NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

Letter from the Editor

Hello, welcome to the November edition, we have plenty to keep us busy this month, just as well as it seems we will be spending more time at home.

Firstly, we have another WEAG meeting to look forward to (details below), this month is a mix of a live Zoom meeting with our speaker Melinda Barham's pre-recorded lecture with (live) questions afterwards. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed before the meeting. Melinda has also supplied us with a couple of links:

https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham-behind-the-scenes – Suffolk County Council have put together a series of lectures on the work that has been done at Rendlesham, well worth watching.

And… SHARP's (Sedgeford Historical & Archaeological Research Project) forthcoming webinar ***"The Anglo-Saxon Revolution in Norfolk"*** on 14 November – A 1-day online conference to mark the 25th anniversary of the SHARP. https://www.sharp.org.uk/conference

I have also had a couple of emails in from Guy Taylor please see below:

"Dear All – In case you don't listen to the Archers....

*Way back in the summer of 2018 I was struck by a thought which should have occurred much earlier. The Archers, on BBC Radio 4, is set in Borsetshire, county town: Borchester ... Bor-**chester** ... sounds very Roman to me. So, I wrote to the programme producer at the studios in Birmingham pointing this out and said wouldn't a major archaeological find be a great way of introducing some original new storylines and characters. I suggested the possibility of a Roman farm/villas seeing as it is currently a thriving agricultural area, so why not then. The discovery itself would give a theme for the Ambridge intelligentsia; evidence of Christian practice, recurring seasonal appearances of archaeologists and archaeology students would introduce new characters, and the latter group might get seasonal vacation work as fruit-pickers etc. The local copper might make a career move to cover heritage crime; problems with nighthawks etc. Eddie Grundy would doubtless dream up some historical scam. I got a nice hand-written reply and thought little more about it until last week .... When ... Jill Archer and her grandson chanced upon a couple of coins in a field ... the local PAS liaison officer has identified them as Anglo-Saxon and Borchester University wants to do a preliminary field-walk .... Listen in for more, exciting developments.... Cheers, Guy."*

And his second email about a 14th century timber structure found in Barnet High Street…… *"This link to the Barnet Society's website was sent to me (Guy) by Don Cooper of HADAS, giving further information on suspected 14th c remains. An amazing, serendipitous find."*

https://www.barnetsociety.org.uk/component/k2/medieval-timbers-uncovered-during-high-street-conversion?fbclid=IwAR3BFa0Vg7Y-uH215aVnZNRdsGPa4VJHnkjFw7Eq-ItofrxQfhaa0tqs38c

We also have questions and answers following the Zoom meeting and lecture last month. There is still time to see Georgina Green's ***"Highams House and its occupants"*** lecture before the link is taken down on 9th November – so if you missed it on the day or would like to watch again the link is https://1drv.ms/v/s!ApJ2MDzoO_pTgQemY8g53RWmcwri?e=sS3EOf

Question from Odette Nelson

"the stones by the lake: It is possible to assess what the stones are, geologically, and in all likelihood where they were quarried. This could pinpoint which buildings in the vicinity/our historical area also had the same stone. More cheaply, if there's any mortar, we could, with the combined knowledge of WEAG, roughly identify the period. Great talk, looking forward to more! Odette"

Response from Georgina Green

"Looking for information about when Highams was first enclosed I've come across this, which may be the source of the 'fact' that stones from London bridge and Waltham Abbey were used by the lake. John Harman built the summerhouse on the lake in Highams Park. The stones comprising the building came from Old London Bridge. He also raised a queer monument in the Park made of stones from Waltham Abbey. (The Manor of Higham Bensted, Walthamstow by George F Bosworth, Walthamstow Antiquarian Society No.6 (1919) page 15).*

**John Harman died in 1817 but London Bridge was demolished in 1832. Did he mean Jeremiah? The WAS booklet was published after the article in "Stocks and Stones" by F. Sydney Eden which appeared in the Walthamstow & Chingford Guardian 17th February 1911."* Further information from Georgina relating to this question is attached.

