



# Our Heritage Matters

## Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2020

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### Notes from the Editor

This is edition 2 of the newly recreated Our Heritage Matters magazine produced by the Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society. The aim is to currently produce it monthly (when I have got my act together).

All the content this month has been produced by Robert Vaughan, but if anyone has anything they think would be of interest to our members either that they can create or would be interested in, then do let the chairman know as below.

We have a large amount of heritage material. Quite lot was handed over by Val Loader from her and Tony's archives. Thanks to her for that.

There will be a regular number of features hopefully each month – like the Pub of the Month and Irrelevances (or 'funnies'). We would also really like a few extra helpers – you don't have to be on the Committee – to especially help with research to help produce this newsletter! Contact Peter Alexander (the Society Chairman) at [chairman@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk)

#### Jon Bailey

Executive Editor:	Peter Alexander
Editor:	Jon Bailey
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### Society Meetings

Open to all: non-members just £4 including refreshments and members £3. The full programme can be found on our website [www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](http://www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk) We have not held a meeting recently and currently do not know when we will resume our monthly meetings. We are re planning those cancelled meetings.

The first meeting of our 2020-21 season was to be April about the Wellingborough Diggers. Whilst not giving anything away about this fascinating subject this is a taste of what will be revealed in due course.

"England is not a free people, till the poor that have no land,  
have a free allowance to dig and labour the commons..."  
Gerrard Winstanley, 1649



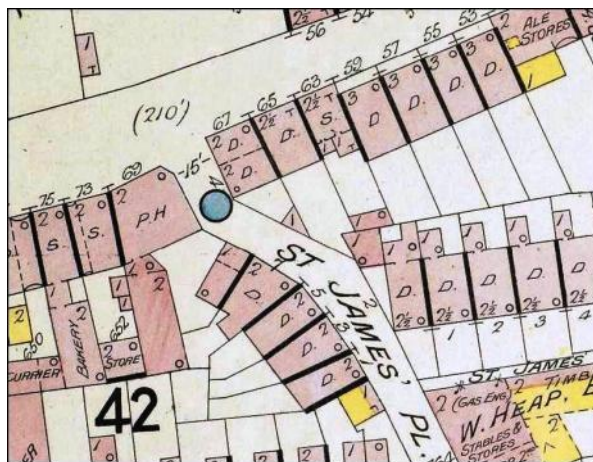
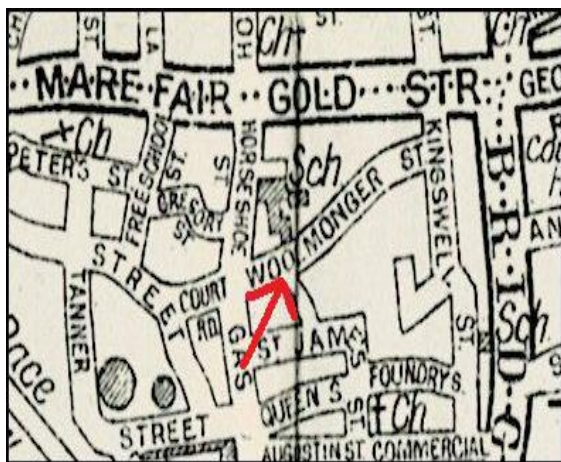
## Pub of the Month

### The Pedestrian Inn

Also known for many years as Isaac's. Origin Pre 1860.

By Robert Vaughan (based on an original article by Dave Knibb and with additional documentary research by Paul Isaac and oral history from Mrs Iris Vaughan nee Isaac). This pub has family connections as my mother's family name was Isaac.

The Pedestrian Tavern was at 69 Woolmonger Street on the corner of St James Place and enjoyed a loyal, if occasionally rowdy, clientele. Several doors along was The Harbour Lights which still stands but is now known as the Orren Pho Vietnamese Restaurant on the corner with Gas Street.



