

# EAST END 1841 AND 1977

By E.C.W.

---

For the uninitiated these notes do not refer to Tower Hamlets but to one short length of road in Damerham, from the bridge over the River Allen to the bottom of Court Hill.

In 1841 a Ringwood surveyor, Harry Holloway mapped South Damerham, then in Wiltshire, for the Tithe Commissioners so that the Church could more easily collect the taxes they had levied since at least the 9th century. As an interesting side note tithe annuities are now finally being abolished at the end of 1977.

East End is the one part of the village that seems to show little change, but I think Harry would have great difficulty recognising it in 1977 after 136 years of de-population, fire and decay. Starting on the North side by the bridge (which did exist in 1841) there were three cottages on the site of the War Memorial and Village Hall with a barn and two more cottages in the car park. The length between West Park Lane and Court Hill contained only one farm with its barns and a block of four cottages at the bottom of Court Hill close to the road. In those days there was no lodge and no entrance to West Park from the village, the entrance being from Rockbourne and the top of Court Hill. As the four cottages were demolished recently and the Terrace wasn't built till long after his death Harry would find great changes.

He would however have rather better luck on the return journey on the south side of the road.

Court Cottage hadn't been built but both East End and Wood View were there with a shed on the site of the Garage Workshops. The garage house was half of a semi-detached pair with the eastern half now removed. No doubt Harry knew the Compasses, as like all good surveyors he carefully notes it on his plan and it was the same shape then as it is now. The old barn behind the car park is also shown but the remainder of the south side has changed almost out of recognition. The central part of the building, between the shop and Meadowsweet is all that existed in Harry's day. The wing containing the shop was probably built many years after his survey and the other wing forming Meadowsweet was added by the estate in 1910 as the village post office. One more cottage completed East End, the burned remains of this now lie under the drive of Meadowsweet.

Fire took its toll of Damerham - thatch burned only too readily, and this is probably what cleared the village hall site and led to the terrace being constructed.