

**SOUVENIR PROGRAMME**



**ROWLANDS CASTLE**  
**Royal Silver Jubilee**  
**Celebrations**  
**1977**

**June 1977**



## FOREWORD

A copy of the Souvenir Programme for the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen in 1953 suggested not only the idea of a Silver Jubilee Programme but also the theme. The central feature of that Souvenir was 'A Short History of the Parish of Rowlands Castle' by F. O'B. Adams, village sub-Postmaster, 1936-60, now living in retirement in Liss Forest.

Looking upon Coronations and Jubilees as historical landmarks, this Souvenir adds to a revised reprint of the 'Short History' a word picture of Rowlands Castle in Jubilee year.

On the occasion of future land-marks in history a copy of this Souvenir may be unearthed and someone may be sufficiently interested to bring the story up-to-date and again project it into the future.

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Cover design by Mr. Tom Levett



# Jubilee Year 1977

## A Short History of the Parish of Rowland's Castle.

The civil Parish of Rowland's Castle was formed in 1933 by the amalgamation of the Parishes of Idsworth and North Havant. Until then Rowland's Castle was the very small area surround The Green. It is difficult, in fact impossible to find its origin. Reference has been made that it was once known as Rolokescastel, but the first real mention in its present form was in the 17th/18th Century in the Chalton Church Register. It was the advent of the railway no doubt that brought the survival of the name. In this Jubilee Year, as in the Coronation Year 1953, the Parish embraces parts whose history is worthy to be remembered.

From the borders of the hamlet of Woodcroft and the village of Chalton to the north, to the borders of Compton and Stoughton to the east, Warblington to the south, and Cowplain and Horndean to the west, it comprises in all some 6,000 acres.

No doubt the true history of how it got its name was through the Motte and Bailey castle, of which there is another in Essex of the same name and similar design, situated in a similar position.

Further interest in history brought to light a warrior in the reign of Charlemagne whose name was Roland and who was killed in battle in 778 and became immortalised in song between 1066 and 1099, the epic "Chanson de Roland". The origin of the "Castle" is no doubt 11th/12th Century in the reign of King Henry II and John I, and with ties with France still fresh, the name Roland was adopted.



## OLD IDSWORTH

The foundation of the Parish may be linked to the Queen's Jubilee in a historic manner. Originally it was part of the Parish of Idsworth which has, still standing, an emblem of its past in the Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, now known as Saint Hubert's. Although at that time a part of the Manor of Ceptune, it was no doubt built, or begun, in 1052, nine hundred years before our Queen's accession, although it was dedicated in 1053.

Still standing alone in a field is the Church of Old Idsworth which, built originally by Earl Godwin, this year celebrates its nine-hundred-and-twenty-fifth anniversary. Throughout the centuries men, women and children have walked across the field to worship there. Warriors from battle as historic as Agincourt might have given thanks there for a safe return, as also in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I thanks were given for the defeat of the Spanish Armada. In the present century Thanksgiving Services would have been held for the ending, in victory, of the First and Second World Wars.

Traditionally Saxon, it was built in the then new Norman style which Edward the Confessor introduced into England. Inside the church some ancient murals, including, on the sides of the East window, paintings of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, have been renovated in the reign of our present Queen. Two on the north wall of the sanctuary include one of Saint Hubert taming the Lycanthrope which is reputed to be the only painting of Saint Hubert in England and is dated by a great authority at 1300, certainly not later than 1320.

A short distance away is the site of the old Manor House and Gardens, opposite which was once one of the finest avenues of trees in the county. It consisted of 195 limes and 22 beeches. Looking back through the avenue one can picture the beautiful view with the Manor House nestling in the valley at the end. Unfortunately, most of the trees have now disappeared.

The Manor and Parish of Idsworth on the borders of Wessex was a gateway into Hampshire, so on a strategic point a Motte and Bailey fortification or castle was built. Eventually the hamlet, named after the castle and unknown until the 17th/18th Century, became the more important, resulting in absorbing the older Idsworth Parish in 1933 and becoming the present Parish of Rowland's Castle.



## FINCHDEAN

This small hamlet lies to the south of Old Idsworth and was for a period of nearly a century until 1935, the centre of the agricultural implement trade. Nestling under "Ye Olde Whyte Hyll", with its Green, site of Cattle Pound, and Smithy, it has survived a depression and is now once more prosperous.

