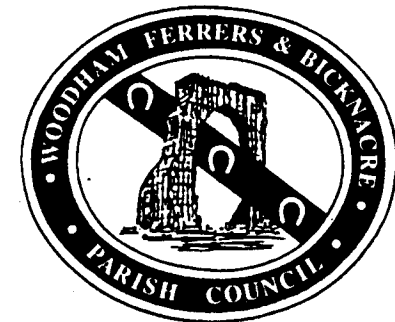




*Countryside Walks in and around
Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish*

*This booklet contains suggested country walks
& notes on places of local historic interest*



Written & Issued by
Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish Council

PARISH of RETTENDON.

The Lands of St. Etheldreda's, Ely, before the Conquest, 1066.

Hyde Hall, dates back to the early 15th century.

Rettendon was Radendunam, or Retendun, at the Domesday Survey.

It has been said that all but one of the bells from St. Mary's Church, Woodham Ferrers, were sold to pay for the repair of the fallen church tower, recast and hung in All Saints Church, Rettendon, in 1704.

N.B. Mill Hill; is a glacial deposit, not a burial ground for plague victims, as some have reported.

'Mille Hylle' was recorded in the Manor Court Rolls of 1538, but there has been no record of a mill on this site.

PARISH of WOODHAM FERRERS and BICKNACRE.

Woodham; Udeham; before the Conquest, and the addition of Ferrers after Henry Ferrers, or de Ferrieres, who was granted this Manor, one of five in Essex out of 210 Lordships throughout England.

The Bell; The Start and Finish of our walk, was probably named after the casting of one of the Church bells.

St. Mary's Church.

Town Farm.

Town Hill.

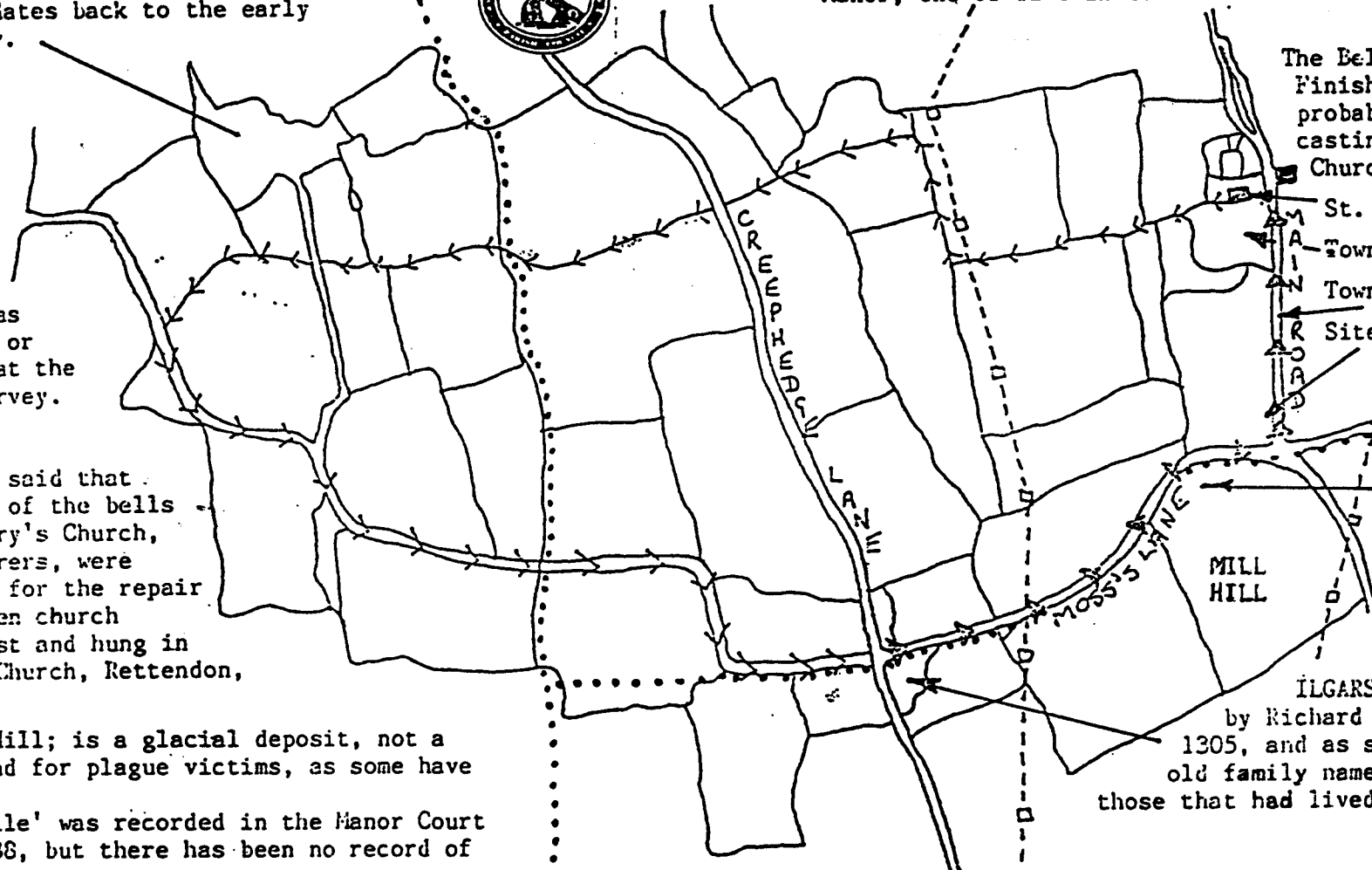
Site of the Parish Workhouse.

Edwin's Hall Lane.

Moss's Lane, alias Workhouse Lane, alias, Ilgars Lane.

