

# Lexden History Group



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- Even More From of Philip Cardy 1906-1996

**Newsletter No 65 – June 2022**  
**Website [www.lexdenhistory.org.uk](http://www.lexdenhistory.org.uk)**

## ROYAL JUBILEES



From Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June this year the UK celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, but when did such celebrations start? Some early British monarchs, including Henry III, Edward III (*left*) and James I / VI, reigned over fifty years and although there are few records it is known that Edward III (1327-77) staged a glorious Golden Jubilee procession from the Tower of London followed by a week-long joust at Smithfield in London.

Over four and a half centuries later, when records were better, George III (1760-1820) celebrated his Golden Jubilee with lavish processions, feasts and a 50 gun salute from the Tower of London. St Paul's Cathedral hosted a service of thanksgiving which was followed by many banquets and the poor did not miss out as food and money were provided for them to celebrate and this even included prisoners.

After the death of Prince Albert in 1861, Queen Victoria (1837-1901) had largely withdrawn from public life and seldom appeared in public but the Golden Jubilee was seen as an important opportunity for her to reconnect with the nation. Celebrations lasted two days beginning in Windsor with a sumptuous outdoor breakfast held near Prince Albert's Mausoleum. A banquet was then held at Buckingham Palace. (*right: Victoria's Golden Jubilee portrait*)



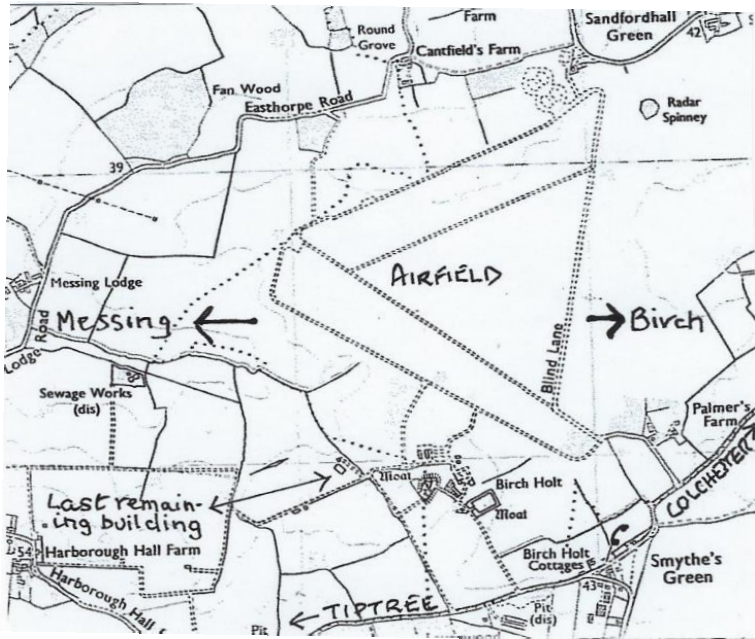
Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in June 1897, the first of any British monarch, started with a private service of thanksgiving at St George's Chapel in Windsor and continued two days later in London with a Royal Procession from Buckingham Palace. Victoria rode in an open carriage to Westminster Abbey for a ceremony of thanksgiving and then to cheers from the crowd appeared on the balcony at Buckingham Palace. In the evening she attended another banquet and watched a firework display in the gardens.

The first Silver Jubilee of a monarch to be celebrated was in May 1935 in honour of Queen Victoria's grandson, King George V (1865-1936). The king's family, including Queen Mary, our future Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, rode through North London in a carriage and a public holiday was declared with fetes, pageants and parties being arranged all over the country.



The next Silver Jubilee was in 1977 marking 25 years of Queen Elizabeth II as monarch. The Queen and Prince Philip travelled the world and the country, and then on Jubilee Day in the Gold State Coach drove through crowds of well-wishers to St Paul's Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving. Her Golden and Diamond Jubilees in 2002 and 2012 were equally spectacular and the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant, headed by the Royal Barge, led a flotilla of 1000 boats.

