

Norwood Green
in the year
2000



Norwood Green



RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
founded 1932



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NORWOOD GREEN IN THE YEAR 2000

A publication sponsored by the
Norwood Green Residents' Association
to mark the new Millennium

This booklet is dedicated to May Barnett, the President of the Association. May was the co-author of "A Story of Norwood Green" in 1982, and was the inspiration for the publication of this new booklet. She, together with Marcus Taylor, provided much of the photographic content.



Our President May Barnett (right) with Ethne Manders at the celebrations in the Church Hall in 1996, to mark their ninetieth and hundredth birthdays respectively.

EDITORIAL

When I was asked if I would be the Editor of this new publication, I regarded it as a great honour.

I have lived in Norwood Green all my life, having been born in Frogmore Nursing Home during the War. Consequently I have witnessed the various changes in this area over the years. For instance, I can recall going with a friend to visit one of the residents in the old Almshouses. The lady lived in virtually one room, which was very dark, as there was only one small window at the front and the front door was solid wood. Today the residents enjoy the light, airy flats.

The Church Hall is a brighter place than it used to be, thanks to the efforts of the Church Hall Committee. Village Day was always an event to look forward to, and we always went down to see what events were taking place on the Green, in the days when the Horticultural Society's Summer Show was held in a large marquee erected on the Green. Over the years some events, like the annual cricket match, have closed down and new ones have taken their place.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the various contributors for all their articles and photographs, without whose efforts this new book would not have come about. I would also like to thank the other members of our Publication Committee for their help and encouragement in the assembly and publication of this book; also May Barnett and Marcus Taylor for the supply of photographs, many of which were taken on Village Day 1999.

Alan D Sabey - Editor

**Published by Norwood Green Residents' Association
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FOREWORD

The Committee of the Norwood Green Residents' Association decided that a fitting way to mark the Millennium would be to publish a supplement to "A Story of Norwood Green", the booklet published in 1982 which proved to be so successful.

The early history of Norwood has been documented in the Transactions of Southall Local History Society from the year 832 to the abolition of the Manors, which occurred finally in 1930. Two years later, in 1932, the Norwood Green Residents' Association was founded, and in 1982, the Golden Jubilee of its establishment was celebrated by the publication of "A Story of Norwood Green", thus bringing the history of our ancient village up to that date.

Now it is our turn to carry on and to record the events which have taken place in the last eighteen years. We are very grateful to all those contributors to the new booklet who have supplied us with information, written articles, provided photographs or supported us financially with advertisements.

I would like particularly to thank my colleagues on the team which has produced the booklet:

Colin Cracknell (the Editor of our quarterly Journal)
Peggy Ivie (my predecessor as Chairman of the Association)
The Revd. Leslie Lawrence (Priest-in-Charge at St Mary's)

and most especially our hard-working Editor, Alan Sabey.

Our hope is that this Millennium publication, while on a more modest scale than its predecessor, will give as much information and pleasure to its readers as did the original "Story of Norwood Green".

Mike Coombe
Chairman, Norwood Green Residents' Association

April 2000

CONTENTS

	Page
Dedication	(iii)
Editorial	(iv)
Foreword	(v)
Norwood Green Residents' Association	2
Norwood Green Conservation Area	2
Norwood Green London & Quadrant Residents' Association	4
Neighbourhood Watch	5
Parks & Countryside Rangers	7
Norwood Green Horticultural Society	9
St. Mary's Parish Church	10
St. Mary's Bellringers	12
St. Mary's Church Hall	13
New Life Masih Ghar	13
Scouts, Where Are They Now?	14
Taekwon-Do	23
Norwood Green Women's Institute	23
Family Dental Surgery, Norwood Road	24
Monorep - 30 years in Norwood Green	25
The New "Norwood Green" Election Ward	27
Norwood Green Bowls Club	27
Crosslands Surgery	29
Norwood Green Academy of Dancing	30
1 st Choice Sports & Leisure	30
Three Bridges Primary School	32
Wolf Fields Primary School	32
Norwood Hall	33
Norwood Green Floral Art Club	34
The Plough Inn, Norwood Green	35
Chronology Continuation	36

*Cover photographs: (top) Elm View Court, Norwood Green Road.
(bottom) Tom & Valerie Payne ring in the new Millennium.*

NORWOOD GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The aims of the Association are to maintain the amenities of the area and to help the interests of members.

We are in contact with Ealing Council and can represent members' views. A Residents' Association has greater influence than can be achieved by an individual member.

The subjects covered are - house extensions, traffic, buses and general maintenance of the Green and surrounding area. If a member has a real complaint, this should be relayed to the road representative who will be the link between the Committee and the Council.

Journals are produced four times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The current subscription is £2 per annum. Over the years we have been able to keep the cost low due to a generous patron of the Association. The Journals alone cost £2 to produce.

Each year there is a coach outing which is subsidised by the Association. This normally takes place in June and usually goes to a coastal resort - a majority decision by the members. Once a year on the second Saturday in July is VILLAGE DAY which is held on Norwood Green and is run in tandem with the Norwood Green Horticultural Society Summer Show. There is also the social aspect provided by a "get-together" with refreshments, which is an evening event held in St. Mary's Church Hall.

The Committee needs a younger element and we are always grateful for volunteers who feel they would like to serve the community on a voluntary basis. The Committee meets once a month on a Thursday evening and the Annual General Meeting takes place in February.

In summary, the Society aims to maintain a harmonious environment, both aesthetic and practical.

Josie Wasinski - Secretary

NORWOOD GREEN CONSERVATION AREA

Conservation areas are defined as areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. This concept was first introduced in the Civic Amenities Act 1967, and places upon the local authority the duty to give special attention to planning applications for



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developments within these areas. The Norwood Green Conservation Area, designated in 1969, was one of the earliest to be introduced in the borough and from that date the Residents' Association has always been represented by one or two Committee members on the Conservation Area panel.

Everyone whose residence is within the boundaries of the Conservation Area should be aware that any alterations proposed will be subject to the scrutiny of the Conservation Area panel. Its aim is to preserve the special quality of this ancient village. The Council's Planning Department will always give advice to owners who want to alter their properties and wish to do so with regard to the particular character of the surroundings.

It is in the interest of all residents to try to keep our unique oasis of Norwood Green surrounded by harmonious buildings, old and new, and our constant vigilance is required to achieve this desirable state of affairs. The map shows the Conservation Area boundaries clearly marked.

Peggy Ivie

NORWOOD GREEN LONDON & QUADRANT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Our Association was founded in January 1997 after a meeting with our landlords, London & Quadrant Housing Association. The reason for this meeting was to see if residents would be willing to form a residents' association, to work with them and improve levels of communication on issues such as maintenance and improvements to the estate.

A steering committee was formed with the help of PC Phil. Cubitt from Norwood Green Police Station, who was a great asset. Our first meeting was held in April 1997, at which a committee was elected. We felt that one of the main issues was how to get people interested. A clean up day was organised. We wanted people to be proud of where they lived. Residents were informed and a large skip was provided. The clean up day got people talking to each other, including those who do not normally speak. It was a huge success and has since been repeated.

We have had many successes in our short time, including removing dumped cars and improving parking. We now have a better working relationship with our landlords. We, like all residents of Norwood Green, want it to be a clean and safe place in which to live.

Alan Mellor - Co-Chair



Parade of Shops, Norwood Road

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Ripon is a town in the West Riding of Yorkshire and they have a man with a Three Cornered Hat who blows a horn every night at 8pm in front of the Town Hall, a tradition which is said to be a thousand years old. The City motto is inscribed over the Town Hall in gold letters "*Except ye Lord keep ye cittie, ye Wakeman walketh in vain*". While they still blow the horn every night, they do not patrol the streets.

We have, of course, moved on quite a bit from those days. We have a Police Force, Fire and Ambulance Service that are just a telephone call away, not just for the rich but for everybody.

