

STUTTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP JOURNAL

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STUTTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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WELCOME

Dear Members and Friends,

Yes, our second journal has been produced and you now have this valuable document within your possession. You can see once again it is full of interesting and stimulating articles and your committee are indebted to all these hard-working contributors. I know only too well how hard it is to settle down and put pen to paper and then have other people read your work; it is very difficult. So once again thank you to all those writers. To others needing encouragement, please have a go, it's not so bad once you get going!

The committee have asked me to mention several points, firstly the value of the parish boundary walks ably led yet again by our own inimitable Phillip Willis. Phillip has asked me to remind you all that the Parish Council has asked your local History Group to take over the task of walking the footpaths of Stutton. The committee were all in favour. Look out for details on Phillip's notices.

A tribute here to the late J. Wiseman who contributed so much to the records of the group by allowing access to his own documents and by sharing his vast knowledge of Stutton. We shall all miss him and his wonderful and wise sense of humour. We can only express our sincere condolences to the Wiseman family.

As I sat writing this letter I was shattered by the news of fire at Stutton House (see Ida's article). What can we say about the loss of such a magnificent home and historical house. Our sympathies too must go to the Brett family.

To more cheerful things. We have asked for your comments on articles written in the journals, not on their literary merit, that is unquestionable in Stutton, but on their historical accuracy and also if there are any additions that might be made to the historical content.

With this in mind I make an appeal from the school as 1985 is Stutton School's 150th Anniversary. Yes, there has been a school in Stutton, originally on the site of the Mission Room, since 1835. The request therefore is for any information, photographs, articles, school reports, books, paintings, models, in fact anything to cover the last 150 years of schooling at Stutton. We are, however, particularly interested in very early material as it is hoped to relive a week at school in 1835 dressing the children and teachers accordingly. Perhaps the odd little written story of your schooldays at Stutton would add to the proceedings. All contributions to me at school please with a request that they are carefully labelled with your name and address. My thanks in advance to all.

In the meantime I wish you all a good read of the journal and wish you a happy historical year.

Yours sincerely,

T. Stendall

CHAPEL

STUTTON CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Willis and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Willis were married at Stutton Chapel on Primrose Day, 19th April, 1919. They had their wedding reception in the Willis home standing across the Green opposite Crepping Hall, the house being one of the tenements built in the latter part of the 19th century. Sam Willis and May Elizabeth, his wife, made their first home in Rose Cottage in Lower Street sharing it with Mr. and Mrs. Whinney. Later on they moved up to the Ancient House which was two tenements. Here my elder brother and I were born. It was the year 1923. I remember living in this house, a sister and another brother were born and as the house was no longer large enough we moved to Watts House which stood at the back of Rose Cottage, the first home of our parents.

It is from this very early childhood that memories of the Chapel have lingered, impressions that have stayed constant. Family life was centred around it. In those days it was the Wesleyan Chapel and was so written on the notice board outside, the words on a background of green paint.

Soon after we were born we would be taken up to the Chapel and Christened, this was when our parents made the vows for us, to be brought up in the Christian Faith and as soon as they thought we should go, we were sent along to the Sunday School, before this our names would be put on the Cradle Roll which hung in the School Room.

This was life in the early part of this century. Sunday would come along, the day when we wore our best clothes. I remember my Dad cooking breakfast. It was bacon and fried bread, bacon was always cheap on Saturday night in Ipswich. Shops stayed open till eight and Dad would bring home a side, and I suppose that is why we had it. The bacon would be fried, then the bread, I can see it now, first of all dip it in the water before putting it in the pan on the top of the big iron black leaded stove set back in the chimney recess. The heat from the fire and as the wet slice of bread hit the hot fat we would step back in case the pan caught fire, the hiss it would make, we would lick our lips as we got up the table that stood in the centre of the living room which was also kitchen. When all was quiet, we would say or sing the Grace "Be present at our Table Lord" then we could eat.

Soon it would be off to Sunday School and Chapel, we had a choice of ways, through Gardenfield (Stutton Close) this was the back way or we could go up Lower Street (known then as Church Road) which was the front way, reaching Warners Corner (Barnfield), a choice of going up Shop Road or through Hyams Lane and across the cornfield, in summer the corn would be above us but the path was good, always led us to the Chapel up the other end of the Village.

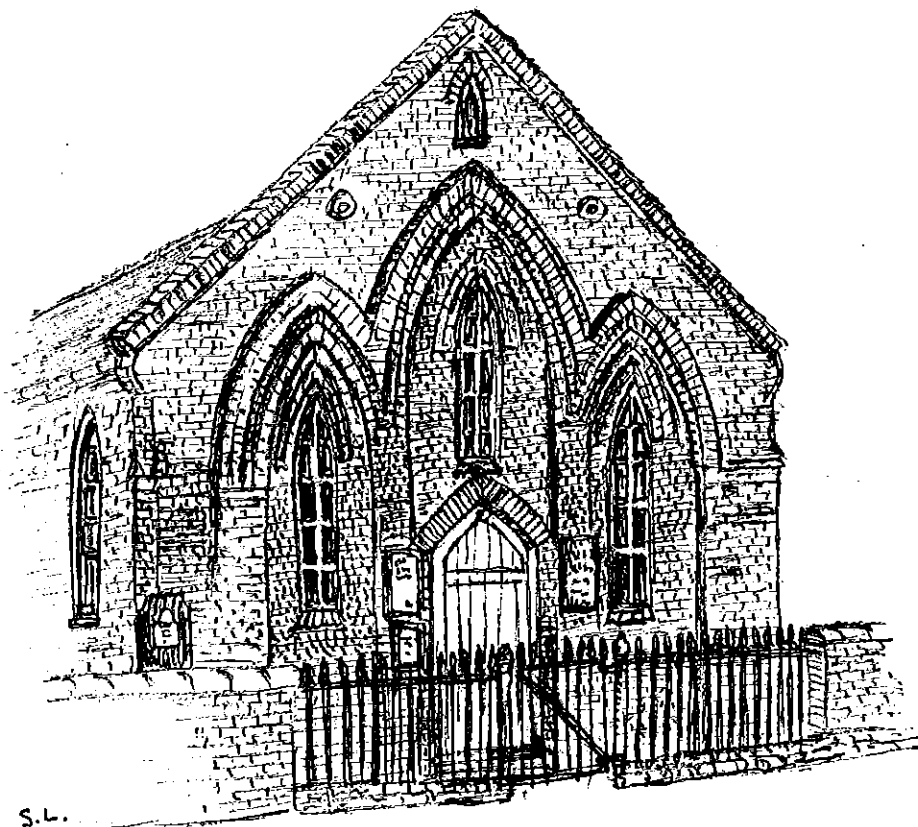
It is said the Chapel was built upon a pond but we do know there was a pond opposite; a little towards the east of this pond site is a brick wall, this is part of the three bay shed where my Dad used to put his bike when he came to Morning Service and also others. Nearby was the Butcher's Shop, the door opening into the road had frosted and blue glass. This has all since been pulled down. Opposite on the same side as the Chapel is Stanton House with various outbuildings.

Next to the Chapel on the Western side are Chapel Cottages (three tenements), thatch dwellings built in the 16th century.

Sunday School was twice a day, 10.00 a.m. in the morning and about 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon. I know we used to have time for a walk before tea-time and back again to Evening Service.

Leaving Sunday School by the school room door we would walk along the side of the building and enter the Chapel from the front. The aisles were on the outer side of the pews. Turning right we would walk past the big iron stove, black leaded and round it had a cast iron flue reaching up and along the gable and out in the centre of the roof, a similar one was in the S.E. corner near the Pulpit. We were now walking up towards the front. Number 14, this was three from the front, and was the Squires Pew in earlier times and had a large piece cut out from the book ledge - apparently he was a big man. There was also a cupboard underneath for books. We shared this pew with another family at first, a Mr. and Mrs. Johnson with children and workmen from Stutton Mill near the river but they moved to another pew when our family became larger, and I remember when we were all there, there were eight of us.

The organ was in the centre of the pews at the front facing the congregation. On each side was the orchestra stalls. I remember my Grandfather playing the Cello and Uncle George the Violin, there were more instruments in earlier times. There was no Communion Rail in those days.



Once in the Chapel we would sit still and wait for others to settle in their pews, the string instruments could be heard as they were tuned. It was awful if anyone was to fidget and so a climax was being reached for the entrance of the Stewards and Preacher.

Just before they came through from the School Room, Dad would come up the aisle, then all was quiet, eyes would turn and wait for the door to open. Morning Worship was about to begin. When I think a while and remember those days, these memoirs have only just begun.

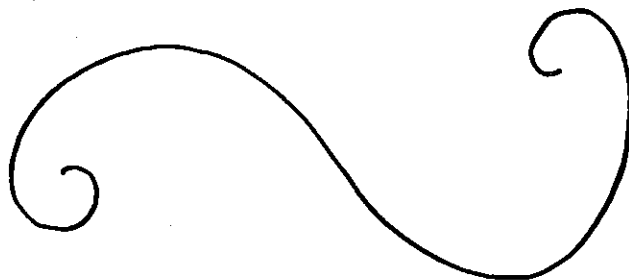
The Chapel with its stained dark oak pulpit and pews. Its hanging oil lamps, the orchestra stalls and the congregation. Families known to each one of us and the parts they played in the local community, people we met not just on Sunday but throughout the week.