But a Platinum Jubilee will not be celebrated again for many years - so let's enjoy a real historic occasion!



When the Americans entered the war in 1942 extra airfields were needed in East Anglia to accommodate their aircraft. Some 15 were to be built in Essex, including this one at Birch (*left*). 500 acres of farm land between the villages of Birch and Messing was acquired much to the dismay of local farmers who had been instructed by the Government to grow essential crops to support Britain's food supply.

It wasn't until August 1943 that the 846<sup>th</sup> United States Engineering Group arrived to commence building an operation airfield. Three concrete

runways, 50 hard standing bays, two large hangars made of corrugated iron sheets with sliding doors, technical workshops, and administration and basic accommodation for almost 3,000 personnel.

Being close to the A12 road and main railway line enemy aircraft often flew over the airfield using road and rail for navigational purpose to reach London. Occasionally bombs were dropped around the airfield. In December 1943 a direct attack was made by low flying Luftwaffe bombers dropping four bombs, but there was little damage, only a cowshed was hit, but fortunately no animals were injured.

In April 1944 Birch airfield was ready for occupation by the 9<sup>th</sup> US Bomb Group (*badge right*), but their stay was short lived for within a few weeks the unit transferred to the airfield at Gosfield, near Halstead, leaving the base station unused. The empty airfield was soon put to use by many pilots limping back home in their damaged aircraft to look for an emergency landing space. On May 13<sup>th</sup> four Lightning planes of the 474<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group found the atrocious weather too bad for them to continue to their own base so landed at Birch despite the fact that the runway had been obstructed with barriers, but the four pilots managed to negotiate their landings safely.



By this time the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force no longer needed Birch as they moved on to an airfield in Kent to be nearer the action in France, and again Station 149 was left deserted. It wasn't until March 1945 that Birch saw troops of the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division move into the accommodation in preparation for taking part in the planned major airborne task, known as 'Varsity', attacking the crossing of the River Rhine in Germany. A great number of C47 Dakota transport aircraft (*left: white rings denote invasion stripes; lower left: Horsa glider*) from airfields in

Gloucestershire arrived at Birch to take part in the planned operation. The Dakotas were military aircraft suitable as troop-carriers as well as glider towing. Early in the

morning September 24<sup>th</sup> the crews had a final briefing and took off from the runways in semi-darkness. The gliders they towed were Horsa constructed in plywood, made up of thirty separate parts; they had a gliding speed of 100mph and carried two pilots and up to 28 fully equipped troops. 440 Horsa gliders saw action in 'Operation Varsity'. This was to be the last flying that took place from Birch and after this the airfield was returned to the control of the Royal Air Force. It wasn't until the 1950s that the accommodation buildings were demolished following occupation by squatters.

It is recorded that the villagers of Messing did well for goods that were in short supply during the war, for the American airmen were generous in passing on chocolate, cigars, cigarettes and liquor and helping children who asked for gum. The GIs made good use of the two local public houses, the Messing Crown (*right*) and the White Horse on the Tiptree road – but they often complained that the beer was "too warm".



Grateful for the American's generosity, Messing folk in return helped with stoking the station boilers and attending to the airmen's laundry. Annoyed at the attention the GIs gave to the young ladies in the village, the local boys took revenge by placing bars of soap into each of the boilers for heating the airfield staff coffee and tea!

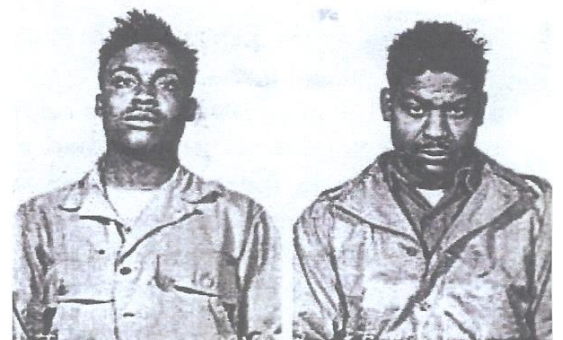


farmers. One original brick building remains (*left*), used by the farmer for storage and it is surrounded by beehives.