(The 1899 Insurance Map is acknowledged as copyright of the British Library)

The first purchases made by the Northampton Brewery Company (NBC) in 1859 included the Pedestrian Tavern when it was run by John Payne. As Mr Payne had only started getting mentions in the press in the same year, it is possible that the pub had either only just opened or had just been given a 'sign'. Its name came from the popular pursuit of 'pedestrianism' which was walking as an athletic event. Back in the 19th Century there were more walking events taking place than running events.

This was in the Sporting Life 10th October 1860

**J. YATES, of Worcester, and W. Laycock, of Wellingbrow, are matched to walk 10 miles for £25 a-side, on Monday, Oct. 20, on the Leicester Cricket Ground; £5 has been staked in the hands of Mr. J. Payne, of the Pedestrian Tavern, Woolmonger-street, Northampton, who is to be final stakeholder; the next deposit of the same amount is to be made this day. Wednesday.**

(presumably the reference to Wellingbrow means Wellingborough)



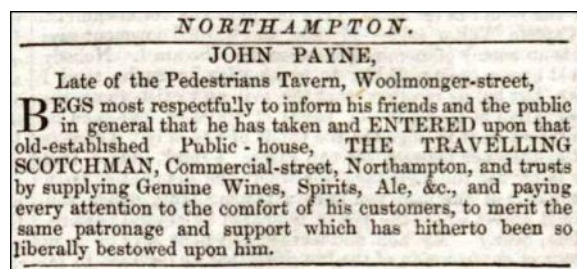
Then in February 1887 James Ewin arrived in Northampton and stayed the night at the Pedestrian, wearing a Tam O'Shanter. He was walking from Ayrshire to London and back in 42 days with a wheelbarrow! A crowd was there to greet this 'champion wheelbarrow' walker though why he was doing this is anyone's guess.

After a fairly lively century of business, The Pedestrian closed around the end of the 1950's, became a shop and was demolished to form St Peter's shopping centre and the new car parks.

Below is a list of licence holders gleaned from various records, including access to an original Brewery ledger which has been in private hands for many years and is unknown to other researchers! Edward Isaac, my Great Grandfather started his tenancy 4th February 1910 and he paid a rent of £25pa with ongoing expenses of £28 12s 0d.

9 JULY 1859	John Payne	NM
10 OCT 1860	Mr J Payne	Sporting Life
24 NOV 1860	John Payne Leaves	NM
20 JULY 1861	To be let	NM
12 OCT 1861	Charles Putnam	NM
4 JAN 1862	Charles Putnam	NM
3 APR 1871	George Dawson	Census
1 FEB 1873	William Jackson	NM
16 JUN 1877	William Jackson Leaves	NM
1 DEC 1877	James York	NM
23 AUG 1879	James York dies, license transferred to wife Rebecca York	NM
3 APR 1881	Rebecca York	Census
22 SEPT 1883	Rebecca York	
7 FEB 1889	Eli Tonsley	NM
1 JAN 1890	Eli Tonsley	Kelly
3 APR 1891	William Tonsley	Census
16 APR 1892	Thomas Simpson Yorke declared bankrupt	Bucks Herald
1 JAN 1894	John White	Kelly
1 JAN 1898	John White	Kelly
3 APR 1891	John White	Census
1 JAN 1903	John White	Kelly
START DATE 30 JUNE 1905	Charles William Butlin	BREWERY
1 JAN 1906	Charles William Butlin	Kelly
START DATE 4 FEB 1910	Edward Thomas Isaac	BREWERY
1 JAN 1910	Edward Thomas Isaac	Kelly
2 APR 1911	Edward Thomas Isaac	Census
1 OCT 1915	Edward Thomas Isaac	C&E
DECEASED APRIL 1932	Edward Thomas Isaac	
START DATE 19 JUL 1932	JOHN HENRY THOMAS RAWLINGS	BREWERY
START DATE 4 JULY 1934	ALFRED THOMAS LOVELL	BREWERY
START DATE 18 MARCH 1935	Donald Thomas Heap	BREWERY
START DATE 23 JUNE 1942	ALICE ANNE HEAP	BREWERY
START DATE 14 FEB 1946	THOMAS HEAP	BREWERY
4 JAN 1952	Donald Thomas Heap	NM