Question from Colin Mann

"What do we know about the area immediately around the Woodford County High School buildings (say, within 200 metres of the main door to the school buildings) , before the new house was built in the mid-1700s? Was it just an area of forest, lying alongside the ancient route that we now know as Woodford High Road? Or open scrubland or heathland? Or was it farmed? Was it ever inhabited? We know that there have been various forms of habitation a little further north, in the area around what is now the Castle pub/restaurant, but did such villages / hamlets extend as far south as WCHS? As archaeologists, what if anything should we expect to find on what is now the site of WCHS, that was deposited there prior to 1750? Best Wishes Colin."

Response from Georgina Green

"Hi Colin – This has intrigued me, so I made it a priority and my initial thought that it was probably grassland and scrub seems to be reasonable. See attached. It certainly wasn't farmland and there wasn't a previous building on the site. I don't think it was high forest either. Repton's illustrations are all of the Walthamstow front and show young trees to the north between the house and the Castle area but one or two mature trees to the south. He suggests planting more trees to make a better screen. Later illustrations, like Varley's, show the trees that would have been planted at that time rather than ancient woodland. If you haven't come across the book The Forest in Walthamstow and Chingford by A.D.Law and S.Barry Edited by W G S Tonkin (1978) Published by Chingford Historical Society and Walthamstow Antiquarian Society, it gives a very good account of the gradual disintegration of the forest land in the two parishes. Best wishes Georgina." Further information from Georgina relating to this question is attached.

As you can see, we have lots to keep you entertained and informed this month. So, I will sign off now with a gentle reminder to change your WEAG standing order as subs are going up in January from £15 to £20.

WEAG Member Profile

Would you like to be 'our profile on a member'? If so email me on and I'll forward you the questions.

Stay In Touch

weag.org.uk
Facebook.com/westessexarchaeological
Twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology
Instagram.com/weag_archaeology
Anything you'd like to contribute to the WEAG Newsletter or if you have any comments on the new format, please email lexie.lyons@icloud.com

WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lecture Program

Talks will be accessible via the internet and NOT in person at the usual venue, further details to follow. We'd like your help in summarising each of the remote talks/lectures to be included in the following newsletter for those members who do not have internet access.

Lectures are in the committee room at Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA at 7:15pm unless otherwise stated.

Non-members are welcome to attend Lectures. A voluntary contribution of £2 would be appreciated from guests.

Monday 9 November 2020 @ 19:15
'Non-Invasive Archaeology'. *Speaker: Melinda Barham.*
A Zoom meeting – joining from 19:15 to start at 19:30.

Monday 7 December 2020 @ 19:15
Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities.

Monday 11 January 2021 @ 19:15 via Zoom
'Humphrey Repton at Highams'. *Speaker: Georgina Green.*

Monday 8 February 2021 @ 19:15
'Bricks in Essex'. *Speaker: Anne Padfield.* Anne is a local historian and English Heritage guide at Hill Hall.

Monday 8 March 2021 @ 19:15
AGM and 'Progress in the last 12 months at Bankside Rose'. *Speaker: Harvey Sheldon, Birkbeck College, WEAG President.*

Monday 12 April 2021 @ 19:15
'Historic Cultural Landscapes in South West Essex'. *Speaker: Tricia Moxey.*

Monday 10 May 2021 @ 19:15
The Rudge Lecture – 'to be announced'.
Speaker: Mike "Mr Stonehenge" Parker Pearson.

