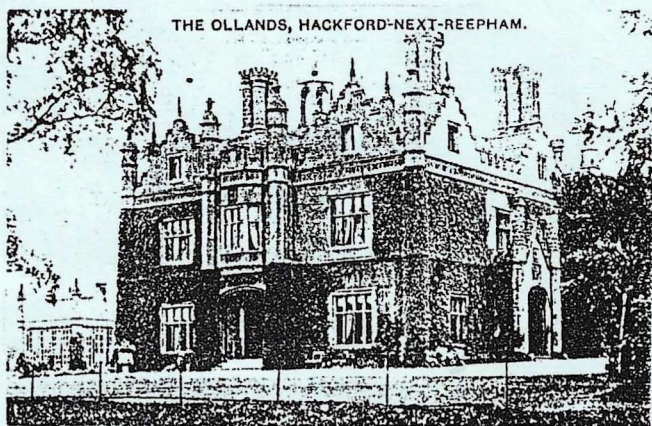


A walk around Reepham.



Dear Walker,

I guarantee that all monies raised through the sale of this booklet, other than the cost of printing etc., will be donated to the "Children's Society. THANK YOU.

A REEPHAM WALK MARCH 1990 APPROXIMATELY 7 MILES

The leaflets printed tell you how to find your way on the walk but miss the interesting details as you take your walk!

For instance the car park you start from used to be a thriving cattle market that was held every Wednesday. As you cross the station road into Kerdistone road and leave the Methodist chapel on your right that which is now "Silver End" used to be a market garden worked by a Mr Herbert Vardigans whose family have been in Reepham a long long time, his ancestors came to England from Holland many years ago.

On the left of the Kerdistone Road used to be the market meadow where all hardware, farm implements etc changed hands. This was also on the Wednesday, which was a very busy day for the town of Reepham, so busy in fact it used to keep thirteen Public Houses going also Reepham's own Brewery. Also once a year on the market meadow would appear the Grand Fair, a move made from Reepham's market square in the centre of the town (to let the residents of the square get some peace during the week of the fair, I think)

On reaching the second lane on the left known as "catch back", before turning into the lane you will see in front of you a railway bridge. This was the L.N.E. Railway with "Reepham station" a few hundred yards on the right. It then carried on to "Norwich, Thorpe" going through Aylsham and Wroxham on route. At the far end of "catch back" if you look to the left towards Reepham there is a house built high on the right-hand side, this was "The Lamb Inn" one of the thirteen pubs.

On turning right towards Dereham, the first cottage is where "Captain Joe Little" lived, a great character, ask anyone in Reepham who lived there during the last war they will remember "Captain Joe". He thought up the idea of a dynamo hand torch, a bit tiring on the hand pumping the handle, but it worked! (Dads Army Days)

Turn left after one hundred yards or so into "Broom Hill Lane" round the bend then take the right-hand turn at the bottom of the school playing field, on your right after a few yards you will see an area covered in blackthorn bushes. That acre or so of land grew (until a few years back) some of the best Beech trees in Norfolk. A grand place for us school kids to play, a bit dangerous though, tunnelling under the tree roots into the sandy soil. Sad to say they are all gone now.

As you come out of Broom Hill (some call it Back Lane). Before you go left, as the leaflets say, look to your right under a railway bridge, you will see a small road leading straight on to "Jordan". About three hundred yards on the left of that road used to be a big Tannery that did business for all of East Anglia in its hey day. That is why as you turn left and walk up the hill you can look over to the right and see a railway station ("Whitwell and Reepham" M & G.N.) where cattle and hides were transported to all over the country. At the extreme left of the railway property you can just make out a ramp (all over grown now) where the cattle were driven into the pens for loading and unloading. I have spent many happy hours riding the foot plate of the shunting steam engines. Well I had contacts, my dad "George Rowe" spent around thirty five years

working the signal box. His roses (from the best kept station for year after year in the region) were known the full length of the M & G.N. They and tips how to look after them were transported by courtesy of the M & G.N. and a little help from the guard.