The "Watch" are not vigilantes or Police informers, we leave all that to television and we do not go out on patrol. It is true that a "Watch" in a town or country village will be different from our area; we have to adapt to the needs of that area and we have targeted sections of our area to meet their needs.

Over the past twenty years the "Watch" has grown and now covers all houses and flats in the Norwood Green area. The "Watch" has recently distributed 1500 leaflets and that involved four Area Co-ordinators and Thirty-five Street Co-ordinators. It could not be done without their help. The Police have given us every support and encouragement, even to the extent of their own free time, and we could not have asked for more. The Police are often called to perform other duties in an emergency such as the Southall train accident in 1998, demonstrations, religious marches, rugby matches and so on. Most people would not think twice about calling an ambulance if a neighbour had a heart

attack, and if a house were on fire they would rush to the phone - *then why not use it if you see someone breaking into your neighbour's -house?* It is because of these calls and your vigilance that there has been some success and arrests made. The bogus caller is the burglar trying to get in the front door because he cannot get in through the locked window. The Norwood Green Residents' Association put up the funds so that the "Watch" could meet every month. Thus with the aid of the Police we are able to run a Police Surgery and get a Crime Report every month. This is now under review as crime figures have decreased, or should we say that crime has changed over time. Double-glazing has brought fewer broken windows and people mark their household items with the Postcode, so crime has now turned to cars. Car radios are now coded so crime moves onto other things that people leave in their cars. Now the abandoned car is attracting the vandals who want spare parts. So we ask the Council to remove the cars quickly.

Remember the Meerkats who are our emblem, they *"look out for each other"*



and this means that nobody is alone; it is about being a good neighbour. Over the past twenty years so many good people have given their time to the "Watch" and it is a worthwhile cause. There are more good people out there than bad ones, may it continue with its service to the community.

Geoff Wakeman



The Lamb Public House, Norwood Road

PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE RANGERS

In 1998 Ealing Countryside Service established three Ranger teams to help look after the Borough's parks and open spaces. One of the first of the new Rangers was N.G.R.A. member, Dave Stokes, who joined the Brent Lodge Team which covers the Norwood Green area.

Rangers are on duty seven days a week and 364 days a year, and for many people are first points of contact with the Council. They work closely with colleagues in other departments to ensure that information from and to members of the public is communicated efficiently, and they have 24 hour a day access to the facilities at the Civic Centre.

Norwood Green is fortunate to have a large amount of open space, which contains a wide variety of habitats such as woodland, meadows, waterways and hedgerows. However nature still needs to be managed in order to maximise wildlife interest by maintaining woodland, meadows and pathways. The Rangers set aside at least one day each week to undertake Nature Conservation tasks such as woodland and pond improvement, scrub clearance, control of invasive plants and tree planting. Local volunteers are always welcome.

One of the Rangers' main duties is to patrol open spaces which, in Norwood Green, include Tentelow Wood and Meadow, Long Wood, the Green itself, Wolf Fields Park, Warren Farm and Blackberry Corner. As well as ensuring that buildings and equipment are safe they enforce Byelaws and laws relating to the Environmental Protection Act (for instance, by issuing fixed penalty litter tickets). By working directly with Contract Managers, Rangers also monitor the performance of the Grounds Maintenance contractor in order to ensure that grass cutting, litter picking, planting etc. is completed on time and to the required standard. This is especially important on the Green, which has become increasingly popular in recent years and always needs to be tidied, particularly following busy Summer weekends.

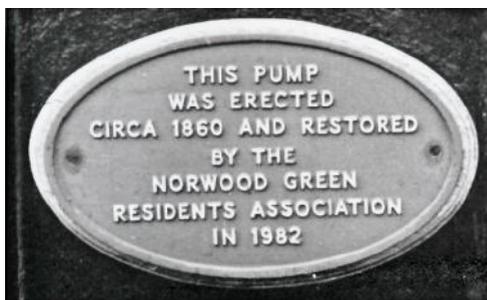
The Parks and Countryside Service also promotes Ealing's open spaces as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. Rangers have developed an education programme for local schools that is both fun and relevant to the National Curriculum. They also provide advice to schools about improvements for wildlife.

Several team members take an interest in local history and tracing the village's heritage through its old buildings and landscape. Wildlife and Heritage are themes running through the Parks and Countryside Service's programme of events and activities, "Enjoy the Great Outdoors". Rangers from Brent Lodge regularly lead guided walks around the area and other events cater for all ages and interests. Ealing's biggest event for all the family is the annual Countryside Weekend. This is held each July at Horsenden Hill in Perivale.

In November 1998 Glade Lane Canalside Park was officially opened on the site of the former Borough nursery, close to Three Bridges and adjacent to the Grand Union Canal. Senior Ranger, Phil. Belman, has a role in the design of the park, which, by incorporating meadows, hedgerows and ponds alongside more traditional areas for recreation, has become a place for people and wildlife. It will continue to be looked after by the Rangers.

By informing the Rangers of local concerns, we can all help to improve our environment.

The Brent Lodge Ranger Team



*The Wolf Public House
the newly restored pump
and the cattle trough*

NORWOOD GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Norwood Green Horticultural Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1998. A series of special events was organised over the year starting with the Spring show where masses of Golden Ducat daffodils, presented by a member the previous autumn, enhanced the display and a special Cup was awarded for this class. The Summer show was reported in the Southall Gazette. Although smaller now than in its heyday in the 1960's and 70's, the Society continues to give pleasure to over 350 members from Norwood Green and over 50 Associate members from surrounding areas such as Heston, Osterley and Southall. The membership is constantly changing as members leave or move into the area but after a publicity campaign early in 1999, the last year of the Millennium has seen an increase in members, such that we can claim over 400 for the first time since 1993. The activities of the Society continue to be publicised through the Newsletter, edited by Miss Win. Thorne for many years now, which is distributed three times a year.

The Society aims to provide a forum where people interested in gardening can meet and exchange ideas about gardens and gardening. Three horticultural shows are organised each year, the Summer show coinciding with Village Day and attracting the largest number of visitors. As well as horticultural exhibits, the show gives the less green-fingered the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in cookery or handicrafts and over recent years photography and painting have been well represented. As part of the Summer show a competition is held at the beginning of July in which the most attractive front gardens of members in Norwood Green are nominated for an award. The competition is judged by members of the Committee, and despite the mushrooming growth of paved car parks replacing front gardens around the area, there are still sufficient nominations to make the decision difficult.

In addition to the shows, the Society holds evening meetings two or three times each year. The topics of these evenings vary but over the last two years have included The History of Norwood Hall Horticultural College, Daffodils, Growing Begonias, Propagating Shrubs and Perennials, and changes at the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley since 1987.

The Society also offers a service to its members at "The Hut". Set back from the road on Tentelow Lane, the shop opens on Sunday mornings from February to November, staffed by volunteers to supply gardening essentials at almost cost price. Members know that the basics of gardening can be obtained here at prices well below the local retail centres and that they may get some gardening advice as well if one of the more knowledgeable volunteers is on duty.

The Society is affiliated to The Royal Horticultural Society and has for several years exhibited in the Hanging Basket and Window Box section at the Chelsea Show.

Beryl Wrightson, Phyllis Gaiger and Pauline Treanor have between them won a Silver medal and three Bronze medals in the last five years. The Society is planning to exhibit at the Hampton Court Flower Show in 2000, and has also applied to the BBC to request a second visit from the Gardeners' Question Time programme.

The last few years have seen many changes. Mrs Joy Gilbert, long-standing member and former Chairman, moved to Cambridgeshire but returns each year to exhibit at the Shows, bringing with her a plentiful supply of homemade cakes for sale with the teas. Mrs Dawn Morgan, also former Chairman and Secretary, retired from the Committee last year after twenty-four years and may soon also leave the area. Change is inevitable but the lively debate at the monthly Committee meetings should ensure that we go forward into the new Millennium with new ideas and enthusiasm.

