

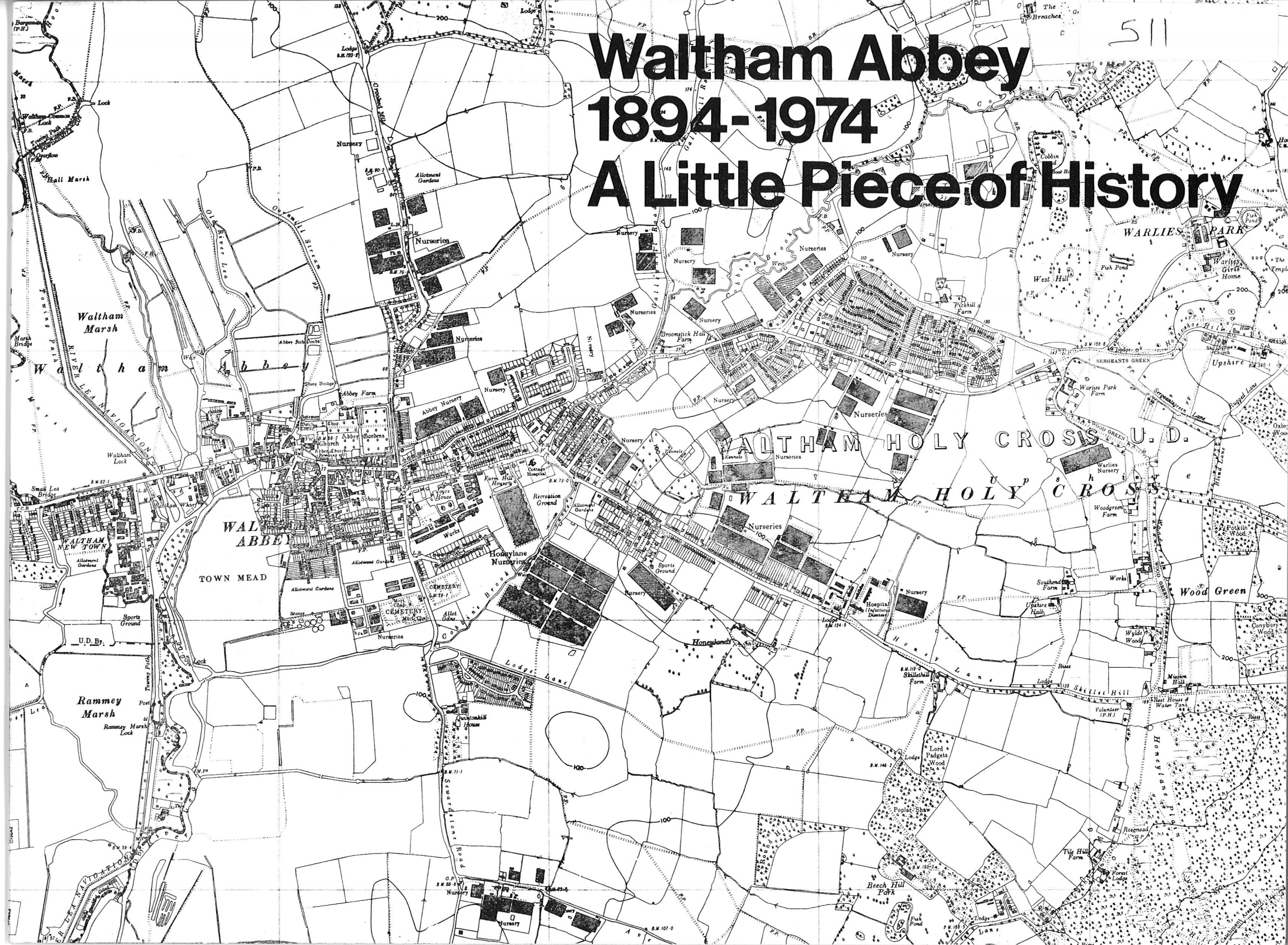
WASC 511

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 511

CODE No. 27-31

Waltham Abbey 1894-1974 A Little Piece of History







1894-1974 Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council

Waltham Abbey has a long and fascinating history, and hopeful future; this booklet attempts to show how the past and future combine with the present, and it is hoped that this small publication, one of the last acts of the Urban District Council of Waltham Holy Cross, will prove to be of a lasting and valued memento.