Just a bit more about this old railway track before we carry on with the walk. I often wonder how many people know that the two afore mentioned stations were connected to each other by this length of track.

Also to walk by road from one to the other was less than two miles, where as the distance by rail was around seven miles! Yes "it is quicker by rail" they used to say. It all came about after Mr Beeching made his move back in the 1960's when the two tracks were changed at a point where they crossed each other at "Themelthorpe", one lowered, one lifted, to make a large loop connection. The reason being at Lenwade (The next station on the left towards Norwich City) was still open for goods traffic only from "Atlas Works" the largest Precast concrete works in the country at the time (possibly still is). Large bridge beams and sections of buildings were transported around the loop to Reepham station (where agricultural goods etc were stored).

Then on to "Norwich, Thorpe" heading for their destination (wonder if there are two points on a railway anywhere so far apart and yet so close!). This track is also a good walk. We will leave the railways now and carry on with the walk.

The small hill you climb on the Whitwell road towards Reepham is known as "Starks Hill", at the top you turn right into "Stoney Lane", there are some good views of the "Wensum Valley" as the leaflets say, but wait until later when you are higher. At the end of "Stoney Lane" is the "Mill Road", to the left leads back to Reepham and straight over takes you to "Great and Little Witchingham", the one we take.

The river "Aisne" flows under Eades Mill. When we were boys we would sit under the arches and wait for the head of water at the back of the mill to be released, washing us into the deep hole on the road side, great fun, never dawned on us how dangerous it was, good spot for swimming!

One of the boys "David Deadman" never liked his name so called himself "Duke Diddlywinks". His favourite saying as he stood on the top rail, all of 15 foot above the water "Duke Diddlywinks will now demonstrate his daring dive". How he survived some of those belly flops I will never know. The miller used to come out and watch our antics, he would look like a large bag of flour with two eyes! (I think the mill was still working as late as 1968)

On turning left at the mill, keep an eye open for churches, there are eight to be seen from this length of road. Two at Reepham, one at each "Sall" "Cawston", "Booton", "Little Witchingham", "Great Witchingham", and "Sparham". Reepham's two are in the valley so making them a bit difficult to see. Also Little Witchingham being in the trees, the same. But the rest of them are all on the skyline. Reepham's two are first to look for, they are on the left of the road. Sparham is the

last to find. Keep turning right as you walk slowly scanning the skyline. This is a wonderful view, it certainly is my favourite for this area.

On reaching the T junction at the top where you turn left, you will see in front of you a track. This track leads right through to the main Norwich-Reepham road. Well! you think it is just a track!

Think back to the days when there were no big cattle floats! That's right. All the cattle from that area of "Norfolk" were driven mile upon mile to link up with this track on the main road, past the point where you are now standing, down past "Eades Mill" up "Stoney Lane", down "Starkes Hill" and up the overgrown ramp into the railway pens. (I wonder how much weight the cattle lost during those long drives)

Passing "Manor Farm" on the left where the "Howard" family farmed for years, I remember one of the sons "Ernest" or "Arny" as he was better known, was as good a shot in "Norfolk" as you would wish to meet. I have seen him bring a pigeon down from unbelievable heights. He would stand in the forecourt of the house and sling a length of string tied between a stone and a tin into the highest branches of a giant Beech tree that used to stand on the lawn, then cut the string through with a single shot from a .22 rifle. He really was one of the best. A few hundred yards past the farm is the footpath you take over the meadows. There was a footpath sign here but the mindless vandals we have around this area thought it wasn't needed. On the right over the cultivated fields used to be a footpath right

through to the track I mentioned earlier, it would lead past "Shackels" two cottages and a barn that belonged to "Manor Farm", when they became unrepairable two new cottages were built down the track opposite "Manor Farm". You can now walk past the new cottages to the track as the footpath over the field is no longer there. I have underlined meadows above because that is how the land was a few years back. All the wildlife you could imagine was on those meadows, it was lovely, perhaps one day nature will take over again. I hope so.