MILL HILL

ILGARS MANOR; occupied by Richard and Maud Ilgar in 1305, and as so often happens the old family name survives long after those that had lived there have gone.



PARISH of SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS.

Created in 1987, divided from the old Parish and Town of Woodham Ferrers at the building of the New Town.

PARISH of EAST HANNINGFIELD.

Rose Hill Farm.

Creephedge Farm. has also been known as "Gardiners"& "Haygates"

PARISH of RETTENDON.

Creephedge Lane; Anciently an old drovers road, a cattle creep, a road along which sheep and cattle were driven to market. Before 1800 this part of Leighams Road was also called Creephedge Lane, as far as Bicknacre Common. Both Donkey Lane and Leighams Road were drovers roads.

Woodham Lodge; In 1897 all the estate was purchased by The Cavendish Land Company Ltd., who sold off plots in 6 and 8 acre lots as smallholdings, the remainder sold as farms. This same area was again looked at in 1947 as a possible site for a 'New Town'.

Marl Pit; an excavation to remove Marl, a clay and lime mixture used as a fertilizer.

Barrack Cottages; so named during the Napoleonic Wars, soldiers billeted here probably as observers. Soldiers were also here during the Great War as guards to the prisoners of war at Woodham Lodge.

Dyer's Farm; a 17th century, timber framed house, plastered with a tiled roof, containing some exposed ceiling-beams. The farm once extended south along the High road as far as Chapel Row.

Quilters Farm; the house is mainly 17th century, although some parts may be older, a timber framed and plastered two storey house with a tiled roof and still has an original chimney of grouped diagonal shafts.

PARISH of WOODHAM FERRERS and BICKNACRE.



Lodge Road; until just after the turn of the century this was a private road with gates at each end.

Woodham Lodge Farm; for sometime known as "Rosewarne Farm".

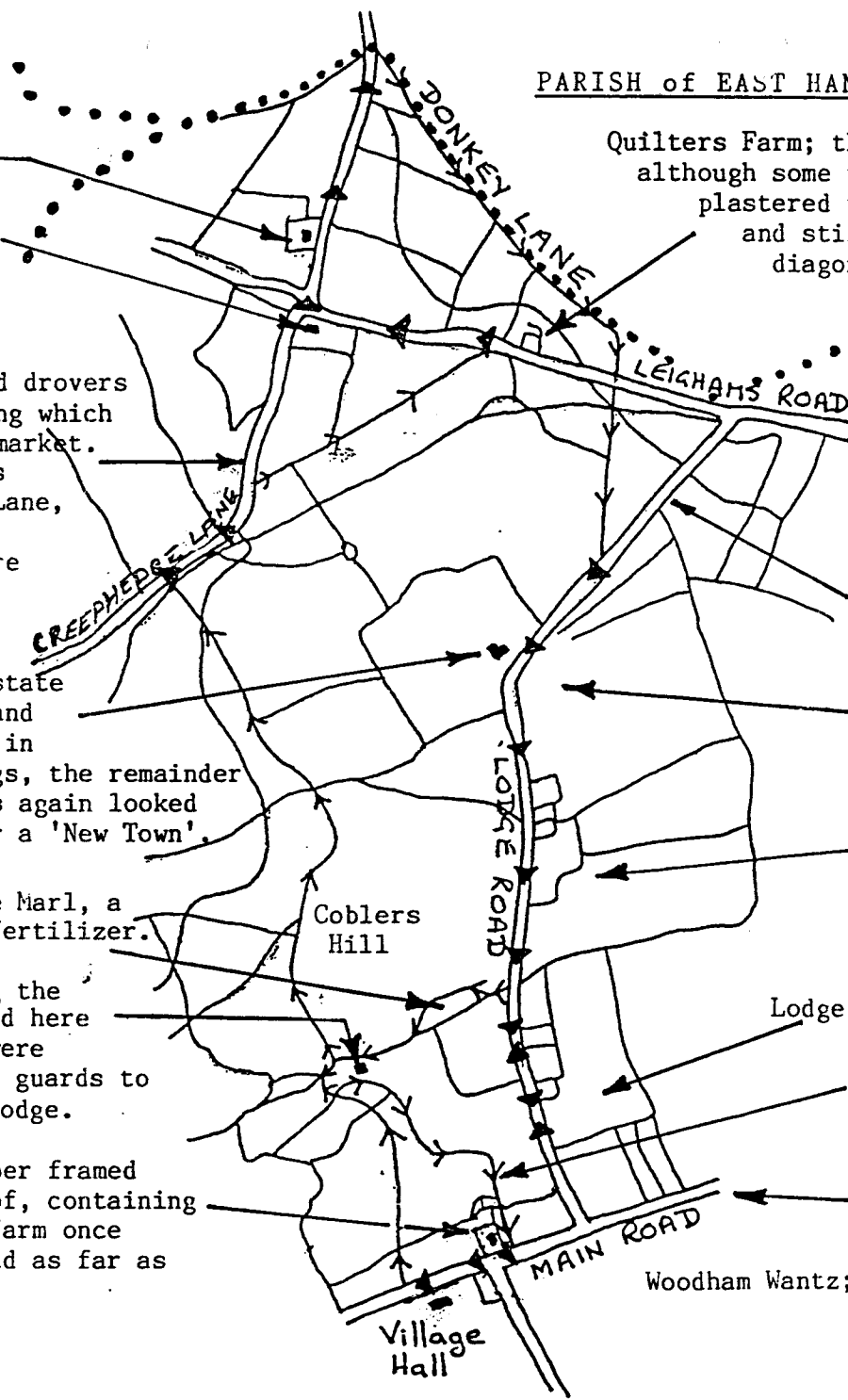
Fultons Farm; a small farm created by the selling off of Woodham Lodge Estate by the Cavendish Land Co..