It is now some seventy years since Birch airfield was last used. Today there is little evidence of the activity that took place there and the airfield has reverted back to farmland. A section of Runway 3 is a link road known as Blind Lane, joining Tiptree Road with Sandfordhall Green; and another part of the perimeter tracks forms hard standing for the

As far as known, there is no memorial in recognition of the men who served on the airfield.

Finally on a sombre note, Birch airfield is probably best remembered for a case of murder. On December 7<sup>th</sup> 1943 a 28 year old taxi driver, Henry Claude Hailstone, who lived at 78 East Hill, Colchester, picked up two American airmen who were serving with 356<sup>th</sup> Engineer General Service Regiment at Birch, from a town centre public house to take them back to their accommodation on the airfield. Next day, Hailstone's Vauxhall taxi was found abandoned in Haynes Green Lane, Layer Marney, but there was no sign of the driver until his body was discovered in a ditch by Birch Rectory. He had been strangled. Suspicion fell on the two airmen – Private John C Leatherberry aged 21 (*right*) and Private George Fowler aged 22 (*far right*). Eventually they were



both arrested. The Essex County Standard of 21<sup>st</sup> January 1944 reported with great detail that “two coloured US soldiers had been accused of the murder at a court martial in Ipswich”. It went on to say that the procedure was unique in that the two accused were tried by separate courts in adjoining rooms, witnesses having to give the same evidence twice. After just over a 12 hour sitting, Fowler, who was tried first, was found guilty of murder, robbery and larceny for which he was returned to the US to serve his sentence of "confinement to prison with hard labour for life." His trial had been interrupted so that he could give evidence in the trial of Leatherberry which was adjourned until the next day.

Leatherberry, judged as the instigator of the crime, was hanged on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1944 at Shepton Mallet prison by the British executioners, Thomas Pierrepoint and his nephew, Albert, using the British and not American method. Shepton Mallet prison became a military prison and place of execution for convicted US servicemen under the Visiting Forces Act of 1942 when it was taken over by the American government.

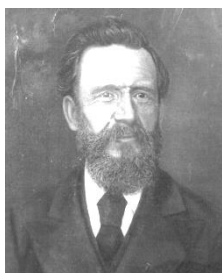
An interesting, if unpleasant, fact is that Leatherberry is buried at Fère-en-Tardenois, Picardy, France, in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Plot E row 4 grave number 86. This is a separate and hidden area 100 metres away from the main cemetery, reserved for the 96 “dishonourable dead” - those who were executed under military authority for crimes committed during or shortly after World War II. Only small numbered marker stones indicate the graves. Officially this plot does not exist and is not mentioned on maps or guides. The area is surrounded by hedges and can only be accessed through the superintendent’s office.

### Rose Cottage, “Lord’s Lane”, Colchester



Life must have been rather unpleasant in the mid-1880s for the occupants of Rose Cottage for a huge development was taking place nearby in the Lord’s Land Estate (*map left*) owned by the Papillon family. It had been reasonably peaceful until then.

The 1851 census records a property “Lord’s Lane” which was Rose Cottage, and was occupied by a gardener, James Monson, a local man born in 1783, and his wife, Susannah, from Gt Oakley. In 1841 the Monson family had been living in Crouch Street and there was no mention of Rose Cottage in that Census suggesting it was probably built in the 1840s. Their son, Charles, aged 20, was the youngest of four brothers and recorded as a portrait painter. The brothers all became photographers.