These are interesting notations from the Chronicle & Echo or Northampton Mercury:



Saturday 24th November 1860. John Payne late of the Pedestrian Tavern announces that he has now taken the Travelling Scotchman in Commercial Street. It would seem the purchase by the NBC occasioned this move and in 1861 it was advertised as 'To Let enquire within'

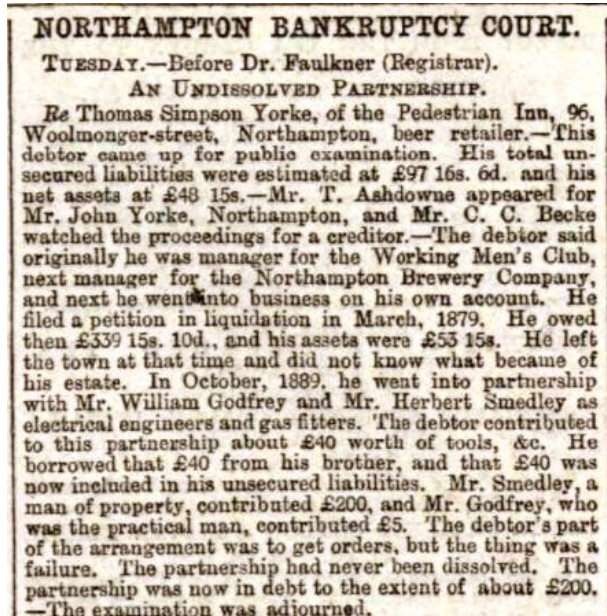
On Saturday 4th January 1862. Charles Putnam, Pedestrian Tavern, was summoned for having seven men drinking in his house at ten minutes past ten on Christmas morning. Fined 2s 6d and 7s 6d

costs. The defendant did not appear. The same Charles Putnam appears to have been prosecuted in 1861 for selling beer at half past 12 in the afternoon. He was at that time described as a beer seller of Woolmonger Street so possibly he ran the beer house at No 51 and then later leased the Pedestrian at No 69.

Monday June 18th 1877. Auction at the Pedestrian of possessions of Mr William Jackson who is leaving the premises:

5-year old Brown Pony, quiet to ride or drive, Pony DOG CART and set of HARNESS, Chaff machine, Milk Tin, Carpenters box, Tubs etc, 12 iron French bedsteads, palliasses, (A thin mattress filled with straw or sawdust), mattresses, flock beds, blankets, sheets and counterpanes, painted chest of drawers, washing and dressing tables, chimney glasses in gilt and rosewood frames, bagatelle board, cottage pianoforte (An upright pianoforte usually about four feet high), quantity Windsor Chairs. Eight-day clock, American ditto, and a quantity of culinary requisites

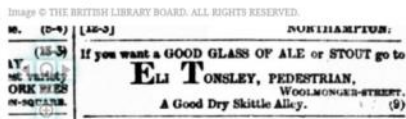
Friday 13th May 1892. Thomas Simpson Yorke, of the Pedestrian Inn was up for public examination due to bankruptcy owing some £200 in partnership with others.



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Northampton Chronicle and Echo - Thursday 07 February 1889

Thursday 7th February 1889. The Pedestrian advertised itself in the Chronicle and Echo



My mother says the Skittle Alley was outside in the yard but underneath a large room in which ladies met and where the boxing and music concerts took place. There was also a skittles table inside the main pub.

On 25th November 1904 there was a prosecution of Jane Catley for stealing a dead wild rabbit from a table at the Pedestrian value 1s 3d property of Frederick Williams. Sentence was 7 days hard labour!