The little bridge at the bottom over the "Aisne" has been partly renewed a few years back, a great spot for catching "gudgeon" in those days was in the "beck", also for paddling. Not so now-a-days with the clean water from Reepham sewage farm flowing into it about three quarters of a mile upstream. The people who now own the big white house you are approaching have bought the land you are now walking over, Reepham side of the bridge, and more or less have turned it back to nature. It is a pity they had the ditches filled in each side of the footpath as it now gets rather soggy. But there it takes all sorts to make a world.

Sixty odd years ago the people who lived in "Ivy House" (The big white house) were Mr and Mrs Overton they owned a motor car, a big two stroke "Trojan". If it wasn't the first car in Reepham it was almost certainly the first car in "Whitwell Street" or "The Street, Whitwell" as it was known in those days. You could hear Mr Overton start the car and drive it onto the road almost the full length of the street, no need for a horn then! The fourth building on the right as you walk up the street is a bungalow and three quarters of an

acre of land, built and owned by the British Legion for one of its members after the 1914 – 1918 war. It was sold to a private owner some years ago. Next is "Dairy Farm" built in 1735 by "William Bircham Estates". (Big noise in those days I understand). As you pass the barn look back and up, you will see W.B., initials of the above gentleman as tie irons holding the gable end in place. Also note the brick work up to the apex! Not many brickies have to do that sort of work these days!.

Next is my place, two cottages turned into one. Here is where you can get a walking stick if you are feeling a bit weary or in time for your next walk!

Just before the house which looks like an old pub is a chalet bungalow, built not that many years back. Most of the timbers used in the door and window frames came from the oak timbers from the two thatched cottages that stood on the site but further off the road many years ago, hence the name "Oak Lodge". One thing that stands out in my memory is the old lady who lived in the L/H cottage in those days (sixty years ago). Her garb would be a flat cloth cap, a rough blouse and skirt a hemp sack for an apron tied with binder twine, big heavy leather boots. I can see her in my mind now smoking a clay pipe and filling the eye of a needle with a stream of smoke laden spittle! Old lady Hunt, lovely old lady.

Yes you were right, the next building was one of the thirteen pubs "The Star" it was known as. Landlord was a Mr. Wilkin, my father told me that Mr. Wilkin in his younger days helped build the M & G N railway I have mentioned, so he was getting

up the tooth a bit on my boyhood days. You could buy all sorts from "The Star". Many is the time I have run up there to get a pen-orth of vinegar or whatever, sugar in a blue bag I can remember.

The small building which stands square to the main house was the cart shed where customers tied their ponies to the metal rings fixed to the inside walls. No wall with the window in those days. Take note of the wall which stands hard on the edge of the road. The brickwork in that wall has just about all the mistakes a bricklayer could make. I think who ever built that wall must have spent all of the opening hours in "The Star", knocking it back, then after closing time laying the bricks.

Down over the meadows "Holah's Pasture" you can see a fairly large house, you can see part of it looks older than the rest, that was the original "Meadow Sweet" owned after the first world war by the army regiment known as the "Green Jackets". (A light infantry I believe) The regiment rented it out to their ex soldiers in those days. Years ago it became private property. Holah's pasture was the sporting venue long ago, we school boys played football there Friday afternoons and were told not to damage the grass do we would have the "Reephams Robins" after us, great football team they were, very rough players as the rules were a little less harsh than today's. "Pishie Woodhouse" stands out in my mind, goalkeeper he was, big fists as many of the opposition well remembered.

Before you carry on the walk up "Bar Lane" look to your left—there is the remainder of "The Street, Whitwell". Behind the tall wall at the top of the road is the "Whitwell Vicarage" only sold to

private owners a few years back. A big house with four acres of land—must have cost the church a fortune to keep the vicar of Reepham living there.