Benjamin Monson (*left*) (1824-1901) stayed in Colchester working as a writing master but was known as the town’s first photographer. Having been a contact for his brother Edward’s temporary studio, by 1854 he had his own photographic studio at 14 Crouch Street and in the following years set up other temporary studios. By 1870 he had a new studio at 7 East Hill and his last trade directory entry was in 1902.

His older brother, Edward, (1822-1907) initially worked as a land surveyor in Ipswich but ran a photographic studio together with teaching handwriting, as Benjamin did. He also set up many temporary studios in various parts of the country, including Chelmsford, Maldon, Cambridge (*right c1854*), Northampton, Coventry, Wolverhampton, etc. He had a more permanent studio at 117 New Street in Birmingham in the mid 1850s but after 10 years he gave up the photographic business and is recorded in successive censuses in Acton as a surveyor, civil engineer and printer.

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT ROOMS**  
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**M**ESSRS. P. and C. MONSON, Portrait and Miniature Painters, having of late devoted much of their time and attention to Photography, have at length obtained very great success in this art. They have pleasure in announcing a short professional visit to Hertford, and respectfully call attention to their large Pictures, and to their facilities for taking groups and executing large orders

Prices of Portraits in common frames:—

	Size in inches.	Prices.	Groups.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First size, suitable for miniatures, lockets, and brooches.....	2½ by 2	0 10 6	1 0 0
Second size.....	3½ by 2½	0 11 6	1 1 0
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Fourth size, suitable for single portraits and groups.....	5 by 4	1 0 0	1 10 0
Fifth size, full lengths and groups.....	6½ by 4½	1 5 0	1 18 0

Sitters can be better accommodated by previously making an appointment. None but good portraits sent out.

Philip Monson (1829-1900), also a portrait and miniature painter, moved to photography and set up temporary "Photographic Portrait Rooms at Mr. Francis's, Hertford, Nurseries" in July 1853 (*left*) with his younger brother Charles (1830-1904). They provided Daguerreotypes "First size, suitable for miniatures, lockets and brooches" for 10s 6d. Philip then moved around the country practising at temporary studios and Charles settled in Northampton, giving up photography to concentrate on portrait painting.

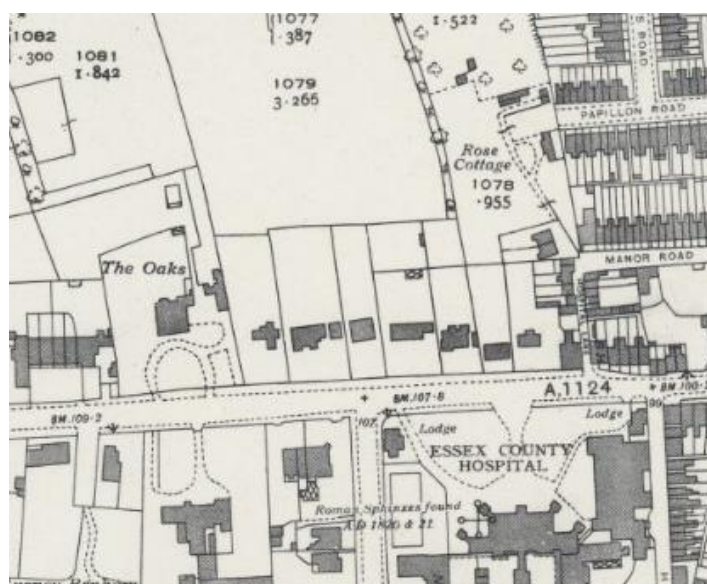
In 1861 Rose Cottage was occupied by Robert and Emily Burgess and their four small daughters. He had been born in Alresford in 1828 and worked as a "shopman in Spirit

Stores". With them was Emily's sister, Susannah Castle, a dressmaker, then the family moved to Richmond, Surrey, where Robert was employed as an ironmonger's assistant and died in 1904.