Pat Judd - Hon. Secretary

ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

During the last two decades of the 20th century, in addition to the everyday maintenance, which is necessary in all old churches, major restoration work was carried out on the floor and roof of our Church. In this period we had three incumbents: Revd. Neil Pollock from 1981 to 1986; Revd. Matthew Goddard from 1987 to 1996 and Revd. Leslie Lawrence from 1997.

Shortly after arriving at St. Mary's in 1981, the Reverend Neil Pollock asked the congregation to note on a map of the church floor, where beetles were falling from the roof. This highlighted where the greatest damage was occurring in the ancient timbers. The wooden floor, however, was not strong enough to support the scaffolding, which was needed to carry out an inspection of the roof. It became clear that major restoration work was in prospect for which substantial funds would be required. The "Friends of Norwood Church", involving all people in the parish, was established with charitable status in 1984 and during the next ten years over £11,500 was raised. This was achieved by arranging concerts in Church, Christmas raffles, selling commemorative tea towels, and many social events. A grand piano was also bought by the Friends for the Church. When added to funds from English Heritage, this enabled work to begin. In May and June 1990 the church floor was restored with attractive York stone and it was during this work that several skeletons were discovered. In 1994 repair work on the roof revealed that serious damage had in fact been done to the ancient roof beams, especially to the South Wall end plate, by Death Watch Beetle and dry rot.

The old beams had lasted over five hundred years. In contrast, the roof gully had to be redone in 1997 after just twenty-five years. Fortunately there now has to be liaison between the architects, English Heritage and the Diocesan advisory committee before

any restoration work can be carried out to ensure that the highest standards are maintained. During the programme of restoration, the lighting and heating were upgraded. This work represented the most significant restoration work at the Church for many years. The Fifteenth Century Font, which used to stand under the Norman Arch opposite the entrance to signify one's entry into the Church through Baptism, is to be fully restored this year.

In January 1998, several members of the congregation redecorated the Vestry in readiness for the visit by the Bishop of Willesden, the Reverend Graham Dow, to confirm sixteen candidates - all members of St. Mary's. In 1998 the plan to open the church on Village Day had to be abandoned because the scaffolding tower, needed for the continuation of the restoration work, was still in place. The church was opened on the same occasion in 1999 and this practice will continue. On these occasions the Archivist displays documents and plate belonging to the church.

In 1999 part of the Churchyard was tidied up in preparation for the restoration of the John Robins tomb, designed by Sir John Soane. Robins lived in Norwood Hall in the early nineteenth century and was a friend and business partner of Soane, who also designed part of the Hall, but much of whose work here as elsewhere fell out of fashion and was demolished. The Heritage of London Trust and the Soane Monument Association paid for this work. The Duke of Gloucester visited the church on October 26th 1999, as President of the Heritage of London Trust, to inspect the tomb restoration.



We now live in a multi-cultural society and the church is no longer at the centre of life in the whole community, with there being mosques and temples nearby. With Father Leslie's encouragement we remain a friendly, welcoming and outreaching congregation, which continues to grow as we enter the new Millennium.

Rachel Stilliard and Tony Uff - Church Wardens

ST. MARY'S BELLRINGERS

To prevent the bells from falling completely silent in the latter part of the 1970's Olive Rogers, bell ringer of All Saints, Isleworth, organised ringing for Sunday service once a month. In the 1980's Percy Venn, Tower Captain of St. Mary's, Hayes, along with 'Chick' Hammond, Tom and Valerie Payne with their two young daughters Linda and Janet from Hayes rang for the 8.30 service at Hayes, then travelled to Norwood and rang for the 10 o'clock service.

Percy Venn accepted the Revd. Neil Pollock's invitation to be Tower Captain, and Valerie was appointed to this office in 1986 with Tom in the post of Steeplekeeper.; Regular practices commenced in February 1982. The following were appointed members•- Anna Bentham, Eric Brown, Mandy Kite, Janet and Linda Payne, Tom and Valerie Payne, Margaret Russell, Fred Scruby and Percy Venn.

Our first ringing outing was in September 1983 and visited Harefield, Harmondsworth and Cranford. In the following years we enjoyed outings ringing the bells in some wonderful, and sometimes hard to find, churches in the Home Counties and as far afield as Suffolk and Bedfordshire.

The bells have also been rung to commemorate, to celebrate a birth or marriage, or half muffled in memoriam. A tape recording was made of the half muffled ringing in thanksgiving for the life and work of Fred Scruby and part of this recording was broadcast on the BBC's Radio 4 programme, "Church Bells on Sunday" on Remembrance Day 1984. The bells are rung on Village Day. Visitors to the Tower are certain of a warm welcome by the ringers present, who are happy to explain the technique of this ancient art of full circle ringing, and hastily dispel the concern of 'ringers going up to the ceiling'.

Special ringing took place on Monday July 1 1996 - the anniversary of the very day of the Dedication of the Tower in 1896. On the following Sunday afternoon the church was filled with members of the congregation and ringers for the Centenary.Service. Two members of our band officiated - Roger Vyvyan was the organist and the Reverend John Hereward conducted the service. In his address Father John stated that one of his reasons for being a bell ringer is because "It is the loudest way I know' to praise the Lord".

The bells were rung, along with those all over the country, at noon on New Year's Day 2000 to mark the new Millennium.

Valerie Payne - Tower Captain

ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL

In April 1999 we acquired an authenticated copy of the title deeds of the Church Hall land. It proves that Major Unwin sold the land to the Church for £230. It is dated August 19th 1924.

Since 1982 the Hall has been redecorated with the help of generous donations of £300 each from the Residents' Association and Horticultural Society. The kitchen, toilets etc. were decorated too. We have bought a hundred new chairs, sixteen tables, red curtains for the windows and front of the stage and grey for the backdrop and wings. The storeroom above the hall was cleared, decorated and carpeted and had curtained storage shelves installed, so that it became suitable for committee meetings. Recently hand-driers were fitted in the toilets and the stage was sanded and sealed.

Outside, two raised brick flowerbeds were built and two tubs bought. However, one bed was partially demolished before we even had time to plant it, by a rogue car crashing through the railings! In time the railings were replaced and the brickwork renewed. The Hall is well used for social events and by regular organisations and is also let to private clients. It is particularly heartening to see two to five years olds starting their education on our premises - the room behind the stage is a joy to behold.

Recently the main hall was re-roofed with insulation material added and the guttering and down pipes replaced, assisted by a major donation from the Residents' Association. The flat roofs will be stripped and replaced, too. Next we hope to improve the interior by remodelling the kitchen and toilets, adding facilities for the disabled. We hope to gain control of the disused Scout Hut behind the Hall before it deteriorates and intend to create a Millennium Garden. The first evergreen - a seven-foot holly - was planted on December 9th 1999.

Dorothy Brady - Chairman - Church Hall Committee

NEW LIFE MASIH GHAR

New Life Masih Ghar (Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu for "Home of Christ") started in August 1997 in a home in the Norwood Green area. We are now a multi-cultural group of about forty South Asians, Americans and English people who come together on a Sunday afternoon in St. Mary's Church Hall to worship Christ together. Our vision statement is to "experience, celebrate and spread the life-changing love of Christ through Scripture, friendship and community".

We also have a regular parent and toddler group on Tuesday afternoons and a women's Bible Study group on Wednesday mornings, as well as a variety of different youth activities during the week. We plan to start a regular "life of Jesus" course this year. Our prayer is that we can become a home and blessing to the people of the area whatever their race or religious background. We are grateful to St. Mary's Church for their partnership in this work and the provision of their Hall for our activities. For further details please phone me on 020 8571 5503.

Sunil Raheja

SCOUTS - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The picture dates from about 1967 and shows the Scout Band crossing the Green on their way to Church. Pictured are Richard Beckett, Jeff. Lawrence, Stephen Wakeman, Gerald Brown, Mark Lambert, John Freebody, Colin Stewart, John Walker, Michael Uff and Adrian Cuss.