The little cross road at the top is the "Mill Road" which you crossed a few miles back, remember? Now as you carry on up "Bar Lane" you would have gone through clap gates or kissing gates before entering, also other sets of gates at the two "Lodges" or what the kids have left of them. Two pretty little lodges they were with a full hipped roof covered with slate and a brick chimney. A front door and two windows shaped like three inverted shields, the windows had small panes of glass. They stood either side of the main gate to "Holah's Farm" possibly the entrance to some big estate maybe "The Birchams", all gone or just about and the mothers of the little darlings watched them do it, also the wall damage as you walk the length of the lane.

To the left was "Robins Lane" lined with banks, hedges and great oak trees lovely to walk through with fields of corn either side. On the left of the main road is the school house and the other side of the main road was a massive field which now holds all of the council estate. You can see what has happened to the field on the right of Robins Lane, PROGRESS!

A few yards down Bar Lane on the right hand side there were out-buildings stretching down to the barn, all gone. On the left from Robin's Lane to the outbuildings of "Oaks Farm", for 100 feet or so back from the old red brick wall (you can see parts of it) were allotments, all that is left of them is a lone pear tree standing in the opening near the old outbuildings, I believe they have all

now been converted to living quarters. On the right the barn as you can see is being made into living property as have the outbuildings adjoining the barn. Right down to the end of the lane, what were piggeries, stables and cow sheds etc., are now desirable property!

The enclosed garden on the left belongs to the cottage you can see standing end on to "Bar lane" (it was two at one time). Still on the left past the cottage you will see shed doors they belonged to two cottages just past them, now gone. Doors and window openings bricked up. They joined the house which has the front door in "Back Street". Looking up at this house as you exit "Bar Lane" you can see a swinging sign which reads "The Greyhound", yes you are right another of the thirteen pubs, only in those days the sign was a lovely painting of a black and white greyhound.

During the "Dads Army Days" this pub was renowned like the "Windmill Theatre" in London, never closed. The amount of times I have nipped down there from the guard room to fetch "Gasher Fitt & Co" out to do their stint of guard duty at varying two hour intervals. It is a wonder they kept awake the next day at work, or did they?

The walk as in the leaflet is to the left but I would prefer you to go right. Before doing so, look to your left along "Back Street". On your right is a long low building these were granaries. The fish and chip shop and house were made from part of it in my early years. "Jack Symonds" was first proprietor. Opposite is the "Greyhound" yard, the next building on the left was a bakery, further on the right is "Pudden Pie Alley" why they spelt it "Pudding". I don't know! The left

hand wall of the alley is the side wall of the "King's Arms" Another one! (still open). A little distance more on the left up "Back Street" is "Nelson" yard. The big house on the right of the yard, yes you have guessed it, it was the "Nelson Pub". You may not see very well all this way from "The Greyhound" so a few steps in that direction and back again will be worth it as on the left again past "The Nelson" is a lovely old "Tudor" house and on the right at the end of "Back Street" is the back entrance of the last pub to be closed in Reepham "The Sun".

About turn, as you are walking back to "The Greyhound" looking up to the left, notice how tall the houses are, "Back Street" is quite a bit lower than the market square. On the left just after "Pudden Pie Alley" you can see the gardens below "The Bircham Institute", built I believe as "Hackford Rectory" (quite a big house). I think this building was presented to the people of "Reepham" by "Mr Sam Bircham" back in 1919. It is used for a library and meetings and various other functions. It was also a hospital during the first war I have been told.

Opposite the "Granary" is a house with very large windows, used to be a shop (Grocery stores etc) it was always very dark in there, smelt of paraffin all the time. The left hand window has a distinct bulge to it, been like that all the time I can remember. Maybe it had something to do with the original windows being smashed when a runaway horse and cart crashed into the front. Apparently the owner in those days obtained permission to place a heavy timber barrier along the front, very handy for us kids to sit on while sucking into our ha-penny sherbet dabs bought in the shop.