Friday 9th January 1914. Announcement of the death of Ann Robinson Rowthorn of the Pedestrian Inn, aged 76. This transpires to have been the mother-in-law of mother's Grandmother.



Monday 25th October 1915, Mr & Mrs Isaac of the Pedestrian Inn raised £1 13s 9d for the Red Cross in a competition to guess the weight of a vegetable marrow. This photograph shows the Landlord, Edward Isaac, who was my great grandfather. He was allegedly a very well-known character and my mother says he had been a bare-knuckle fighter in younger days. His nickname was Bocker which sounds like a children's mispronunciation of Boxer but it stuck and even my grandfather referred to him as Bocker and said fights used to be held in an upstairs room of the Pedestrian – which is confirmed by the memories of my mother as set out above. My grandfather also said Bocker put sugar in the stout and called it Sweet Stout for Ladies! Bocker died in April 1931, from pneumonia, aged just 57 (date of birth date was stated as about 1875). My uncle and aunt named Rawlings took over but were not cut out for that trade and it moved

out of family control within two years. However, my mother recalls that Edward's daughter, who had taken over the pub, my aunt Nora Rawlings, had a lovely singing voice and entered a singing competition at the Majestic which she won – decidedly bolstered by the generosity of her father who gave all the children in the neighbourhood a farthing to vote for her!





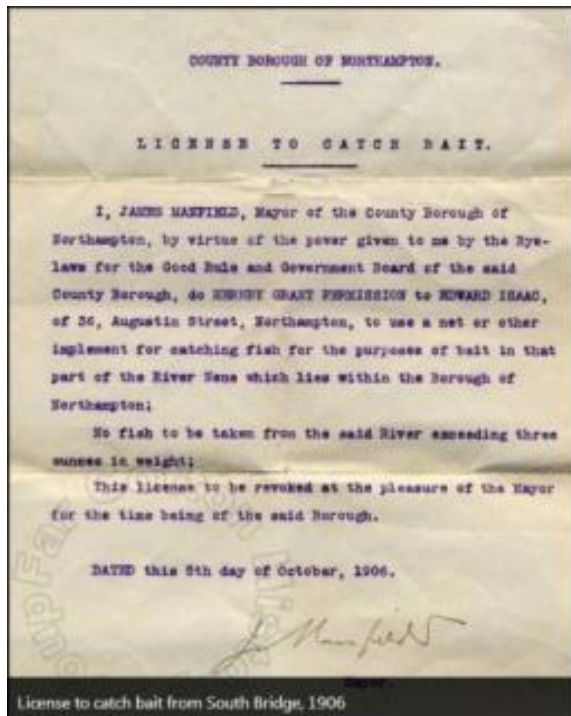
My mother remembers the Heaps' who then took over after the Rawlings. The 1899 Insurance map indicates another nearby business run by the Heap family.

In January 1952, David Ernest Wilde, Refuse Collector, was prosecuted for stealing a bicycle valued £7 10s, property of Donald Thomas Heap from the yard of the Pedestrian Inn.

The last known use for the Pedestrian was as a motorbike shop.



Whilst it was empty and awaiting demolition to form St Peters Shopping Centre and the beloved (joke) car parks off St Peters Way, I went there as a young boy with my grandfather, also Edward Isaac, on a hunt for old coins under the old bar counters – my grandfather was a keen coin collector – but we came away empty handed.



Bocker enjoyed fishing and had a licence to cast nets across the Nene for bait. The family story is that he was the last person to hold such a licence. This licence remains in family possession but we assume he gave up this activity soon afterwards as he had then taken on the Pedestrian.

# The Northampton Banknote

Reprinted from June 2008 edition of Heritage Matters

The Hollowell collection includes a number of early banknotes. This one is the oldest, bearing the date 8<sup>th</sup> June 1793 and numbered 2703.