One must remember the original owner of the Ironworks, Mr. William Canning who founded the first school in the district in a house at Dean Lane End, built a Congregational Chapel, in Ashcroft Lane, and was a benefactor to all.

It is as well to remember that, the name Dean Lane End, perpetuates the name of the hamlet of Finchdean which was "Dean" and is possibly older than Idsworth, since it was the inhabitants of "Dean" who petitioned the Ecclesiastical Court in the 12th/13th Century concerning the services in the Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

## THE VILLAGE

Although the village of Rowland's Castle is only a short distance from Finchdean, there are two roads from one to the other. One is partly in Sussex in the Parish of Stoughton, and which was once known as Castle Lane if one was going to the village, and Finchdean Road if going to Finchdean, but now officially Finchdean Road. The second way from Finchdean to Rowland's Castle was up "Ye Olde Whyte Hyll" and along Wellsworth Lane which was bordered on one side by Cherry or Merry Tree Coppice, "Merry" being the name for the wild cherry.

Here is the oldest building in the village, Wellsworth Farm House, named after the old Manor of Walesworth which extended then to Widley. The Manor of Walesworth dated back to the 13th Century in the reign of Henry III, when that part of the Manor consisted of a Messuage, a dwelling house, with 105 acres of land worth 26s. 3d. per annum. At that time this was owned by a John Romyn who also had the Manor of Idsworth. There was a Chapel in the Manor, not assessed as such, owing to its isolation but burdened with a pension of 8s. 9½d. per year to Southwick Priory. Cherry Tree Coppice is reputed to be the site of a small convent.



Alternately, go a short distance past Wellsworth Lane from White Hill to the tiny hamlet of Magpie and along Woodhouse Lane and into Bowes Hill, originally Bull's Hill.

Since the Coronation of 1953, many of these former fields have been built upon and are commemorated in some of our new road names e.g. Wellwood Gardens, Greatfield Way, and Broadcroft.

One of the pleasant features of the village is that it is really just that part surrounding the Green. If one entered by Bowes Hill, Links Lane, Redhill Road or Finchdean Road, one was "going down to the village". It was downhill in each case with the exception of Finchdean Road, but to the native of Dean one was "going down Castle". Another pleasant feature when entering by Links Lane (once named Dirty Lane) is the Golf Course situated on what was once known as "Swale" or "Swallow Holes", so called because of the subsidence of the earth into an underground stream, making large holes which were regarded with dread. This stream could be heard under the once well-known building "Stansted College" where, in the grounds, was a natural hole into which the water from Castle Road and Redhill drained. One old resident once saw a small oak tree gradually disappear into the underground stream.

Around the Village Green there have also been changes during the years since the Coronation. Two bakeries, a butcher and a grocer have gone, as also has a butcher near the bottom of Redhill, and the Railway Hotel has been renamed "The Robin Hood", but the Village Green with its flint wall as a reminder of the boundary between Idsworth and Warblington, remains as a centre adjoining or close by the layout of the defensive point from which it got its names.

A local industry, once well-known for miles around, was the Rowland's Castle Brickworks, first situated on the south side of Castle Road where the clay, a part of a seam known as the "Reading Beds", was practically on the surface, so was easily worked. This was not only made into bricks on the spot but was carted away to make them in other parts. Many were made by convicts in Portsmouth and used for the building of parts of the Dockyard wall.



In the early 1920's a Guide in Jerusalem, conducting a party round the city, was heard to describe tiles in a courtyard as being made during the occupation of a Roman Legion at a place in Hampshire, England, now known as "Rowlands Castle". This was of great interest to one of the visitors who from childhood had seen the smoke from the Brickworks chimney from his home in the Isle of Wight.

When the clay at Castle Road and Redhill ran out owing to its mixture with a seam of sand, the works moved to a new site on land near Hill Farm, where a seam of clay was easily worked from under a thin layer of gravel. Here bricks and tiles were made, and the very high chimney towered above the skyline. A short attempt to make ornamental pots was a failure and not continued, but at least one sample still exists.

In 1953 Redhill was only partially built up, with Hill Brow, Oaklands, and Hazeldean Lodge at the top. Now it is quite an estate on its own. Durrants and East Durrants was a small hamlet before the village around the Green existed. The old smithy has become "Ye Old Forge Pottery", and the adjoining house, once an ale-house, still exists where, in the eighteenth century, Customs Officers stopped for a drink and a guide to take them through the woods and wild part of Redhill to their ill-fated rendezvous, the "White Hart" at Rowland's Castle where they met the smugglers who eventually murdered them.