Jeff Lawrence now lives in Kwa Zulu, Natal in South Africa and owns and runs Hawklee Country House at Midlands Meander. His father and mother died recently -they ran the Parents Committee of the Scouts and raised the money to build the Scout Hut. Steve Wakeman has sold his Publishing Company in South Africa and he and Pearlina are living in India. Mark Lambert (son of the late Rector, Revd. Bernard Lambert) works for one of the major Banks and lives at Yateley, near Camberley. Michael Uff still lives locally. Where are the others now?

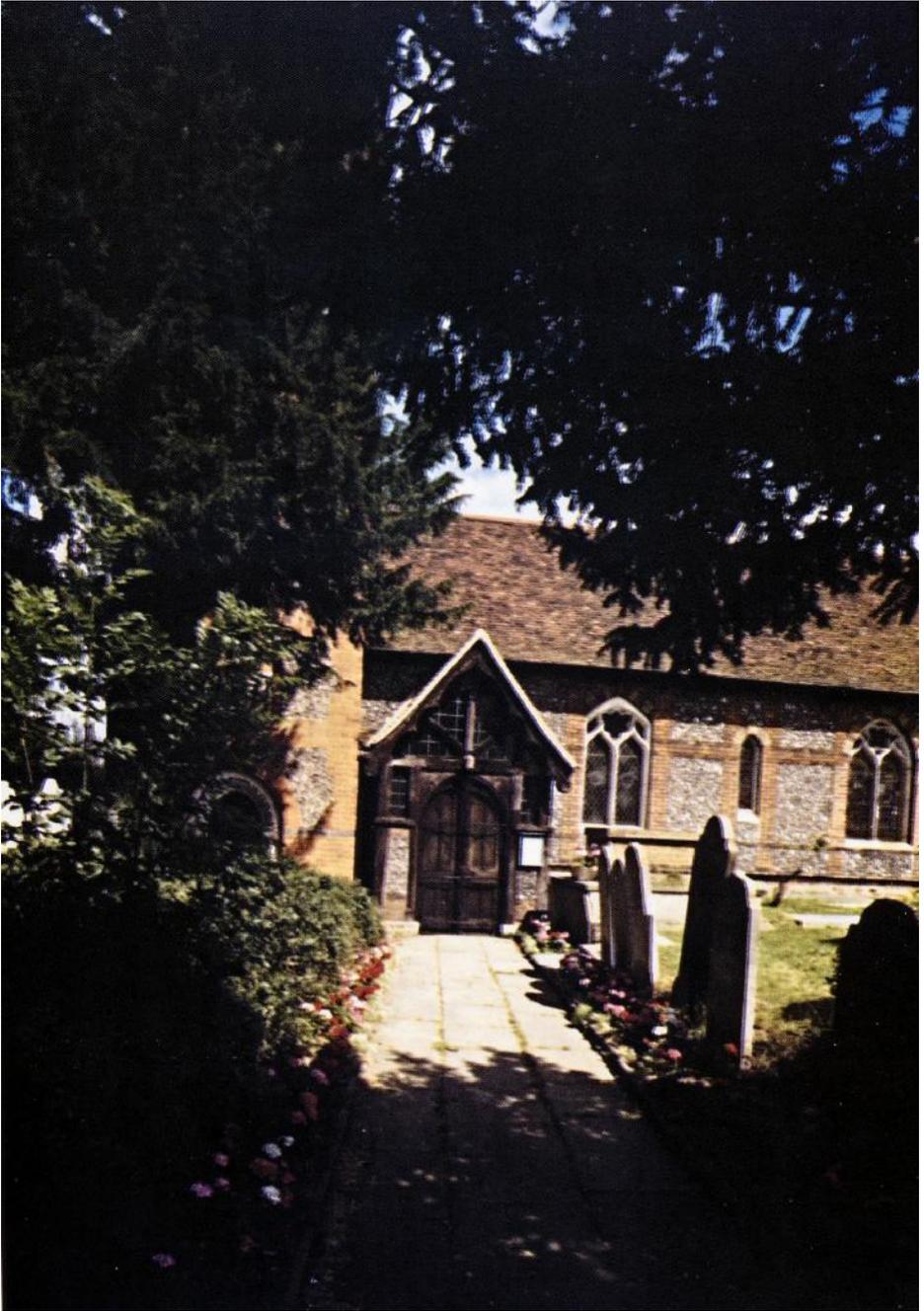
Geoff. Wakeman



(top) The Old Biscoe School, Tentelow Lane

(bottom) The Almshouses, Norwood Road

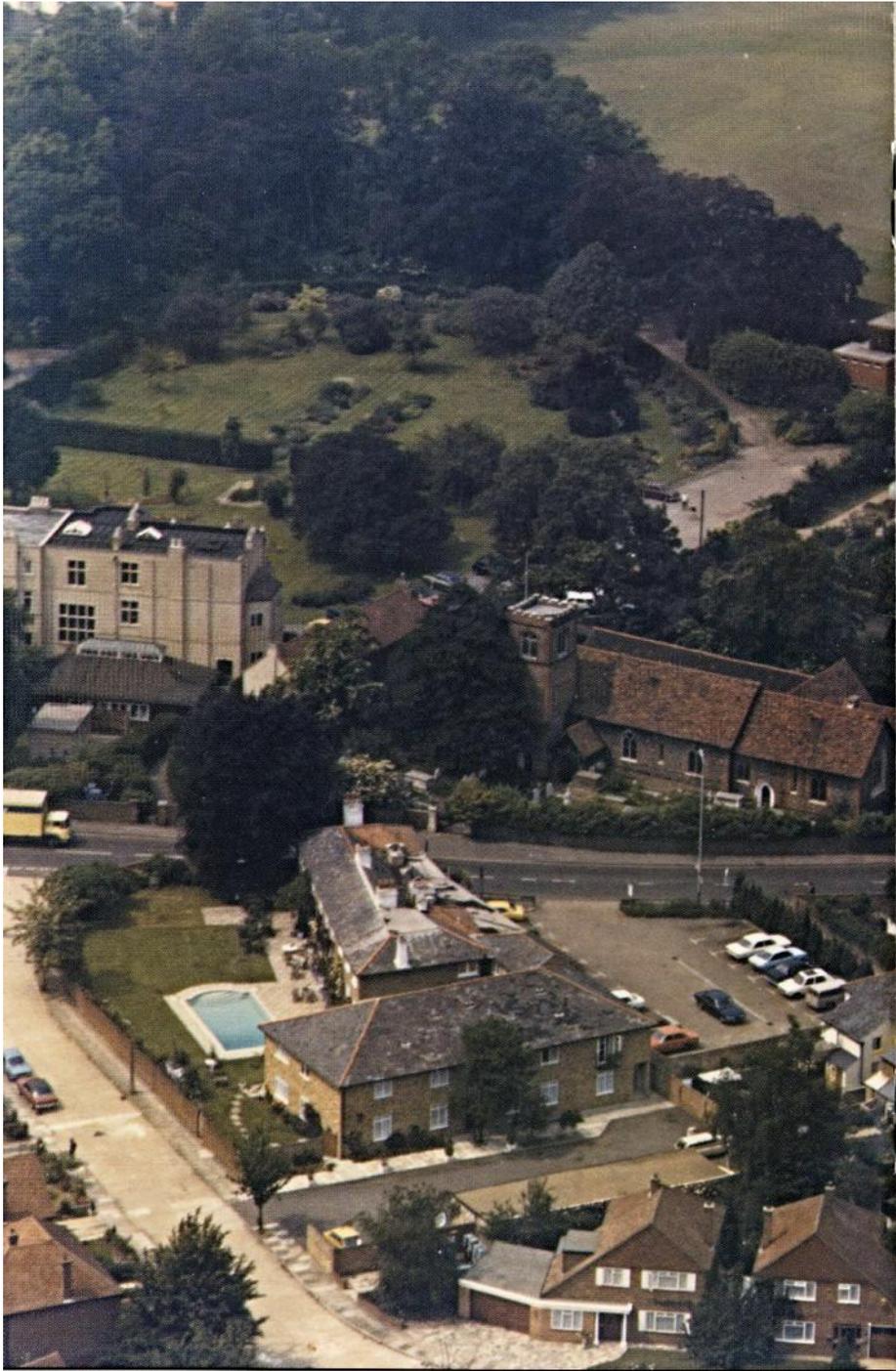




St Mary's Church, Tentelow Lane



St Mary's Church Hall, Norwood Green Road







(previous page); Aerial view of Tentelow Lane, showing Norwood Hall, St. Mary's Church, the Plough, the Bowls Club and the old Biscoe School