In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, many provincial banks published their own currency and by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century their paper denominations were recognisable as banknotes except that most were only printed on one side. This Northampton Bank promissory note is misleading at first sight, as it appears to be for five guineas (allowing for the 18th century spelling). Upon closer inspection though, the large shaded box at the bottom left is merely part of the claim: '*Lace from three pence pr yd to **Five Guines***'. As to the rest of the declaration it says: '*I promise to Pay at the Lace Box to Mr Laceman or Bearer on Demand the sum of **five pence***' *'Value received'*.

And then, below the date, 'For Laceman, Edgman, Threadman, Buyer, Seller, Ready Money and Self

George Jobson'

In the small vignette at the top left-hand corner a woman is working on her lace pillow, making bobbin lace. In the centre is a picture of the entrance to the former Northampton Castle and below that, representing England, the lion passant guardant (technically in heraldic terms known as a leopard). It would seem unlikely that notes such as this were in general circulation but instead were printed for use within the local lace trade. Northamptonshire was at the northern end of the lace triangle which also included Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It was for many years an important industry employing all the people mentioned on the note- the *Threadman*, *Buyer*, *Seller* etc. The industry went into decline in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the face of machine-made lace from Nottingham shire.

## Then and Now

### Station Road Cogenhoe

By Robert Vaughan

This compares Station Road, taken from outside No 106 looking east. It shows two of the 'Deacon' houses built by Josiah Deacon, grandfather of Richard Deacon, in the very early 1900s.

The first photograph (courtesy of the late Pat Finney) is a postcard from between the wars and the modern photograph is courtesy of Graham Moore who lives in the first house.



• Post card showing Station Road, looking east towards the village, Deacon's house on the right. Taken between the Wars PF.13

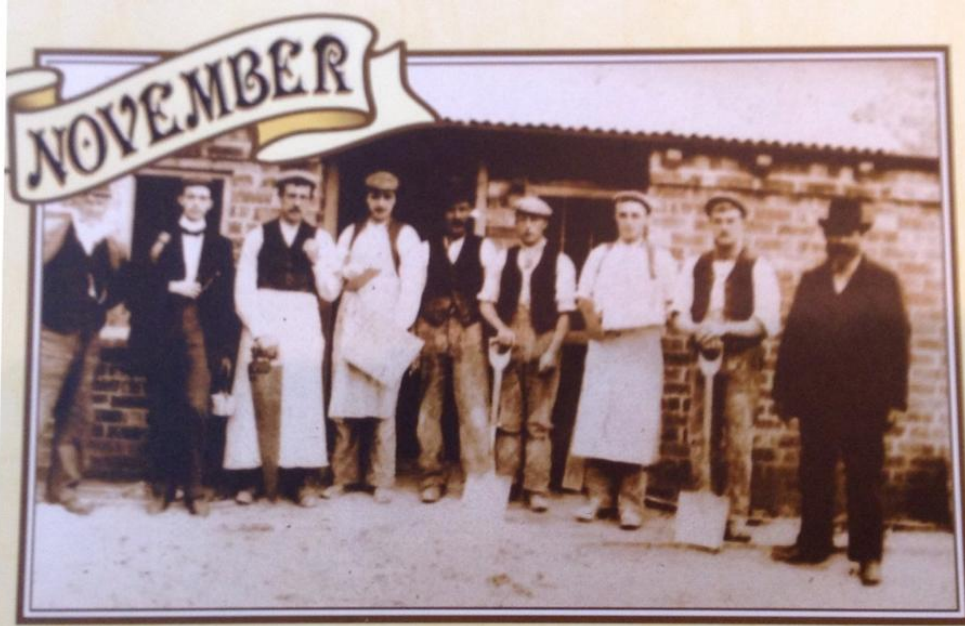


What is disguised is that all the fields on the left are now full of houses, albeit with overgrown front hedges, including mine!