Principal Members: Elijah Jarrold - Steward
 Ernest Cowels - Steward
 George Willis - Sunday School Superintendent
 Harry Haste - Ex-Sunday School Superintendent
 Mable Jarrold - Organist
 James Wheeler

Some families - Willis, Johnson, Robinson, Pepper, Cowles,
 Smee, Amos, Wheeler, Munson, Marshall, Whinney,
 Clarke.

To be continued.

Philip W. Willis
1983



INVESTIGATE

THIS OLD HOUSE Continued

We left the problem of trying to determine the date of the building of "The Grove" with the discovery of a Curate, the Reverend Alexander Woodd, living somewhere in Stutton at a time when the Rector, the Reverend Thomas Mills, occupied the Rectory (now Stutton House), and another Curate, the Reverend George Baker, lived in "The Chestnuts" (now Stutton Lodge). Coupled with the agreement among the older residents of the village that Curates had lived at "The Grove", this information seemed hopeful.

Another perusal of the manuscript left by the Hon. Mrs. Mills, wife of the Rector, detailed the following:

1859. August. Lady Octavia and Lady Wilhemina Legge laid the foundationstones of the Cottage intended for the residence of the Curate of the Parish. Bibles were presented by the Rector to the workmen, and the health of the young ladies was drunk in a bottle of wine.

This manuscript also notes the arrival of the Rev. Woodd as Curate in 1857, and then in 1858, January, it states

"Having accepted the Mastership of the endowed school at Wrexham in Denbighshire, the Reverend Alexander Woodd relinquished the Curacy of Stutton"

With two Curates in between, however, he resumes his duties as Curate in December, 1858. This would make sense of the building of a house for the Curate in 1859. One of the Directories which records his name mentions also that he was Chaplain to the House of Industry (the Workhouse) at Tattingstone, so another visit to the Record Office was used to consult some of the Workhouse records to discover whether or not the Reverend Woodd's house was recorded. To my surprise (and that of the assistant who had to push them on a trolley), these records are contained in very large, very heavy leather bound volumes which record in great detail, in beautiful copperplate handwriting, everything which concerned the lives of the inhabitants and staff. Everything, that is, except where in Stutton the Chaplain lived. It is interesting to discover, though, that he was appointed on 3rd February, 1859, at a salary of £60 per annum, after complaints had been made about the irregularity of the services conducted by his predecessor. Later on in the records a complaint against the Reverend Woodd was also investigated, this time that he had become too friendly with the School Mistress, but this complaint was found to be groundless!

The next step was to investigate the Glebe Terriers, which describe all the Church lands and properties, on the assumption that a house for the Curate would have been built on Church land, and we know from the 1844 Tithe Map that the site of "The Grove", Gravel Pit Field, was then owned by the Rector. Once again, a blank, as these Terriers are not complete, and another blank from investigation of the Electoral Roll for 1861 (the nearest date available). This is understandable, as qualification then for the vote was ownership of land and presumably the Curate was but a tenant.



Some of the Census Returns very helpfully give the names of houses or at least the roads or lanes, and in some others the enumerator follows a recognisable route, but the enumerators for Stutton rarely do either. It was worth re-examining them, however, and the 1861, the nearest to our presumed date of 1859, confirms that the Reverend Thomas Mills was living at the Rectory, the Reverend George Baker at The Chestnuts, and the Reverend Alexander Woodd, aged 45, lived at an unnamed address with Gifford S. Reade, aged 16, as a scholar and boarder, and Emma Chapman, aged 14, as a general servant. The 1871 Census shows our man living on his own, his name listed immediately after the Rector's on a list which seems to continue along Lower Street, so if the enumerator was moving logically, again this house is indicated. By 1881, unfortunately, when the names of houses or roads are used, the house after the Rectory is unoccupied, and there is no further mention of the Reverend Woodd.

In 1888, a Mrs. Ramsden is named in Directories as living at The Grove, followed in 1896 by a Miss Robinson, in 1901 Mr. Okeden (who built the addition), in 1908 Harold D'Arcy, 1912 Frederick Nunn, 1916 John Richard Blood Curtis, 1922 Colonel Charles Carnegie, followed we know by Mrs. Aspinall, Mrs. Packard, and Dr. Maclean, our immediate predecessor.

For the moment the trail is cold. Much has been discovered about the owners of the house, but its date is still uncertain. All the evidence points towards a date of 1859, and the more we consider it, the more convinced we are that it is correct, but there is as yet no concrete proof. What have we learnt? Never to trust verbal reminiscences, unless confirmed by written evidence, much about the workings of the Suffolk Record Office, and always to explore every possible avenue.

Have you investigated your house's history yet? Do try it, it's a fascinating venture.



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PRIVATE RECORDS

A HOLIDAY HOME IN STUTTON

Documents have just kindly been made available by Mrs. Richer showing details of the existence, between 1906 - 1915, of the Stutton Children's Home, built by Mrs. Colquhoun Reade of Crowe Hall, to provide holidays for children from poor parts of London. There are two books listing the children, their ages and addresses, and with comments upon their appearance, behaviour and suitability by the Matron of the Home, an inventory, an account book, and two books containing "letters" written by the children expressing their gratitude to Mrs. Reade and to those who cared for them during their stay.

The Home itself was the centre part of what is now called Crowe Hall Cottages, and seems to have been purpose built. There was a bedroom for the Matron, one for the maid, and two for the children one for each sex, each containing three iron beds and three "utensils". A Porch led into the ground floor, with a sitting room for Matron, a dining room, a playroom and a kitchen. The floors of Matron's rooms are noted as "entirely covered in lino", so we can assume that the other rooms had bare boards, though each bedroom except the maid's had a strip of carpet, and Matron's sitting room contains a Kensington square of carpet plus a hearthrug.

On the walls of the playroom were six pictures "of school subjects", while five more "of good subjects" covered the walls of the dining room. Matron had a separate set of blue china for her meals, while the children ate from an assortment of white, grey and blue dishes. They ate well; all the children comment on their good food, much of it fresh from the gardens of Crowe Hall, "I have had lovely food like a rich lady would", says one little girl. The account book shows that the most expensive item was a weekly bacon hock at a cost of between 9/- and 13/11, so it must have been a good size, as at the same time one bushel of potatoes cost 2/8, shrimps 4d and one stone of flour, bought from Stutton Mill, 1/8.

The children came from several schools and Churches in East London, mostly from Bethnal Green, but also from Poplar, Shoreditch, Notting Hill, and even one or two from Kensington. At first three boys arrived, then three girls, then four of each, but it soon settled down to a regular intake of three of each sex, the boys as a rule arriving and departing one day later than the girls. They travelled by train to Bentley Station (adult fare from Liverpool Street 5/4d), where Colonel Reade's trap was awaiting them. It must have seemed like a new world to them, with trees, and hedges, and flowers "which we never set eyes on in London", and nearly all comment upon the green fields and "no nasty, dirty, smokey chimneys".

Most of them, aged between six and thirteen, were in poor shape "all rags and tatters", "badly cared for, all rags". One boy boasted proudly that he had gained four pounds in weight between one visit and a second the following year, and this a twelve year old. But they responded to what the Matron called Dr. Fresh Air and Dr. Green Field, and could soon boast of gaining six pounds in the fortnight's stay.

Their routine was simple - a walk before breakfast, perhaps to collect the eggs and milk from Mrs. Robinson at Crowe Hall Farm, who

would find them a kitten to play with. Sometimes she scrubbed and washed at the Home for 1/3 a day plus 3d for beer. Breakfast itself was "two cupfulls of tea and as much bread and butter as I can eat". After this, a trip to Mrs. Reade's garden to collect vegetables and flowers, and then a morning on the beach, where they dug, and paddled, and made swings from ropes slung round low hanging tree branches. Some of the last children to stay, in 1914, heard "the men on the warships at Harwich fire the cannons, and it is like thunder". Dinner, again with "as much as we can eat", was followed by a long walk, sometimes to ~~Holbrook~~, where they "have to laugh at the big Police Station which would fit inside one room at Bethnal Green Police Station". Sometimes they went into the gardens of Crowe Hall, or picked blackberries, or went along the Drift to the pond. The time after tea was spent in the playroom, otherwise used for games in wet weather, where they sang songs or had a concert, before being tucked into "our cosy beds".



CROWE HALL COTTAGES
1984

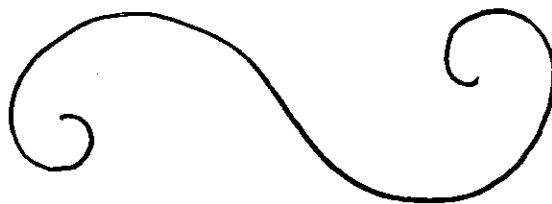
DRAWN BY
IAN TATTERSALL, AGED 11 YRS

Stutton folk were kind to them, "when any of the country people see us they nod their heads or say good morning, but it is a thing Londoners never think of". The curate, Mr. Bell, is reprimanded by Matron, E. Poppleton, for spoiling one particular group, who were "taken to forbidden places and taught to climb trees. Naughty Mr. Bell!" Many of the children single out Mr. Blackmore at Stutton Mill, which was visited on Saturdays as a special treat, when they were weighed on the Mill scales, given swings and slides on the machinery, and even allowed to help bag the corn. The Londoners found "the children down here more polite than those in London". Mrs. Reade and her friends, when they were here at the same time, gave the children money for treats, and presents to take home, while those staying in 1914 were allowed to attend a Coster Fete held at Stutton House, where they were given money to spend and allowed to return in the evening to see the fireworks. Although they were obviously expected to be grateful, their expressions of gratitude ring true, and many plead to be allowed to return.

