this time. This is not so and I will elaborate in greater detail the building carried on around these dates later on in this article.

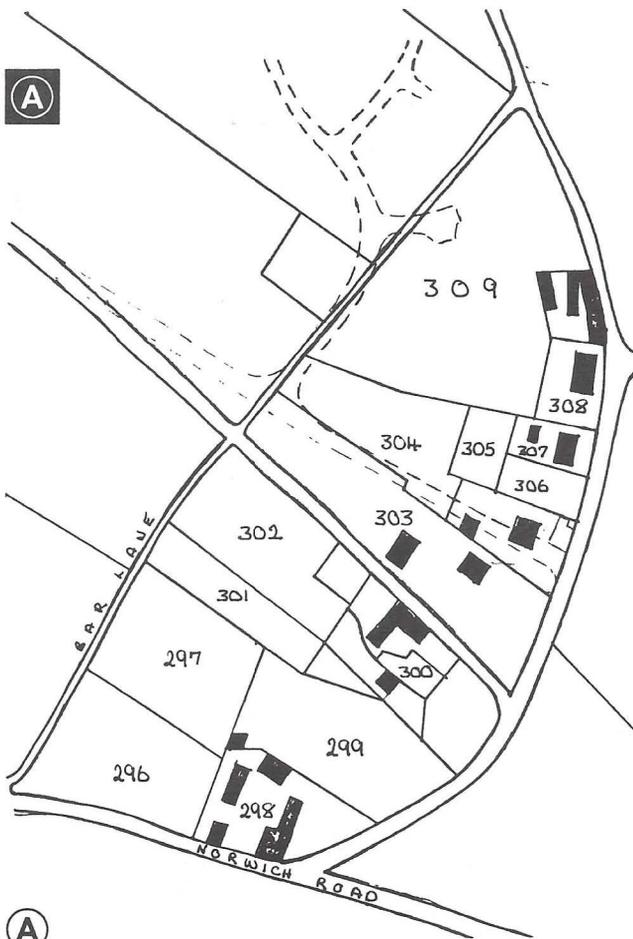
It is difficult to detail when the Moor House was built but I assume it to be between 1846 and 1865, probably nearer the later date.

Kelly's Directory of Norfolk specifically lists the 'private' residents of Reepham and someone who could afford to live in a house of this size would surely be listed. The first listing is in 1865 when the person recorded as living here is a Mrs Dalrymple.

In his reminiscences of Reepham, Harry Hawes recorded the "Mrs Dalrymple lived there, she was aunt to Mr Sam Bircham, a very nice old lady generous to the poor. She would ride about in a donkey chaise fitted with a glass front and whenever she went out she was always accompanied by her nurse. After her death Mr Frank Parmeter of Booton Hall came to live here". The Kelly's Directory of 1883 lists Miss Bircham and Francis Parmeter as residing at the Moor House.

Mary Anne Dalrymple was born in 1798 and died in Reepham in 1875, she was married in 1826 to 'Surgeon Dalrymple of Norwich' and it is believed that after her husband's death she came to Reepham to live, she was survived by two daughters. I am informed that in 1837 Catherine Dalrymple married Francis Thomas Bircham and their son was Samuel Bircham who eventually inherited the Moor House. I assume that Catherine was related to "Surgeon Dalrymple", a sister or possibly daughter from an earlier marriage.

The various tithes, area 296 - 303 inclusive, were all owned by William Bircham (who lived at the Ollands) and he was probably the person who built the Moor House and at the same time changed the road to the layout we know today.



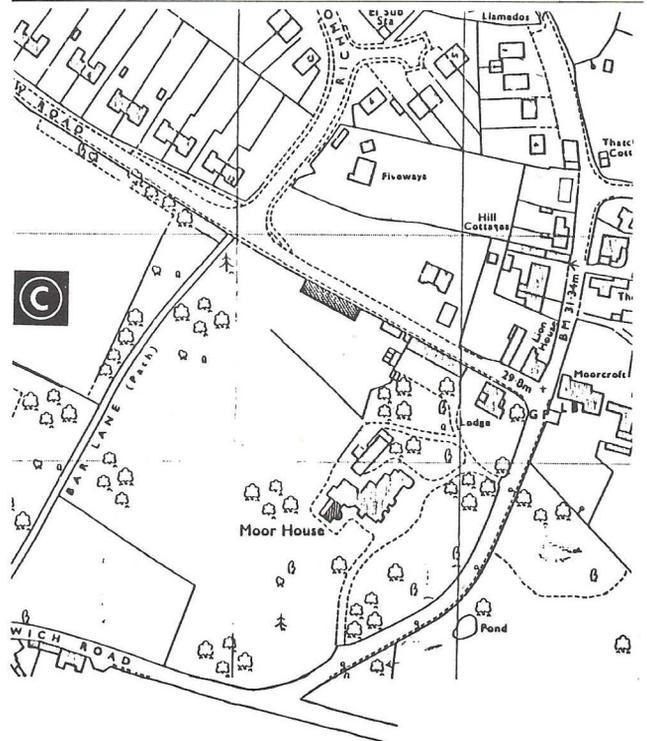
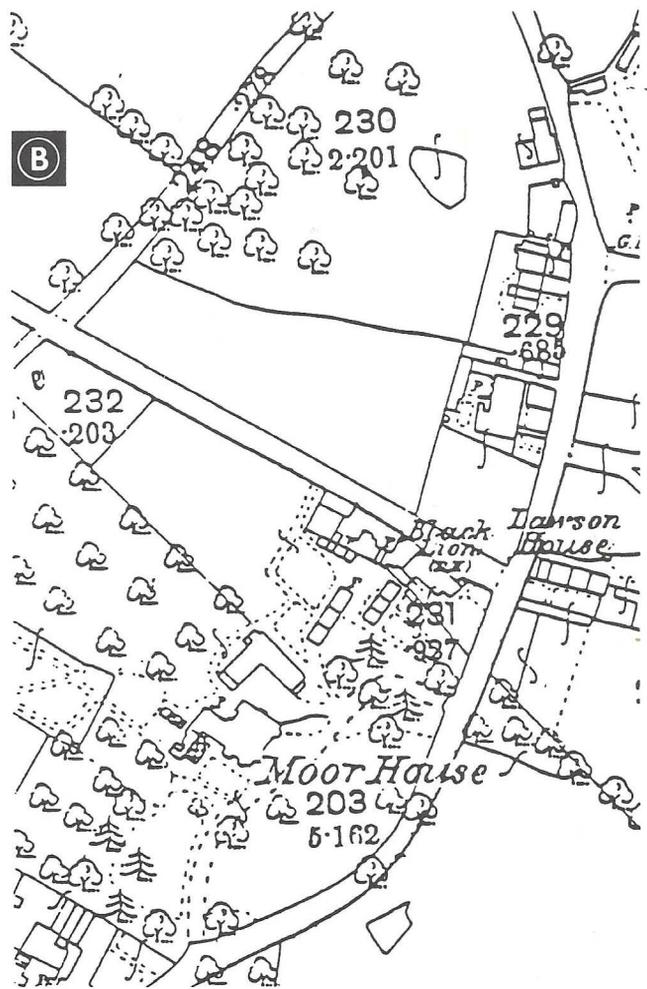
(A)
 The Western end of Reepham Moor (around the Moor House) as it was in 1846, the dotted lines indicate the road alignment carried out when the original house was built and the roads built into Richmond Rise in the 1970s.

(B)
 The same area in 1885, shortly before the house was extended and the Black Lion Public House moved to the other side of the road.

(C)
 The same area in 1990.

Prior to this building the tithes supported the livelihood of a number of tenants. The tithes 296, 297, 301 and 302 were used as pasture and arable land. Tithe 298 was occupied by Thomas Springall who was a bricklayer and farmer of some 27 acres, the buildings on this tithe were a farm house with a barn, stables, cart sheds, cow house and a par yard. (I am informed that a par yard was a yard in which cattle were kept during the winter months - Editor). There were also five cottages occupied in 1870 by the following tenants.