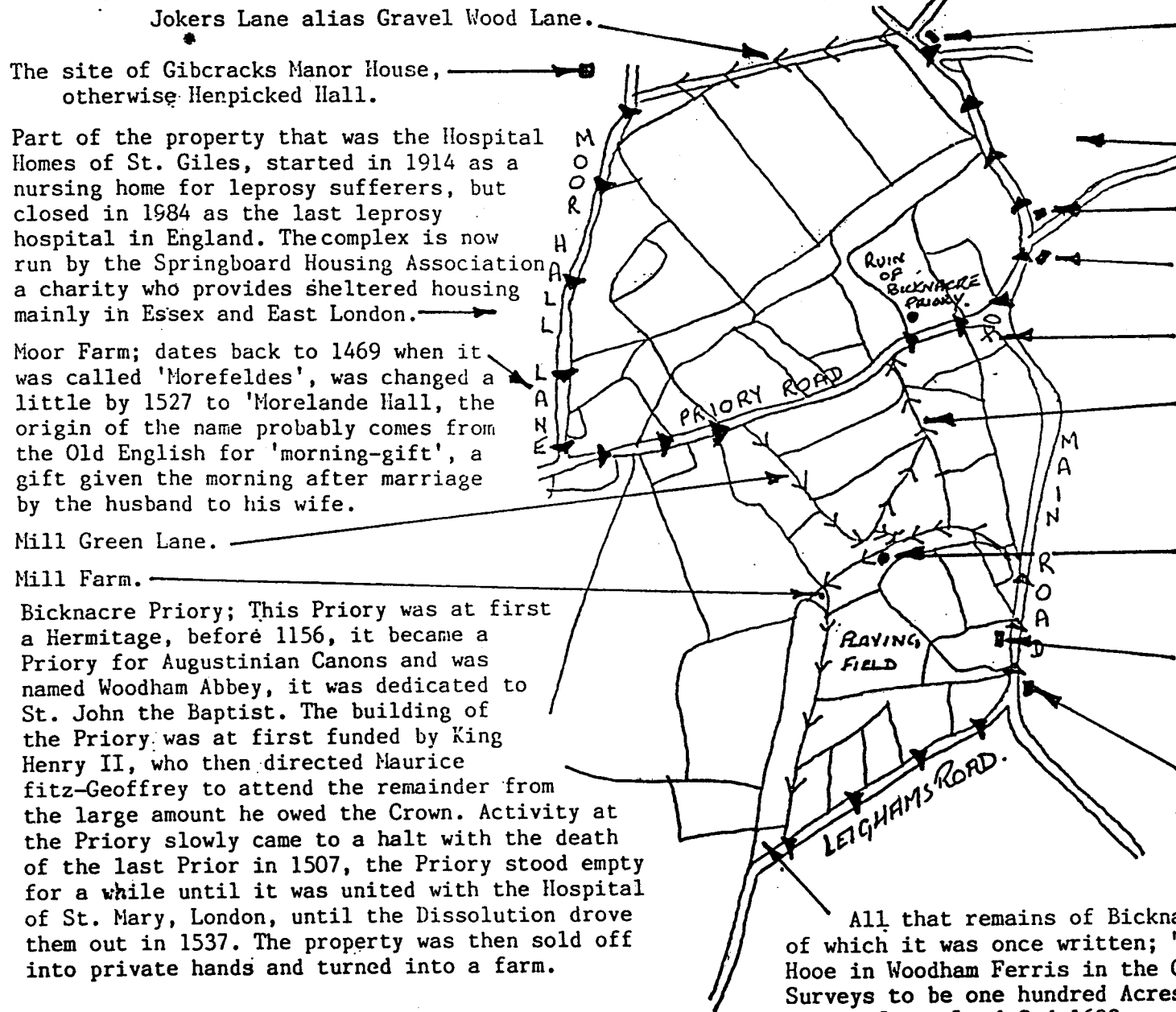
Lodge Road playingfield and Car Park.

Lane, sometime named Brookman's Farm Chase, or Tanners Green.

Main Road, also called The High Road was named Hall Street.

Woodham Wantz; (or Wants), an old word for crossroads, an area in which roads cross the Main Road, from Tanners Green to Crows Lane.





Jokers Lane alias Gravel Wood Lane.

The site of Gibcracks Manor House, otherwise Henpicked Hall.

Part of the property that was the Hospital Homes of St. Giles, started in 1914 as a nursing home for leprosy sufferers, but closed in 1984 as the last leprosy hospital in England. The complex is now run by the Springboard Housing Association a charity who provides sheltered housing mainly in Essex and East London.

Moor Farm; dates back to 1469 when it was called 'Morefeldes', was changed a little by 1527 to 'Morelande Hall, the origin of the name probably comes from the Old English for 'morning-gift', a gift given the morning after marriage by the husband to his wife.

Mill Green Lane.

Mill Farm.

Bicknacre Priory; This Priory was at first a Hermitage, before 1156, it became a Priory for Augustinian Canons and was named Woodham Abbey, it was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The building of the Priory was at first funded by King Henry II, who then directed Maurice fitz-Geoffrey to attend the remainder from the large amount he owed the Crown. Activity at the Priory slowly came to a halt with the death of the last Prior in 1507, the Priory stood empty for a while until it was united with the Hospital of St. Mary, London, until the Dissolution drove them out in 1537. The property was then sold off into private hands and turned into a farm.

The site of 'The Three Compasses' P.H. in the 1840's the Pub was run by John Hazell; the owner, Mary Shuttleworth, also had other property, part of which was known as 'Little Bicknacre Common'.

Soon after the old 'Three Compasses' closed, another opened on this site called 'The New Compasses Inn'.