I asked Richard about this first house as its layout had always intrigued me. At first glance it seems to be two semi-detached houses but it's not two exact halves as the occupied parts overlap. The explanation is that it was built as three flats but when a builder became tenant he asked, and was granted permission, to knock two into one. So now it has one large and one smaller



unit. There were two side entrances, each with the typical ‘Deacon’ feature of a side lean-to with corrugated roof [originally iron but later asbestos sheets] and a third at the rear. Now it has one front entrance and one side entrance.



*Cogenhoe ~ Sharman work party*

*Local builder James Sharman stands with his men and client Josiah Deacon outside one of the houses in Station Road built with side additions as workshops for the outworkers for the flourishing shoe making industry in the village*

The lean-to on the eastern side has disappeared and an elderly gentleman, who used to live in the right-hand unit, once told me that the lean-to feature was built for home-based shoe workers. This story was certainly used when the society featured construction of a ‘Deacon’ house some years ago in its calendar.

However, Richard admits there is no proof of this story and we both agree the more likely explanation is that Victorians were prone to build out-houses for toilets and utilities and this lean-to was seemingly a ‘Deacon modernisation’ by having it so accessible rather than down the bottom of the garden. In the days before main sewers you didn’t really want your toilet in the house and this practice continued after sewers were built as early Victorians believed that there was a connection between illness and ‘bad

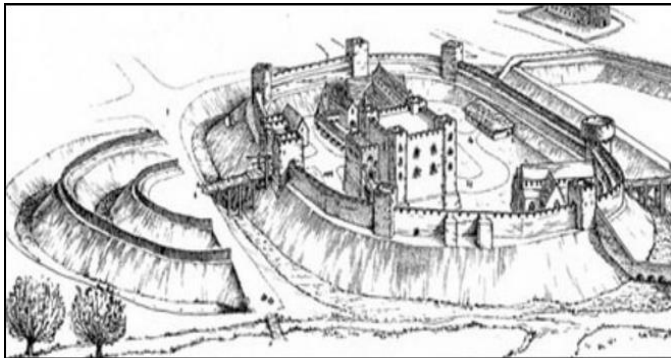
smells’.

So it seems the lean-to was certainly used by out-workers in the shoe trade, but that wasn’t the designed purpose.

## Reflections on Northampton’s Heritage

by Robert Vaughan (adapted from an original article by Dave Knibb)

Northampton is a town that should be a city, a town that used to have a castle.



A town that bulldozed the 17c Peacock Hotel in Market Square to replace it with a shopping arcade



A town that demolished the 17c George Inn for a Lloyds Bank.



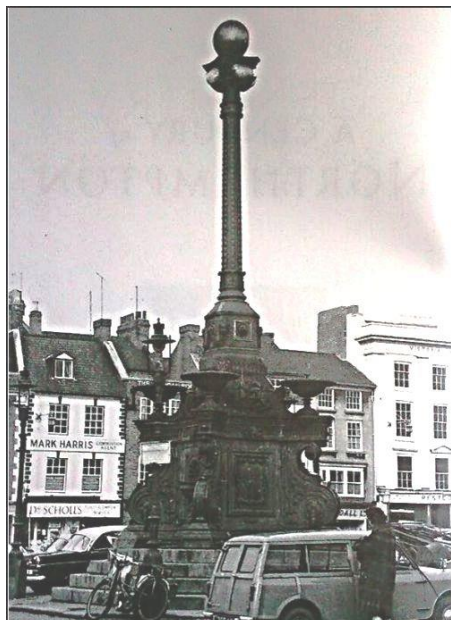
It's a town that loves a Charles Rennie Mackintosh designed house whilst demolishing the grand Emporium Arcade,



A town that demolished the New Theatre and built itself a new theatre.



A town that removed the Market Square fountain and eventually replaced it with a puddle.







A town that created a Cultural Quarter whilst much of its heritage and culture has been consigned to history. And don't get me started on Greyfriars Bus Station!

A town that many love but which has done much of which we should be ashamed.