The Finchams were the next family in Rose Cottage and in 1871 Samuel Fincham (1821-1913), his wife Martha, their sons, George, aged 20 and a clerk in the County Court Office, and Joseph, who was still at school. Samuel was a gardener and servant, possibly working at Lord's Land Nursery. They had earlier lived in Hospital Lane with Martha working as a dressmaker and in 1881 were again there at No 3 where they stayed for many years.

Rose Cottage was next occupied by William Demmon, born in 1853 in Abberton and his wife, Eliza, from Earls Colne. He was an ironmonger's assistant and they must have moved to the cottage just after their marriage in 1880 but they had no children. They remained in the cottage for over forty years and the 1911 census recorded that they had five rooms including a kitchen. The cottage outline on a contemporary map suggests that it was double fronted with two ground floor rooms and possibly three bedrooms.

In the 1913 Benham's Directory Mr W Demmon is still living at Rose Cottage but in the 1924 Directory Mr L Baines is there. The address of Rose Cottage varied from Hospital Lane in 1861 to Manor Road and even Lexden Road.



*Above left: 1924 - Rose Cottage still visible at the end of houses in Papillon Road.*

*Above right: 1939-46 - Rose Cottage is again marked and note the development of Lexden Road to the south.*

A sale catalogue dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 1930 advertises the sale of "Cedarholme and Silver Birches (Nos 3 and 5) Lexden Road, with land to rear, Rose Cottage, Manor Road, and 6-8 Hospital Lane, Colchester". However it is not clear whether they were sold separately or as a group.

The street directories of 1953, 1956 and 1959 record Manor Gardens, at the west end of Manor Road, with three properties, including Rose Cottage and Mr R F Poulson as the occupant in 1953 for some years. In 1959 the Cottage was reduced to being just No 3 Manor Gardens. Kemp's 1969 Directory records Manor Gardens separately, again with three properties including Rose Cottage when a Mr P Carden was living there.

In the early 1950s a private nursing home was set up by a consultant, Ronald Reid, in his home, The Oaks in Lexden Road. Colchester Nursing Home Ltd became a charity in 1959 and later Colchester Catalyst Charity. According to his record with the Royal College of Surgeons, Ronald Reid (1906-68) was a stocky, fair-haired robust Scot usually with a twinkle in his eye, a golfer and artist. He was supremely competent, ingenious and ever ready to help his younger colleagues and he introduced regular meetings of the Colchester Surgical Club which attracted surgeons worldwide. The Nursing Home moved in 1969 to new premises further down the developing Oaks Drive built on the grounds of The Oaks which had been sold. The development of Oaks Drive continued but Rose Cottage was not demolished until about 1974.

The current owner of the house on the site of Rose Cottage has been there for over 30 years. He assumes from the original name of the cottage that there must have been a good display of roses, and adds that when they moved there in 1988 the front border boasted some well established roses which still receive compliments.

**MORE FROM PHILIP CARDY 1906-1996 Part 4**  
**Accounts of the people he knew in Lexden Road**  
**(continuing from LHG Newsletter June 2021)**

*Philip Cardy lived in Lexden all his life. He recorded his memories but gave strict instructions that they should not be published until after his death which is understandable as he talked frankly about the people he had known from an early age! It is not always clear the years he is describing and many events must have been told by his parents, so it is very difficult to identify some of those he mentions. It is also difficult to locate the actual houses where people lived as some have been demolished and the numbers have changed several times. (Editor's additions in italics/brackets).*

Just past the Manor we come to Mrs (Martha) Lanagan. She was Irish and a dear, especially to little children. If you met her you were right for a penny or even tuppence sometimes. She had a daughter, a real Irish colleen and pretty with it. In Stanway there was a family of large farmers named Wagstaff, they farmed about 5,000 acre. One of these lads got this girl into trouble and in those days the girl had to take the man to court and prove beyond doubt that he was the father. Well, as all the magistrates were the gentry of the two villages and all the members of the old pals club, you just know how far Betty got. All the ladies over the road gave it as their opinion that there was nothing for the Lanagans to do except keep the child and make the best of a bad job as the Wagstaffs would not pay a penny. Mrs Lanagan said, "We will see." Now Mrs Lanagan was a pretty observant old lady, she did not miss much. Mr Wagstaff had at that time a beautiful horse. He would not take it to the market on Saturdays as he said they did not get fed. So the boy had to put it to and drive the old man down the Straight Road so that he could catch the quarter to eleven tram (*right: tram at Lexden*). He had to go there as the trams came no further.