Some of them did come several times, but Matron's comments were considered, and several times there is the ominous "should advise their not being received again". Some were deceitful and quarrelsome - "three loud vulgar girls who each gave much trouble", or "two wilful, rather spiteful boys who could not agree with the others and put upon poor Fred, who is a good natured simpleton". But most were pleasant enough - "two nice, agreeable girls, very thankful for a good time". Some were even precocious - in 1915 Eric, aged 12, had ideas about Annie, also aged 12, "far in advance of his years: love letters found after their departure".

Mrs. Reade must have had ideas far in advance of her times to have built, equipped and funded this Home. "This dreadful war" put an end to the holidays, and afterwards an extension added to each end turned the Home itself into four cottages. It is interesting to wonder if anyone now lives who came to that Home, and what influence those holidays in Stutton may have had upon them. Letters to the local newspapers of Bethnal Green and Hackney have produced no response, but one day we may find someone who remembers.

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VILLAGE WORTHIES

THE COWLES FAMILY by Miss Josie Cowles

Robert Cowles was my Grandfather and Charles Benjamin Cowles my Father. Great Grandfather came to Stutton from Norfolk, I believe. * He, with his wife, lived at Bay Tree House. Eight acres opposite he made into a Market Garden. There were all kinds of apple and pear trees, a quince and a medlar tree, two glass houses, a row of enormous walnut trees (only one is left), four lots of daffodils each of eight rows, lots of all kinds of bulbs, soft fruit of every variety, hazelnuts - in all, a paradise for children. My two younger sisters and I loved it.

Robert Cowles inherited this place and continued as a Market Gardener. He had the little red brick house built on to Bay Tree House for his parents. We always called it "Grannie's House", even in our day. Robert Cowles had four daughters - Sarah, Susanna, Ellen and Mary - and one son, Charles Benjamin, the baby. His mother died when he was eight years old.

Great Grandfather said "Charlie must have Bay Tree House and the Business", but eventually his father Robert did not wish this to be. He wanted it for his second wife's son. When father was first married he lived at Post Office Farm, and his first two daughters, Clare Henrietta and Marie Louise Colthorpe, were born there. Before his first wife died Great Grandfather's wish was realised and father moved into Bay Tree House. Two years after the death of his first wife, father married Nellie and three more daughters were born - Josie, Celestine Eugenie (known as Jean) and Daphne.



At the age of 17, my father gave his heart to God in a Salvation Army Meeting, and he joined the Salvation Army. The first Salvation Meeting in Stutton was held upstairs in the Cartshed which still stands beside Bay Tree House.

My father, Charles, eventually had cows, pigs and horses, he also cultivated corn, wheat etc. so it turned into a small farm. Father had a Bay Mare, Polly, he loved her and used to ride her, no one else could manage her. The Ancient House and a row of cottages down to Catchpoles at Rose Cottage were father's property. My father was a good Christian man, a Salvationist, a non-Conformist and a Liberal. This was hard in his day, when the Parson ruled, and father had to pay him Tithe, which he objected to.

Father was a Special Constable during the General Strike in 1926. He was Chairman of the Parish Council for several years. He fought hard to keep the Drift, which leads to Stutton House, open to the public, and so when he went to his last resting place beside his first wife in Stutton Churchyard, he was taken down the Drift, as my own mother had been in February, 1959 and Marie, my half sister, will be when the time comes.

Father was a fighting Liberal, and the Conservatives fought him too. Fisons tried to prevent people going down to Stutton Shore, now I note they have stopped cars and all kinds of vehicles, but I continue to walk there two or three times a year.

I love Bay Tree House and when I first saw the Orchard had been demolished I wept. The little houses built down the road and on the Gardenfield which my father used to let, all these little houses are obnoxious to me.

Father's two half brothers were Ernest Jasper, he had the Post Office Farm next to the Baker House. Uncle Ernie was a good Methodist, and his brother Frederick became a Cabinetmaker and lived in Surrey. Uncle Fred had a son, Basil, but Uncle Ernie had one son, Jack, and four daughters, Kitty, Violet, Eleanor (who became a missionary to China) and Rosie. I trained as a nurse and then became a missionary in India.



[* 1851 Census shows that Robert Cowles was born in Blanford Ed.]

SOURCES

IN SEARCH OF A COMMUNITY 2: USE OF CENSUS MATERIAL

In this article I am going to use the census, one of the research tools discussed in the last issue of the Journal, to uncover more details about 19th century Stutton.

At a first glance the census gives a good deal of information about individual families but it can also be used to tell us about the social structure of the village and community organisation. It can reveal details about employment patterns, family life, social structure and population movements.

For the purpose of this study just the 1851 census will be used but an even more complete picture can be gained with the addition of information from other decennial censuses or comparatively with other villages. Despite the census being only a static picture of conditions on one particular day in one particular year it is reasonably representative.

Many sources for history are impressionistic, contemporary diaries and literary accounts including reports of government commissioners; not so the census, this is unbiased but does have the occasional inaccuracy and one cannot forget that some misleading and false returns may have been made.

On 7th April 1851, John Taylor, the census enumerator, found that Stutton had 108 separate occupiers living in 65 houses. The population was 455, 230 males and 225 females, this being stated at the beginning of the census, the rest has to be calculated from the returns.

Looking firstly at the age structure of the village we find how Victorian society was numerically dominated by the young; in Stutton, of 455 persons 51 were under 5 years old, 109 under 10 and 221 or 49% were under 25. In fact, the same number were under 5 as were 60 or over. When the large size of families is considered this must reflect the drastically low life expectancy of the inhabitants of mid-19th century Stutton; out of the 455 villagers less than a $\frac{1}{3}$ were over 40. The oldest people in the village were three men and three women over 80.

Turning to the occupational characteristics of Stutton it is noticeable that being a rural village it was heavily dependent on agriculture. Eighty-five was the first census to record more urban than rural people in England but Stutton illustrates well a mid-century rural village; 79 male workers were directly employed as agricultural labourers and 7 were living-in farm servants; while one more was a shepherd. The village had 11 farmers, three with sons working for them. Their holdings ranged from farms such as George Stanford's Stutton Hall who with 266 acres, employed 10 labourers and 4 boys while Charles Boby of Alton Hall with 460 acres employed 17 men, 7 boys and 4 women. At the other end of the scale was Robert Cowles with 28 acres employing 2 men. The large number of land owners meant that the village was 'open' and the villagers enjoyed more independence than their counterparts in a 'closed' village dominated by one land owner such as Woolverstone.

Although agriculture dominated the village, 19th century communities were self-sufficient and in this Stutton was no exception. There were three people engaged as blacksmiths, five in carpentry, four in milling, two in thatching and one wheelwright, bricklayer and basket maker. These craftsmen were, like the carrier William Askew who travelled to Ipswich on Tuesdays and Saturdays, representative of nearly every English village.

The other major sources of male employment were shoemaking, the census records seven, and male domestic service where seven were variously employed as grooms, such as George Mayhew who worked for the retired naval captain James McFarlant and James Hayhoe for Charles Boby, coachmen such as James Brookes, employed by Rev. T. Mills and Charles Morton the footman employed by J. P. Reade of Crowe Hall.

Domestic service was also the predominant source of female employment with 36 out of the 42 permanently working women being employed as domestic servants and house keepers; George Stanford, John Aylward, John Sawyer, Christopher Sadler, Charles Boby and Daniel Packard each had two female servants while Rev. T. Mills employed a butler, a house-keeper, a ladiesmaid, a house servant, a dairy maid and a coachman. Other women undertook related work such as laundering and charing from home.

The very large number of young people in Victorian society meant that children were treated differently than from today; in fact, the whole idea of childhood was different. By the age of 7 a boy could be in full-time employment as a poultry keeper as was Robert Dayland whose father Samuel was a miller's carter or one of the six errand boys as was William Turner aged 9 whose father Charles was an agricultural labourer; or William Smith who at 9 worked as a domestic servant, probably a knife and boot boy, for John Sawyer at Markwells.

During this period education was not compulsory and the chances of a child receiving schooling was very much dependent on the values and financial situation of the parents. Families were large and small children numerous; to have a child at school was to waste a prospective wage. In this context it is probably worth looking at one family - the Daylands. Samuel and Emily 43 and 42 respectively had seven boys in 1851, the three eldest born in Holbrook were agricultural labourers while David was a stock boy, Robert a bird keeper, Isaac, five, at school and Philip was 10 months. Although girls' education was controversial during this period, they, in fact, stood a better chance of staying at school longer than boys but school records show that they could spend a great deal of time at home helping their mothers or looking after the younger children while the mother was herself working. In an agricultural village schooling was also dependent upon seasonal agricultural employment that the whole village could be engaged in. A drain on the family income, the girls would be sent to be domestic servants often to Ipswich where some houses deliberately took in novice girls to train them.