Adjoining the shop on the left is the large farm house of "Oak Farm", "Master Sewell Eglington" lived in the house and ran the farm. The tales that could be told about him could fill a few more pages I guess. Back to "Bar Lane" right opposite this is the hair dressers, this used to be the sheds and out buildings of three cottages that stood end on to the road, on the site of the present garage and yard.

The afore mentioned "Duke Diddlywinks" lived in the one adjoining the out building. The first cottage door was bang on the edge of the road, this was the barbers shop in my young days. Ran by "Mr Bob Grey", 4d a boys hair cut cost in that time, I always received a 1d back for being a good boy by keeping still while he cut my hair! I was too scared to move anyway! The cottage on the right, part in Bar Lane and part on the road, has been a shop in the past wireless and electrical at one time, fish and chip at another also a monumental masons etc.

Next to the cottage as you head down "Church Street" is the entrance to "Rookery Farm" and house of the "Holahs". Last to farm it and live in the house was "Mr Steward". Every Xmas we school boys would have to go carol singing so as to buy "Mr Steward" a box of cigars for allowing us to play football on "Holahs Pasture". On the left up the steps is "Reepham Town Hall", the old hall has been used for all kinds of activities, casualty hospital during the first World War I was told. (A school in the first place I believe it was built for). Sunday school, in fact any function that involves a gathering of people the "Town Hall" has been the venue. Bingo has been played there since the start of the game. (When

chocolates and biscuits where the prizes). No money prizes were allowed to start with.

Adjoining the Town Hall is the site of the "Three Churches in one church yard" probably the only case known. Pity "Hackford church" is only partly there, the sister who had it built would be rather upset to know her other two sisters churches are still standing. Only one - "Reepham" - is still used as a church, the other "Whitwell" is now used as a church hall. (The one with the clock in the tower is Whitwell). On the right a fair way down "Church Street" is an opening between two cottages. The one on the right of the opening back in our school days was lived in by the "Wyers" they used to sell ice cream, I can't remember if they sold anything else. The ha-penny cornets they sold were as big as todays 40p and 50p size. A gateway into a yard is on the right, just on the corner a post and sign board used to stand on the left of the gateway. This was one more of the pubs the "Duke of York" you had to enter the yard to see it. This was the pub my dad used, only on a Sunday lunch time. I remember he would bring home a bar of "Double Six" chocolate wrapped like a big domino for us children to share.

Behind the tall wall on the right as you carry on walking is the land and property of the "Rectory of Reepham" now owned privately. Lovely house, I have worked in it in my early days as a carpenter. The entrance is on the "Norwich Road". As you leave "Church Street" and carry straight on the house on the left and buildings "Reepham Gallery" was once the "George and Dragon". No you didn't have to totter very far to find another pub back in the good old days. On the right adjoining the

rectory wall is the house and shop (as you can see the shop wall has been taken out so as to park the car) this was until a few years back the only chemist for miles around, a sad day when "Reepham" lost its chemist. The name of "Bircham" turns up once again as the yard down beside the old chemist is known as "Birchams yard" probably the cottages down there were lived in by the employees of the "Bircham Estate". On the left opposite the yard is a wall, behind it are a number of farm machinery implements "Randells" the agriculture people own these. Take a close look at the wall you will notice an area about the size of a single door way has been bricked in. That was the entrance to a shop, used to be a harness makers ("White's" I think) I can't remember it being anything else. Still on the left on the right hand side of the alleyway stands a fairly big house, on the gable end on a wet day you can just make out the name of "Wright Decorators and Builders" etc. painted in very large letters, one of the seven that traded in that line many years back. The carpenters shop and stores below are hard on the side of the road, now occupied as living quarters. Then comes the yard, the last I remember that being used for was a bus depot. (Now all built on) The owner of the buses, Mr "Reggie Allan" lived in the big house, he used to make a living out of transporting the public even when "Reepham" had two railway stations. "Reepham" end of the stores was turned into a shop lots of years back, I can remember it being a sweet shop.