1. Nurse McLean who was the Parish Nurse.
2. William Huson, a bootmaker.
3. Jerry Hall, a labourer



4. Widow Hall, who had two sons and two daughters (one of whom married Morris the hay trusser).
5. Broughter Hart, a harness maker by trade who was also employed by the Post Office. Every weekday he would walk from Reepham to the Saxthorpe Post Office delivering as he went the letters to Sall Street. He would then walk to and leave the Wood Dalling and Heydon post bags at Heydon Post Office, he carried on through Heydon Park to leave the Corpusty and Saxthorpe bags at Saxthorpe Post Office. He then turned around and walked back bringing the various letter bags which were to catch the horse drawn Norwich Mail Van which left Reepham at 5p.m. each day.

The tithe area 299 was an orchard and area 300 contained yards and agricultural buildings and four cottages, in 1870 the tenants were:

1. William Self, he worked the steam striker in the local Whitwell tannery owned by Mr Leaman
2. Mr Watchman, he was a maltster (the malthouse in which he worked was situated next to the Norwich Road opposite Virginia's Workbox - Editor).
3. Mr Kemp, a gardener.
4. G. Hall, to encourage this tenant to leave Samuel Bircham told him he could have a cottage in Worlds End Lane for himself and his family, free from all rents for his lifetime. Needless to say, Mr Hall accepted.

In the area 303 stood the 'old' Black Lion Public House, this had a thatched roof and attached were several farm premises which included a barn, stable, piggeries, par yard and a skittle alley. On the gable end a large board was affixed, this was nine feet long and had a large black lion painted on it.

Although a member of the Reepham Bircham family, Samuel Bircham was a solicitor who lived in Surrey and practiced in London, he obviously yearned for life in Reepham because he purchased at auction in 1879 the Old Brewery House. This 'superior residence' and various other lots in Reepham were sold by Messrs Spelman and Co., these lots were certain parts of what was previously known as the Bircham Brewery estate sold by William Bircham. With the encroachment of the railways the Bircham Brewery monopoly in this area was put under fierce competition particularly from the Norwich Breweries and the family were in turn placed under severe financial pressure.

It was ironic and perhaps satisfying to William Bircham that Samuel should purchase the Brewery House and he further extended Samuel's estate in Reepham when after William's death in 1886 he left in his will the area in, around and including the Moor House. However, Samuel had to purchase his holding.

Due to his financial difficulties William had mortgaged the Moor House and the surrounding area to Samuel Bignold in 1876. To inherit the property Samuel paid £2,250 to clear the mortgage.

As Samuel now owned all this area he now decided in 1888 to clear the whole site and to make the house larger and generally to turn it into a house of some magnificence. All the dwellings, farm buildings and other buildings were demolished and the whole area turned into gardens and grounds to compliment the new House. The Black Lion Public House was demolished and a new one was built on the opposite side of the road to a new house which was built as a gardener's cottage. The only early building which survived and is still there today is a small barn like structure behind the house which was probably used as outhouses and stables to serve the original smaller Moor House.

I have been unable to find out who carried out the extensive rebuilding of the Moor House but Harry Hawes wrote in 1949 that the Black Lion was built by John Hever and Son, builders of Norwich and that his father Thomas Hawes was given the order to demolish and clear away all the cottages, farm houses and buildings which were on the site, he was also given the order to build about 50 yards of flint wall which encloses part of the grounds.

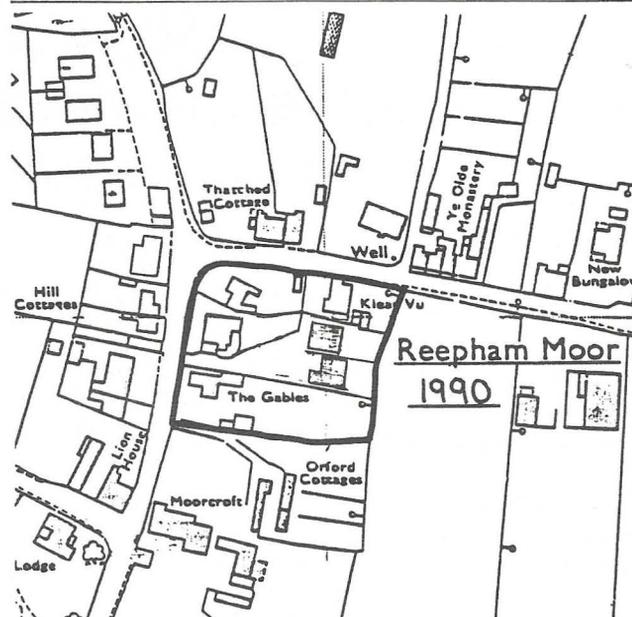
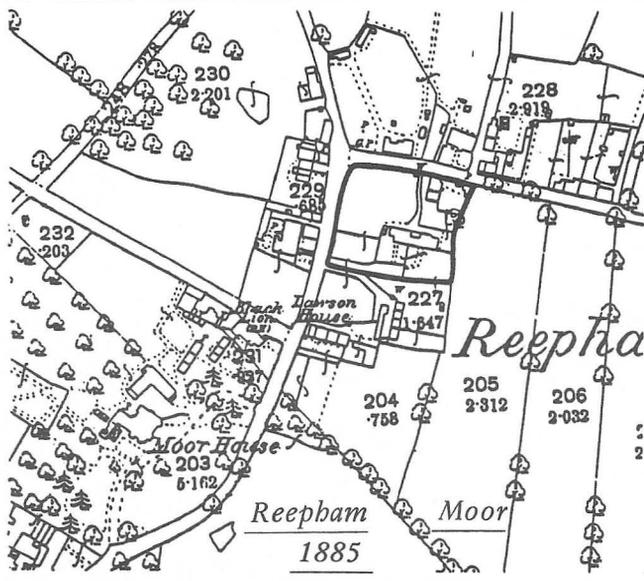
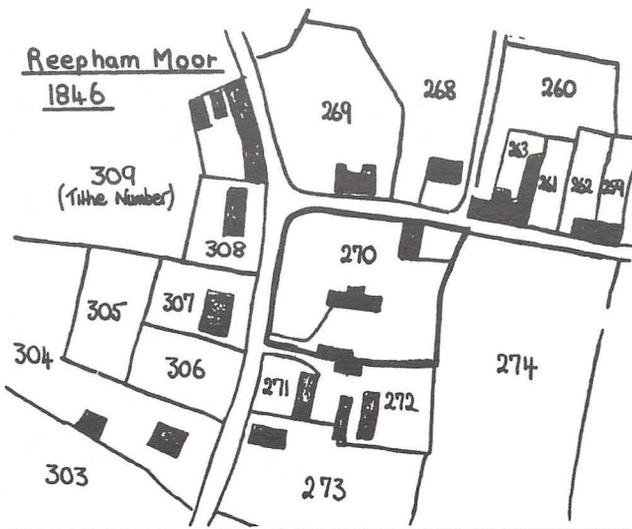
After the House was completed (at a cost of £19,000) Samuel Bircham lived there for part of the year although working in London. He also lived in Surrey where he built three further houses to live in. It is said that his wife did not like to live in the Moor House and they spent time living in their various homes. Samuel Bircham lived here until the turn of the century when it was then rented to Ernest Hudson who was here from about 1903 until his death in August 1931. Whilst living at the Moor House his son Sydney died, aged 27 in 1909 and his wife Helen and second son Eric both died in the influenza epidemic in April 1919; all four members of the family are buried in the Norwich Road cemetery almost opposite the grounds of the house where they lived.

He was fond of horses and kept a number of fine animals in the stables which still back along New Road. When the First World War came the horses were all requisitioned and taken away by the Army. Like so many other animals none of his horses came back, it is said the grief of losing them caused him never to have any more.

Ernest Hudson is still remembered today by some residents of Reepham who recall him as a large and kind elderly man. He had a north country accent and he was reputed to be part of the family that owned Hudson's Soap; whether or not this is true he was always referred to in Reepham as 'Soapy Hudson'.

Local people who knew the House during this period remember the grounds and front gardens as always being meticulously kept. With similar attention by full time gardeners being paid to the nearby grounds of The Ollands this area of Reepham must, during the summer months, have been wonderful to walk round and look at.

After Ernest Hudson's death in 1931 the House remained empty until the Second World War. It was kept windproof and watertight during these years until it was used by the Army during the war years.