HIGHAMS – before the house was built

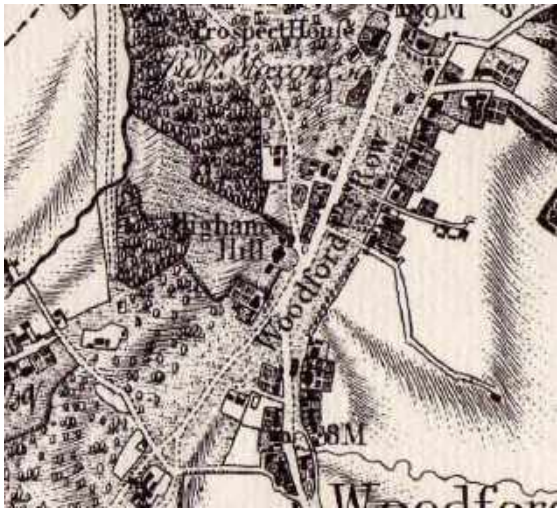
The land on the east side of the Manor of Higham Bensted, known as 'Higham Bushes', stretched across from Oak Hill to Chingford. About the middle of the seventeenth century the lord of the manor, Sir William Rowe, fenced off an area of about 150 acres in the centre part and sold timber from it. The fenced-off area became known as The Sale, and during the next two centuries was progressively enlarged until the name 'Higham Bushes' became restricted to unenclosed pieces on the north-eastern and south-eastern sides.

The enclosure to the south which is now covered by Gascoigne Gardens was made in 1758.

The lord of the manor legally enclosed a large area of Higham Bushes and built Highams on the extreme eastern side of it in 1768. This was extended westwards as far as the River Ching and, whilst leaving a thick screening of timber all the way round, he cleared more of the land in the middle for his own cattle to graze.

(A.D.Law and S.Barry *The Forest in Walthamstow and Chingford* Edited by W G S Tonkin (1978) Published by Chingford Historical Society and Walthamstow Antiquarian Society page 11, 13)

Humphry Repton's illustration of the Highams looking up from the Ching shows buildings to the north and there are still Georgian buildings along by the Castle. His map shows some forest land to north and south of the parkland but on the south-east side it is named as Woodford Common.



Chapman & Andre 1777, before the lake


Repton's proposals, 1794

St Margaret's (Woodford New Road, to the south of the entrance to The White House) is listed as 'Detached house. Mainly early C19, with earlier origins….'
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1357623

To the north at what is now Mill Lane: There was a windmill here which is mentioned in the Highams Court Rolls: 17th April 1628 Walter Browne had a cottage "on the Lord's waste adjoining a windmill called Woodford windmill". There are no records of this after c.1640.
Another mill was built in Bunces Lane known as the Woodford Hall Manor mill or Lady Therowgood's mill which survived until the manor was sold in 1710, in spite of an attempt to burn it down in 1699 by the Walthamstow miller. Walthamstow Mill near Napier Arms founded 1767 – 1800
(Kenneth Farries *Essex Windmills, Millers and Millwrights* Vol V p.83)

The land around the windmills must have been fairly open so that the wind could get to the sails, so it seems unlikely that it was forested along the ridge.

Woodford Green Cricket Club was founded in 1735 and is said to be the oldest cricket club in the world that still plays on the original ground.

Georgina Green, 29 October 2020

Highams Park Lake Rocks

Stones "from the old London Bridge" by Highams Park Lake (23 Oct 2016)

In "**Stocks and Stones" by F. Sydney Eden** which appeared in the Walthamstow & Chingford Guardian 17th February 1911, Eden says the stones came from the house built by Denny which probably used the stones from Waltham Abbey.
This house was demolished around 1770. (VCH Vol.V Waltham Abbey p.158)
Eden says the lake was constructed around 1770 … and the stones were used to "hold up the earth freshly excavated from the lake bottom". The lake was not constructed until 25 years later – so would the stones still be lying around as rubble?

except by folk knowing in the matter of building. Here and there, however, are bits which tell the tale of these venerable stones to the most careless observer. In one place is a great piece showing, by the regularity of the deep, rough holes in its surface, clear evidence that it once was a piece of Gothic tracery, and, in another place, are several mighty slabs, which indicate, by their shape and by the tool marks on their surface, that at some time they have formed part of an interior pavement, part, no doubt, of the flooring of church or cloister, or of one of the many stone-paved buildings once at Waltham.