**Highbridge Street—part of the main
thoroughfare through the town**
Photo R. A. Smith

*A message from the Chairman
of Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council*

Every picture tells a story, and the story behind the photographs on the next few pages affects each one of us in Waltham Abbey and the surrounding area of South-west Essex. Our local Council, which bears the ancient, honourable but sometimes confusing name of Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council, will be disbanded on March 31, 1974 as part of the inexorable process of catching up with the needs of the 20th century. It will also be the 80th anniversary of the council, so this booklet is a commemorative souvenir about times past and present in the Town Hall.

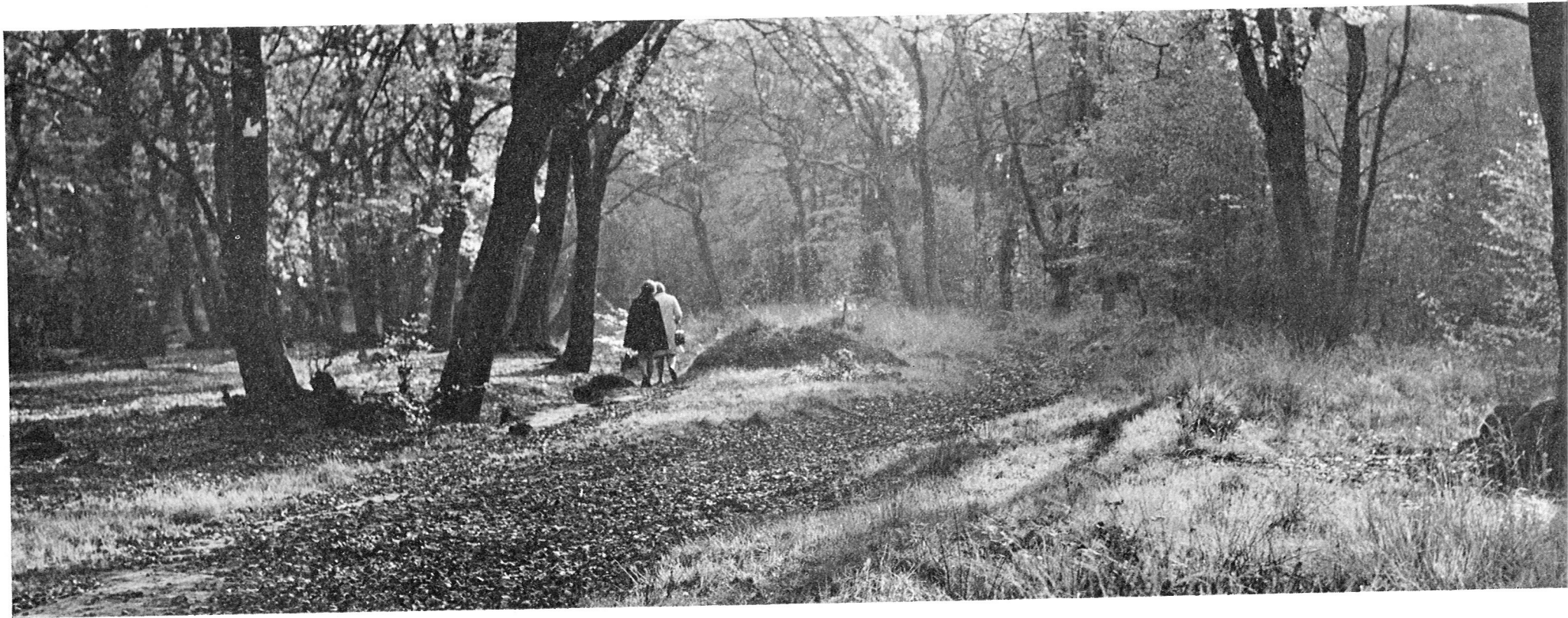
Of course, the pictures speak in part for themselves. They capture the atmosphere of councillors in debate

and reflect something of the character of a town which, through the years, has always retained that elusive quality, charm and dignity. Yet how can a few words, or the finest pictorial illustrations, convey the impact of any district council on villagers and townspeople since 1894? Perhaps it is sufficient to say that, in exchange for receiving rates, councillors of different political persuasions or else claiming a sturdy independence have tried to enrich the lives of people here for the last 80 years.