There were many serving members of the armed forces based in and around Reepham during this time and it seems that those based at the Moor House constantly changed. Their general role was not believed to be of any great or secret importance.

In 1947 the Bircham family sold the Moor House to Dr Eglington who used it as a nursing home until the late 1980s. During the later years the House was used by numerous film and television companies to provide settings both inside and outside for various films and programmes. The most notable being the extensive use by Anglia Television in connection with the film adaptations of a number of P D James novels. The Moor House was sold again in 1989.

TITHE AREA 270 (formerly Collison's Yard)

The second area within Reepham Moor which has seen the greatest change was originally the tithe number 270. The change is probably now complete but this has been achieved over a 70 year period to the late 1980s.

In 1844 this tithe was owned by John Eacher, he also owned a block of four cottages of clay lump and thatch which were situated on the north side of the site.

- No 1 was occupied by C Baker - Chimney Sweep
- No 2 was occupied by James Wyer
- Agricultural Labourer
- No 3 was occupied by Vertrae Fuller - Pauper
- No 4 was occupied by James Harrison - Pauper

There was another group of four cottages of clay lump and thatch on the site which were owned by Stephen Leeds - the tithe does not detail the occupants of these dwellings but later in the 19th century Harry Hawes recalled all the cottages as being in a very bad condition.

In the early part of this century the area was owned by Mr William Harrison who in September 1910 sold the site to Mrs Eliza Betsy Collison. It is not clear at what date the clay lump houses were demolished but houses appear in the same place on the O.S. map of 1906 as in the tithe map of 1846. On the area today the house known as 'Klear Vu' and an old wall between the new dwellings and 'The Gables' both show example of local made clay brickwork and it is possible that they were the remains of Victorian dwellings built to replace the clay lump cottages or that the early described 'clay lump' is in fact 'clay brickwork' and the remains today are in fact from the original dwellings shown in 1846.

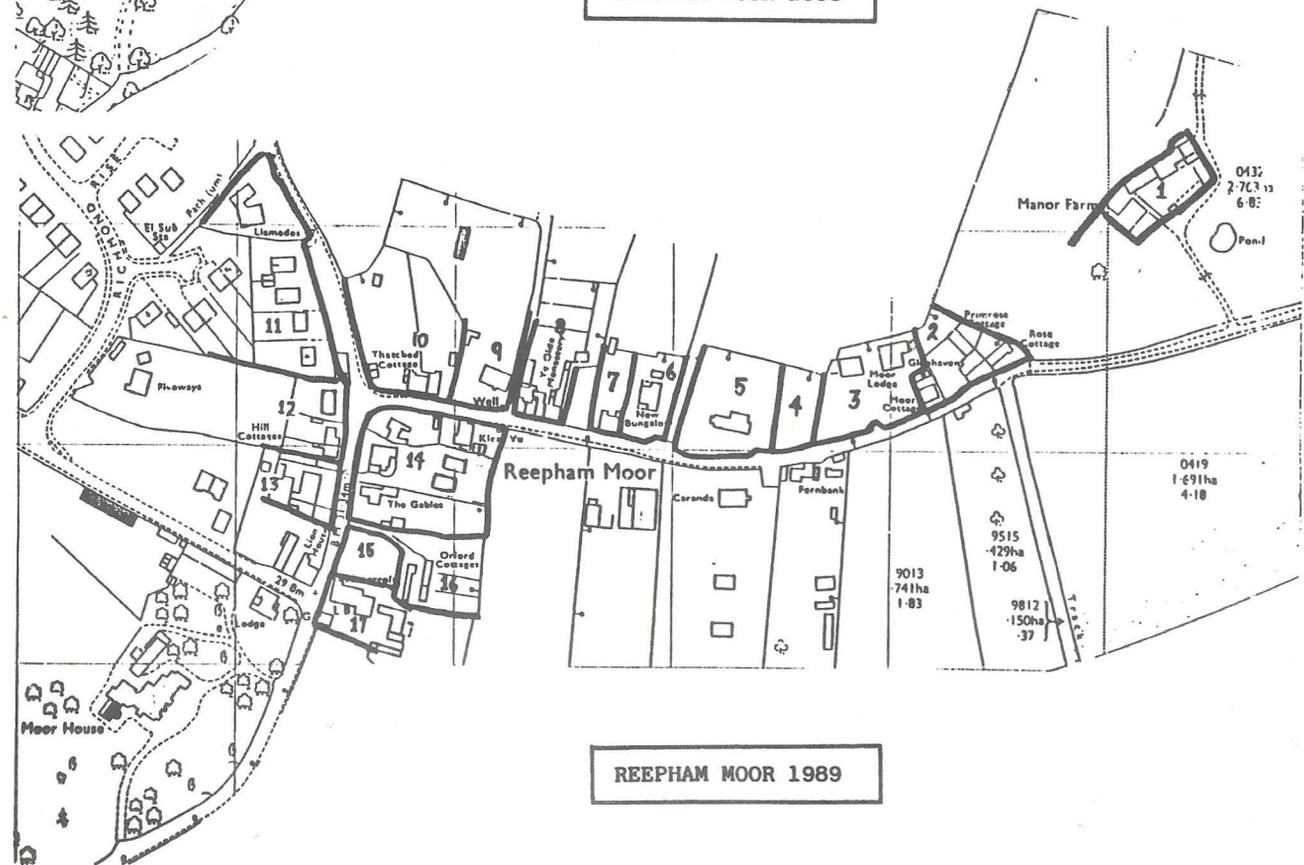
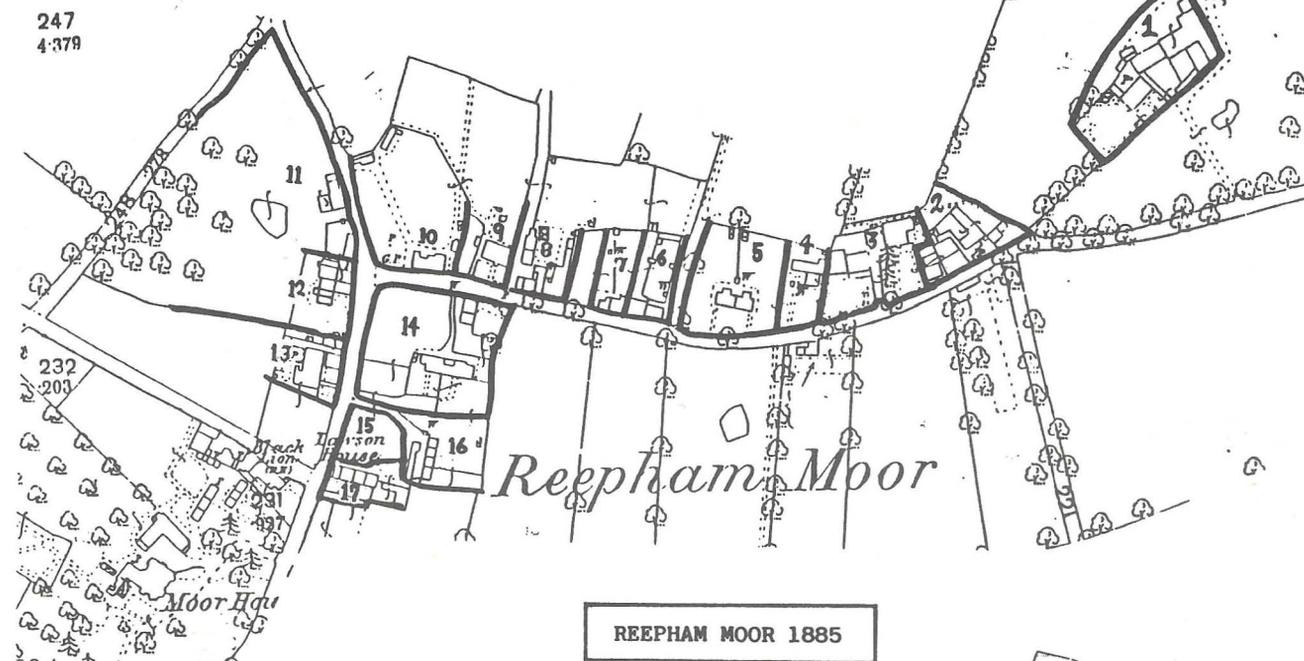
It is known that when Mrs Collison bought the site in 1910 there were a number of sub divided dwellings with tenants on the site, there was also an orchard in the north west corner of the site.