This then reflects the conditions that existed in Stutton in April 1851. It is only a glimpse of the community but shows some of what can be achieved with the census. It can hardly be denied, however, that Victorian village life varied with time almost as much as it did with place - the character of the soil and climate.

In the next edition of the Journal it is hoped to try and discover something of the 'life chances' of the villagers by comparing censuses for other decades to give a fuller picture of life in 19th century Stutton.

Further reading:

Horn P., 'Victorian Villages from Census Returns',
Local Historian, November 1983, pp. 25 - 32

Age Structure Table

Male	Age	Female
3	80 - 84	3
3	75 - 79	5
7	70 - 74	7
5	65 - 69	5
6	60 - 64	7
14	55 - 59	8
5	50 - 54	13
10	45 - 49	8
16	40 - 44	19
16	35 - 39	19
13	30 - 34	10
15	25 - 29	17
17	20 - 24	17
24	15 - 19	19
24	10 - 14	11
27	5 - 9	31
30	0 - 4	21

Calculated from the 1851 census for Stutton

Nick Wilson

VISITS

CROWE HALL

Our first visit, as a group, to one of our own historic houses was, by kind permission of Dr. Inch, to Crowe Hall, where one of our own members, Mrs. Richer, gave us a privileged tour all over the house. It is possible that the original house was built in the early

1500s by one of the Latimers; though we know that by 1534 the Smyth family owned it. The daughter of Sir Thomas Bowes Esq., of Great Bromley in Essex, and the date 1605 and the arms of the Bowes family are carved over the doorway. At this time it was a timber framed building, part of which can still be identified from the outside by the pitch of part of the roof, and from the inside the appearance of some of the attic rooms.



There is evidence of part of a moat at the back of the house, now used as a ha-ha to keep out farm animals, and there are theories that this was once for defensive use.

Between the 17th and 18th centuries the house passed from the Bowes family to a Mr. Gant, who sold it to Mr. Robert Daniels for £4,000 and in 1821 it was purchased for £6,000 at auction by Mr. George Reade, who had recently returned from India, and who is responsible for the wonderful Regency Gothic appearance the House presents today.

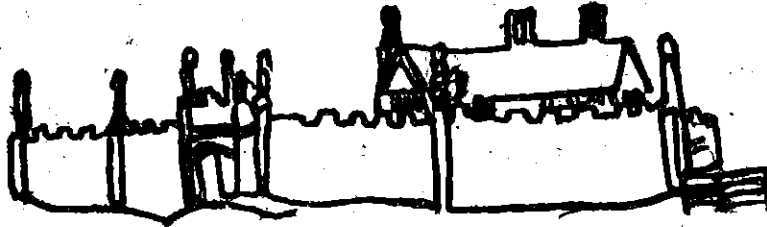
A new two storey bow ended wing was projected towards the river, and joined to the existing wings by new extensions. Buttresses, battlements, and even a turret were part of the new look, and, as at Stutton Hall, the original and later walls were completely encased, this time to give a completely stucco appearance, even in the chimney stacks.

The new upstairs drawing room thus created still possesses all its contemporary fittings in Perpendicular Gothic detail. Its ribbed and fan-vaulted ceiling is as pure Gothic revival as the plaster ceiling in one of the main bedrooms, with its elongated angel swags of fruit, remains pure 17th century. The present domed ceilinged dining room looks today as it must have done in the early 19th century, with its claret covered wallpaper, rich mahogany furniture, heavy cut glass and Victorian portraits.

More recently, an arched stone chimney piece of the 17th century has been uncovered in the former billiard room, now part of a long, bow-ended living room. The styles of both the 17th and 19th centuries are happily reconciled, and form part of a fascinating house.

VISITS

STUTTON HALL



The second of our visits to our own historic houses was, by kind invitation of the Honourable & Mrs. Peter Strutt, to Stutton Hall. We were taken round the grounds, to view the house from the river, and then into the walled garden. From the fine Tudor gateway, resembling closely that of Erwarton Hall, can still be seen the traces of the original carriageway to what must have been originally the front door, now much altered.

Between 1350 and 1550 a house on this site belonged to the Curson family. There was probably a 16th century entrance opposite the Tudor gateway leading directly into the great hall, with over it the great bedchamber (now the drawing room). An engraving of 1818 shows a house of moderate size with a single cross wing at the east end, and three groups of chimney stacks, each with four shafts. In front lies a walled enclosure with battlemented top decorations, Tudor finials, and a gateway with four pinnacles and a semi-circular pediment on the inside.

In 1551 the house passed to the knightly family of Jermy, and then through inheritance to the Mays family, then to Lionel, 3rd Earl of Dysart. In 1844 it was tenanted by a George Sandford, and in 1856 when it was inherited from the Countess of Dysart by John Tollemache, it was put up for auction, together with Queech Farm, with a reserve price of £1,900 which it failed to reach! It was again let out to various folk; in 1885, for example, the tenant was a Mrs. Wash, and during this time was used as a farmhouse, and described as being in a sad state. In 1887, however, it was purchased from the Tollemache family by Joseph Catt (of charitable and Cattsfield fame) and the house was enlarged. One bay was demolished beyond the third chimney stack and a new west cross wing added, with a south oriel window under a massive gable overhang.

More building work took place in the early 1900s after James O. Fison had purchased it from the sons of the then late Mr. Catt. A further wing was added to the west, with new fourth and fifth chimney stacks to match the original three. Looking at

them today, it is hard to distinguish the originals from the copies. These alterations completely encased the original timber framed and plastered structure with brickwork, which could well have come from a local source, as there is evidence of a brickearth at Stutton Ness.

The interior of the house contains some fine plasterwork, especially in the drawing room, very fine staircases and fireplaces, and a room over the hall which is wainscotted in contemporary chestnut or walnut with contemporary carvings. It also contains a ghost! who emerges from a now covered doorway. The arcade in the entrance hall and some of the windows were taken from Wolsey's College in Ipswich, while some of Stutton Hall's are now in Helmingham Hall, the present seat of the Tollemache family.

Stutton Hall is now a fine, historic family home, and it seems particularly fitting that the present owners are by birth a Tollemache and a Fison, thus joining together two of the families bound up in its earlier history.

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NICK NAMES

Nick names were, until recent years, a much used part of village language for the identification of members of families having the same surname and in some cases the same Christian name, but in many, physical features were used, others having more obscure relativity. Abbreviated surnames were also much used.

Examples of both Nick and abbreviated names which were in common use until recent years.

CULLEY MUNSON	BANDY HASTE (HARRY)	BLINKY WILLIS
FAT EMMA	FRESHY HASTE	CHUNKY VINALL
HOPPY CHILVERS	JINGLES LING	TARRY PHILLIPS
DUMBY PALLANT	WAXY LING	WHOOOPER WHITE
SMOKY ABBOTT	SHRIMPER BRINKLEY	TUBBY CARLTON
CORPERAL COWLES	BUMPER BRUNDLE	TUFFEY ('TUFNELL)
DICKY (NURSE DICKENSON)	SAD or FOD (Miss SADLER)	TRICKER MARSHALL
SHROPPY (ROY SHROPSHIRE)	FLIPPY (PHILLIP WILLIS)	SUCKY (SUCKLINGS)

It is interesting to note that many names end with phonetic 'EE'.

I think I am correct in stating that the use of nick names has practically died out, the only ones that come to mind are a couple of NOBBIES, a NIPPER, a DOUGHNUT and the names of CHAMP, HORSE AND SINBAD which are confined to the social confines of the Pub.

T.V. has obviously made an impact: following a recent comedy series one inhabitant is referred to as THE BLACK ADDER, no doubt attributal to the mode of dress and physical likeness to the actor playing the leading role.

PRESS CUTTINGS

STUTTON AROUND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

H. Findley Baker was a remarkable man, and fuller tribute will doubtless be paid to his many talents when Stutton School celebrates its 150th Anniversary next year, for he was Schoolmaster there for nearly forty years. He came to Stutton in 1880, and from then until 1912 he kept a book of press cuttings, now in the possession of his descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Suckling, who have kindly made it available, which gives a vivid impression of life in the village at the turn of the century. While it must be remembered that the information it preserves is selective, in that only those matters deemed newsworthy are covered, and that the selection naturally reflects Mr. Baker's own interests of Church, Education, and Village Societies, his position midway between "Gentry" and villagers covers a fairly broad spectrum of village life, and we can learn much from it.

Between 1880 and 1912 the population of Stutton varied little, hovering around an average of 520 to 530. The press cuttings give a picture of ordered respectability, with much mention of the Parson and the Gentry. Findley Baker soon became choirmaster and organist and served as such to five successive Rectors; the Hon. & Reverend Ponsonby, the Reverend Hill-Jones, the Reverend Salmon, the Reverend Arthur Spencer and the Reverend Cyril Robins. It was a paternal society - the occupants of the big houses gave teas, fetes and entertainments to the schoolchildren, the choirs, the Mothers' Union, the working men, and they gave lectures in the schoolroom on an extra-ordinary range of subjects - Egypt, Fiction, Home Rule for Ireland, Superstition, and The Karens of the Golden Charsonese, whatever they were! They arranged entertainments and musical services, Whist Drives and concerts, all of which are reported as being enthusiastically attended, often needing to be repeated for those unable to obtain tickets for the original performance.