'The White Swan', beer has been sold from this site since 1634.

Start and Finish, at Priory Corner Garage car park.

Priory Lane, One of the four lanes that lead to the mill.

The Site of Bicknacre Mill, a postmill and local land mark for about 300 years, closed in 1911 after being damaged in a storm.

'The Brewers Arms', first appears as Samwell Cooch's Copyhold called 'Tile Pit Hall', started selling beers in the 1870's.

'The Star', little known of this beerhouse and hostelry situated beside the old drovers road to Maldon, except in the later years they sold 'Crabb Beers',

All that remains of Bicknacre Common, otherwise known as the "Hooe" of which it was once written; "A Description of ye Common called ye Hooe in Woodham Ferris in the County of Essex Reputed in Ancient Surveys to be one hundred Acres which true Admeasurement in the yeare of our Lord God 1693 was found to be 99acres 3Roods & 30 perches by John Coffyn"



The Parish of
WOODHAM FERRERS and
BICKNACRE

The 'New' Wickhams, built
in the late 1800's to
replace the old
Elizabethan house.

the site of the old Manor
House called Wycombs, or
Wickhams, one of four moated
Manor Houses in the Parish.

The road used by the packhorses
carrying the salt from the
saltcotes of Sth.
Woodham and Stowe
Maries.

START
and
FINISH

The principal
Manor House
of the Parish,
Woodham Hall,
it is said that
the last of the
local branch of
the Ferrers family
William deFerrers,
died here in 1445.

The High Road, or
Main Road, but once
named Hall Street.

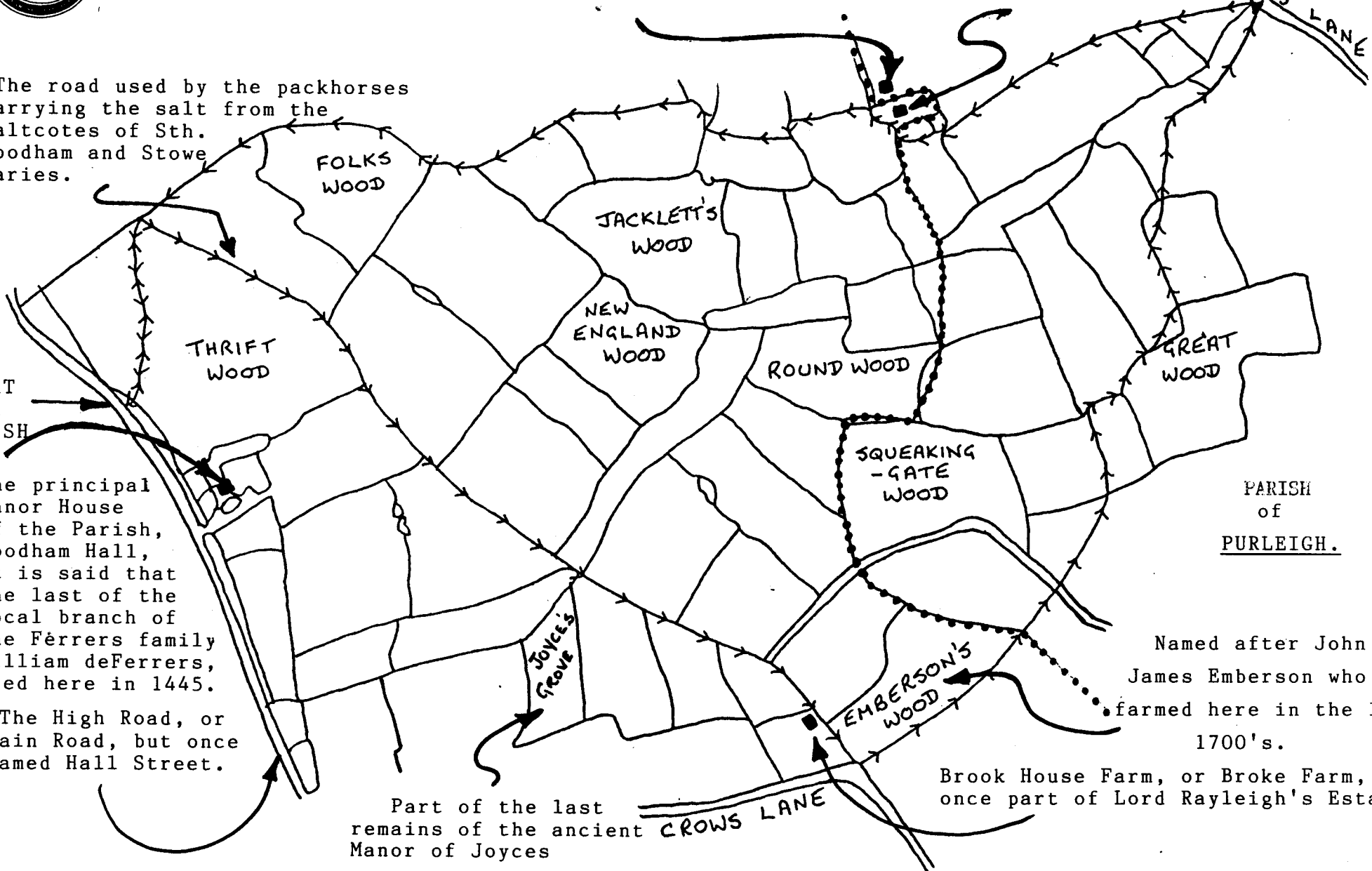
Part of the last
remains of the ancient
Manor of Joyces

CROWS LANE

Brook House Farm, or Broke Farm,
once part of Lord Rayleigh's Estates.

PARISH
of
PURLEIGH.

Named after John and
James Emberson who
farmed here in the late
1700's.