The site was then split into two and on the southern part a house subsequently known as 'The Gables' was built and was sold in July 1920 to Mr Leslie Heron. The other half of the site was turned into a builders' yard for Collison Bros. An entrance to the site was created and a bungalow and builders' office was built, the exact date of this is unknown but it is believed to be in the early 1920s.

The site was split again in 1933 when a house was built on the area originally covered by the orchard. This house was sold in 1945 to Sir Dymock White (of Salle Hall) who wanted it as a house for his estate forester.

The cottage in the north east corner (which was believed to be built on the side of one of the original dwellings) was sold in 1954. The builders' yard

remained but was by now almost surrounded by dwellings, this use remained until Collison Bros. closed down in 1986 and the area was sold with planning permission for two new dwellings, these were subsequently built and the original half acre of tithe 270 is now split into an area of six dwellings and gardens.



REEPHAM MOOR (Excluding the Moor House and Tithe Area 270)

The remaining area of the Moor (from the Moor House corner to Manor Farm) has changed very little during the past 100 years with the exception of building on the old tithe area 270 there are only two or three dwellings that have been built since 1885. Many of the cottages have however been modernised and in some cases extensively altered. When many of them were built the roofs were thatched but over the years these roofs have been replaced by tiles. A typical Moor dwelling would have looked like the cottages at Stocks Hill (as shown in the photograph) or the only remaining thatched cottage today, which today stands on the junction with Orchard Lane.



Harry Hawes recalled the Moor and its residents as it was at the end of the 19th century, I have rewritten his notes and the individual dwellings mentioned are numbered against maps of the area of 1885 and 1889 the account starts at Manor Farm.

1. "This farm belonged to Mr W Parke - listed in Kelly's Directory from 1846 -1875 as a farmer - he had this for many years. He was a church warden for St Marys Church with Mr Dye of Kerdiston. He had a niece, Jane Gray, who lived with him and who, after his death married Mr Ben Wyand."
2. Today this group includes Primrose Cottage, Rose Cottage and Haven Cottage - "My

grandmother, Mary Crane Amiss, was given the block of four cottages whilst she was a child, she owned them all her life. The single cottage adjoining belonged to Samuel Eglington who paid her 2/6d a year for a right of way to get water from the pump, she always spent the money on bottles of gin."

3. The Moor Lodge - "was occupied by a Mr Stearman, he was Registrar of Births and Deaths. He took a great part in the Reepham String Band, unfortunately Mr Stearman ended his days in the Asylum".
4. "Past the Moor Lodge stood two cottages built of clay lump and thatch and known as White Hall, in the 1840s they were owned by Mrs Ward and occupied by Simmons and Porter,

both agricultural labourers." The cottages were later demolished and Mr Owen - who later lived at the Moor Lodge - had them demolished and the land was incorporated into the garden of Moor Lodge.

5. The Cottage - "Next came two cottages roofed with thatch, they belonged to the Rev Wilkinson. These my father re-roofed with pantiles."
6. Modern Bungalow - In 1840 this was owned by Will Edwards and later it was occupied as a farm cottage for Thomas Springall's farm." In 1892 and 1904 it is listed in Kelly's as being occupied by Owen Hardingham who was a horse slaughterer and a dealer in skins, the cottage was demolished in 1947.

7. Old Cottage - "this was originally one cottage which was re-built in the late 19th century as two cottages, it has recently been turned back into one cottage again."
8. Block of three cottages including Ye Old Monastery - "these cottages belonged to William Baley Baker who was a chimney sweep. The middle property was a grocer's shop run by Thomas Dewing, he also did tailoring. The tenant of the larger cottage was Betsy Coe the midwife, she did mangling of linen at a penny a dozen, items could be any size. The cottages were all thatched, I bought them for £160 and had them re-roofed with tiles."
9. Anniversary Cottage - "these cottages belonged to Mr Richard Rodham who sold them to Priscilla (?) and she at once sold them to Martin Dewing" - between 1885 and 1904, Martin Dewing is listed in Kellys as a shopkeeper at The Moor.
10. Thatched Cottage - " The property owned by Mr Neale was originally owned by the farmer William Parke."



11. Now occupied by modern chalets at start of Orchard Lane - this area included a farm and various farm buildings, from 1840 - 1870 it was occupied by Thomas Springall who is listed in Kelly's as a farmer and bricklayer. "The farm house was built of clay lump and thatch and was very small and the roof eaves were only six feet from the ground." All the buildings are long since demolished although the barn survived until 1974, the barn was used just after the Second World War by Collison Bros., builders, in which to make roof tiles. These were used to tile the roofs of the houses along the Wood Dalling Road. For many years the area was used as a smallholding by Mr and Mrs Neale, the farm house had been demolished and from 1928 onwards they lived on site in a redundant railway carriage.



12. Kiriemuir, Hill House and Hillside - "This property had a block of four cottages, all built of clay lump and thatch, they were known as Stocks Hill Cottages as they adjoined the site of the old stocks. In the 1840s they were owned by R W Brady and later by the Rev E Holley who sold them to my father, Thomas Hawes."
13. "this property was owned by my grandfather Job Henry Watson who was a grocer and coal dealer and he also sold pork and sausages. - He is listed in Kelly's from 1846 until 1875 as a grocer - Mr Barnabas Seeley (who was a carter and farmer from Hatchford) used to cart coal for him from the riverside at Norwich. I have been at dinner with him on Saturday and have known him to be disturbed from his meal by someone at the back door who wanted a stone of coal, or a screw of tobacco for a penny or a ¼oz of snuff which was a penny farthing."



14. An area owned by John Eacher, then Steven Leeds and purchased in 1910 by Elizabeth Collison - all relevant detail is recorded in the separate note about tithe 270.
15. Now the north garden of Moorcroft - In the 1840s this was owned by Sir R Jodrell. There were two cottages, one was occupied by Luke Coe who was a shoemender and the other was occupied by Hannah Matthews who ran it as a common lodging house and took in pedlars, labourers and paupers. Both dwellings are long since demolished and the land is now incorporated in the garden of Moorcroft. "the walled in garden now used by the Reepham Fire Brigade contained the ruins of an old house, my grandfather (Job Henry Watson who kept the shop opposite) remembered Mrs Matthews who lived there and who gained a living by taking roadsters. These roadsters used to call at the shop and would buy a pennyworth of tea or a pennyworth of sugar."
16. Orford Cottages - "bit further on were four more clay walled and thatched cottages owned by a man known as big Stephen Leeds. I remember the tenants being Mary Hardingham, Betty Larkman and Billy Mungay who had a fireplace with pavement corners wide enough for myself and another boy to sit on. The other tenant was a Mr Reynolds who had a smart horse and trap and got his living by pig dealing."
17. Moorcroft- " The tenants of the next three cottages were Joe Hastings who was a sack mender and kept a donkey which he used to visit the farmers to carry out repairs. The new tenant was William Hendry and the third tenant was Sam Drew who was a ginger beer maker, he had a donkey and cart which he used to deliver his beer."



Thomas Piercy and the Ironmonger's Shop of Edward Gibbs and Son

The article in the Spring Newsletter about Edward Gibbs and Son prompts me to contribute some further details that may be of interest. When I was a small boy my grandfather, Thomas Piercy, worked for Mr Gibbs and I frequently visited the premises. An ironmongers and seed merchants shop may not be deemed a very interesting place but to me it was always fascinating. The shop itself had stairs under the counter leading down to a mysterious cellar and other stairs to rooms above. Throughout the

entire premises there was an indescribable smell of turpentine, lard oil, linseed oil and the smell of a dozen other substances.

Across the yard was the seed room. This was reached by ascending a winding staircase to the top floor, at the far end there was a low door with a sign stating 'Mind Your Head'. Here the various grass and clover seeds were mixed, these would be sown with barley and when grown would be cut for hay.