Under the Government's plans for reorganising civic life, Waltham Abbey will become part of a much larger area from April 1 and will be administered by Epping Forest District Council. Parish affairs, however, will be dealt with by a mayor and town council.

May I express grateful thanks, on behalf of my colleagues, to members of Lea Valley Photographic Society for their unstinting and entirely voluntary assistance in taking photographs of Waltham Holy Cross Urban District before it becomes merely an historical footnote. Their service, like that of long-forgotten councillors and other voluntary workers, is of inestimable value.

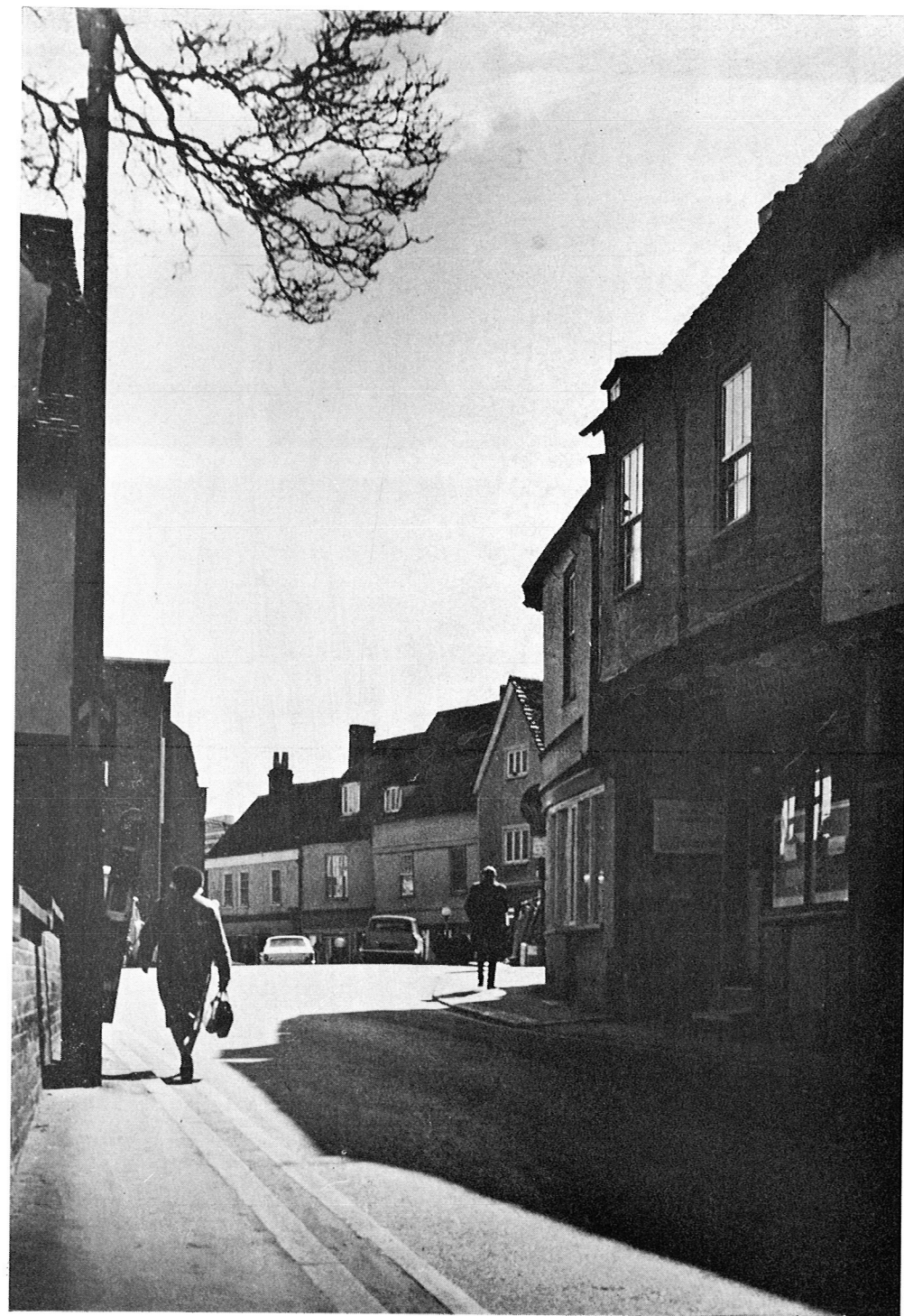
Jean M. Taylor,
*Chairman,
Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council,
1973-74.*



