

NOTES FROM THORNHAM

FURTHER DOWN THE A140

Last month I wrote about the Thwaite 'Low House' or Queen's Head which in 1910 was bought by the formidable American couple Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes and his wife Edith, who had it rebuilt near New York.

This leads us to ask where was the Thwaite 'High House'? The book *The Norwich Road*, published in 1901 does not mention the Buck's Head and assumes the 'High House' was the Cock, with this description and easily recognised illustration:



☛ *... the "Cock," save that its sign is gone still remains much as it was, to show a later generation what manner of place the roadside inn was in days of yore.* ☛

The site of the 'Low House', on the right just after the bottom of the dip beyond Stoke Ash, is now marked only by a patch of scrub, but at the top of that slope, on the left, the Cock stands to this day, one of many notable buildings along the A140.

Having declined to a ruinous condition, in the 1970s it was altered to what we see now. The timber frame was repaired and the render removed, the front door onto the A140 was moved not surprisingly to the side of the building, and the big chimney and the bay behind it were demolished.

Now it is known as Willow Hall, and along with the Mendlesham Mast is one of those reassuring signs that we are nearly home.

APRIL EVENTS

Friday 15th: 'The natives were friendly', Nikolaus Pevsner and Suffolk, illustrated talk by James Bettley, in aid of Friend of Thornham Magna church, Village Hall, £8 incl wine and canapés, 7.15 for 7.45, booking essential Tina Schwarz 01379 788207

Friday 22nd: 7.30pm, Village Hall film, *Lady in the Van*, booking absolutely essential, £5 from Priscilla 01379 672903