Occasionally I was allowed to accompany my grandfather with the horse and cart delivering bars of iron to blacksmiths in the surrounding district. One of these was Hardiments of Kerdiston which was where the horse went to be shod. Another was Millets whose smithy was on the main road to Sparham, in those days the road was often referred to as the turnpike. The most exciting trip was to Barrets at Lyng, in those days this involved going through the river. This was in the early 1920s when the present bridge had not been built.

I also remember going to Weston House, Weston Longville and Heydon Hall to deliver paraffin. I believe these trips for me came to an end when Mr Gibbs replaced the horse and cart with a Ford lorry. This was driven by a man named Henry Rose; my grandfather never learned to drive.

Grandfather Thomas Piercy had been working at the shop for some years before Mr Gibbs took over the business. He was born in 1861 and lived with

Thomas Piercy (on the left) and Edward Gibbs, Snr. mixing seed in the Seed Room.



his parents at Thorney Farm, Kerdiston where his father was steward. After leaving school at fourteen he worked on the farm with his father but in 1879 he decided that he did not much care for farm work and went to work for S and S W Leeds the ironmongers and seed merchants, he was employed as a carter at fifteen shillings per week (75p).

The two Leedes, uncle and nephew were both named Stephen, (not to be confused with the Whitwell tanner who was another Stephen Leeds). The elder Leeds lived at the shop and the younger at Church Hill in the house now occupied by Mr and Mrs Betts. After working for Leeds for some years Thomas decided to join the Metropolitan Police but when the Leedes heard of this they promptly revised his wages to one pound per week, quite a good wage a century ago and enough to make him change his mind about the police force.

The business was sold to Mr E Gibbs in 1888. The elder Mrs Leeds (now a widow) moved from the shop and went to live with the other (and younger) Mrs Leeds at Church Hill. When Mr Gibbs purchased and took over the ironmongers business he lacked experience in the seed trade. Grandfather by now knew both sides pretty well and initially Mr Gibbs depended on his knowledge of the seed side of the business.

Grandfather's eldest son Fred started to learn the trade with Mr Gibbs but was killed in an accident in the shop in 1904, aged fourteen. His place was taken by another son, Wilfrid who served for a time and then went to work for a Norwich ironmonger. He was killed in action in France in 1916. Grandfather became a pensioner in 1920 but still went to the shop on a part time basis. When he died in 1930 he had worked for more than fifty years in employment with Edward Gibbs and Son.

Initially this article was intended to be about the ironmongers' shop but I suppose it has turned out to be about my grandfather. You could say he was a fixture in that shop for half a century so any article which referred to the history of Edward Gibbs and Son could not be told without including Thomas Piercy.

The old fashioned ironmonger's shop is now a thing of the past. Those that have survived have adapted their methods and their stock to meet today's requirements. With no horses on farms there are no blacksmiths requiring iron for horse-shoes and wagon tyres. Nobody has oil lamps any more and there is little demand for paraffin. It is a similar story for the seed merchants. There are not horses needing hay and so there is no call for hay seed. Bullocks are no longer fattened in yards and so farmers do not grow swedes and mangolds. Much as the passing of these traditional trades may be regretted, change is inevitable. Ironmongery is just one of the many trades that once flourished in Reepham and is now gone. In 50 years time will the computers that now fill the shop premises of Edward Gibbs evoke as much nostalgia as does the smell of linseed oil and the sight of hazy sunshine pouring through the mixing of clover, rape and trefoil seeds?

Memories of Cricket at Reepham

The 1920 and 30s

The tradition of cricket around Reepham has been strong within living memory; though with gaps. So far we have been able to go back 69 years to the time when the local ground was a pleasant meadow on the left hand side of Booton Road currently owned by our retired 'veterinary', Mr John Woods. Indeed the original pavillion is still standing, though I think not in its former condition. In the 1920s the field belonged to Mr Bircham, who lived in the Brewery House. The driving force behind the Club around 1920 was Dr Perry who was usually seen wearing his frock coat when preparing the pitch on Friday evenings. The pitch and ground were well kept, the mowing was carried out with a mower pulled by a horse whose hooves were shod with special leather shoes.

Charlie Hall of Bartle Court can recall his old schoolmaster, Chute Thompson, playing; also Stanley Bird of Barney who was one of the great stalwarts of the team, he first played in 1919 when he was 14. Together with Ben Stimpson they remember some of those who came to play; batsmen and bowlers who arrived by motor-bike or bicycles: Fred and Stanley Bird, Billy Morris (a tailor with 'Stitcher King'); Stanley Holah (of Rookery Farm), Albert Neal (chicken farmer) who was a left-arm fast bowler; Alan Moulton the wicket-keeper and Walter (a Cawston postman) - a batsman. Ted Williams from Wood Dalling; Stanley Watson (with Gibbs, the ironmonger); possibly Cliff Watson who kept 'The Sun' Public House and Tom Long, who was a shoemaker with Mr Allen (now Gwen Hardesty's fruit shop). Tom was known as 'The Pessimist', his cricket trousers were held in place securely with braces as well as a belt.

Stanley Bird and Alan Moulton were perhaps the outstanding players. The standard of the team's cricket was something to be proud of. The first four or five batsmen were consistently successful, ball control was the mark of the bowlers and several of the fielders could throw the ball 'a mile'.

Initially they played friendly matches, but around 1921 they entered the Norfolk Junior Cup and one year reached the final, losing to Hempnall. Stanley recalls a match at Booton, the teams were back in the pavillion, where a dividing curtain allowed the visitors changing space and a sense of privacy, when he heard the captain of the CEYMS XI arranging his strategy: "Fred, will you open with Jimmy, Derek

you go number three. Then Cliff and George you'll bat number five - tho' I don't suppose we'll need you." Out on the home field, Reepham's slow left-arm spinner kept walking up to the wicket and, helped by the slowness of the wicket and some good catches, he helped dismiss them for 35 runs. Reepham then went on to score 65.

When Reepham entered the Norfolk Senior League they were happy whenever they were drawn at home; visitors were unused to a good slow wicket they were more used to playing on pitches treated with the new Nottinghamshire marl. The postmaster, Donald Chapman, managed to raise a second eleven for a few years.

Sadly by 1927-8, Father Time had encouraged several to retire, some had moved away and generally there was not enough young blood to continue the Club. Salle had a thriving Club and the remaining Reepham players joined them. Their ground was in the field to the left of the road to Cawston (near Salle Patch), then part of Sir Dymock White's Salle Park estate. The vicar of Salle, Canon Parsons, was a great supporter, he used to buy all the equipment and he offered boundless enthusiasm.

Fred Laskey and his brother Herbert had played for Salle and Reepham respectively but with the demise of the Reepham Club by 1930 they both then played for Salle, as seen in the first photograph. This was taken by the Norfolk Chronicle in about 1938, when Salle won the Mid Norfolk Shield.

The team was: (umpire) Mr Reeve, Charlie Smith, Geoffrey Tubby, Mrs Dack, Len Riseborough, Peter Tubby and Walter Jarvis: (front row) Marshall Steerman ('Smasher'), Billy Hagan, Fred Laskey, Stanley Dack, (captain) George Sowards, Clem Stearman and Herbert Laskey.

It is good to see Mrs Dack recorded with the team. She represents all those mothers, wives and girl friends who have given such practical support during the years.

The 1950s and 60s

The post-war resurgence of Reepham cricket was largely thanks to the valuable acquisition of the present sports field, known as the 'Stimpson's Piece'. The Stimpson family's generous lease ensured 99 years of sport near the town centre. (After only 39 of those years the field has now been permanently given and is managed by a committee of parish councillors and other representatives).

The official opening match took place on June 17th 1950 and was between Reepham XI and a Norfolk XI. No one so far seems to recall any details of the match, not even the result. Perhaps refreshments cast too much of a rosey hue over the event. The next two photographs show firstly the Reepham team:

Back row - Fred Laskey, Charlie Case, Horace Jones, Norman Platten, Jim Underdown, Noel Bird, Kenneth Bird, Umpire, George Sowards.

Front row: Herbert Laskey, Stanley Bird, Billy Howard (captain), Rex Hunt and Len Underdown.

And secondly, The Norfolk XI (which had one or two local players in)

Back row: Evan Simons, who as a boy just before the war, had played for Reepham, Malcolm Williamson, Bud Rose, (wkt) Neville Laskey, Ben Stimpson, Tom Eaton, Anon, Jack Read and umpire Billy Morris.