PARISH of WOODHAM FERRERS
and LICKNACRE.

White Elm, also known in distant past as Studley Green, and had its own entry in the Domesday Book, became part of the endowment of Bicknacre Priory.

Jackletts, an ancient Manor, one of the earliest recorded owners was Roger Jeket in the year 1310, and possibly the originator of the name, later owners include Edward de Vere the 17th Earl of Oxford, who, some claim, was the author of 'Shakespeare'

Maldon Road, a drovers road and one of the oldest roads in the Parish.

St. Andrews
The Brewers Arms.

Bicknacre Common, also known as the 'Hooe', and the site of the Windmill.

The Old Salt Road.

Site of Paprill's farm.

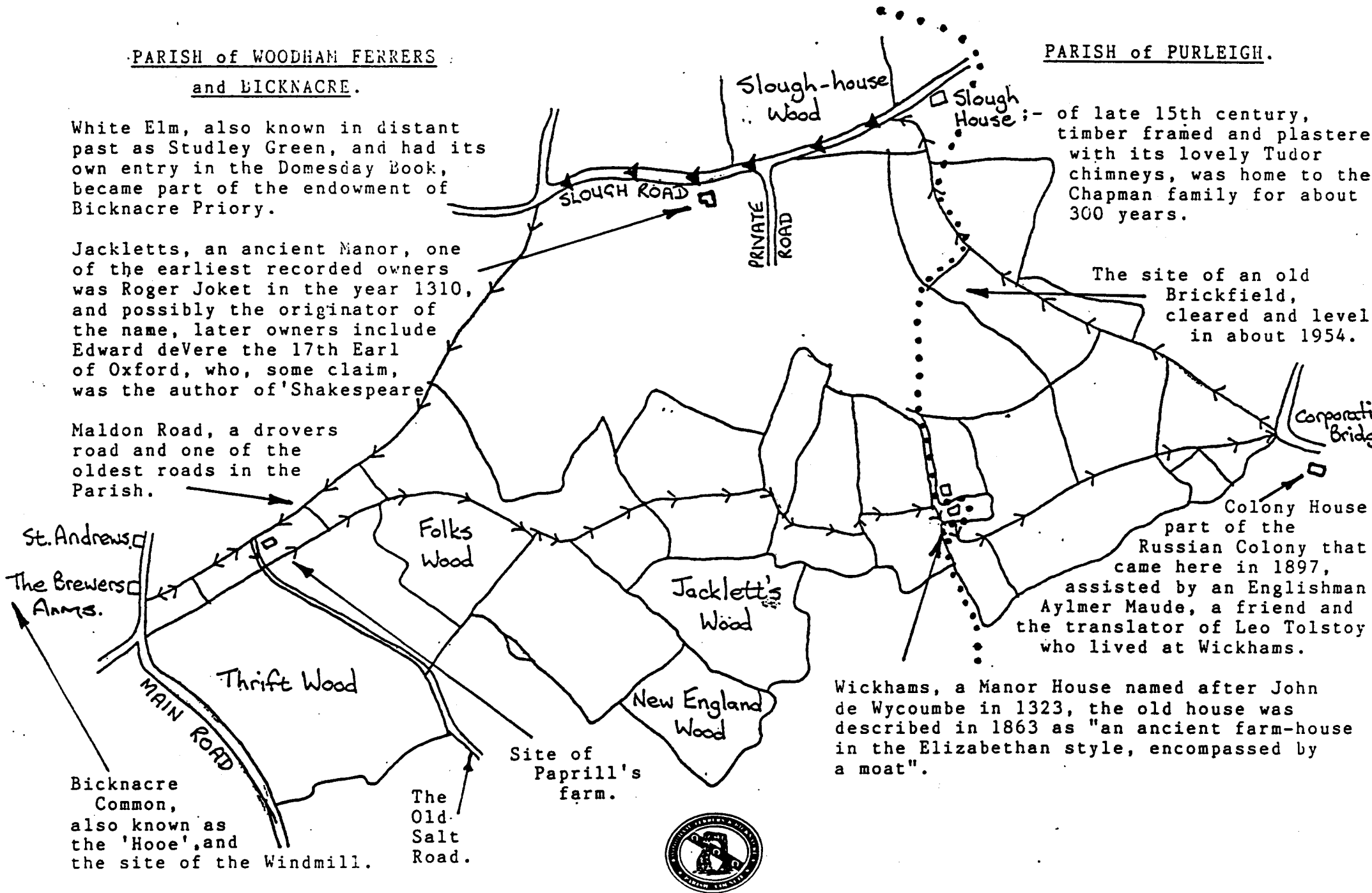
PARISH of PURLEIGH.

Slough-house Wood Slough House :- of late 15th century, timber framed and plastered with its lovely Tudor chimneys, was home to the Chapman family for about 300 years.

The site of an old Brickfield, cleared and levelled in about 1954.

Colony House, part of the Russian Colony that came here in 1897, assisted by an Englishman, Aylmer Maude, a friend and the translator of Leo Tolstoy, who lived at Wickhams.

Wickhams, a Manor House named after John de Wycoumbe in 1323, the old house was described in 1863 as "an ancient farm-house in the Elizabethan style, encompassed by a moat".



THE PARISH of WOODHAM FERRERS and BICKNAFORD.