Having beautified the lake, and strengthened its banks with as many ancient stones as seemed to be

The demolition of old London Bridge by Edward Cooke, 1832

There is no mention in Repton of any folly or grotto type ornamentation by the lake, although this was a fashionable thing at that time.

London Bridge was demolished in 1832. Jeremiah Harman had retired from the Bank of England 5 years earlier but must have had considerable influence in the City. He was 69 and it seems more likely that that it was his fancy to ornament his lake with stones from the bridge.

Did London Bridge have any 'Gothic tracery'?

CORPORATION OF LONDON

The Deputy Keeper of the Records

Miss Betty R. Masters, B.A., F.S.A.

Records Office,
P.O. Box 270, Guildhall,
London, EC2P 2EJ

Telephone 01-606 3030

JRS/SM

30th November 1983

Dear Mrs. Green,

Thank you for your letter of the 28th November. We are frequently asked about buildings allegedly constructed from the stones of Old London Bridge and I regret to say that we are quite unable to confirm or deny these reports. The contract for the demolition of the old Bridge and the construction of the new was awarded to Messrs. Jolliffe and Banks. Under the terms of the demolition contract the old materials were to be the property of the contractors, except so much rubble and stones as were necessary to fill depressions in the river bed. As a consequence the London Bridge Committee Journals contain few references to the disposal of old materials and such as do occur are concerned mainly with remains of property demolished for the new Bridge and its approaches which belonged to the Corporation and were not part of Jolliffe and Banks' contract.

I do not believe that we have any information on your further enquiry concerning the monument in the park. You will probably know that a portion of Highams Park including the lake, containing over 30 acres, was purchased in 1891 and further portions of adjacent land in 1892 and 1928.

I am sorry that I cannot offer you any more positive help with your research.

the Museum of London

Mrs. G. Green,
39 Smeaton Road,
Woodford Bridge,
Essex 1G8 8BD

25th October, 1983.

Dear Mrs. Green,

Thank you for your enquiry about London Bridge. An "Act for the Rebuilding of London Bridge" was granted in 1823, and demolition work commenced shortly afterwards. We have no records of the fate of the stonework, but the City of London Record Office may be able to help.

For the general background to the rebuilding of the bridge, I recommend London Bridge Peter Jackson, (1971) which has some good illustrations.