Front row: Fred Low, Fred Bell, George Pilch (captain) Mike Falcon (Norfolk's captain) and Basil Rought-Rought.



The new 'Edrich-Compton concrete wicket' was deemed a success and once the bowlers and batsmen adapted to it, some good cricket developed. This was the era of two of Norfolk's great cricketing families; the Edriches of Ingham and the Parfitts of Foxley and Billingford. Alec, Bob, Hugh, John, Richard and Peter Parfitt all played at times for Reepham. Peter, when younger, once took all ten wickets in a game against the Electricity Board. Not long after he was playing for Middlesex and England.

Another young Reepham player, Evan Hall, played for the County, scoring several half centuries before moving to Middlesex, where he served on the Lords groundstaff for four years. After a year with Leicestershire he was available again but the Norfolk County Club somehow failed to make use of him again.

This period of the 1950s was probably the height of the Club's history. They played friendlies only on Saturdays and selected strong opponents like Norwich Union, Mallards, Thorpe Hospital, Bradfield, Cromer and Sheringham. If scorebooks came to light one golden memory at least could be checked: is it possible they beat Cromer one season, dismissing them for four runs?

Around 1964 cricket in Reepham ceased when the supply of players dried up again, some retired; younger ones may not have had great encouragement watching the leading batsman and bowlers doing so well and others moved away. (While one family who are quoted as 'moving away' went to New Zealand, another had moved as far as Wood Dalling). The concrete wicket had been taken up in the early 60s, perhaps on account of the cost of replacing the coconut matting every three or four years or to concede more space for the thriving football club.

Salle Cricket Club however, kept the game alive locally, as current residents recall: notably with Jim Tuddenham, Keith Pask, Jim Miller, John Tubby, several Stearmans, (Marshall, Farmer and Peter), David Downing, Henry West, Cliff Nurse and Reverend Dickinson. Dr McFarquhar, a geneticist with Bernard Matthews, played often and was usually successful in contributing a half century.

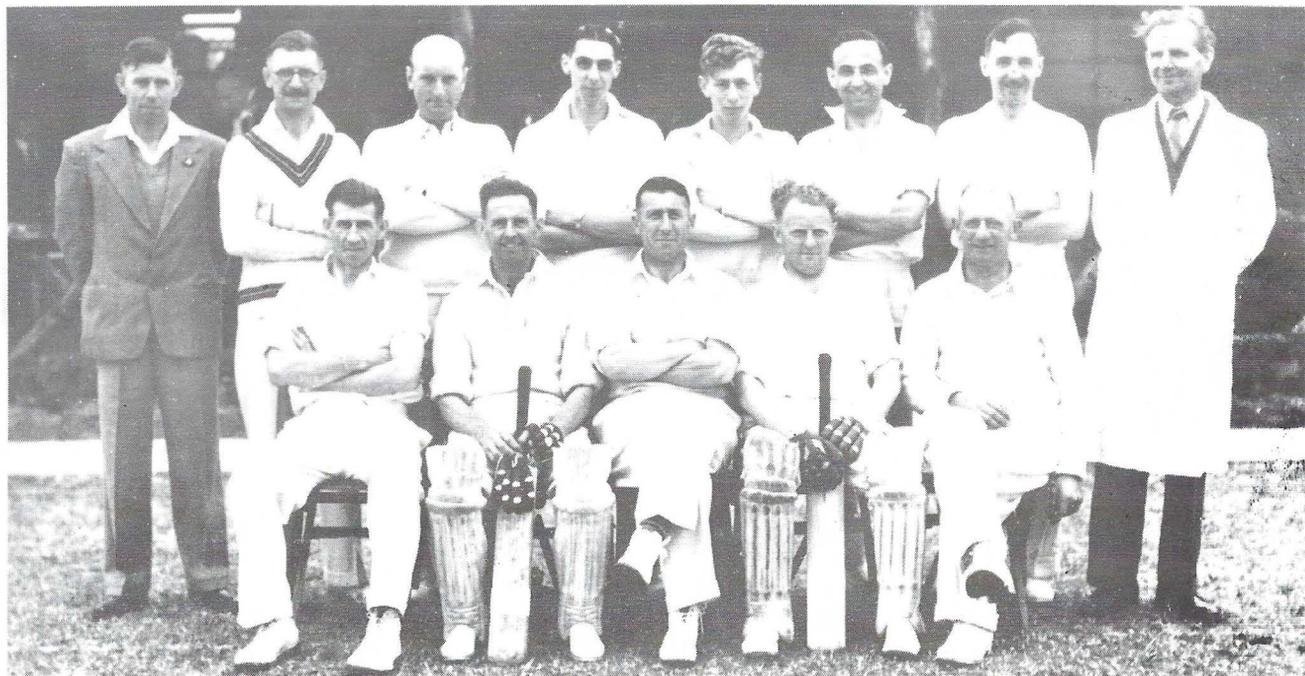
As the decade came to an end teams became harder to raise and the end was heralded when horses were put into the field to graze. So ended an era of Salle sport, where not only cricket was played, tennis courts shared the field and badminton had been played in the nearby Lynton White Institute.

The 1970s and 80s

Surviving enthusiasts then joined with other for cricket in Reepham to restart in 1971. The Club was called the Reepham and Salle Cricket Club for two seasons. Salle's sight-screens were towed up to Stimpson's Piece, where they still serve. A list of first members included Mr Crane, I Walbyoff, P Hardwick, Jim Morris, Brian Wright, P Horner, C Reeve, N and J Tubby, D Roberts, B Dennis, R Howard, D Norris, A Hunt and C Pratt. Billy Howard was president and Ben Stimpson vice-president.

Matches were played also on Sundays and by 1978 they had joined the Norfolk League. They achieved promotion as high as Division 2, but they are now in Division 3. In 1983 they won the Norfolk League Knock Out Cup, beating Norwich Casuals by seven wickets.

These leagues seem to go back a long way in Norfolk's history as one of the two cups that Reepham won in 1988 was initially dated 1911. With the growth of Reepham within the last 15 years, the local game is in a healthy state, although shades of manpower



problems from the past may sometimes hover in the background. There are however promising signs. Peter Hardwick, with the help now of his son, continues to do sterling work on the wicket. Recent improvements include the purchase of a motorised roller, and upgrading of the pavillion facilities - the new bar adds greatly to the availability of the sports clubs that use the ground and there are now prospects of the development alongside of a larger sports and social hall.

A good number of youngsters have played for Reepham in recent seasons; for three seasons there were summer holiday matches for 14 and 15 year olds. the High School is fortunate in having Mike Rowson as a P.E. teacher who has for several years also been selector of the England Under 15 XI; a boy with talent and enthusiasm has every chance of getting on in the game from that start.

Since the mid 1970s pupils from the High School have played for the County including Peter Williamson, Darren Gooderum (now captain of Horsford), Stephen Framlingham, Nigel Ellis (Reepham Cricket Club) and Mark Brown (Witchingham). Carl Rogers is a bright hope now playing with Ingham. Currently there are four young players who play for the Club: Glen Chipperfield, Mark Willis, Louis Grandjean (1989's captain of the Norfolk Under 14 XI) and Alistair Bailey.

Is enthusiasm as great as in the past?

With Saturday League matches followed by the slightly less serious Sunday Cup games, every weekend one can hear the familiar sound of leather on willow. Limited-over matches seems to hold complete sway in Norfolk, whether this is for better or worse depends on how much of a cricket purist you are. A result is assured and this in turn has increased the level

of excitement, to achieve this aggressive batting tends to be necessary. (Did any local player hit the ball further than Alex Parfitt, when at Hellesdon Hospital the ball went clear over one of the wings and into the courtyard?).

Did earlier teams ever go on tour? In recent seasons, Reepham has played a 4-5 day tour around Braintree, enjoyably and successfully. How many local teams have boasted an overseas player? In 1989 Tony Sheahan was imported from Austrailia, and made a good contribution. In his spare time he did exchange teaching at Hellesdon School.