East Durrants still has Whichers Gate Cottage which was nearby the site of a Toll Gate to a bridge over a stream. Now the bridge is over the railway and sometimes the "Lavants" which have "risen" this Jubilee Year. This is a border of the Parish and close to Mayse Copse Farm where a part of an old Roman Villa was once discovered, and a crock of Roman coins was dug up here about 1852.

Until late in the nineteenth century two Fairs were held on the Village Green, one in May for horned cattle, and one in November for cattle and hogs. This was really a meeting of gipsies' and didekei's families gathering to buy and exchange after and before the winter, possibly that is why it was considered rather notorious for anyone travelling from Durrants through Redhill. Many then went to Blackhanger Lane Chalton and Woodcroft for the winter which they spent making baskets and clothes pegs. The last remaining member of one of these families, - some in the village will remember - Johnny James and his dog "Peggy". It was such characters that made village life.



# PROGRAMME

Date	Time	Event
Saturday 4th		Street Party
Saturday 4th		Street Party
Saturday 4th		'Our Heritage' Exhibit
Sunday 5th		
Sunday 5th	10.00 a.m.	Civic Service
Sunday 5th	Noon	Flag Raising Ceremo
Tuesday 7th		Children's Sports
Tuesday 7th		Ox Roasting
Wednesday 8th	6.30 p.m.	Junior Disco
Wednesday 8th	8.30 p.m.	Senior Disco
Saturday 11th	2.00 p.m.	Annual Village Fayre Arena Events, Fancy Parade, Musical Clov Hayling Majorettes, Havant Gymnastics C St. John's Ambulance Demonstration.
Saturday 11th	8.00 p.m.	Dance



# EVENTS FOR JUNE

Venue	Organiser
Castle Road	Mrs. Thelma Cuthbert
Redhill Road and The Drift	Mrs. Marion Pitt
Parish Hall	Mr. Cliff Miles
St. John the Baptist Church	
The Green	Scout Council
The Green	Rowlands Castle Association
The Green	Women's Institute
Parish Hall	R.C. Wives Group
Parish Hall	Disco Club and G.Y.P.
The Green	Village Fayre Committee
Parish Hall	Young Conservatives

TO ALTERATION



His story was published in an issue of "Gipsy Lore Journal". The Green, being termed as waste land, was at that time free of restrictions, but the strip bordering it was fertile and although termed as waste-land, it was leased by the Lord-of-the-Manor. In a deed of 1765 it was let on a lease of five hundred years at half-a-crown a year to John Poate, a farmer whose family were the last to use the old wind-mill on Clanfield Down bordering the A3 road. The Deeds which were once owned by a former local sub Postmaster are now in the County Records Office. No doubt at that time Bowes Hill connected up with Woodberry Lane, a road to Emsworth, with the "White Hart" as a way-side Ale-House.

During the Jubilee years some of this waste land did form part of the village allotments, but having now been built on forms part of the housing of the village, so one may say "The Green" remains the one practically unaltered part of the original hamlet.

The Chapel, now a part of the United Reformed Church, still stands sentinel for which it was built – "to combat the ribaldry and unseemly behaviour practised there on Sundays". The first Chapel was opened in 1793, the present one built 1881.

The remains of the "Motte and Bailey Castle" are still in the grounds of Deerleap. Although the entrance long since disappeared with the building of the Railway, it was just past the bridge, over the road and partly under the embankment. The once renowned "White Hart Ale House" lies under the embankment on the other side.

### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Formation of the Civil Parish in 1933 was preceded by the Ecclesiastical Parish. In 1837 at the instigation of the Rector of Havant, whose Parish included Durrants, and the Rector of Warblington, whose Parish included Red Hill, building of the Church by public subscription was started. Consecration as the Church of St. John the Baptist, Red Hill took place in the following year. This was followed almost immediately by building of the old Church School and the old Rectory, all in traditional flint. The Consolidated Chapelry of Redhill, constituted in 1840, was established as a Rectory by a further Order in Council in 1866. In 1921 the Parish of Red Hill was extended to include The Green, Bowes Hill and Links Lane. As time went on Red Hill became Redhill and the Ecclesiastical parish became known as Rowlands Castle but not officially so until the 1960's.