It seems a society remarkably free from crime. The disappearance of several ducks was worthy of reporting, as was an attempted burglary at Mr. Baker's own house, luckily foiled by the sudden re-appearance of his family. What startled the community were numerous bicycle accidents, caused by thorns on the road, and the "many dangerous hills in the neighbourhood of Holbrook", or accidents caused by horses - one poor man was thrown while drilling and the horse and drill passed right over him - or caused by falls from stacks or barns, as when Mr. Juby, the grocer, fell from his barn and broke his wrist. Outbreaks of fire, as now, were main items of news, but to us it is horrifying to learn that in 1888 the Fire Brigade had to be summoned from Ipswich by telegram, even though it arrived in time to prevent too much damage!

Then, as now, there were many clubs and societies in the village: a Pig Club, a Girl's Guild, a Benefit Society, Cricket and Quoits Clubs, a Church of England Temperance Society, a Horticultural Society, most with the Gentry acting as Officers with mixed Committees. When the Football Club was started in Findley Baker was elected Treasurer, Secretary and Referee! And instructional classes

abounded - ambulance classes, classes in butter and cheese making, even a course in veterinary subjects. During this period, too, the Scout Movement was started in the country as a whole, and in Stutton.

It was a patriotic society. Special services and entertainments were arranged on Empire Day, for example, and much deliberation went into a Service of Song, entitled "Our Queen", given at the time of the Jubilee.

It was a caring society. Several accounts of funeral services mention the fact that the elderly deceased had been cared for by his neighbours and friends, "by the supervision of relatives and friends his daily wants were cheerfully supplied". There was a winter distribution of coal to the poor, and visitors to the big houses noted cases of need and took action. A Miss Ramsden attended the school treat in 1888 and "felt so interested in the scholars that she then expressed a wish to her parents to do something for them the next year. The wish soon assumed a practical form and it was decided to make useful items of winter clothing. Consequently each received an item of clothing and a bag of sweets".

In 1888, through the son of the Rector, C. Ponsonby and friends, 60 girls from Bethnal Green East were enabled to spend a fortnights holiday in Stutton in ten lots of six each. "Widow Keeble has got charge of them and they could not be in better hands". The same arrangements were made the following year, and this may well have been what inspired Mrs. Reade of Crowe Hall to build the holiday home which is the subject of a separate article in this issue.

Presentations were often made to people on their wedding anniversaries, such as on the 25th Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Jarrold, prominent Wesleyans, and for the then rarer Diamond Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cottens, who "Have not occupied any official position in local affairs yet their quiet and unostentatious mode of life made them many friends".

Findley Baker described Stutton thus:

"The parish in which I reside is small, quiet and respectable. The spiritual work is ably carried on by a zealous rector and hard-working curate. Three Sunday and two evening services are well attended by the villagers. No advanced ritual is carried out at the church, and those services held at the school partake of the ordinary character. A good Wesleyan chapel is used to meet the requirements of the Dissenters."

And yet he was not smug. Disturbed by an itinerant group of Liberal workers, he calls for political education in the rural areas, and points out that oral elections for Parish Councils are hardly fair to those whose names begin with letters towards the end of the alphabet, as voters were allowed only nine votes and had often used them up before the second half of the alphabet was reached. He complains of the number of fever cases (150 - 200 in 1889) believed to have been caused by imported London manure, and in 1903 pleads for more houses to be built, also for labourers to have Saturday afternoons off, plus part of the day on Bank Holidays, to help stop the drift to the towns. He calls for a "finger post", with the names of the peninsular villages on it to be erected at Bourne Bridge.

He was much incensed by the activities of the Salvation Army in Stutton. He complains of rowdysim, and expresses the wish that the Salvation Army would conduct services inside rather than out, and use a bell to call to services rather than "discordant brass instruments". The Salvation Army Barracks in Stutton to which he refers has yet to be identified.

The press cuttings end in 1912-13 with reports of meetings of the Holbrook & District Conservative Association, one of which was addressed by a Colonel Flint who comments unfavourably upon the strength of British National defences. It is ironic that the war which was to start in 1914 would see sweeping changes in the whole structure of the society which Findley Baker records. To us it may seem a class-ridden, patronising society, and some in the village were already questioning its values. To men such as Findley Baker, however, it was a pleasant, ordered world, and we are grateful that he has left us a record of it.

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M^r Gladwell 33, UPPER BROOK ST., IPSWICH *June 5th 1899*



△ Memo. from △

THE CITY CLOTHING COMPY.

TERMS CASH.

May 20
June 1st *Suit*

	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<hr/>			

W. J. Hayward
June 5th 1899



BUSINESS LIFE

BUSINESS LIFE (continued)

Nineteen forty-seven was a traumatic year and one which started a chain of events which would inevitably have repercussions on not only my own future, but also further change the visual appearance of the village, and in the course of time provide employment for quite a number of mainly young boys and girls in both a full and part-time capacity.

As I have stated, for me, it was very traumatic. One evening, in early April, after I had returned from work (I was now employed at Botwoods in Ipswich as a mechanic) my Father gravely announced that he had received a letter from the Bank Manager informing him that his overdraft had reached £1000 and an early meeting was requested to discuss the matter of reducing it.

After a long discussion it was perfectly clear to me that my duty and, indeed, my whole future, in respect of having a home to live in, was at stake and I was left in no doubt that without we could make a joint effort to repay the debt the place would have to be sold; being only a teenager I was not too confident that any contribution I could make would help solve the problem. I had saved no money out of my wages, about £3 per week; I was nearly a qualified mechanic and certainly not a village store-keeper at heart, but I agreed to have a shot at it, if only as a means of self-preservation.

Within a few days a meeting was arranged with the Bank Manager. Father managed to bide time in order to be able to sell off some property he had inherited at Biggleswade, although it was worth very little. The fact that I was joining Father in partnership was enough for the matter of the overdraft to be shelved at least for the time being.

So it was that the business became known as W. J. COBB & SON. Although petrol was still rationed it was now permissible for, and I considered it desirable to re-establish the petrol sales as by this time a few more new cars were available to those on the priority list such as Doctors, Business Men etc. who could prove a need and more cars and motor cycles which had been laid up during the war years were being used for somewhat dubious essential purposes. It was becoming an art to acquire petrol coupons either by fair means or foul but nevertheless we had soon established a steady petrol trade.

Over the next year by virtually living on a shoe string and with the help of the money raised by the sale of the property the overdraft was slightly reduced and confidence grew and as more goods became available to the end of the 1940s trade improved, despite the increases in taxation people were able to spend more as wages rose by comparison.

The 1950s brought even more radical changes; we were able to obtain a council grant to modernise our living accommodation which in turn allowed us to enlarge the shop. Loans from the Esso Petroleum Company enabled us to enlarge the forecourt, install new

tanks and modern electric pumps and for the first time in 1954 we were able to buy a brand new car, a Ford Popular, for the somewhat daunting price of £385 and also replace our old ex-Post Office Morris Van with a nearly new Ford 5cwt Anglia; we were also able to employ more full and part-time staff which allowed me to undertake repairs and servicing cars on a small scale, especially in the evenings and at week-ends. As cars became more prolific we provided a 12 hour Petrol Service for seven days a week. As the business grew so did the book work, the old chores of counting out coupons and endless form filling had been replaced by the need to keep very accurate accounts as the tax officials increased their efforts to extract every penny and, of course, the ever-increasing affluence of a number of our customers did not encourage the prompt payment of accounts, so more time had to be devoted to keeping the accounts up to date, although bad debts did on some occasions create some problems and on a few counts lost quite a lot of money. It can only be stated, that with only a very few exceptions, did any of the local inhabitants let us down.

During the ensuing decade I think I can justly claim that we achieved quite a few firsts in the village. As I have already stated we were first in installing modern electric pumps for the dispensing of petrol and paraffin oil, first in selling ice-cream, frozen foods, keeping perishables in a refrigerated display counter, introducing self-service in the shop and being able to offer a comprehensive car repair and servicing facilities.

A wind of change was becoming apparent in the 1960s; the motor car was now established as a dominant feature which was significantly going to alter village life and the habits of the inhabitants. Super Markets and cut price stores were in easy reach of villages, the abolition of retail price maintenance coupled with rapidly escalating wages and overhead costs were bound to have a significant effect on the profitability of small shops everywhere. Foreseeing this change and still preferring to be a mechanic rather than a shopkeeper, encouraged me to concentrate on developing the full potential of the Service Station. Stan Cuthbert gave up his job and joined me as a partner. With a capital of £100 we enlarged the workshop working most days of the week for up to 12 hours. We were able to purchase a wide range of equipment and were appointed Renault Service Agents and a Ministry of Transport Testing Station. Thus began another chapter and important decision to form the business into two Limited Companies, W. J. COBB & SON LTD. and STUTTON SERVICE STATION LTD. The formation of the two companies in 1963 led to further changes in the functions of the combined businesses in the 1970s, with W. J. Cobb & Son Ltd. being responsible for the petrol and shop sales and Stutton Service Station Ltd. the repair and servicing aspect. It was easy to see that the reduced profit margins, due to a price cutting war between garages and stamp companies, coupled with high costs of employing staff in the shop, rendered it imperative that to survive in what was now becoming so highly competitive, all our efforts should be concentrated on repairs and servicing with the minimum amount of labour. This I am sure was the reaction of many small business; high taxation coupled with ever increasing wages forced a contraction rather than planning for expansion and remaining content with the fruits of our own labours. In consequence the shop was closed and refitted out as an office and stores; the paper round was disposed of. With only three of us; myself, Stan Cuthbert and Steve Morgan managing to cope and earn a comparable living with the average wage earner, business continued

to expand throughout the 1970s and we were able to absorb the extra work by sub-contracting much of the more specialised work.