Yours sincerely,

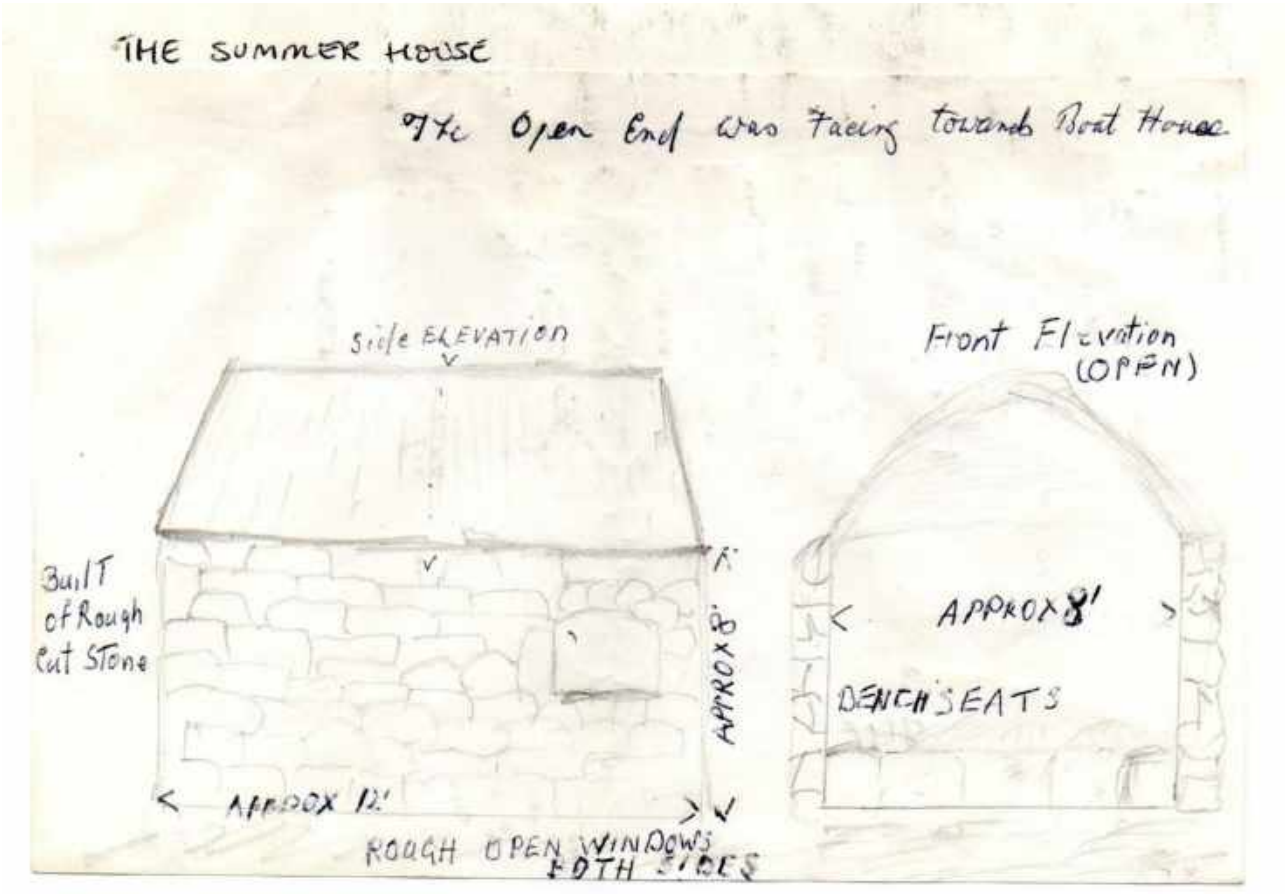
C. Mayson

From: Peter Adams [mailto:peter.adams21@btinternet.com]
Sent: 15 August 2017 09:59
To: 'Georgina Green' <georgina.green@btconnect.com>
Subject: Highams Park Rocks?

Georgie
Your question - The bridge that was demolished in 1831?2 dated back to the early years of the 13th century. This certainly falls into what might be described as Gothic but I have not seen any pictures of the bridge that show what you describe as Gothic tracery or the pointed arches that were characteristic of the time. All the arches seemed to have been round as are those few remaining parts that still exist. The latter may have been re-carved by Victorian masons but there is still nothing that could be described as tracery. Indeed, the pedestrian alcove at Victoria Park (see below) looks to be decidedly Georgian in character.
The basic architecture of the time (1209) was to a large extent functional but it has no doubt been modified over the succeeding 600+ years. It caught fire a number of times, was attacked by Dutch naval ships and no doubt was often damaged by larger ships wanting to get past as it was an impediment to navigation and the free flow of the river. In the early 1760s there was pressure for more river crossings and the City Corporation removed the buildings from the bridge and widened it. At this time they might (?) have introduced Gothic features and it could also explain any Georgian features.
Begged questions - (i) Although Denny's house was a substantial one it is difficult to understand where stones as large as those in the Lake, and when fully dressed, would have fitted into the house. (ii) As far as I am aware there is no good evidence that any stone from the London Bridge ever came to HP although it had to come from somewhere it is quite possible that some did come from what at the time could have been a ready source. The stones beside the Lake are roughly formed and seem to have been subject to major erosion/abrasion of a sort that would not have happened at HP. I suspect the 1831 demolition was not carried out carefully with a view to recycling the stone as time would no doubt have been of the essence. This might explain the rough shapes? It has also been said that a summer house was built by the Lake using stone from the bridge. Looking at the picture above I would have thought that a similar one would make such a structure without modification.