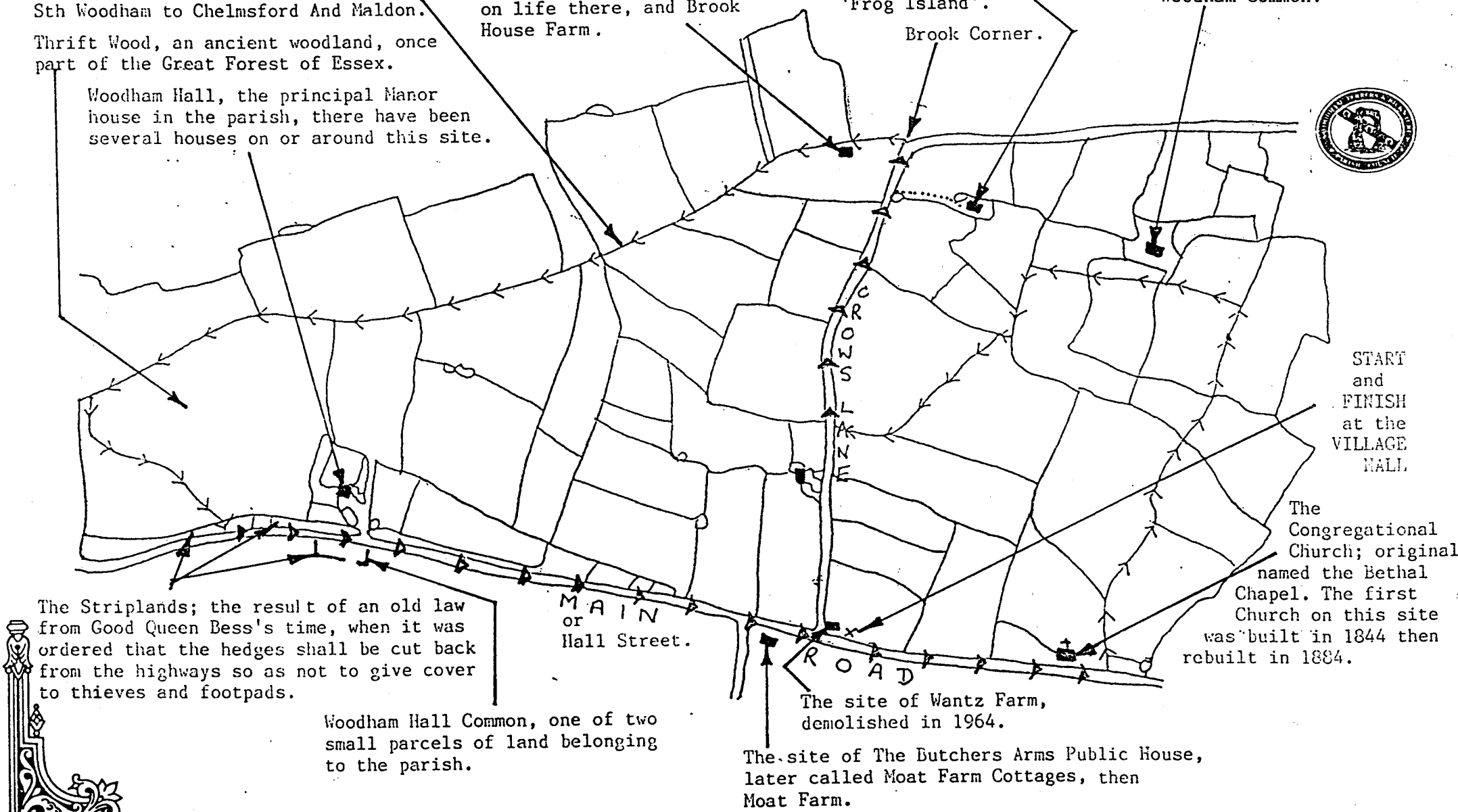
This old road was a continuation of Crows Lane, sometimes called The Chase, and was the road from Stow Maries and Sth Woodham to Chelmsford And Maldon.

Thrift Wood, an ancient woodland, once part of the Great Forest of Essex.

Woodham Hall, the principal Manor house in the parish, there have been several houses on or around this site.

Brook Farm; also known as Lintell's Farm, now lost Broke Farm, Perhaps a comment on life there, and Brook House Farm. the area is today known as 'Frog Island'.

Brazils; Was known as 'Besell's Croft' in 1526, built on land enclosed from Woodham Common.



The Striplands; the result of an old law from Good Queen Bess's time, when it was ordered that the hedges shall be cut back from the highways so as not to give cover to thieves and footpads.

Woodham Hall Common, one of two small parcels of land belonging to the parish.

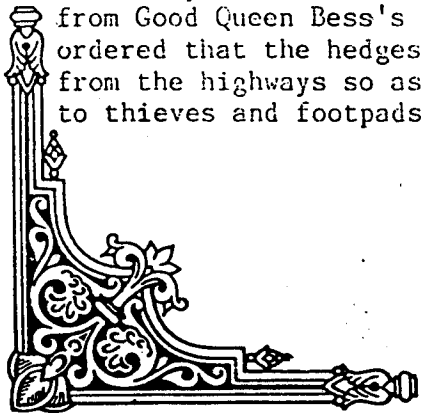
MAIN or Hall Street.

The site of Wantz Farm, demolished in 1964.

The site of The Butchers Arms Public House, later called Moat Farm Cottages, then Moat Farm.

START and FINISH at the VILLAGE HALL.

The Congregational Church; originally named the Bethal Chapel. The first Church on this site was built in 1844 then rebuilt in 1884.





'Charity Farm'

In 1716 Edmund Butler vested in trust an estate of 193 acres to provide for the education and clothing of the poor children of the parishes of Boreham and Little Baddow.

'Nuttings'

This new house stands on part of what once was Nuttings Farm, a part of Lord Rayleigh's estates along with Birkett's Hall.

'Hollands Farm'

Possibly a corruption of an old farm name of 'Howlands', which dates back to 1538.

St. Mary's Church,

Built on the site of a Saxon church in the 13th century, extended in the 14th & 15th centuries. The tower that once adorned the West end of the Church fell in 1703, was rebuilt only to fall again in 1774, and was replaced by a wooden belfry to house one of the former five bells.