Once more fate was due to take a hand in altering the course of the history of Stutton Service Station. In 1977 Stan Cuthbert suffered a heart attack and later on in the year my Father died, so in 1978 with Stan not feeling that he could cope with any more of the hard work involved, myself in not very good physical shape felt the same way, so we decided to sell out.

Nineteen seventy-eight, the end of an era lasting nearly half a century in which the Cobb Family participated in village life and despite its fortunes and misfortunes in trying to wrest gold from that mine in Manningtree Road, whilst admitting that at least some dust was recovered, never truly found the nuggets, maybe we as a family were not devoted to trying hard enough, remaining satisfied with the rewards that we derived from trying, and the satisfaction of spending a large portion of ones life in a community where I would like to think that we made more friends than adversarys and that in all our dealings we gave satisfaction and value for money.

The Estate of the late W. J. Cobb

As a point of interest the value of property and business after 43 years was approximately forty times more than its original value which in turn is roughly the equivalent to current wage rates.

The property on its own, which was at the time of his death in his own name, was in 1978 valued at £20,000, this amount was directed to be held in trust for his grand-daughter until such time as that I die, or until she is 21 years of age, whichever comes first. The business assets, shares, were divided amongst the shareholders, after Tax, as per the holdings.

Ronald W. Cobb
May, 1982

SCOUTING

SCOUTING IN STUTTON

A brief History - by S. Mordey dated December 1983

SCOUTS - The word really means a spy. It is derived through French from the Latin 'aescultare' - to listen; the old French 'escoute' being equivalent to a spy, while, further, it meant one who listens. This explanation is important, as it exactly shows the idea underlying the modern term Scouting. A Scout is a listener, a spy, who follows up clues, uses his powers of observation and finds things out.

Scouting may be said to have originally come to us from savage peoples, such as the South African natives and the old-time North American Indians who practised the art of spying by observation of their foes and wild beast prey.

Again, the term has been used to describe bodies of men, military or otherwise, who practised keen observation and other forms of scoutcraft, and who also fought as ordinary soldiers. The well-known Lovat's Scouts, raised by Lord Lovat in the South African War, belonged to this class.

Today Scouting is chiefly associated with the system of training and discipline adopted by various boys' organisations and, in particular, with the world-wide Boy Scout movement. This was introduced in 1908 by Sir Robert (later Lord) Baden-Powell when he published his now-famous 'Scouting for Boys' - the first handbook of training. In 1910 he retired from the Army to devote his many talents to help the rising generation.

The movement was a distinct success from the very first until today when there is scarcely a country of the world that does not possess its Boy Scouts. David Lloyd George remarked: "The young boyhood of our country, represented by the Boy Scouts Association, shares the laurels for having been prepared with the old and trusted British Army and Navy".

The movement is wholly non-military. Its great aim is first and foremost to create good citizens. The boy who is trained as a Scout becomes a better and more self-reliant man. There is the oft-quoted remark, attributed to Lord Kitchener: "Once a Scout, always a Scout".

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Nineteen-ten. A year which opened with a General Election, saw the death and funeral of King Edward VII when nine Kings, including the Kaiser, and thirty Princes of the Blood followed the cortege of Edward the Peacemaker to Windsor. It was reported that the two mourners who aroused the deepest sympathy were the late King's charger with boots reversed in the stirrups and his favourite terrier, Caesar, whose collar was graven: "I am Caesar and I belong to Caesar".

Nineteen-ten. A year which saw a serious coal strike and civil disorder in Tonypany and Pontypridd. When Marconi's invention of the Wireless Telegraph leapt into public awareness when through its agency Hawley Harvey Crippen and his mistress Ethyl Le Neve travelling as 'Mr. Robinson and Son' were arrested as the steamship Montrose docked in New York.

Nineteen-ten. A year when Lemberg won the Derby; Oxford the Boat Race; Newcastle United the F.A. Cup and the first baby Austin Seven made its appearance.

Nineteen-ten. A year in which Count Leo Tolstoi (82), Florence Nightingale (90), William Holman Hunt (83) and Mark Twain (75) died.

Nineteen-ten. A year in which Stutton Scouts began.

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The Q.E.D. defines 'History', inter alia, as a continuous methodical recording of events and an 'Historian' as a writer of History, especially in the higher sense as opposed to a mere annalist or compiler.

The extant data re Stutton Scouts is so fragmented that a 'methodical recording of events' is not possible; neither does the writer qualify as Historian but a mere annalist. Here then is my gallimaufry.

1910 The Rector of St. Peter's Church convened a meeting at which Lorimer Fison volunteered to qualify and act as Scout Leader. (Rector Salmon M.A. appointed 1909?)

The offer 'to qualify' implies conformity and is strangely at odds with the later notes from the Scout Association Archivist.

8th July New Troop assisted at a St. Peter's Day Celebration and 'were greatly admired'.

The Scouts were allowed free admission to Stutton Flower Show 'if in uniform'.

1911 28th June Scouter Lorimer Fison was presented an engraved silver ash tray on the occasion of his 21st Birthday.

Palm Sunday Troop paraded through the village en route to Church. Lorimer was assisted by brother Clavering.

1912 Joined with Freston Scouts to camp at Bawdsey Ferry. Taken from Pin Mill by Captain Haste on his barge. The weather was unfavourable and they returned early.

(Captain Haste of Ipswich was "an exceptionally good bargeman, fair, and very religious; in fact, he used to go to Church services whenever he could. In my eighteen months on the MEMORY I never heard one swear word from the Skipper or Mate".

MEMORY, a spritsail barge, was built by J. & H. Cann of Harwich in 1904. The same yard built The May, Ethel, Centaur, Kitty, Beric, Marjorie, Kimberley, Gladys and Edith May - all of which are still to be seen in the local Thames Barge Races. The MEMORY was about 84 ft. long with a 20 ft. beam and carried flour and fertilizer from Fison's of Ipswich to London and return with wheat to Ipswich or Haywards Wharf at Woodbridge.

This obtained and quoted from 'A Mistleman's Log' by A. H. 'Chub' Horlock. Chub tells me he joined the MEMORY as an apprentice in 1913.

The venue for Scout meetings was the Rectory 'Iron Room' (site unknown for 1910). It had earlier been in the grounds of the old Rectory and was used for Parish events.

1914 The Great War. Lorimer Fison went to War and to lose his life in the service of his King and Country as Capt. J. F. L. Fison M.C. Suffolk Regt. It must be assumed that the Scout Troop closed.

1931 (Newspaper Cutting - Gildersleeves) Stutton Scouts held a Social Camp Fire at Victory Hall in aid of Roland House and Ipswich East Suffolk Hospital. The troop re-started by Miss Garland and then taken over by Frank Lister. Boys came from Brantham, Holbrook and Tattingstone. The meetings held at Stutton Scout Hut. There were 14 scouts.

Basil Willis, now Assistant District Commissioner Cubs, Ipswich South District, was a Wolf Cub. He remembers that Miss Garland was Akela and lived at Stutton Lodge where she read Jungle Book stories under the trees and played a few games.

When he became a scout, Frank Lister, butler to Mrs. Okeden at Stutton House, was Scouter.

A family of Pallants (?) moved out of a tin bungalow down Manor Lane (could this be the 'Iron Room'?). The tin bungalow became the Scout H.Q. (Is this the Stutton Scout Hut referred to above?)

Basil was a 'Peewit': Eddie Acres (now at New Road, Mistle), Sticky Frost (Police Force Waldringfield), Tort Abbott, Frank Cook were all from Brantham.

Grounds of Stutton House used for Treasure Hunt.

Lit his fire on Stutton Shore to pass his Tenderfoot badge. Used to swim there.

Waiting on Stutton Shore, one dark night, to read morse code message from across the water at Wrabness. Something went wrong and no message materialised. (Flashlight over 1½ miles of water - no wonder. Ed.)

Had a Gang Show in the Victory Hall. A much greased and burnt - corked Basil as a negress in the play about the lion with a thorn in his paw.

Dug the garden at H.Q. and planted potatoes.

Camp at Sudbury. Duty Patrol had to rise at 4.30 a.m. to take a punt into the middle of the lake and catch breakfast.

Julian St. John, grandson of Mrs. Okeden, was killed on his motor-cycle on his way home on leave from the Navy. (R. Cobb corrected this: Baby Austin collided with farm haycart.)

Julian was a Scout and the Troop mounted a Guard of Honour throughout the night in the church where his body laid. Four at a time, one hour on and two hours off. A prayer book dropped to the floor about 2.00 a.m. caused a few hearts to flutter.

The Troop must have closed down in the early '30s through lack of numbers. Len Pask, a Wolf Cub, was killed by a lorry as he came out of school. His gravestone in Stutton Churchyard bears the Wolf Head.

At this time the Head Mistress of Stutton School was Esther Mary Barber (Holbrook), assisted by Miss Steward and Irene Gosling (Crowe Hall Coach House - now Suckling's farm).