All this was observed by Mrs Lanagan. You must understand that the seats on a tram ran along each side – the passengers had their backs to the side. Well one Saturday Mrs Lanagan got ready. First she dressed the child in its best clothes and did the same for herself. Then when she was all ready she picked the child up and carried it over the road and got on the tram and sat down just inside the door. Mr Wagstaff was up the other end as far from Mrs Lanagan as he could get. The quarter to eleven was the tram that all the ladies in the road went to town in for coffee in the morning. So Mrs Lanagan waited and when she got a bit along the road she got up and walked along the tram and when she got to him she said in a good loud voice, "There now, Mr Wagstaff, don't you think your granddaughter is a fine child? I thought you might like to nurse it." She popped it on his lap and walked away. When they got to the market the old man brought it back to her and said, "You will have to come and see me." But Mrs Lanagan was not having it. She said, "Oh no, I can't walk all that way and you have a fine horse and trap. You must come and see me." Well the pony and trap arrived and the ladies were curious to know what had happened, and neither did they wait for a long time.

The youngster grew up and time was drawing on for her to go to school and speculation was running high. At that time there was on the corner of Wellesley





Road and Lexden Road a very high class school (left: Endsleigh House on extreme right - now demolished) for gentlemen's daughters and there was nobody taken there unless your father was the Police Superintendent or one of the top businessmen of the town. Well, everyone was watching and the door of Mrs Lanagan's house opened and there stood little Betty Lanagan in all the splendour of the Endsleigh school uniform. Your guess is as good

as mine as to who paid for it and she remained at that school until she was seventeen and a half. Mrs Coats-Hutton's daughter was at that school and in the years that followed she married Cassels, the famous Advocate, and Betty had a job in his office. I do not know if she is alive now.

*(Martha Lanagan (née Martin), b1854 in Colchester, married in 1872 West Riding Regiment Scotsman Joseph b1850. In 1901 Joseph and Martha were in St Allbright's workhouse. Joseph and Martha lived for some years at 12 Church Lane moving in about 1915 to 12 Lexden Road with a short spell in 1911 at 4 Sir Isaacs Walk. Their daughter Medora Florence Martha 1879-1941 was born in the East Indies. Kathleen Wagstaff Medora Lanagan (Betty) was born on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1907 and baptised at Lexden Church. Unfortunately, no further details of her can be found. Her mother, Medora, married traction engine driver John Keeling in July 1910, moved to Ramsden Bellhouse, Essex, and went on to have 8 children. Thomas Wagstaff b1849 farmed at Judd's Farm on*



*London Road (left in 1894) and had three sons, Bertie b1882, Roger b1889 and Harry b1891. Judging from their ages Bertie may have been responsible for Medora's illegitimate daughter and Mrs Lanagan's assault on the "farmer from Stanway". Bertie emigrated to Australia in May 1908 - perhaps he was encouraged to do so! He worked as a Draper/Mercer near Sydney, married, had a family and called his house "Stanway". He died in 1958.*

*Irene Fitzroy Coats Hutton 1895-1997 married in 1919 Joshua David Casswell QC 1886-1963 noted for a case involving the Titanic and for several infamous murders.)*

The shop, now a house, was the Post Office which also had the only telephone in Lexden (centre right No 31, now 211). That was in a glass enclosed cabin in the shop. If you wanted a message sent anywhere you had to give it to the person behind the counter and she would lock herself in, ask the Exchange for the number and then she had to keep turning a handle till she got the answer. The



Post Office was kept by Mr and Mrs Keeping. There was also a bakery business attached. I can remember Mr Keeping. He was a tall man with a beard. He had a pony and cart to deliver the bread. The cart had a yellow buck, red wheels and was drawn by a brown pony. Miss Keeping, who was born soon after her father was killed at Mons, ended her working life as assistant Matron of St Mary's and the Essex County Hospitals.