## Hardingstone Lane

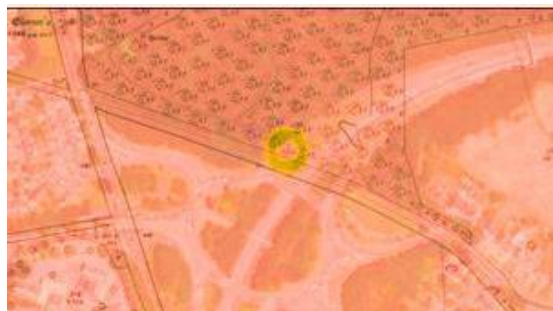
by Robert Vaughan

The slides passed to the Society by the late Cyril Penn of Cogenhoe triggered a number of enquiries as we sought to establish dates and information about the locations. So far this investigation has thrown up some fascinating material as leads blossom and develop.

This is a seemingly simple photograph entitled Hardingstone Lane. It was easy to establish that it was the lane from Northampton near the Queen Eleanor leading into the village of Hardingstone but also clearly, by looking at Google Street View, what is on the ground does not now match this photograph which we think is part of a batch from the 1970s. For those that don't know Northampton, suffice to say it was designated an Expanding town (not a New Town) and eventually doubled in size. So much growth that when I returned from ten years in London I had to purchase a street map to find my way round – especially due to the new-fangled A45 which cut through the old routes of my childhood and indeed made Cogenhoe difficult to access in the way I remembered when we wanted to find the house we wished to view for purchase.



It was a lovely tree-lined road which many residents remember. One tells me she remembers walks with her Grandmother in the 1950s and feeding ducks in the garden of the White House on the right-hand side leading into the village. Another recalls visiting Aunty around 1952 by walking from Gloucester Avenue and buying ice cream at the window of a house in Hardingstone. Richard Spencer very fondly remembers that 'she' popped the question along the lane in 1968 (that's enough information Richard, thank you) David Fowkes remembers childhood attempts to walk along the top of the wall.



This map rather explains it all. The Lane as existed has been chopped short by the arrival of the A45 and the giant roundabout near Queen Eleanor's Cross.



Despite all this upheaval, the gate shown in the slide still seems to exist.

Lastly, a number of people have pointed out that the lane was notorious as the location for the 'blazing car murder' carried out in 1930 by Alfred Rouse. And that will be the subject of another article in a future magazine.

So, a big thank you to Cyril Penn whose seemingly innocent picture of a leafy lane has uncovered some of our local history, local fond memories and the heritage of a gruesome murder. All Life Happens Here!

## Irrelevances

In the Northampton Mercury of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1926 it was noted:

A report from Paris, on Wednesday, says an Englishman was seen in the streets of Lyons attired in silk pyjamas. It was first thought he was doing it for a bet, but enquiries showed his clothes had been stolen from the sleeping car in which he had travelled from Paris, and he was searching Lyons for a ready-made suit.

Five men were summoned on suspicion of unlawful possession of game in Little Linford Lane. P.C. Washington, Newport Pagnell, gave evidence of stopping them. On one he found a rabbit, upon the others a ferret, a set of dice and packs of cards plus two dogs. Four denied rabbiting and said they were merely playing cards when they happened to meet the fifth defendant. All found guilty and fined 10s

Mr Frederick Henry Wooton, licensed victualler, The Bear Inn Emberton, was prosecuted by Mr William John Slatcher, inspector of weights and measures who, having sampled the whisky, asked for a half pint! And when told there wasn't that much left in the barrel took a sample which was found to be 72 degrees under strength. After vigorous denials of adulteration and in view of the sample being very small from the bottom of the barrel, the case was dismissed with a warning and order for payment of costs.

## Who are They ?

This is slide from the Cyril Penn collection and entitled XYZ CLUB AT POMFRET LODGE. Can anyone put names to the faces? And where exactly is the lodge?