To demonstrate that the love of the game has by no means diminished, here are a few statistics from the 1989 season:

18 Saturday matches in the Norfolk League (45 overs) 8 won 8 lost 2 cancelled.

17 Sunday matches in the Mid-Norfolk League: (40 overs) 13 won 4 lost.

Weekday evening Cup matches 20 (20 overs) Finalists in the Hellesdon Cup and Winners of the Billingford Forge Cup and the Gordon Smith Cup

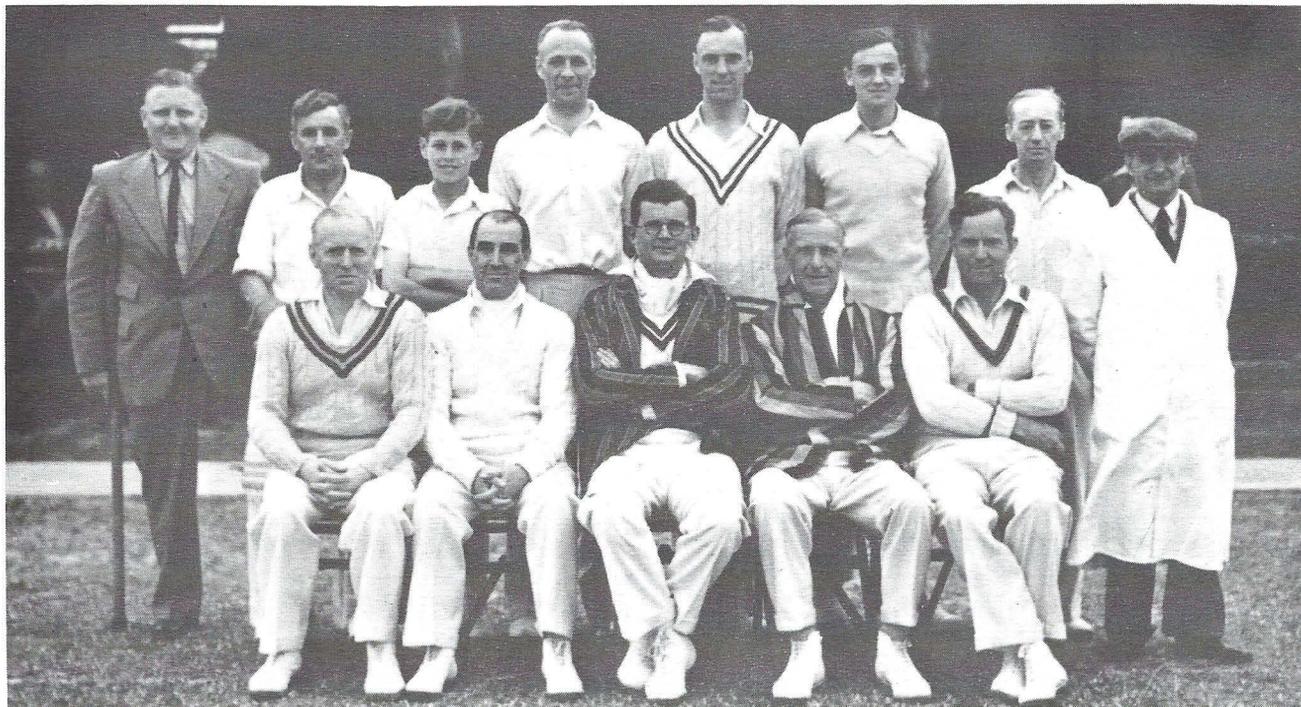
The best batting average, Tony Sheahan 46 runs

The best bowling average, Glen Chipperfield, 9.1 runs per wicket.

Highest single innings, Paul Reeve, 114

So, roll on the 1990 season; new members will be welcome. Contact Nick Mears, (Tel: 9688-251). The season begins on Sunday April 29th v Haddiscoe and then Saturday May 5th v Scole.

The first home Cup match will be against Lexham on Sunday May 27th. Some extra fixture cards will be available at the Chimes and results are published regularly mid week in the Eastern Daily Press and also in the North Norfolk News.



Reepham 1935 - 45

Margaret Rowe (who now lives in Norwich) was born in the Reepham and Whitwell Rectory in May 1935. she has given the following vivid memories of her early years spent in Reepham.

My father, the late Rev Bernard Porter Luscombe, came to the living of Whitwell and Kerdiston in 1932 and when the Rev Moore retired a few months afterwards he also became rector of Reepham and Hackford. I still visit Mrs Moore (94 years old in April) in Aysgarth, Wensleydale whenever I am in Yorkshire.

As my father was a very talented and enthusiastic musician, many of my most vivid memories are connected with music. From the age of two onwards I was to sing contralto in the Church Choir. I could sing long before I could read. I would sit next to Mrs Jean Hawes and as a child I never understood why Mrs Hawes and my mother (another contralto) had larger and more comfortable hassocks than the rest of us!! On cold Sunday evenings we sat in the choir stalls clutching hot-water bottles!

Before Evensong on warm summer Sundays we were sometimes allowed to climb to the top of St Michael's Tower and sing Anthems, unaccompanied and to the delight of many listeners who collected below.

Although I was unable to reach the pedals, I had my first taste of playing the organ at a Children's Service in St Marys - I seem to remember 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' had far too many verses.

When playing the Harrison and Harrison Organ (now moved from St Michael's into St Mary's) at the September Flower Festival in 1989 many happy memories were recalled. I remember in particular dear old Mr Fenn who pumped the organ (without complaint), for Mrs Gibbs, Bessie Jewel, my sister Pat and for me.

At Children's Services I occasionally had to read a Lesson and I stood on a specially made box so that I could reach and see the Bible.

There were also splendid Parade Services with Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies. My father, being a military man, insisted that rehearsals for the Colour Parties were to be taken very seriously, any objectors were speedily replaced.

I was fortunate to attend Reepham School until I was ten years old, being extremely well taught by Mrs Bird, Mrs Lawn and Miss Maude Bradfield or Braddie as I knew her. During the War Miss Bradfield came to live with us at the Rectory - as did a number of evacuees. Army Officers were

billeted with us and Church Army Captains who helped run the parish whilst my father was away in the Army. He was in France, at Dunkirk and was also stationed at Aldershot and later, after a compassionate posting, at Nelson and Britannia Barracks in Norwich.



MEMORIES OF MUSIC IN REEPHAM DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The previous article was contributed by Margaret Rowe and the following has been sent by her sister, Mrs Pat Swinhoe-Phelan nee Luscombe.

Much of the Church music continued as before the War as various organists helped out when the regular organist, Bessie Jewell, joined the WRNS, although she played whenever she came home on leave. Whilst she was away she was ably deputised by Miss Bartle, who would cycle all the way from Kerdiston, by Mrs Gibbs or by myself.

My memories are mostly about playing for Evensong during the dark winter evenings. The back of St Michael's under the gallery was 'blacked out' and a frame put around the organ up in the gallery. Mr Fenn had to manage to blow the organ in the semi-darkness but he never let us down. Inside the frame was rather claustrophobic and hearing what was going on downstairs presented some difficulty. However we mostly had the hymns with organ and congregation together, but the psalms were another matter, the responses were very 'hit and miss' but we got through and Evensong continued right through the war.

Band Concerts were the high-spot during the war with frequent concerts in the old Band Hall, which was situated on the site opposite Abbs Garage and now occupied by the 'impressive' builder's workshop of Mr Prince. The late Queen Mary honoured the band with her presence on one occasion. She arrived from Sandringham in one of the old very upright Rolls Royce cars and very obviously enjoyed the concert as she tapped away with her feet and her parasol. Afterwards she met many of the band.

Recital concerts were held but not very frequently, the Rev Luscombe sang such songs as 'When the Sergeant Major's on Parade' and 'On the Road to Mandalay' and Gilbert and Sullivan solos. He sometimes played the cello and I accompanied him our favourite, and of the audience, was always Saint-Saens' 'The Swan'.

Another excitement was the visit of 'The Norfolk Turkey's Concert Party'. They came several times and their cast included a brilliant blind pianist, Alan Paul and Griffith Jones the actor and film-star. They would perform short sketches as well as popular musical numbers.

The Last Days of Robert Kett

Walking along the lane at Swannington which leads from the church, past the Hall and on to the farm now called Woodlands Farm, I could not help thinking that Robert Kett, the Norfolk rebel (and a possible ancestor of mine) could have travelled along this same route 440 years ago, although it is perhaps more likely that he came by a more direct way from Norwich, probably along field tracks via Felthorpe.