(these pages); The Horticultural Society Summer Show -

*(above) - A winning front garden
(right) - Art classes
(facing pages) - Setting up and flower classes*







*Village Day : The Taekwon-Do display
and the Women's Institute Stall*



TAEKWON-DO

The Taekwon-do school at St. Mary's Church Hall was established in October 1990 and classes have been held regularly ever since in the Hall. The Students registered at the school have mainly come from Norwood Green and the surrounding areas. The school welcomes all members of society irrespective of age, sex, colour and religion. The art of Taekwon-do is universal and it belongs to everyone.

Taekwon-do put simply is a version of unarmed combat designed for the purpose of self-defence; it is the scientific use of the body in the method of self-defence, a body that has gained the ultimate use of its faculties through intensive physical and mental training.

Taekwon-do can be practiced individually or in groups without the use of weights or special equipment. Since the body sets its own limits, injuries or strains are rare. The entire muscle system of the body from the fingers to the toes is brought into play. Constant repetition teaches patience and the resolve to overcome any difficulty. The power generated from one's body develops the self-confidence to overcome any obstacle and challenges at any place and in any situation.

Pattern teaches flexibility, grace, balance and co-ordination while the fundamental exercises develop precision. There is little time for petty prejudices while sharing the camaraderie and Spartan training atmosphere of taekwon-do. Through severe training classes, one learns to communicate with the obvious result that racial barriers are stripped away. The harmonious exchange of Taekwon-do between races certainly helps to eradicate the unfortunate lack of understanding that often exists between people.

Taekwon-do aims to promote moral culture and to become such a person one has to first find oneself and acquire a moral character which is respected by all and this can only be achieved by constant practice of mental discipline. It thus helps to develop humanity, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and trust.

J S Khera

NORWOOD GREEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Norwood Green Women's Institute was formed in 1985 and some of the founder members are still actively involved with the Institute. Our afternoon meetings comprise a visiting speaker, a competition (fun only), a raffle, tea and a chat. Outings are arranged on a regular basis. An annual event is the fund raising stall on Norwood Green and another fund raising event is held in the run up to Christmas

WI started in Canada in 1897 when Adelaide Hoodless, a farmer's wife from Stoney Creek, Ontario, believed that the death of one of her babies resulted from ignorance of hygiene and childcare. Subsequently she formed classes in Domestic Science and Homemaking, which snowballed into the worldwide organisation that we know today.

The Women's Institute is unique in having its own residential college of adult education: Denman College, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire that provides a range of courses from Sport and Leisure to Science and Technology. It is a gracious Georgianhouse with associated teaching blocks and bedroom areas, set in 17 acres of landscaped grounds, providing the perfect setting for a carefree break to study a particular interest. Two of the bedrooms have been specially adapted for people with disabilities and their carers.

All Women's Institute members are automatically members of the Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW) which is the largest international organisation of women offering mutual support, friendship and practical help. It also influences decision makers at all levels and is regularly consulted by the Government on major matters of social concern.

We have our own magazine "Home and Country" and the Middlesex WI New where we exchange information and ideas with other institutes. Regular events take place and most interests are catered for - sport, art and craft, singing, drama, gardening etc. Our latest slogan is A MODERN VOICE FOR WOMEN.

The Women's Institute meets on the second Monday in the month at St Mary's Church Hall from 2 - 4 p.m. The Gardening Group meets on the third Monday at the same venue and the same hours. New members are always welcome.

Betty Richardson

FAMILY DENTAL SURGERY, NORWOOD ROAD

I took over my dental practice from Mr Tan about four years ago, after four years elsewhere. One of the attractions to me of coming to Norwood Green was the quiet and peaceful neighbourhood, in contrast to the surrounding towns of Southall, Hounslow and Ealing.

In the four years (which have been very busy for me) I have noted continuing change with the "barriers" with the bordering towns breaking down. There is a growth in population and a considerable increase in traffic.

Having said that I find that the special atmosphere of Norwood Green has been maintained and the work of the Residents' Association, and in particular Village Day, help to maintain the unity among the population. I very much appreciate the welcome which I have received and I hope that the spirit of Norwood Green will long continue.

Rajesh K Aggarwal

MONOREP - 30 YEARS IN NORWOOD GREEN

I have been asked on many occasions why a Vauxhall Garage is tucked away in a corner of Norwood Green. It all started in 1970 when Monorep was based in an industrial estate in Hanwell. We had won a contract with British Airways to repair and repaint their commercial fleet. We urgently required a site with a large yard and light industrial usage rights.

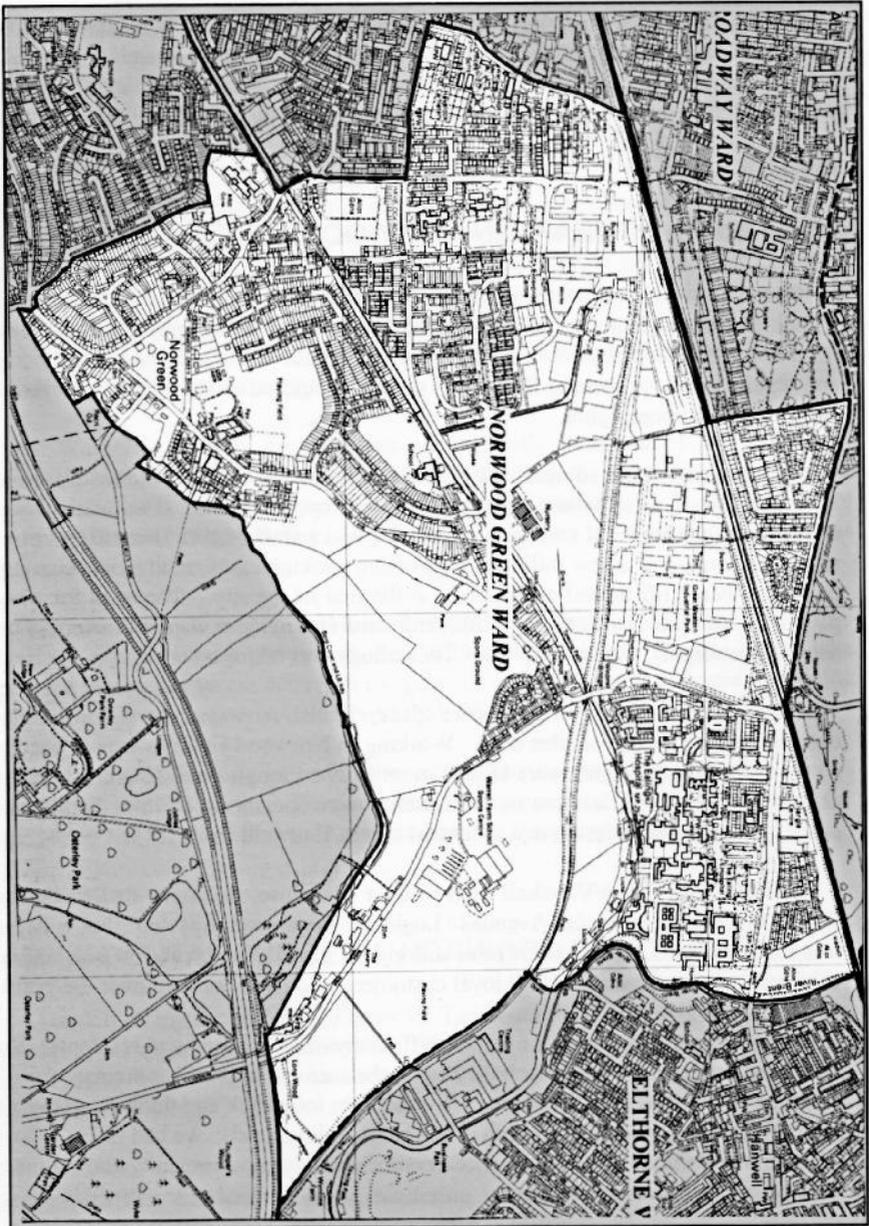
A local estate agent advised us that a local company, Southall Wooden Case Co. in Norwood Green, were willing to let space on a temporary basis. Two weeks later we arrived with a mixture of commercial vehicles and a staff of six. For many years the site had operated as a saw mill making wooden packing cases, with wood arriving by barge and being off loaded at the wharf at the rear of the site. The need for wooden packing cases was fast declining with cardboard and modern cheaper materials being used for packaging, shrink wrap etc. - Technology was taking over!