The Rector was Rev. Spencer - at the old Rectory where we celebrated Empire Day. Basil used to win the Three-legged race with Violet Farmer (V. Richer). Basil was born at Crowe Hall Cottages and was the first graduate from Stutton "University" to win scholarship and so to Felixstowe each day to school. His father was gardener to Miss Peggy Reade. His mother had one of Arthur Suckling's old Shepherd huts at the bottom of the garden, selling newspapers, sweets and cigarettes. They moved next door to the Kings Head before selling out to Ellis who pulled the shop down and re-built what became Cobb's shop/garage. (R. Cobb - The original hut is still behind Carter's Garage.)

John Wiseman's father had the Post-Office, during this period, and Catchpoles had a shop down Lower Street.

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Thus far, the narrative is based on hearsay and local memory. The Archivist of the Scout Association (Records Office, Lancing, Sussex) writes to say " . . . There appears to be no trace of a Group called 1st Stutton and the record cards of the original scouters are no longer on file".

I have photostat copies of the official Registration Form for Local Associations for the years 1908, 1925, 1938, 1949 and 1958 - none of which reveal any trace of Stutton. (Holbrook, Pin Mill, Levington, Shotley, Brantham are featured.) It would seem that the Group were not officially registered until 1960.

1 July '60 Troop re-started and duly registered as 1st Samford Valley Group. Regt. No. 35135 in the Ipswich Local Assoc. - Western Approach (becoming Ipswich South District 19 May '77).

Scouter: Harold Holland
Assistant: Bob Knowles
Group Committee Chairman: Col. John Bland
Group Committee Secretary: Stan Mordey
Scouts: 12 in number

October '66 Cub Pack started.

Cub Leader: Mrs. Everard
Assistant Cub Leader: Derek Vingoe

4 May '74 Venture Scouts started.

Leader: Barry Tattersall
Scouts: 3

The present entry in the Ipswich South District Directory reads:

1st Samford Valley (Open)	Regt. No. 35135
Meet: Village Hall, Stutton	Colours: Pale Blue
Meetings: Cub Scouts	Tuesday 6.15 - 7.30 p.m.
Scouts	Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.
Venture Scouts	Tuesday

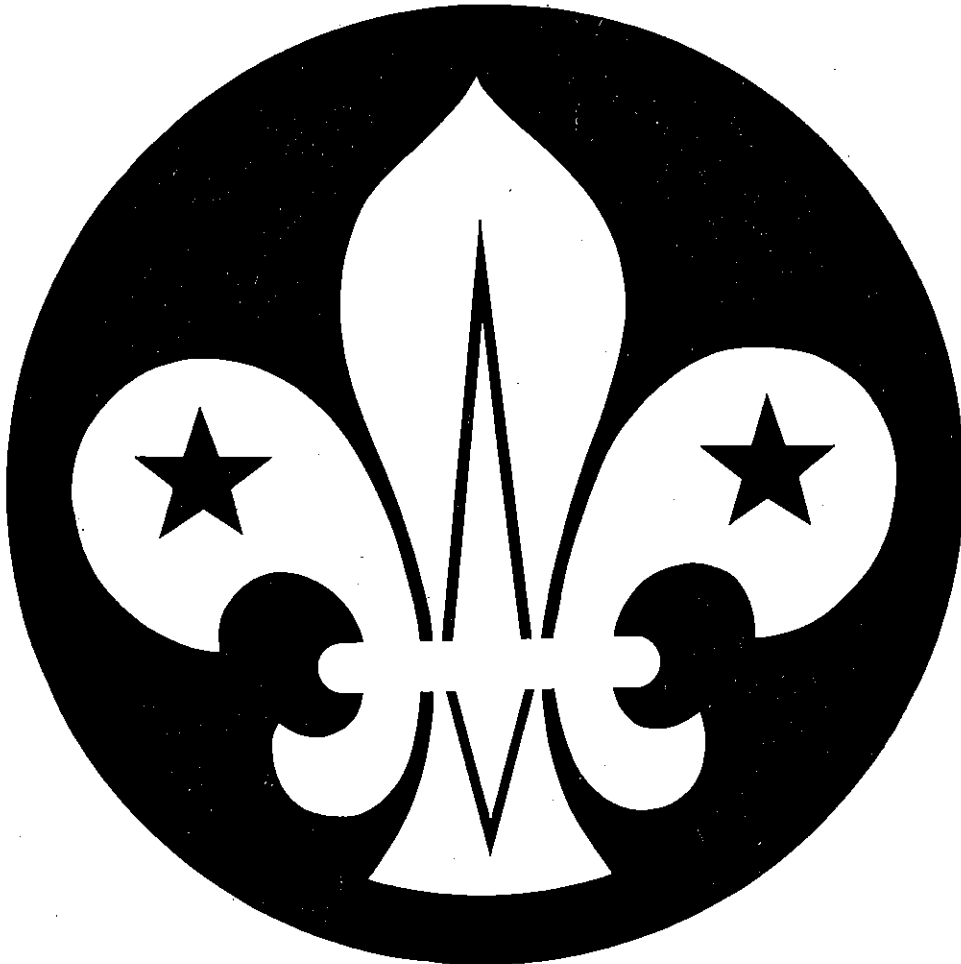
Group Scout Leader	Mrs. Margaret J. Vingoe
Venture Scout Leader	Christopher Pink
Assistant Scout Leader	Mrs. Margaret J. Vingoe
Scout Leader	Alan Clouting
A.S.L.'s	George A. Cribb
	Geoffrey V. Newton
Cub Scout Leader	John Fryer
A.C.S.L.'s	Miss Katherine R. Vingoe
	Mrs. Margaret Cribb
	David Hoskings
	Peter Hoskings
	Mrs. Doreen A. Tattersall
Instructor (Scouts)	Alan Davison
Chairman	Brendon Gavin
Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Hall
Treasurer	Mrs. Sue Newton

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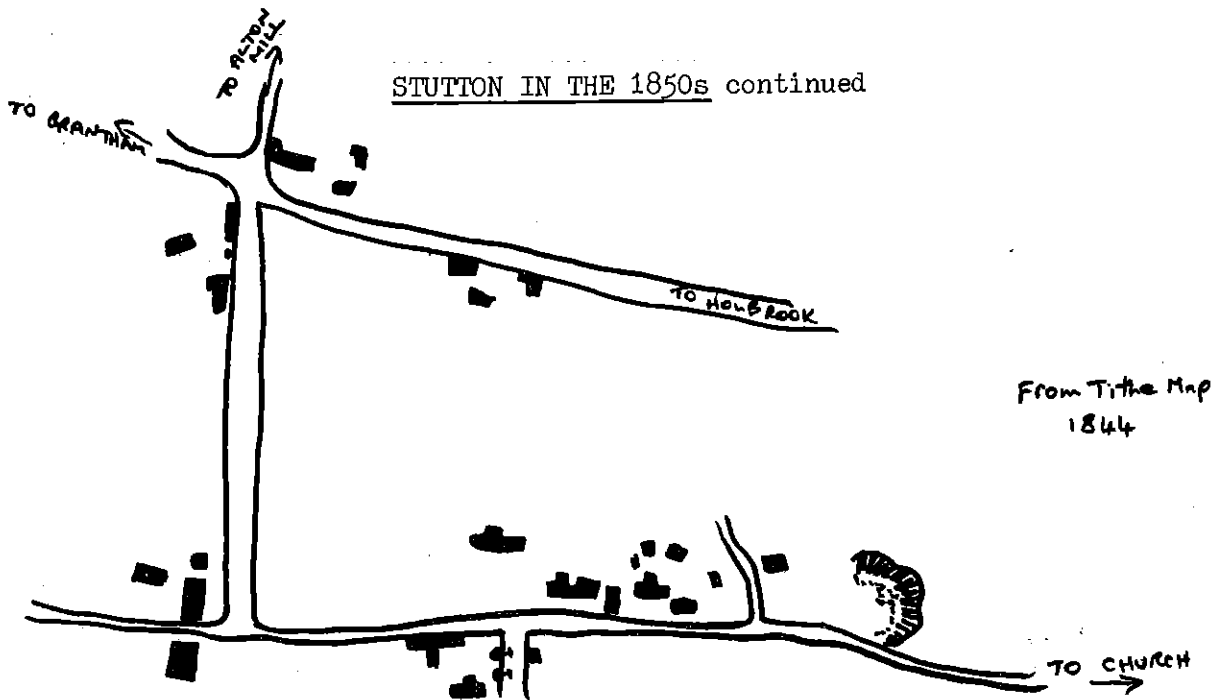
Scouting in Stutton has been very well supported by members of the village throughout the years since its inception. The records to hand are so incomplete that it would be invidious to name some and, of necessity, omit so many others. A similar essay at compiling a list of Scouting Honours and Achievements failed from the same lack of reliable data.