I had better stop as I am rambling without getting anywhere.
Regards, Peter

Pedestrian alcove originally from Old London Bridge
(demolished 1831),
now in Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets, London.



Sketch done in mid 1980s of summer house by Highams Park Lake in 1930s.
Approx location. ✖ (As I remember being told in 1980s)

STOCKS AND STONES by F.S[illegible]NEY EDEN

appeared in the Walthamstow and Chingford Guardian 17 Feb.1911.

A booklet was made from the printed page (by Mr.Eden ?) and given to the Walthamstow Museum at Vestry House, whose Archivist has kindly copied it for me so that it can be passed to those who might be interested.

Georgina Green.

STOCKS AND STONES.

It has been said that one never sees a dead donkey, a saying which suggests thoughts as to what becomes of other done-with things. What, for instance, is the ultimate destination of the materials of demolished buildings? One supposes that they go to make up other buildings; at least, that such of them as are sound and usable do, while those which are not, it may be surmised, are broken up for road material and such like. In these days, no doubt, some care is taken to preserve old building materials which are thought to have architectural or decorative value, but it seems true to say that our forefathers, they of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, at any rate, gave themselves little or no trouble on this head. I particularise these centuries because examples of the carelessness of folk who lived in them are known to me, but I suspect that the men of yet earlier times were not much better in this respect than they. When, for example, 13th century people, wanting more light in their buildings than contented their fathers of the Norman period, cut out the small round-headed windows of their churches and dwelling-houses and put larger windows of a pointed shape in their stead, did they take care of the Norman mouldings, often intricate and beautiful, which ran round the heads of window openings and doorways, such as those we admire to-day (to mention one rich example only) at Iffley Church in Oxfordshire? Did they use them, as they might have done, in their new building operations? They, certainly, in a usual way, did nothing of the sort, though whether some of the mouldings of Norman character which are seen [illegible] early English arches may be old work adapted to a new situation—as at the Abbeys of Kirkstall, Fountains and Malmesbury—may be left for experts to debate. Most people, however, will wonder what became of the greater part of the discarded stuff.

The same thing seems to have happened with each change in architectural taste, so that to-day it is a common thing to find an old building with walls put up in Norman times and large window-openings of highly ornate perpendicular work, but without a vestige of the decorative work which must have been put into the building by those who first set it up. Such thoughts as these were suggested to me by the stones concerning which I am about to speak.

Eight miles up stream from Lea mouth, where the sluggish Lea pours its waters into the Thames, a little river, the Ching to wit, joins the Lea from the eastward after a short run of some six miles from its source in the high ground lying to the north of Connaught Water. At a point in its course where three parishes meet—Woodford, Chingford and Walthamstow—and hard by the place called Chingford Hatch, the Ching was made, some time about the year 1770, to serve the needs of the then Lord of Higham Bemsted—a manor in Walthamstow parish—who was minded to make a lake in the low ground lying westward of the great house which he had then lately built, facing Woodford Green, at the eastern end of his manor, in lieu of the ancient manor house, which stands [illegible] miles to the westward [illegible] ground overlooking the Lea Valley [illegible] Ching.

The lake was dug, half a mile long, beside the Ching, and water from the little stream, regulated by locks, was made to run into, and through, it.

The 18th century, towards its close, saw the beginning of a reaction, of which our days have seen the fruition, against the violence which, in the 16th century, destroyed so many beautiful buildings of the Middle Ages, although, as the sentiment which fed the movement was but half instructed, it resulted, in its early stages, in grotesque attempts to reproduce ancient architecture in the form most familiar to folk of those days, namely, in ruins.

A country gentleman who wanted to be abreast of the ideas of his day, when he made a park or laid out his gardens afresh, set up, in such positions as seemed to him appropriate, heaps of stones disposed to represent ruined monasteries, hermits' cells, and such like. Things such as these began to take the place of the Greek and Roman temples, statues of heathen gods and lesser deities and heroes with which landscape gardeners and their patrons had solaced their souls from late 16th century days to the second half of the 18th century.