Slowly over the years we took more space; British Airways contract complete, we concentrated on repairs to cars only. Working in Norwood Green was now becoming a way of life, Friday nights were always spent in The Plough discussing the week's ups and downs, many lunch hours in the Summer were spent with the lads fishing in the canal. Nobody was missing that industrial unit in Hanwell!

In 1979 when Opel/Vauxhall offered us a Franchise, decisions had to be made. Would it work from Poplar Avenue? Logically the answer was 'no', but a decision was made to build a small showroom and give it a go. Last year 750 new and used vehicles were sold, many to local loyal customers who have returned over the years.

Now, 30 years on, we have over 90 staff, many of whom are local residents. So many customers tell us how much they enjoy the surroundings and appreciate the effort taken to blend in with the area. I sometimes look back and think we made a smart business decision, but in truth it was hearts ruling heads; we had fallen in love with Norwood Green - a unique environment where nature, community and business have blended in harmony together.

Peter McKay - Managing Director



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Map showing the boundaries of the new Norwood Green election ward (recent housing developments are not shown)

THE NEW "NORWOOD GREEN" ELECTION WARD

Many years ago Norwood Green and Southall were two separate communities; with Norwood Green, then known as just Norwood, being just a small village around its Parish Church. This state continued until the great building boom of the 1920's and 1930's that filled all the spaces between them, so that it became impossible by observation to determine where the boundaries existed.

Later, in 1935, when Southall became a Borough in its own right, it absorbed Norwood Green and the new borough was known as Southall-Norwood. Later still, in 1965, when Ealing became a giant borough, Southall was just a location in the new borough, and Norwood Green fell off the political map, and did not even have a ward or councillor in its own name.

It is now planned to correct this matter and to have a Norwood Green electoral ward with three Councillors to look after its well being. Admittedly it will include some areas north of the canal, but at least the name continues. It might easily have disappeared, except as the identification of a triangular piece of grass.

The resurrection and recognition of the area has come about because there is a Central Government body called "The Local Government Commission for England" whose job is to fix the shape and size of all 386 local authorities in the whole country. It has been sorting out Ealing for 16 months, and now has issued its final recommendations.

The boundaries of all the wards in the London Borough of Ealing will be altered and many names changed. There will be a new Norwood Green ward obtained by decreasing the size of the existing Glebe and Dormers Wells wards. The Western Industrial Estate and the Ealing Hospital are within the boundaries of our new ward.

The name *NORWOOD GREEN* will now be back on the Ealing map from which it has been absent for many years. The new Councillors should provide a direct link with the entire Borough's administrative departments to ensure that requests, suggestions and complaints receive timely response.

Bob Willsher

NORWOOD GREEN BOWLS CLUB

The name of Norwood Green Bowls Club came into being in 1968 by the amalgamation of two clubs, i.e. the Southall Fraternity Bowls Club, which was based at the present location, and the Hanwell Bowls Club which was based at the old Park Hotel

in Church Road, Hanwell W7. Sadly the Brewery decided to sell off the Park Hotel and its grounds for redevelopment. Fortunately a merger of the two Clubs was agreed, so Norwood Green Bowls Club was born.

The Southall Fraternity Bowls Club had been formed in January 1935 and moved to The Plough bowling green in May 1955 at a rental of £40 per annum; it is minuted that this was an unique achievement at the time On record is an invoice from A.F. Pannell R.H.S. dated March 1970 for maintaining the bowling green for a season at a charge of £115 - how times have changed. Some of the chemicals used for one treatment against Fusarium disease can cost as much as £96 per litre today.

Green maintenance is an essential factor in keeping a good quality bowling surface throughout the season, which lasts from April to the end of September. It is necessary to cut the green three times a week, spike the green fortnightly, scarify every three weeks, apply fertiliser on four occasions during the season, and, if the weather becomes hot and dry, it is most important to keep the green watered to prevent it from drying out and so losing the grass. Although the bowling season lasts only from April to September, the maintenance goes on for twelve months, and the winter work is just as important as that at any other time because it lays down the foundation for a successful season ahead.

I am sure that most readers will have heard of the game of Bowls, very often described as a game for the elderly, but nothing is further from the truth - Yes, you can play the game when getting on in years, but the earlier you start, the more adept you become and your own personal skill can become quite high, even up to County standard. More and more young people are taking up the game as can be seen in all the televised matches. Another good thing about Bowls is that women can become equally as proficient as men, because physical strength plays no part in the game There is a very enjoyable social side to Bowls, playing matches against other clubs in a friendly atmosphere. We would welcome applications from more local residents wishing to inquire about membership. A coaching scheme is arranged at the beginning of each season, with a qualified tutor available.

The Club adjoins The Plough. How many Norwood Green residents remember Mr F.H. Dean who was Licensee at the time of the merger, and whose family had been in occupation of The Plough for over one hundred years?

In conclusion, a warm welcome is always extended to visitors. Watching a match can be enjoyable especially with the supply of tea and biscuits, so - feel free to call in and say Hello!!

John Brown

CROSSLANDS SURGERY

Dr. W. Crawford established a Practice at the current premises, 1 Crosslands Avenue, in 1936. Dr. F. Millar joined him in 1946. Dr. Millar continued in General Practice until 1969 when Dr. Dennis Mendel took over. In 1984 Dr. David Mendel joined his father in the Practice. Dr. Mendel (Senior) retired in 1991 and his replacement was Dr. Kalpana Sharma.

Planning permission to modernise and extend was granted in 1993 and the two partners employ assistant GP's to help meet the demand of the growing local population. The partners have also been selected to be responsible for part of the training process for aspiring junior doctors. There are three part-time Practice Nurses and a very busy administrative staff of Practice Manager, Secretary, Receptionists and accountant. It makes one wonder what Dr. Crawford would say about the dramatic change in General Practice since his day.

The entire team works happily and well together and indeed depends on each other in their care for about 6000 patients. Most of the team live locally and join in enthusiastically in Community events, tactfully looking the other way when "unsuitable" foods and beverages are indulged in on fete days!

Vourneen Gleeson



Norwood Green Care Centre, Tentelow

1ST CHOICE SPORTS & LEISURE

Well, what can we say about this wonderful 32 acres of the countryside everybody knows as the Osterley Sports Club? I have conducted some research, and as far as I am led to believe, the following is the history and events to the present day.