Still on the left hand side of the road a new wall has been built that replaced a large bank and hedge that ran to a foot path further on. Half way along this bank two cottages stood high up off

the road, they were lived in by the employees of "Reepham House" that stood in this area of lovely gardens and woodland, only a few trees left now, the rest "House, gardens and trees" all gone. The chimneys of the house were taken down in one piece and taken to "Essex" to adorn some building there, they were of such rare design. It was such a shame that lovely houses and gardens such as these have to be destroyed to make way for a few houses.

On the right as you leave the properties that are built hard on the road side, behind the hedge, well off the road is a barn that has been converted to living quarters. Last used as a barn by "Norman Wyer" son of the ice cream "Wyers" in Church Street. You can get a good view of the barn at the far end of the hedge.

Next on the right is the old church school ("St Marys") used in my young days as a woodwork and cookery school, where children would attend from different schools in the area on different days of the week, many is the time I have received a whack across the shoulders with a wood rule for reading "The Rover" (Boys comic) when I should have been working, they were good days. Before moving on too far the shop on the left of "Birchams Yard" now a wool shop has been a butchers also a monumental masons in my memory. The mason "Mr Lane" made a figure of a man, it stood on the small area of grass surrounded by head stones, vases etc., it was known as "The Thin Man of Reepham" it stood about 5'6" tall but had a waist line of about 8" so you can imagine what it looked like (top hat as well) I wonder where it is now?

Next to the wool shop has been a jewellers and watch repairers, the antique shop next was once a grocers and drapers. About two houses before the end of the properties used to be another sweet shop. Also one of the builders lived there at one time.

Sorry about going back like that, I never was one for keeping things in order.

Just past "St Marys" school is the old cemetery of the area, it has been the only other one to my knowledge, other than the church yard and the present day one near the primary school.

The footpath I mentioned above parted the two largest houses in the Reepham area. Moor House is on the right of it and Reepham House or "The Ollands" as it was known was on the left. Both these houses had connections with the Bircham Estate when they were new. Built and owned by them I think. There must have been a lot of money made from beer and leather in those days.

As you leave the footpath, on the right there is a tall wall. At the end of it, standing back off the road is a fairly large house. Dr. Berry was living there when I was born, he attended my mother and he was Dr. Cane's assistant. I don't know if it was a doctor's house there before him but there have been others since. All had their practice there. It has been a private house for several years. I think it was last year (1989) that the people now living there had the gate opening changed nearer to Moor Corner, not so dangerous as when it was in front of the house. It was O.K. in the days of pony and trap.

As you turn the Moor Corner, leaving the Norwich Road, you will see on the left a low wall. Behind this is the well that supplied Moor House with drinking water. The water was lifted by a pump that turned round parallel with the ground, a horse was harnessed to a long shaft then driven round and round. The top of the well can be seen, it was when I last looked, trees were being felled at the time so I don't know for sure.

One gateway to the house is next, just step inside if it is open to get a good view of it, "lovely old place". To my knowledge the house has been used for private use, the army had it during the second world war, probably the first as well and a nursing home. Various television programmes have also been made there. Round the bend of the road is the other entrance to the house with the lodge standing on the corner as you follow the main road round to the left. The road straight on takes you into Reepham Moor area and up to the Cawston road. Quite a lot to tell that way but not this time.

The fairly large house on the right, as you take the corner of "Moor Lodge" is another of the famous thirteen pubs known as The Black Lion. That has also been closed for many years.