It was by notions such as these that the lord of Higham Bemsted was influenced when, having dug his lake, he cast about for ways of making it and its surroundings beautiful. Most people who set out to make ruins then, as now, would have to be content with blocks of stone, old bricks, lumps of mortar and so forth, without ascertained pedigree or known connection with the past, but Higham Bemsted's lord was more fortunate. To see why this was so one must go five miles, as the crow flies, and not much more by road, to the northward, where the Norman nave of the church of the destroyed Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross still rears its mighty bulk beside the more than seven-fold streams of Lea.

In Queen Elizabeth's days the owner of the Abbey site was Sir Edward Denny, made Baron Denny of Waltham by James I and Earl of Norwich by Charles I., the grandson of that Sir Anthony Denny, who, alone among the courtiers surrounding the deathbed of King Henry VIII. dared to tell him that he was dying, and for his guerdon received not, as many had anticipated, his death warrant, but, so great was his credit with the king, a pair of gloves curiously embroidered with pearls.

This Sir Edward Denny, being minded to build him a house within the precincts of the old Abbey at Waltham, had resort for a great part of the necessary material to the ruinated monastic buildings lying round about the nave of the Abbey church. To get an idea of the quantity of the first-rate building stuff there ready to his hand we must call to mind that the iconoclasts of Henry VIII.'s day had thrown down the great choir, the transepts and the central tower of the church, and had partly demolished and wholly ruined the extensive conventual buildings, which of old had stood on the north side of the church. With such material as this did Sir Edward, on the spot where the abbott's lodging had been, set up a house which an old writer described as "beautiful to behold . . . with gardens scarcely to be equalled by any private gentleman's."

For 170 years or thereabouts, Dennys and their successors lived in the house so built beside the nave of the great church, and, as a walk round the Abbey Church will tell, were buried and memorialised there by tomb and tablet.

Among them were James Hay, "the Magnificent Earl of Carlisle," as John Evelyn, the diarist, in a letter to Samuel Pepys, calls him, who married Honoria Denny, heiress of Lord Norwich and Baroness Denny of Waltham in her own right. Of him Lord Chancellor Clarendon, in his History of the Rebellion, vol. 1 (Oxford edition, 1707, p. 63), tells that he "had no other consideration of Money than for the Support of his Lustre. . . . He left behind him the reputation of a very fine Gentleman, and a most accomplished Courtier; and, after having spent, in a very Jovial Life, above four hundred thousand pounds, which, upon a strict computation he received from the Crown, he left not a House, nor Acre of Land, to be remembered by." The Magnificent Earl's son James, likewise Earl of Carlisle, spent a long lifstime at Waltham. To him succeeded a line of Wakes and Wake-Joneses, Sheriffs of Essex, and so forth. All these, in their turn, lived at the Abbey House in varying degrees of dignified state and ease, looking after their manors of Waltham and Nazing, once lorded over by the canons of Waltham, judging the folk at sessions and corn and cattle at fairs and markets, cultivating a little literature in easy-going fashion, paying solemn calls, in their coaches and six, with outriders, on their fellow squires, and, on more or less rare occasions, making the journey to London,

braving, as best they might, the highwaymen infesting Enfield Highway and Stamford Hill, and the other perils and inconveniences then incidental to a drive of 14 miles along the king's highway.

In 1770, however, it came about that the then owner of the Abbey Estate resolved to demolish Sir Edward Denny's Elizabethan house, and soon the old place had gone the way of its predecessor, the house of the mitred abbots of Waltham, and was, in its turn, a ruin.