These 32 acres of fields and woodland were originally part of the Earl of Jersey's estates. The Earl of Jersey sold off a slice of his land that covered not only the Osterley Sports Club, but also what we now know as Wolsey Close as well as where the horses grazed. The purchaser called Osterley Tudor Estates obtained planning permission for Wolsey Close, but the other applications failed.

Osterley Rugby Football Club was founded in 1922 and started to play at Wyke Farm. After playing at various places they started negotiations to buy the Tentelow Lane site in 1956 from Tudor Holdings, but after a few months of negotiations they failed to reach agreement. The negotiations restarted in 1958 and concluded in 1959 and the Osterley Rugby Football & Sports Club Ltd. was formed to administer the work on the ground and the Clubhouse. They built the Groundsman's house in 1964. The Club then had many varying ups and downs and, after many avenues had been explored, the club now known as Osterley Sports Club came into the hands of its present owner Dr. A. Kambay.

1st Choice Sports & Leisure came into being at the end of March 1999 and decided to try and awaken this sleeping giant and create a sports centre that would not only interest the highest quality sports persons, but also involve the local community.

The planned refurbishment programme continually gets extended due to the changing requirements of the various activities that are staged at the Club. We can boast some top sports persons in our midst, including a World Champion Squash player, World Champion Boxer & England International Kick Boxer.

Let us not forget the local schools and youth, the birthplace and future of sport. Unfortunately the local authorities, due to cut-backs and selling off school sports grounds, leave school children's education in the world of sport to places like 1st Choice. It would be good to see our first Olympic champion from the Club one day.

Dave Wheeler

NORWOOD GREEN ACADEMY OF DANCING

Norwood Green Academy of Dancing celebrated sixty years in 1996 and Miss Crouch (Wilson) was the Principal. She taught me since the age of five and I have many happy memories of classes in St. Mary's Church Hall. Sadly Miss Crouch (Wilson) passed away in January 1999.

I bought the school three years ago, and renamed it "*Rowena Julia's Academy of Dance*". I have carried classes through, as they always were, in St. Mary's Church Hall. R.J.A.D. offers children in and around the area of Norwood Green the chance to express themselves in Ballet, Tap, Modern and Drama dance. The school follows The British Arts Syllabus, of which the Principal is a qualified teacher. In the future, the school hopes to offer Ballet classes in The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (I.S.T.D.), of which the Principal is also an Associate.

Pupils come and enjoy classes on a weekly basis, and the school is still growing. Pupils very much enjoy performing on the Green for Village Day even if it is raining. Each year pupils take part in the school's annual show, which gives them a chance to choreograph items of their own. They also enter yearly competitions, and on many occasions items have reached The London Finals which are held in Hammersmith. This not only gives the children confidence but the chance to perform to the general public. Children from the age of ten also have the chance, once a year, to attend classes offered by The British Arts, giving them the opportunity to meet new friends and learn from different teachers. These classes are also held in London. Pupils are never too young or too old to learn to dance. R.J.A.D. has children from the age of three upwards, and as long as the children enjoy themselves, that is the main thing. We never know but we may turn out a prima ballerina in Norwood Green one day!

Rowena J Watts



THREE BRIDGES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Who would have imagined that since our school was built in 1953, it would have had three different names: - Top Locks, George Tomlinson and now Three Bridges. Certainly in the eighteen years I have been head teacher here there have been numerous changes in both the school and the community it serves. It would have been difficult to predict back in 1982 the effect computers would have on learning, that the age range of the school would change to three to eleven years and a new Nursery be built. That the school would need a new roof and some £150,000 would be spent on providing a new library and other facilities. We appreciate the effort and hard work that has gone into enabling changes to go ahead and believe we have been very fortunate indeed. There is no doubt that the changes that have taken place have enhanced the educational provision here and added to what has always been considered locally as our greatest asset - our extensive grounds and sports provision.

On the evidence of the recent and rapid changes here at Three Bridges then what can we predict about the future? One thing is sure, we can't say what our school or any other will be like in fifty years time, or even if there will be schools and teachers, or if computers will have taken over the teaching role completely by then! Whatever happens our hope is that we never forget the importance of educating children for their future.

I believe the path ahead will indeed be exciting, demanding and challenging for all who are part of it, and that it will be up to all of us to make it what we want it to be. At Three Bridges we will continue to provide our children with a caring, high standard educational environment in which they can learn to meet the demands of the years ahead. We are always more than happy to receive new pupils and their parents, as well as help and support from the community in general, so why not join us and help us meet the challenge of the new Millennium?

David Price - Head Teacher

WOLF FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wolf Fields First School amalgamated with Wolf Fields Middle School in September 1993 to form Wolf Fields Primary School. At the same time the local authority reorganised the Education Service in Ealing by reverting to the age of eleven for the age of transfer to secondary school. Wolf Fields School has now been open for twenty years as the first pupils were admitted in September 1979.

The school is a two form entry school with a large Nursery attached. Although the majority of its pupils are resident in the London Borough of Ealing, a

significant proportion lives in Hounslow. In recent years the school has contributed to the Local Community with charity events. The Harvest Thanksgivng goods collected are distributed to the old and needy in the immediate neighbourhood. The school continues to support the Poppy appeal, Jeans for Genes day and each year there is a sponsored event for charity which raises over £1000 for a good cause.

The school, which has allotments next to it, has joined with the Southall Food Growing project to grow its own fruit and vegetables. The children plant seeds and grow food which is taken home.

Children from the school go out on many trips and as we are members of the National Trust, good use is made of Osterley House and its grounds.

NORWOOD HALL

In 1802 Sir John Soane designed Norwood Hall for his friend and business partner John Robins, who would be described today as a successful property developer and who lived in the house until his death in 1831.

The Unwin family moved into the Hall in the latter part of the 19th century and altered and extended it considerably. Despite its altered appearance the Hall is still, even today, recognisably a Soane building.

By the middle of the 19th century the Ordnance Survey map of the area shows the gardens of the Hall to consist of greenhouses, a walled garden, paths, ponds and two orchards; the grazing lands belonging to the property extended right up to where Poplar Avenue is today and were separated from the formal gardens by a haia.

The Unwins sold off most of the estate for housing and in 1946 the Hall and the remaining gardens, 19 acres in all, were bought by the Middlesex County Council. Since then the property has remained in public ownership and for some years was a successful horticultural college whose graduates were widely sought for famous gardens worldwide.

Today Norwood Hall is an Ealing Tertiary College offering a wide choice of subjects to its students, but basically it still remains an Institute of Horticultural Education.

Peggy Ivie

NORWOOD GREEN FLORAL ART CLUB

The Club was founded in September 1966 and has held most of its meetings since that time in Norwood Hall. Owing to reorganisation etc. at the Hall it was necessary to move the Club's venue to St. Mary's Church Hall in January 1999. Members meet on the second Friday of each month at 2 p.m.

It remains a very friendly club consisting of experienced flower-arrangers as well as members who have only ever placed a few flowers in a vase! What unites everyone is the appreciation of the art of flower arranging. Visitors are always welcome. An experienced demonstrator is booked for each club meeting and every demonstration is different.

Local members of the Club are on a weekly rota for arranging flowers in St. Mary's Church. Once a year, on the eve of Village Day, the Club meets in the Church and everyone gives a hand in decorating the Church for the following day. *"LET THERE BE LIGHT"* was the theme decided on by everyone for the 1999 displays. An appropriate hope for the new Millennium.

Maureen Ramsden - Chairman



Parade of shops, Tentelow Lane

THE PLOUGH INN, NORWOOD GREEN

The late 14th century, during the reign of King Edward III, was a period of great political, economic and social unrest. It was at this time that Edward started the 100 Years War against France; Parliament was gaining in power; the greater Church was largely corrupt; there was unrest in the countryside and England suffered the terrible catastrophe of the great plague, the "Black Death" in which the population was reduced from about four million to little more than two million.