As you walk up "New Road" new properties right and left have been built over recent years, only the council houses and cottages, one row behind the other known as "Cabbage Court" in my young days, have been there any length of time. At the top of the road just round to the left in "Ollands Road" previously known as "Hall Road", is "The Crown" one of the two pubs left open. The cross arm of the T shaped sign post to my knowledge has been in place around fifty years. That was one of my

first jobs on my own when I was put to carpenter apprentice at 5/- per week with Collison Brothers of Reepham Moor. Not much money in those days but the training under the eye of good tradesmen "Tom Douglas" who still lives in Reepham Moor and Archie can't remember his surname have allowed me to go through my work life knowing I am doing a good job because they had shown me how.

The area that links these four roads together is known as Station Plain, the shop "Station Stores" had been a grocers and general stores for many years only changing a few months back to clothing etc.

Diagonally across the plain from "The Crown" corner is the gateway into the old "Reepham Station" I mentioned on the first page. This is also where you would have finished the walk of about seven miles if you had started at "Whitwell & Reepham Station mentioned on page two. The buildings in the station yard have been used as a granary for many years. There was also a large coal depot there, but has been closed for several years. Although the railway no longer exists the buildings are still used for grain and fertilizer business. The old station itself is used for the offices. Also the station master's house.

Back to "The Crown" and on with the walk down "Ollands Road" lots of new houses on either side of the road. On the right was the orchard of the old house about 150 yards down from "The Crown" corner "The Limes" as it was known. From there to the row of cottages at the far end of the road were all allotments. On the left just about opposite "The Limes" a drift way led to two

cottages. The only other building the full length of the road was the lodge to "Reepham House" which still stands. That too would have gone like the house if the old lady who lived in it had not stood her ground and refused to move.

In front of you at the end of the straight part of the road stands what remains of another Granary. Brothers, Billy and Nobby Wilkin ran the business for many years. They were the sons of Mr Wilkin who ran "The Star" in Whitwell Street. Just around the bend of the road are the works and shops of "Randells". The shop was built on the site of a fairly big house which in its early days was one of the thirteen "The Farriers Arms", the only one of thirteen to be demolished. The blacksmiths and wheelwrights were to the left of where the pub stood and I can remember the smell of the horses hooves being scorched by the hot shoes being fitted.

I don't think we had better go through Reepham as there is so much to tell, it had better wait until some other time.

So back to "Wilkins Granary" or what is left of it. Notice the wall with the big curve built in it, that wall has to remain as it is, part of a listed building or something, on the right of the Granary area is a driftway which goes up to the back of the old Brewery House and Buildings I mentioned on page one. These days it is a hotel with all the trimmings, there is also a sports centre at the back of the hotel that can be used every day of the week. The roadway to it is to the right again with all the posh houses on the left of the road. That area (road and houses) was the Brewery House Gardens, lovely they were too,

all archways and pagodas all laid out very nicely when the "Bircham" family lived in the house. Miss Ann Bircham is still about she was the last one of the family to live there.

To the right of the roadway is a narrow footpath that takes you back up to the methodist chapel and the car park where you started out from.

I hope I have not bored you with this little lot, but I think it is nice to know something about a walk rather than going from A to B. I am also sorry if I have made a few errors in my statements, no doubt I shall be put right when some of the older locals read this.

Bye for now, hope you find more walks in the Reepham area to enjoy.

Alec Rowe

ADDENDUM re Eade's Mill.

I forgot to mention the ford at Eade's Mill. As you lean over the bridge wall nearest the mill you look down on to what was the ford, no bridge in my young days.