Built for little more than £600 the Church was 'enlarged and beautified' about 1853 by addition of the sanctuary and side aisles. In the early 1900's the vestry was enlarged and later the Church was extended westward by two arches, this last enlargement being consecrated in 1929. One of the present church wardens, whose father was the builder of this part, worked on the extension. By this time the craft of building in flint was waning. The particular craftsman engaged was growing old and unable to work at the top of the gable. The line at which he handed over to someone of lesser skill is plainly visible.

The boundaries of the Ecclesiastical Parish and the Civil Parish do not coincide in detail. The Old Idsworth Church of Saint Hubert is not in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Rowlands Castle. However, being in the Civil Parish, an affinity with the original hamlet of Rowlands Castle remains.

	Rowlands Castle Parish	Rowlands Castle Village excluding parts in West Sussex	Col. F. O'B.A. including Finchdean
Population	2,440	2,350	220
Households	790	760	70

The history of Rowlands Castle in the foregoing pages deals with the Parish as a whole but because change is faster and more noticeable in the village these pages which top up history with current affairs relate more directly to growth of the village.

Since the Coronation the village has roughly doubled in population largely as a result of extensive house building since about 1960. Such rapid growth has made changes both in appearance and character.

#### A Comely Scene

Despite this growth, about the appearance of the village as a place in which to live there can be little argument. It is a comely scene, not so much due to architecture as to its setting and a sense of spaciousness framed in trees. The spaciousness is due to the angle of the village, a joining together of the three hamlets of Rowlands Castle, Red Hill and Durrants, the divisions of which are still plainly visible. The trees are a heritage from the Forest of Bere on the eastern end of which the village lies. The scene is epitomised in The Green — an open space with backdrops of the trees of Stained, Doerleag and the Golf Course. Is this the picture of Rowlands Castle that should be projected into the future?



# ROWLANDS CASTLE IN JUBILEE YEAR

The population of Rowlands Castle, in round figures, is approximately:

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### **More by chance than design**

The village as we know it just happened – there was no master plan. Houses were built along roads to form hamlets. Hamlets joined together to form the village which doubled its population by infilling within the existing bounds. Fortunately there was sufficient space for this to happen without spoiling the effect of a village in the countryside. Now there is but limited scope for further infilling and expansion of the boundaries would risk spoiling the setting.

### **Little diversity**

A large proportion of the houses built during the great expansion are for professional and executive workers who travel to the commerce and industry of the coastal belt for their daily work. The trend in this direction, already noticeable, is now irreversible.

### **The end of an era**

The one-time basic hall-marks of a village community have gone. The village is no longer self-contained and self-sufficient providing work for those of its residents who were not independent. No longer can everyone know everyone else and, indeed, something of their affairs – not so much in idle curiosity as to guide the outstretched hand to those in adversity. Not so many years ago the gentry living in the big houses expected everyone to touch their caps, perhaps in politeness, perhaps a gentle fanning of the dying embers of feudal days. Not that the system was without advantages, those to whom one touched his cap always headed the subscription list when the village decided to do something for itself.

### **Development**

There are some who bemoan the passing of an era for reasons deeper than mere nostalgia and many who never knew it. In an ideal world each would see with the eyes of the other and together work at the building of a Jubilee community – perhaps the last bulwark against Rowlands Castle becoming submerged in the anonymity of a suburban dormitory. For this there is an active framework – from Brownies and Cub Scouts to the Good Companions there are opportunities for personal service in the intertwining circles of the congregations, the councils, the institutes, guilds, associations, groups and sporting and recreational clubs.



### **Travelling hopefully**

Further changes there will be but now with opportunities to guide and influence change that never existed before. By personal contribution in the character of the community and by public participation in the matter of shape, size and appearance. In Jubilee Year the South Hampshire Structure Plan has become a Statutory Document and soon East Hampshire District Council will start work on the Rowlands Castle Local Plan, providing opportunities for all to comment and express their views either as individuals or in groups or associations. With a present population of 2350 Rowlands Castle village is in a critical perhaps vulnerable position. The vision required reaches far beyond one's garden gate or one's span of years.

### **Epilogue**

Should this Souvenir serve the purpose visualised in the 'Foreword' it will be for another generation, on some future historic occasion to pass judgement on the value of the work started in Jubilee Year.

D.H.