In the area known as "Norwude" in 1349, a small inn was built to provide accommodation and sustenance for the men building St. Mary's Church opposite, and it was named The Plough. 650 years later, near the Green, the Plough Inn is still going strong. The oldest public house in the region, it is understood to be one of Fuller, Smith and Turner's first establishments (17th century).

There has been a sea-change in the perception of what constitutes a public house in the last ten to twenty years - "theme pubs", bars, restaurant/pubs etc. Featured many times in CAMRA Good Beer Guide, this "country pub in an urban setting" has been sympathetically refurbished and expanded through the years, whilst retaining its intrinsic qualities and family feel.

Nowadays more parents wish to bring their children out with them, especially on a sunny Summer's day. To facilitate this the large garden, recently awarded a certificate from the Brewery, is particularly welcome, with its toys and playground facilities. In the Summer of 1999 the garden featured strongly as the venue for a very successful "Fun Day", raising over £2000 for a children's charity. Many local businesses and individuals all helped to achieve this.

Sport is often a feature of a traditional pub's ethos. If not actually run by the house itself, teams have always used their "local" as an unofficial club house - the venue for the pre-match assembly and post-match celebration (or debriefing as to why they, unluckily, lost). The Plough is no exception, playing host to The Old Southallians Football Club (established in 1920) and the Ploughmen Cricket Club. It has a flourishing darts team with several trophies of which to boast, and is also used by local rugby players and members of the adjacent bowls club.

What of the new Millennium? It would be pleasant to think that, when we are able to take a break from sitting in front of our VDU screens, communicating by E-mail or www.coms, we will still be able to find a haven where we can meet, talk, laugh, make friends, eat good food - all over a welcome drink.

David Beattie

CHRONOLOGY CONTINUATION

One of the features in "*A Story of Norwood Green*" was the Chronology, where news items from the Journals were extracted year by year from 1932 to 1982.

I have been Editor of the Journal since 1984. I inherited from my predecessor, Charles Coyne, a copy of every one from Volume 1, number 1, and I have brought the Chronology up to date.

- 1983** In July PC Rae was appointed Crime Prevention Officer for Nowood Green. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme followed soon afterwards. Work on the Three Bridges mini roundabout started on November 28th.
- 1984** Sunday September 15th was the 125th anniversary of Brunel's Three Bridges. A Victorian Fair including Boat Trips on the Canal, Donkey Rides, Punch and Judy, Tennis and Croquet matches were all part of the celebrations. A steam train ran between Southall and Brentford, and the Mayor arrived on a barge. The Bells of St. Mary's Church were heard on Radio 4 on Remembrance Sunday.
- 1985** The Norwood Green Residents' Association was very concerned about heavy lorries using Three Bridges. Mr Christiansen's house "Maplecroft" was demolished and twelve flats "Greensleeves House" built. The Reverend Neil Pollock set up "The Friends of Norwood Church" Committee to raise funds to deal with wet and dry rot in the flooring, and Death Watch Beetle in the roof beams. John Haywood, one of our younger members of the Committee, and a night worker, led a one-man drive to photograph rubbish dumpers in the evening and early morning.
- 1986** The famous Norwood Green tea towels went on sale in aid of Church funds and 1500 of them are still being used in the area. Plans to use the allotment site in Tentelow Lane for a housing estate fell through. It remains an eyesore apart from the N.G.H.S. Store Hut.
- 1987** Osterley Park Action Group was formed to fight Wates' plan for Osterley Park development. Official slogan - "*Don't turn our Park into a Wates' land*". Fund raising began on a grand scale so that we could brief a top Barrister for the November Inquiry. The "Great Storm" on October 16th caused havoc in parts of our village.

- 1988** By early Summer, O.P.A.G. was able to report that Wates had abandoned their scheme to develop Osterley Park. The Glade Lane Nursery was opened to the public and proved very popular. Later it became part of the new "Countryside Park".
- 1989** The new Store Hut in Tentelow Lane was built for the N.G.H.S. and John Peck was in charge of construction. Aircraft noise, especially when the wind was from the east, becoming a problem.
- 1990** A cocktail party in the Police Station, with an exhibition of Police uniforms from about 1900, balls and chains etc., marked the Centenary of Norwood Green Police Station. Then the Mayor was manacled and marched along to Village Day to declare it officially open. Travellers were dismissed from Windmill Lane and huge tree trunks placed along the verge to prevent further encampments.
- 1991** M.E.P.C. announce a £1,000,000 plan to develop Osterley Park. O.P.A.G. still have £25,000 as a Capital Fund to defend the Green Belt. Southall Neighbourly Care now well established and doing wonderful work for the elderly in the area. Dr. Dennis Mendel attended our Dinner/Dance as an honoured guest to mark his retirement after twenty-three years in Norwood Green.
- 1992** M.E.P.C. proposed to build a housing estate, light industry complex, new Golf Course and an Equestrian Centre. A 29,000-signature petition was handed to the London Borough of Hounslow at a full meeting of the authority.
- 1993** M.E.P.C. withdraw their plans for Osterley Park, but the Earl of Jersey still hoped to sell part of his estate. May Barnett became our new President. Inspector Beckley of Norwood Green Police Station and George Twyman both addressed the Annual General Meeting to everyone's satisfaction.
- 1994** In the Spring we held another of our "get-togethers" in the Church Hall. Our President devised a "History of Norwood Green" quiz, which was won by Miss Elsie Fowler. This was followed by a "Lovely Legs" competition won by Rosemary Godsell. The campaign for and against Terminal 5 at Heathrow began.

- 1995** Jim Noakes resigned from the Committee after many years of devoted service to the community. After lying empty for some time, Ealing Council sold "The Cedars" so that the new owners could build a Private Nursing Home on the site. Diwali "Festival of Light", and "Guy Fawkes" spread over the early November period and meant a noisy time for Norwood Green.
- 1996** A memorable evening in the Church Hall when we honoured Ethne Manders aged 100 and our President, May Barnett, aged 90. 125 members and old friends attended. Top Locks bridge badly damaged by a lorry.
- 1997** January 21st - we have a new Priest in Charge at St. Mary's when the Reverend Leslie Lawrence took over, and we all wish him well. Two huge Housing Association developments in Have-lock Road and Glade Lane are starting and should be completed by June 1999. John Boyer retired as Head of Neighbourhood Watch after seven valiant years. Geoff. Wakeman will take his place and has promised to continue John's tradition of a monthly Report to our Committee. The Church took over the running of Village Day.
- 1998** The Evening Standard ran an appreciative article on Norwood Green on March 31st. The Summer coach trip to Broadstairs was not a great success, but the Southall Operatic Company organised a superb concert and supper in the Church Hall in January.
- 1999** Much concern about traffic problems in Wimborne Avenue. Ealing Council is planning a "shake-up" of the Borough's traffic schemes. The new "Countryside Park" in Glade Lane is now functioning. Your Committee has allocated a sum of money for a Millennium supplement to "A Story of Norwood Green" with Alan Sabey as Editor.
- 2000** "Norwood Green in the Year 2000" published!!

Compiled by Colin Cracknell

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Rowena Julia's Academy of Dance

gives children in Norwood Green and the surrounding areas the chance to learn and enjoy many types of dance. Children have the chance to appear in local shows and always dance on Village Day whatever the weather. They gain confidence by appearing in front of an audience.

The school's principal, Rowena Watts, trained at Norwood Green Academy and also attended dance college. She is now a fully qualified teacher with the British Arts, and an Associate of the Imperial Society of Teachers Dancing.

Children take regular classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern, and now Drama. They are encouraged to take exams and medal tests. The pupils also enter in competitions, and have on many occasions reached the semi-finals. The school has just put on its first full scale production in a theatre, and thoroughly enjoyed performing to an audience. The show was entered for the British Arts display award and gained Commended standard. For details of how to join, or if you would just like to come and have a look, please contact Miss Rowena J Watts - 020 8574 8676

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