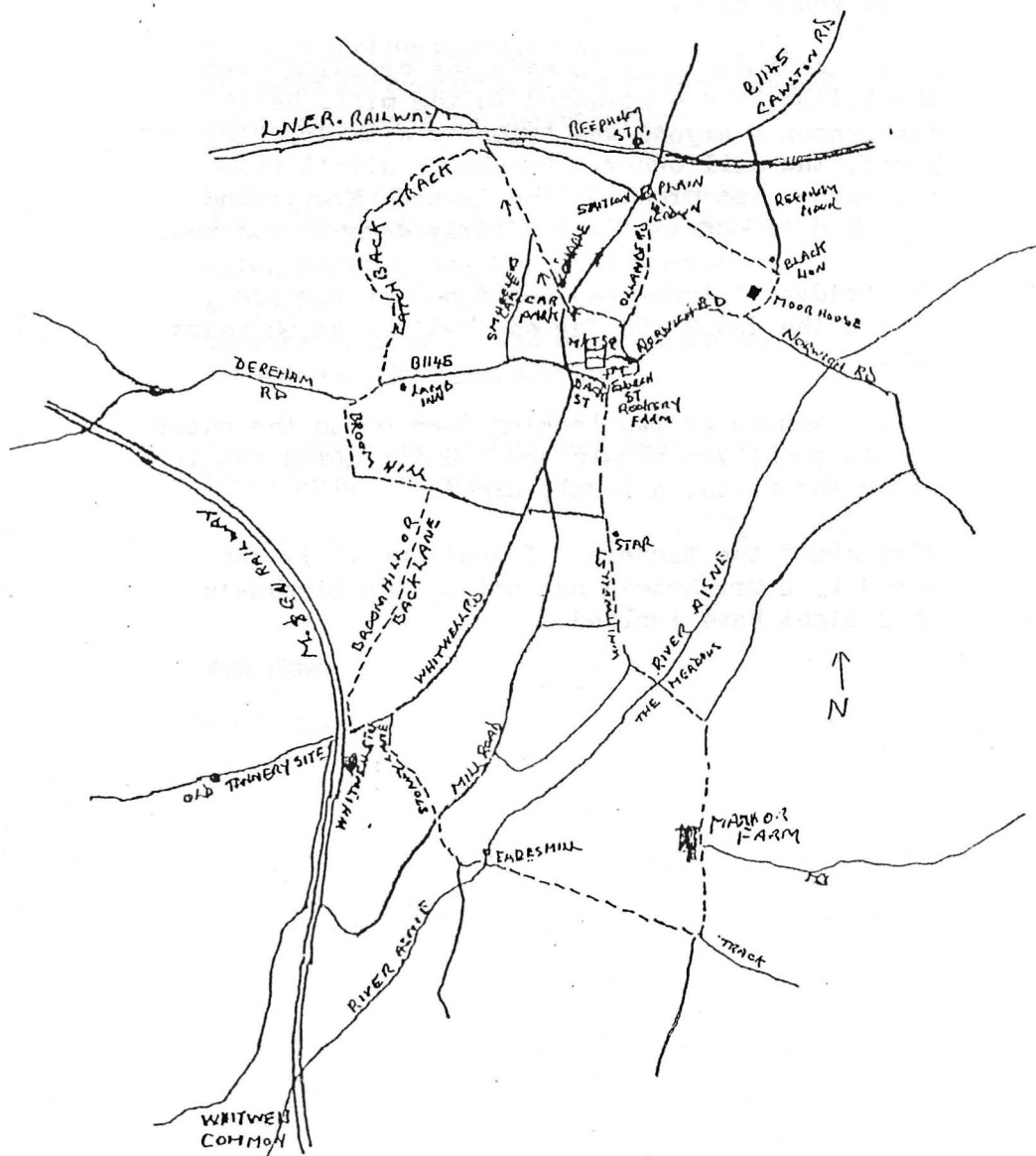
People on foot or cycle made the crossing over the little bridge attached to the mill, hence the reason everyone was friendly with Mr. "Breeze" Howes, the mill owner. People he didn't like got rather wet crossing the Aisne. Everything else had to use the ford, fairly deep it was too.

The bridge of today was built not many years before the 2nd World War so that's over 50 years ago.

Stay a minute or two looking down on to the water in the pool, you should see trout leaping out to catch the flies, a lovely sight.

Also about the tannery. I mentioned. It was owned by a Mr. Leaman and not by the Bircham's as I might have implied.

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1.1.54