In August 1549 what a distressing journey it must have been for the relatively prosperous family man from Wymondham, 57 years of age, with the courage to lead a rebellion in protest at landowners enclosing common land. He arrived at Swannington, after escaping by horseback from the battlefields in Norwich, worn out and overcome with despair having lost thousands of his followers during the fighting in Norwich, his struggle at an end and himself now a lonely fugitive from the Earl of Warwick's troops.

At Swannington, during the evening of the day of his escape, Kett took refuge in a barn. There are, I am aware, several local claimants to the ownership of this barn or, at least, the land on which it stood

but my own researches indicate that there is little doubt that the barn in question, long since demolished, was situated at the location subsequently known as Joles (or Jowles) Farm, now named Woodlands Farm. A farmhouse nearby the original barn, owned by a Mr Riches (or Richer) has also been demolished.

An account of Kett's arrival at Swannington is given by Nicholas Sotherton written at the time of Kett's capture and quoted in the late Rev Wortley's book on Swannington.

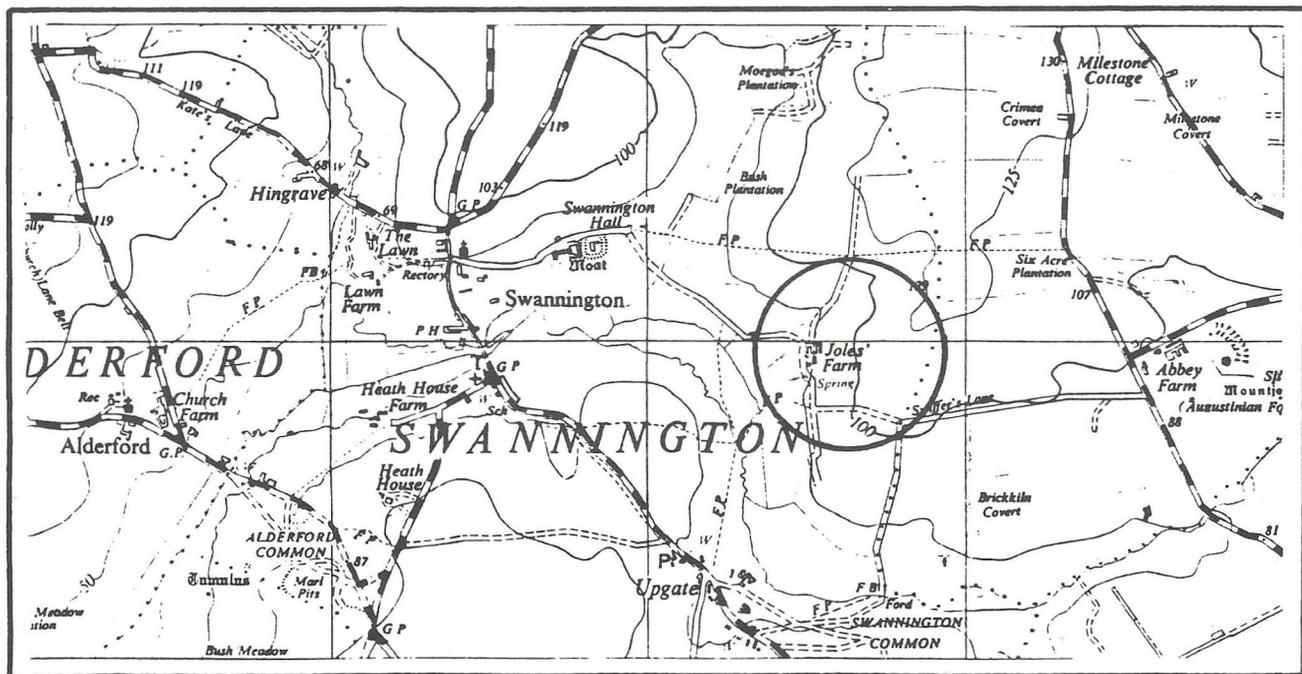
"On reaching Swannington his horse was so tired that hee was forced to take refuge in a barne, where was a Cart with Corne unloading: from hence he was browte to the howse of one Mr Riches of that towne, and though he was left with a childe in the howse of vij or viij years old, he had not the spirit to depart whyles Mrs Riches was fetched from Church, whome though shee ratid him for his demeanor, yeat did hee pray hir of contention and to have meate: ye next morning about iiii of ye Clocke he was browte to ye Lord Lieutenant's lodging, with such as were sent for him."

(The letter j following the Roman numerals was used instead of an i, thus viij means eight).

A similar, or slightly more detailed account of the capture is given by Alexander Neville written in 1575:

(Translation) ". . . he was taken by two young servants of Richer de Swannington and brought to their master's house, which was nearby. Twenty horsemen were at once sent out, who came upon him there, all ragged and bewailing his fate, pale with fear, overcome with apprehension and despair for his life. They brought him bound to Norwich."

Joles Farm, Swannington (now known as Woodlands Farm) where Robert Kett took refuge and was subsequently taken captive.



There appears to be no evidence to explain why Kett made his escape route through Swannington. Stephen Land, in his book 'Kett's Rebellion' offers the suggestion that he may have been making for some small ports on the North Norfolk coast (such as Wells) to escape by sea.

Following his capture and return to Norwich, Kett was then sent to the Tower of London where he was held until the end of November when, having been convicted of treason he was taken back to Norfolk for execution. The execution took place on December 7th when he was taken from the Guildhall to the Castle from the walls of which he was hanged.

The only visible reminder of Kett's brief visit to Swannington is, as far as I am aware, the lane leading from Swannington to the Norwich/Reepham road called, and marked on O.S. Pathfinder maps as, Kett's Lane although sometimes incorrectly referred to as Kate's Lane.

The Bircham Brewery Well

This well was sunk in what is now the courtyard of the west side of the Old Brewery Hotel. I have been unable to establish when the well was first dug but it seemed to provide an endless supply and Miss Ann Bircham tells me that it provided sufficient water for the needs of the brewery until the business closed in 1876. In the brewery days the water was raised manually by two men turning the handle on a big wheel which operated the pump drawing from the well. In later years the water was pumped mechanically to the Brewery House and there is still evidence in the well-head of a heavy wooden platform on which an engine was probably fixed.

Miss Bircham says that the water was always very cold and very good and that the supply never failed in the driest weather. She thinks the well is about sixty feet deep and that there is a platform about half way down which was used when the well needed cleaning.

The present roof over the well head is an interesting construction. Octagonal in shape it rises to a height of some twenty feet above ground level. One section of the octagonal base brick wall has been left open for access to the well. The brick wall is three feet in height and has the year '1900' inscribed on a section. Above the wall is a timber construction in heavy oak of sleeper beams and uprights cross braced to

carry the very steeply pitched tile roof. At some time in the past metal ties have been inserted to reinforce the timber and counteract the outward thrust of the roof. The tiling is interesting, the first five courses from the base are flat pin tiles, above these are more pin tiles rectangular on three sides but the lower and exposed edge curved in a semicircle. The hips to the octagonal roof are in lead and the gutters are ogee cast iron.

At the present time the brickwork is sound and the oak timbers are in good condition. Slipping tiles on the roof and the guttering both need attention and the lead flashing on one edge of the octagonal roof is missing.



The Post Mill at Booton before it was pulled down in the late 19th century.

There is an interesting history to the building of the roof over the well. The work was carried out in 1900 by Harry Hawes, a Reepham builder who, in 1949, wrote his now fabled account of Reepham during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, he recalled that the oak timbers for the work came from the old post mill at Booton when it was pulled down.

The brick base can still be found on the righthand side of the road to Norwich on the rising ground behind Mill Cottage. This mill was first built and stood at the end of Mill Lane near the top end of Ollands Road. It was moved to Booton because, as the story has it, the miller fell out with his neighbour who subsequently built a wall and planted trees, which, in time, effectively kept the wind from the windmill. This threatened to put the miller out of business so he removed the windmill to Booton. A somewhat long term revenge.

Long may the well-head and its high pointed roof remain to remind us of some very human bits of Reepham history.