*(Cecil George Keeping, born 1880 in Lambeth, was appointed as replacement Sub Post Master on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1912 at a salary of £73 16s. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery (Service No 169859) during WW1 but was killed in action on 21 Oct 1918 in Cambrai aged 38 – not at Mons. He is buried at Quievy Communal Cemetery. His widow, Emily Mary, became "Acting Sub postmaster" from the following day. Her salary was at a reduced rate of £69 16s but this was increased the following July to £78 16s. She died in Colchester in 1979. Margaret H Keeping was actually born in November 1917 almost a year before her father was killed. She died in Colchester in 1985.)*



The road up Lexden Hill is exactly the same as it was when I first remember it. It ran alongside Pump Meadow (Lexden Springs) to opposite the Manor where the line was broken by the gardener's cottage. This is the only cottage that I know of in Colchester which has the windows in the shape of half-moons (left - it was at one time a toll house). Further up the road there are some very old cottages but I never knew anyone in them.

Over the road (No 12 Lexden Street) we find Mr Mann, the man who never went home to a meal - he always went on spec. Right beside him (No14) lived the two Miss Bear, twin daughters of Colonel Colvin's butler. One kept house, the other did the post delivery in Lexden from start to finish in rain snow or anything else she never failed.

*(Bazett Wetenhall Colvin was a retired Indian Civil Servant, and lived in the Manor from about 1893 until he died in 1909 but Edward Bear, was butler all his life to the Papillon family. His family always lived close by. He died in 1906 aged 80 and is buried at Lexden. Sisters Margaret Bear b1864 and Susan b1866, were not twins, they never married and lived at No 14 for some years. They had local domestic employment. In 1939 Margaret and sister Elizabeth b1861 lived at 68 Constantine Road. Frederick Mann 1861-1938, carpenter and joiner, wife Maria, had five sons and five daughters.)*

As we wander up the hill past the houses which stand above the brick wall opposite the Crown (right) we come to a hole in the wall with steps in it. This led to three little cottages standing end-on. The top one (No 40 Lexden Street) was lived in by Fred Gilder. He was a bachelor and he did no regular work, but he was a first class Tradesman, Carpenter and shipwright. He lived there all the time I knew him. The living room was



usually full of smoke, the windows you could not see through at all. But Fred took the view that if he could not see out they could not see in. So you have a picture of the man who all the village took their saws to be sharpened or tools rehandled;

greenhouses and conservatories - so long as you provided the wood - he would build them. Always provided it was not a good fishing day. If it was, you would not see Fred. He had the run of all the water round here for miles because the farmers knew that otherwise they would not get new shafts put on their carts for next to nothing, and it was no good grumbling or you did not get it done at all. Poor old Fred, the village missed him when he was found dead.