'Blacklands' alias 'Widow Beards Cottage'.

'Crows Lane - alias - Blacklands Lane'.

'Edwins Hall'

Rebuilt by Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York, from whom it takes its name. The house today is but a small portion of the double moated Manor House which was built between 1576 and 1580.

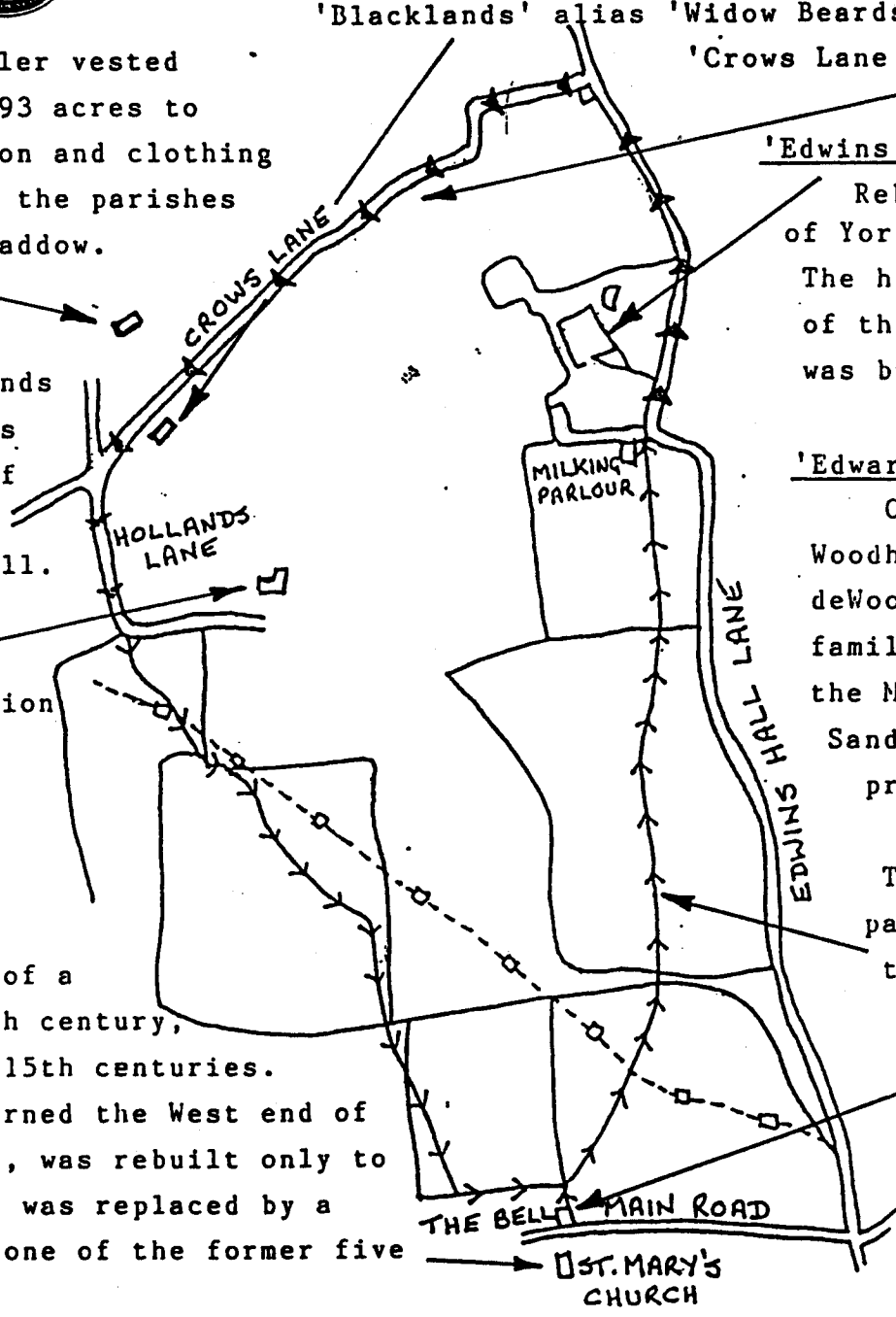
'Edwards Manor'

One of the smaller Manors of Woodham Ferrers, held by William deWoodham in 1271, remained in the family for well over 100 years. Later the Manor was in the possession of the Sandys family, who also held the property for over 100 years.

The footpath used today is the same path that was used by the staff at the Hall, the shortest route to town and Church.

'The Bell'

The present Public House was built in 1885, on a site that has had brewing connections as far back at least as 1623.



PARISH of WOODHAM FERRERS and BICKNACRE.



Charity Farm,
In 1716 Edmund Butler vested in trust an estate of 193 acres to provide for the education and clothing of the poor children of the Parishes of Boreham and Little Baddow.

EDWIN'S HALL
TO WOODHAM FERRERS.



TO SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS.

START and FINISH, FLAMBIRDS FARM.

The Manor of Flambards, (The name changed about 100 years ago), dates from 1486 then being held by Margaret Alley.

FLAMBIRDS FARM (PARKING)

HACKMAN'S LAKE

Site of 1st. W/War Airfield.

HAWES WOOD

WELLINDITCH FARM B1012

NATURE RESERVE

The Woodham Ferrers - Maldon Railway line, built by G.E.R. Opened in October 1889, closed to passengers in September 1939, closed and rails removed in 1953.

PARISH of PURLEIGH.

Other older names; Purley, Pourallee or Purlieu. A settlement on the border of an ancient Royal Forest.

Flambirds Farmhouse; A moated Elizabethan house, timber framed with additions.