Now came the opportunity of the Lord of Higham Bensted. The great store of stone, much of which had been brought, at enormous cost, from Caen in the days of the second Henry, of which the Abbey buildings and Sir Edward Denny's house had been made, and which was lying in stacks about the old nave, would supply, as he well saw, just what was wanted to complete his works by the River Ching. Huge stones, worked by axe and chisel, but wind and weather-worn, and of every conceivable shape, would not only give an air of dignity and age to the newly-made lake, if scattered in seeming natural fashion along its banks, but would be useful in holding up the earth freshly excavated from the lake bottom. The idea took material form, and wains, laden with stones which had in turn made dwellings for Augustinian canons, courtiers of Elizabethan and Stuart days, and Georgian squires, were painfully dragged from Waltham along the Lea Valley and over the great Forest ridge, on the south-west end of which Chingford stands, to their new resting place by Higham water. This was done when George III. ruled in England, when people were excited by the letters of Junius, then just started and by the "Wilkes and Liberty" squabbles, and to-day one sees the old stones lying along the lakeside (now, and for some years past, become part of the people's Forest of Waltham), mainly at its northern end, some half in the water, others wholly on the banks, stained all sorts of colours by water and weather, bound about by the roots of great trees, and overshadowed by their foliage, worn, too, most of them, out of all recognition, except by folk knowing in the matter of building. Here and there, however, are bits which tell the tale of these venerable stones to the most careless observer. In one place is a great piece showing, by the regularity of the deep, rough holes in its surface, clear evidence that it once was a piece of Gothic tracery, and, in another place, are several mighty slabs, which indicate, by their shape and by the tool marks on their surface, that at some time they have formed part of an interior pavement, part, no doubt, of the flooring of church or cloister, or of one of the many stone-paved buildings once at Waltham.

Having beautified the lake, and strengthened its banks with as many ancient stones as seemed to be required, the notion of a stone-built summer-house, of a style to answer the popular fancy of a hermit's cell, seems to have come to Higham's lord, and so he made on the east side of the water, of old building stones from Waltham, mixed with masses of broken bricks and bricks spoiled in the burning, the small square arbour, which stands to-day, wherein a man may sit and view the stone-girt water, with its wealth of water-lilies and overhanging tree growth, and meditate, if he will, on the varying fortune which, as the ages pass, comes as well to stones as to men.

But the lake and the arbour did not exhaust the store of stones brought from Waltham; a few were left. These our 18th century squire, who seems to have had a turn for historical studies and to have loved a bit of Latin, set up in a triangular heap on rising ground some little way back from the north end of the lake; and, because there were not enough of worked stones to make the architectural mouldings wherein to frame the inscriptions which he intended to put on the three sides of his monument, he made up the deficiency with plaster-covered bricks. The result was a memorial of the antiquity of the Manor of Higham and of the tale of the stones from Waltham.

Frontispiece

On one tablet was an inscription which, in its present mutilated state, reads, "Regnante Rege Edwardo Confessore; Heigham Manerium extitit; Hodiernus T . . . Higham in; ag . . to," the authority for which is the entry in Doomsday Book that in the time of King Edward the Manor of Heigham was held by one Halden, a Dane.

On the second tablet one can still read "E Fragmentis quondam monasterii de Waltham sanctæ crucis consto."

The third tablet should, as it would seem, voice a quotation from some old English rhyme, but the hooligans who are quickly destroying this more-than-century-old monument, have spared only a few letters by which the inscription can be, perhaps, guessed at. What is left of it reads:

"Myn . . . . . Halles
The Fa . . . and . of .y . Walles."

Is it too much to hope that someone in authority will take steps to prevent further desecration of this queer old monument? For though we may smile to-day at the attempts made by our 18th century forebears to show their appreciation of such remains of former times as appeared to them to have historical interest, yet there seems no reason to doubt that the monument, the arbour and the stones by the lakeside at Higham are, indeed, remains of the monastery and church of Waltham Holy Cross, and as such, memorials of a great past and part of the origines of the history of Great Britain from the 11th century to those 16th century days that saw the passing away of social conditions which, in effect, had existed with little apparent change, for 500 years, and which saw, too, the beginning of new things, civil and religious, which were to eventuate in the hurly-burly of the Civil war and in the revolution which drove the Stuarts from the British throne.

F. SYDNEY EDEN.