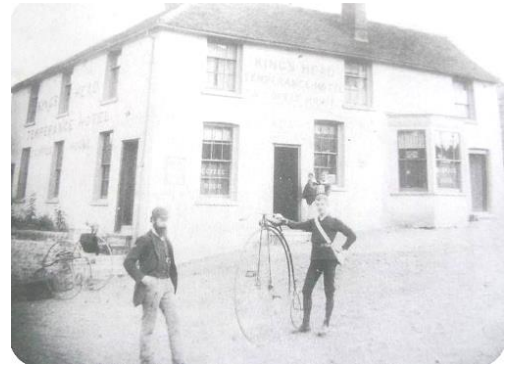
*(Frederick Gilder b1859 in London. In 1881 he was a threshing machine maker, in 1891 a carpenter in Hospital Lane near the Finchams in Rose Cottage. He died in 1936 and is buried at Lexden)*

Next to him in the middle cottage lived a family by the name of Rhodes. He was only a little man and he was involved in the 1914 war from start to finish - he said he was so small the Germans never saw him. I did not know a lot about him till the Second World War when we worked together. *(possibly Henry A Rhodes, house decorator, First Aid member at St John Ambulance with Philip Cardy. In 1924 Benham's Directory, Rhodes family at Nos 24 and 26 Lexden Street.)*

In the next house *(42 Lexden Street)* lived Charlie Mace and his identical twin sisters. I have never seen anything like it - there was not anybody could tell them apart. Charles himself was not a big man but his sisters made up for it. They were huge people always dressed in black trimmed with sequins, everyone in the same place. Charles himself told me he could not tell them apart except one had a little different way of saying a couple of words. Charles was one who liked a pint and any other mischief that I reckon those sisters had to put up with because they did not do any work themselves. Charlie worked at Lodge Farm. He was a Dayman and had to get to work at seven o'clock. I was a Cowman and had to be at work at five with the result that when I arrived at work one morning at 5 am and found Charlie sitting smoking this pipe I knew there was trouble in the camp.. I said, "Hallo Charlie. What, have you been into mischief again?" He said, "I don't think so, but they got a hold of the talk about me. Soon as I got in the door they set about me. I don't know what they be modding about and don't want to. I hung my bag on the nail, went to bed and covered my head up. I got up at half four and came down here for a bit of peace. By the time I get back about six to half-past, they will have got something else to argue over."

I remarked, "I should have thought they could have found something in the form of a husband by now." "So they could if they had been sensible, but they refused to marry unless they could live next door to each other. Well, the chaps backed off sharpish. You see living like that you would not know whether you were talking to your wife or next door One chap would have taken one of them provided they lived one and a half miles apart, but they would not, so of course he backed off. So now you know how I got plagued with them." My mother was a stickler for politeness, especially in little boys. I met them with Mother and as they were both together I was at a loss to know how to address them as I did not know which was which. I was told that did not matter. If it happened again and one of them was alone I was to raise my hat and say, "Good morning, Miss Mace." If they were both together you raised your hat and said, "Good Morning, ladies." *(In 1901 and 1911 Charles Mace b1852 is living at No 42 Lexden Street with his sister Elizabeth, b1872. He had six sisters, Sarah, Mary, Susan, Eliza, Emma and Elizabeth, no evidence of twins, and Elizabeth is the only sister regularly recorded in local Census details.)*

The King's Head was at one time a pub (*right in Victorian times*). It came up for sale and Hurnard bought it and turned it into a lodging house and let it to Mr Cadman whose son was the owner of Stanford's the Estate Agents. He built a church next to it (*left:*



*Mission Church - foundation stone laid by a young Samuel Fennell Hurnard in 1884).* Well,

according to what my Mother told me, when it was three months old they finished the service and a couple of minutes later the whole front of the church fell down. The conclusion come to in the village was that "Someone" somewhere was not at all pleased with Mr Hurnard.

## Your Committee

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**Archivist and Refreshments Organiser - Positions Vacant**

## Forthcoming Meetings now start at 2.30pm

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> June – Liz White and Jackie Bowis:  
 The Queen's connection with Colchester**

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July – Peter Jones: Colchester Mills**

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July 2pm: Bring a picnic and join fellow  
 group members at Lexden Park, Spring Lane**

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> August: Summer BBQ  
 in Liz & Alan's Garden, Lexden Road  
 12.30pm – 3.00pm    £10 per person  
 (Book your place with any  
 Committee Member.)**