'Great oaks from little acorns grow' is an expression attributed to B.P. the Founder of the Scout Movement; the 1983 Census of Membership in the United Kingdom shows:

Cub Scouts	294865
Scouts	192624
Venture Scouts	<u>36190</u>
Total Scout	
Membership	<u>523,679</u>
Commissioners	4076
Scouters	73150
Instructors	<u>12858</u>
Total Leaders	<u>90,804</u>
Number of Scout Groups	11,757



RE-CONSTRUCTION



Our walk around Stutton in the 1850s continues from Bay Tree Farm, in those days encompassing the field opposite where now The Wilderness stands. Although this house looks as though it has been on its site for centuries, it stood originally, in fact, at the end of what is now an extended runway at Stansfield Airport, and was dismantled and re-erected opposite Bay Tree Farm in 1976. Sadly, the current building regulations forced many alterations to the original, and although old materials have been used, its present appearance is somewhat different from its original one.

The house, now called Barnfield, across Crowe Hall Lane from Bay Tree Farm, was in the 1850s owned by Mr. John Page Reade of Crowe Hall. Originally called Astells, with 8 acres of land, it became 5 dwellings, then 3 and then 2, until being turned into one again in the 1970s. One of the 1851 tenants was a Robert Baker, and it is interesting to note that a younger Robert Baker, aged 20, born in Stutton, is registered on the 1851 Census as living as a farm labourer at Crepping Hall. Robert Baker, Senior, lived in one part of Barnfield with his wife, 4 other sons (2 aged 12 and 10, worked as errand boys while the 8 and 6 year olds are listed as "scholars") and 2 lodgers, both young men, one a malster and one a shepherd. No wonder young Robert lived elsewhere!

Opposite Barnfield, along Highams Lane, stood 3 cottages, 2 even now still thatched, also owned by Mr. Reade, and occupied, among others, by James Aldred, a cordwainer (shoemaker), who lived with his unmarried daughter.

From here there were fields on both sides of what is now Church Road, right up to the house owned by Joseph Button, a farmer working 195 acres and employing 3 men. It is possible that what is now Findley Cottage and Post Office Farm was then one dwelling, for there is interior evidence of an upstairs doorway or window between the 2, and Mrs. Payne, of Findley Cottage, feels that the highest side window may well have held a hoist to the top floor used as a hayloft. It was in a house belonging to Mr. Button that the children received their first lessons while waiting in 1835 for the first school to be built. In the 1850s, however, Joseph Button lived here with 2 unmarried daughters and a servant.

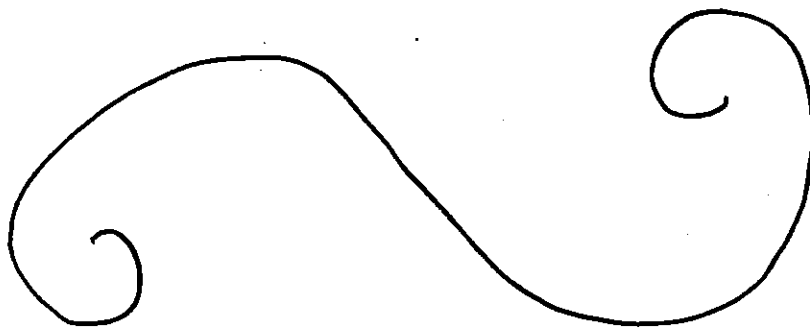
The 1844 Tithe Map shows the shop and house we know as Wisemans owned by a Robert Miller and occupied by William Steadman, but by 1851 it was owned by John Clemance, listed as Grocer and Draper, whose household consisted of his wife, their baby daughter, his mother and 2 servants, one for the house and one for the shop.

School Farm, diagonally opposite, was then owned by Henry Bacon Hall. In 1871, when it was put up for sale, it is described as Ball's Farmhouse - perhaps a misprint for Hall's? It was by then divided into cottage tenements with four occupiers listed. The Barn and Cartshed, shortly to be turned into one dwelling, were then referred to as "The Homestead".

From here back along the main road to Holbrook, the only other houses then standing were the then School, now the Old Mission Room, built in 1835 by public subscription on land donated by the Reverend Thomas Mills, and still attributed to his ownership in 1851, and the cottage now called "Lucerne". This belonged to Robert Chisnall, a Wheelwright, and the long, low building which still stands but which now belongs to Orchard Cottage, was the wheelwright's shop. The occupant then was Joseph Row, who lived with his wife, his 3 small sons and his brother, who was a basket maker. It is interesting to note that at this time Stutton boasted 59 different occupations, ranging from agricultural labourer, through farmers, gentlemen, one coachman, one hen-keeper to guard boys and errand boys. No commuters then!

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To be continued . . .



STOP-PRESS

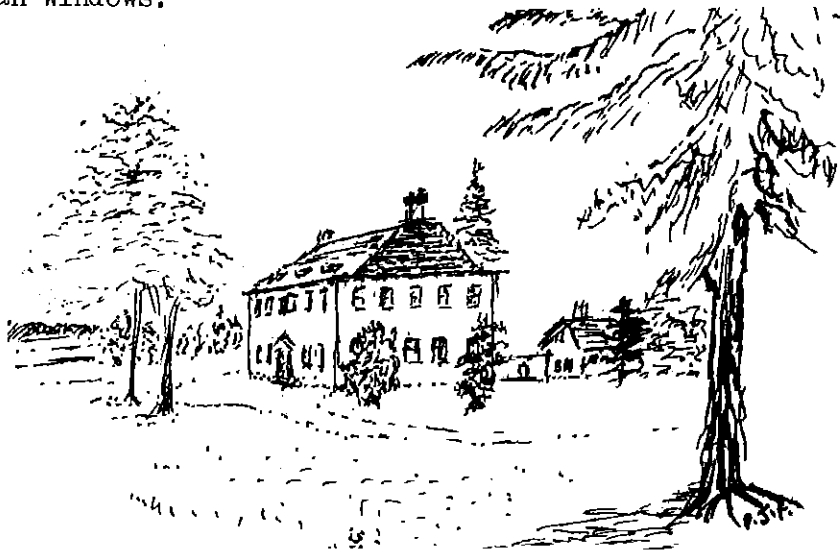
STUTTON HOUSE

Stutton House, so tragically gutted by fire in January this year has been bound up with the history of this village for an indeterminate time.

The Rectory of Stutton is a reputed Manor, and an undated Glebe Terrier contains a statement by one Isiaih Turing that

"I know this Parsonage or Rectory to be an ancient Manor consisting of Court & Court Leet of Tenants that pay Rent as by the antient Court Rolls hereof with other Circumstances may appear."

It is possible, therefore, that the Reverend Tobias Rustat who built the basis of the present house in 1748, was in fact re-building an existing house, or at least using the same site. He was a nephew of the Tobias Rustat who was Master of the Robes to King Charles II, and as the possessor of "a good private fortune", spent a good deal of it on the house and grounds, then known as Stutton Rectory. A small, undated drawing of about this time, an impression of which is shown below, shows a William and Mary style frontage, with a three bayed window above a central front door flanked by regular rows of Georgian windows.



In 1820, the Reverend Thomas Mills was appointed Rector, and received £330 9s as dilapidations. He paid a rent of £200 a year for the unfurnished house and Glebe, and between 1820 - 23 laid out over £800, a very considerable sum in those days, in repairs and alterations. A print of 1839 shows the Dutch gables which survived the fire, and a manuscript written by the Rector's second wife, the Hon. Mrs. Mills, records that between March and June, 1839, a new roof was constructed, six brick built Gables were built, the old parapet was removed and two new Attics in the North and South Gables gave increased accommodation. The whitewash was removed from the exterior of the house, thereby restoring its original appearance of red brick. In 1840 she records that "the offices were altered and improved on the north side of the house, the roof was raised and the housebell hung in its present position". In 1844, "the passage at the back of the dining room was built and other additions made and in 1853 the two East Windows in the library were re-opened (had they been bricked up to avoid window

tax?) and the bookcases re-arranged". The gate with its stone pillars was erected in 1856, at a cost of £25.

The Mills family added many varieties of trees to those already planted by the Reverend Tobias Rustat, and the grounds became a great feature of the property, as they fortunately remain today. In 1893, the Reverend Barrington Mills, the son of Thomas, bought the House and lands for £5000, of which £2000 was used to build what we now know as the Old Rectory, while the residue was made into an endowment for future Rectors.

Known now as Stutton House, it continued to be occupied by the Mills family. Barrington's daughter, Mary, married Herbert Okeden, and the curate of St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, in London, who christened their daughter, Gwendolen, came in 1894 to occupy the New Rectory. During all this period, the grounds of Stutton House were used on many occasions for the pleasure and benefit of the villagers: for feasts and Church teas, for fetes (especially to fund the building and then enjoyment of the School and its pupils) and for sports and dancing and even firework displays.

In 1912, electric light was installed. Miss Gwendolen Okeden was married in 1914 to Geoffrey St. John, of the 10th Royal Fusiliers and later in the same year, a company of this Regiment marched from Colchester and camped in the outbuildings of the house. Trenches were dug in the park and a sham fight took place.

Mrs. St. John continued to occupy the house for many years, sadly alone after the death of her husband, and when her only son was killed in a car crash. In 1953 she sold the house, and most of the grounds, to the writer and journalist Lawrence Easterbrook, retaining the field known as Dove House Piece on which she built a house for her use. The Easterbrooks followed this example in 1966 when they sold Stutton House to Mr. and Mrs. Ridley, and built Stutton House Farm next door. In 1981 Stutton House was purchased from Mr. Ridley by Mr. and Mrs. Brett and their two sons. The future? that will have to be recorded by another generation of Stutton Local History Group.

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