"Flambirds", a title chosen by local novelist Katherine M Peyton for her series of books about life in Essex around the time of the First World War.



TO PURLEIGH.

COLD NORTON ('Nortuna - 1086).

Stow Church; This 15th century church dedicated to St. Mary and St. Margaret.

Stow Maries, or Stow St. Marys, Stow = a place, Maries = perhaps from a family named Mareys who once lived here.

STOW MARIES.

STOW CHURCH
OLD RAILWAY TRACK
WOODHAM FERRERS - MALDON

Stow St. Marys Halt; This tiny railway station was opened in September 1928, near the vicarage, almost as if it were a halt for the incumbent.

The Parish of East Hanningfield.

Well known for its W.I.,
(Motto; "United we stand").
Formed in 1917, along with
Woodham Ferrers, one of the
oldest W.I.'s in England.

Gibcracks of Jipcracks, or part
of the Parish of
Purleigh, the land
belonging to the
Earl of Oxford.

The Parish of Woodham Ferrers
and Bicknacre.



Great Gibcracks.

MCBDS
GRAVE.

South Gibcracks.

BICKNACRE ROAD.

PRIORY ROAD.

Mill Green
Lane.

Mill
Farm.

The site
of Bicknacre
Windmill

Common
Farm.

LEIGHAMS ROAD.

Hanningfield Common.

Great Claydons,
named after William Claydon
who died in 1330.

Great Claydons Farm,
Or Claidon's,
formally 'Hanningfield
Manor'.

The Hoce,
all that remains
of Bicknacre Common
that once measured
nearly one hundred
acres.

FPL
Leighams
Farm.

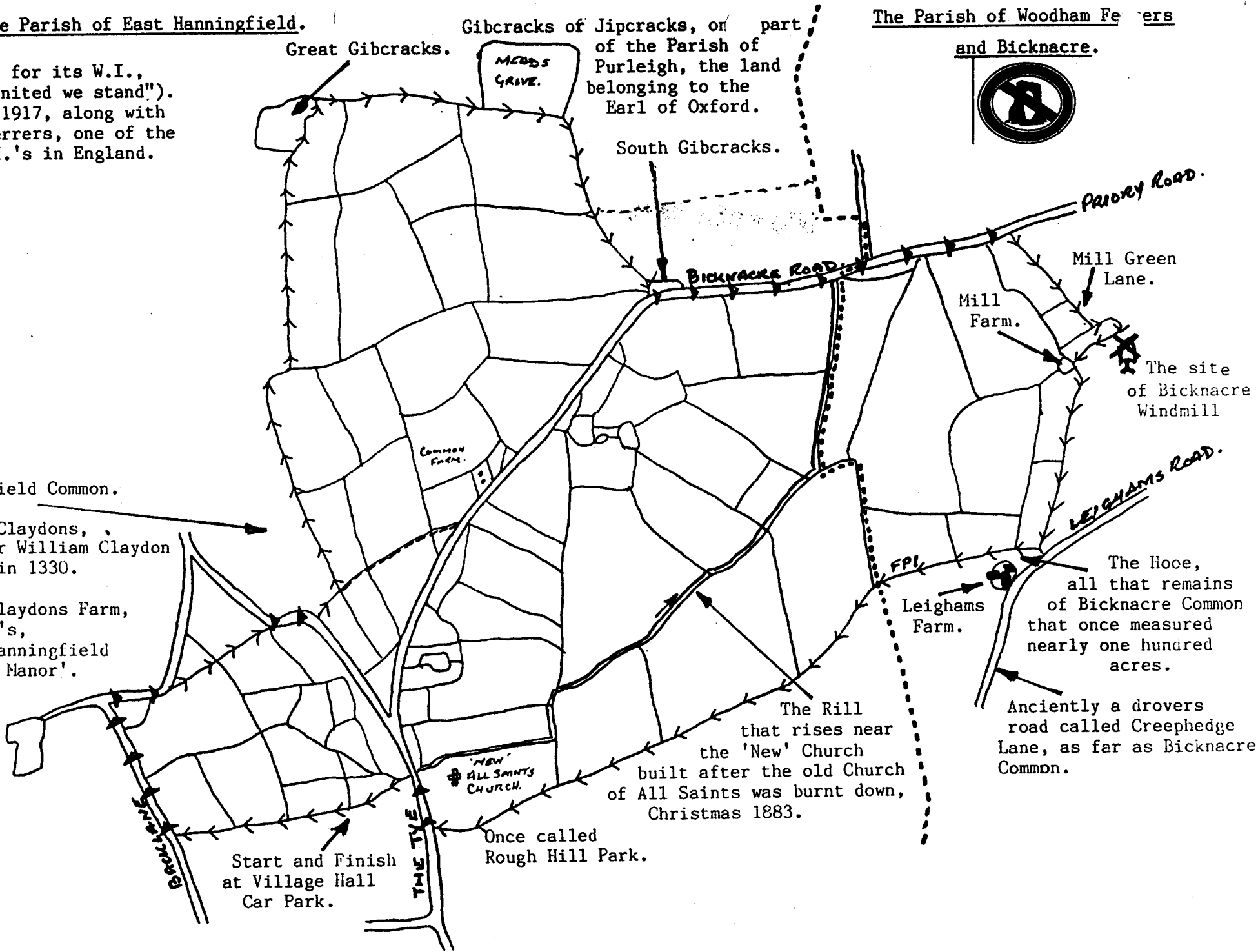
The Rill
that rises near
the 'New' Church
built after the old Church
of All Saints was burnt down,
Christmas 1883.

Once called
Rough Hill Park.

Start and Finish
at Village Hall
Car Park.

THE TIE

'NEW'
ALL SAINTS
CHURCH.





**Woodham Ferrers &
Bicknacre Parish Council**



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