Opposite page **Forest Path**
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Below **The Vicarage**
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Right **View from Church Street, looking east**
Photo J. H. Littlefair



Below North Abbey Gateway, an unusual view looking North
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Top right Sun Street, south—ready for improvement
Photo R. A. Smith

Bottom right Abbey Churchyard—the ancient elm tree
Photo R. A. Smith

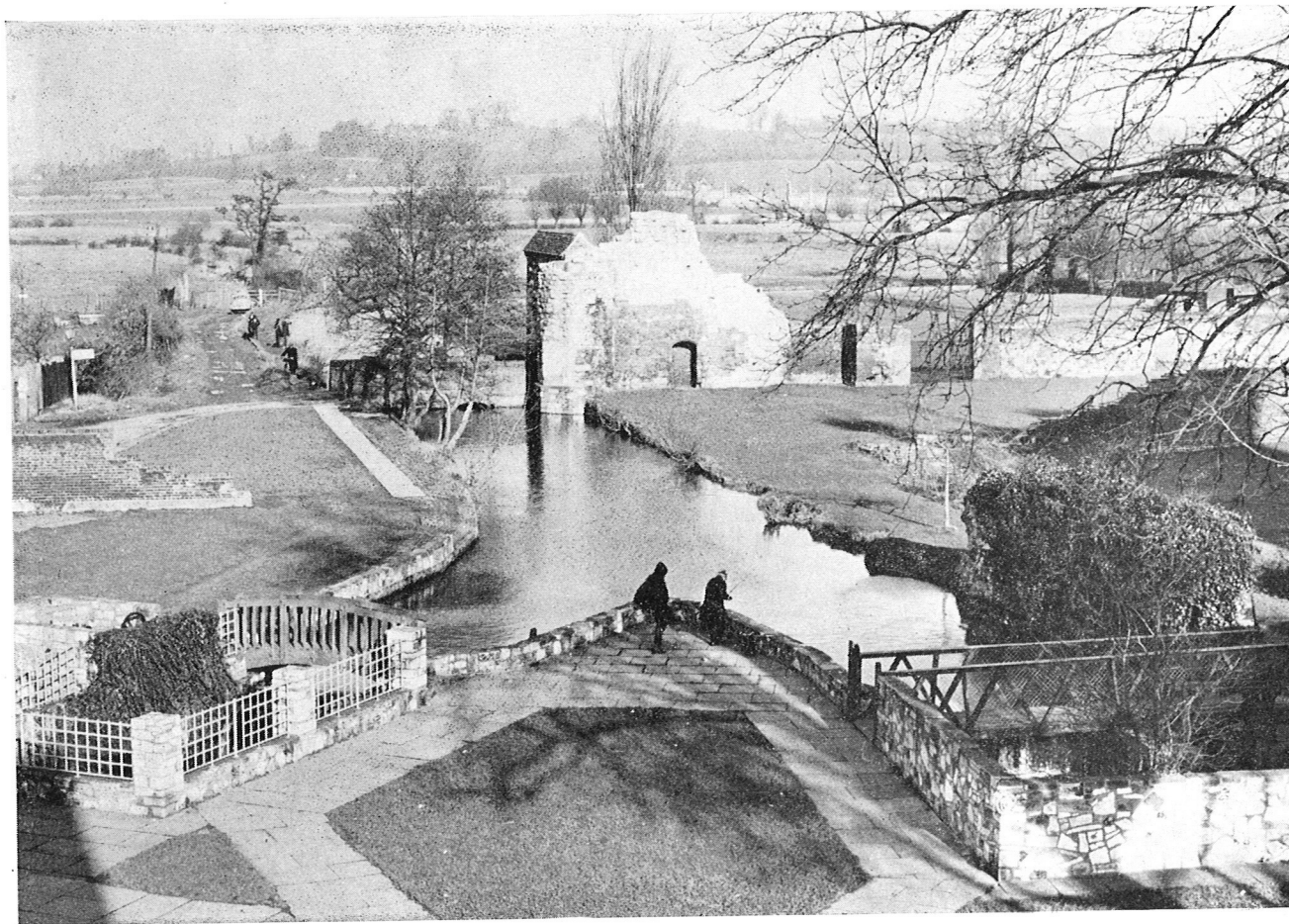
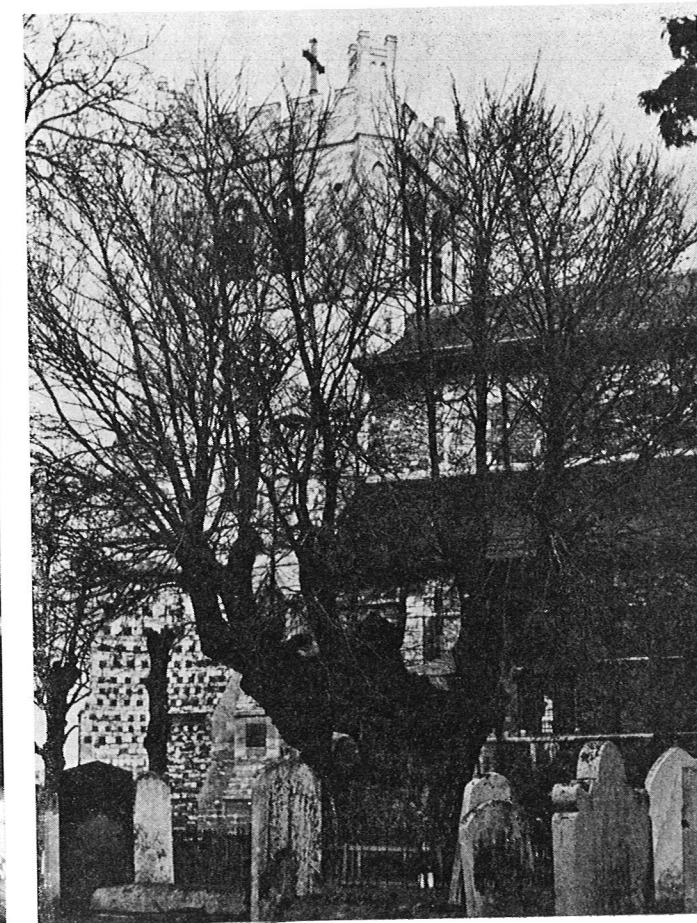
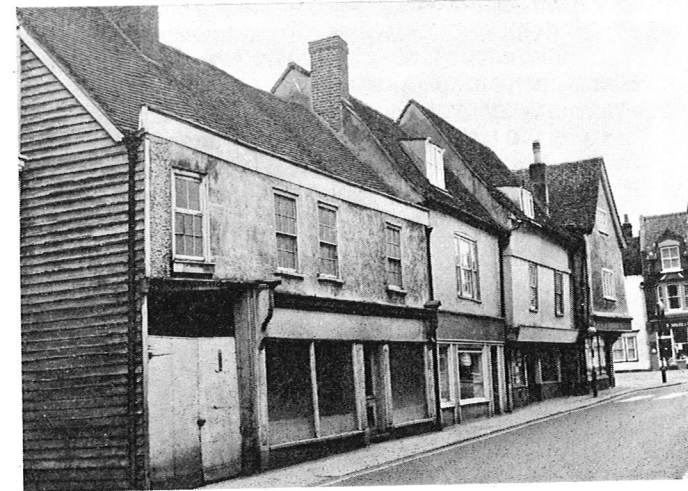
Opposite page, top left Cottages at Upshire, providing a glimpse of old Essex
Photo R. A. Smith

Top centre South Place, where a public footpath has recently been opened
Photo R. A. Robertson

Top right The Chairman of the Urban District Council, Councillor Mrs. Jean Taylor makes a presentation to Mr. J. F. C. Hastings of the Lea Valley Photographic Society, June 1973
Photo R. A. Robertson

Bottom left Footpath to High Beech, a popular part of the District at all times of the year
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Bottom right The "Welsh Harp," Market Square; an ancient and picturesque Inn
Photo J. F. C. Hastings

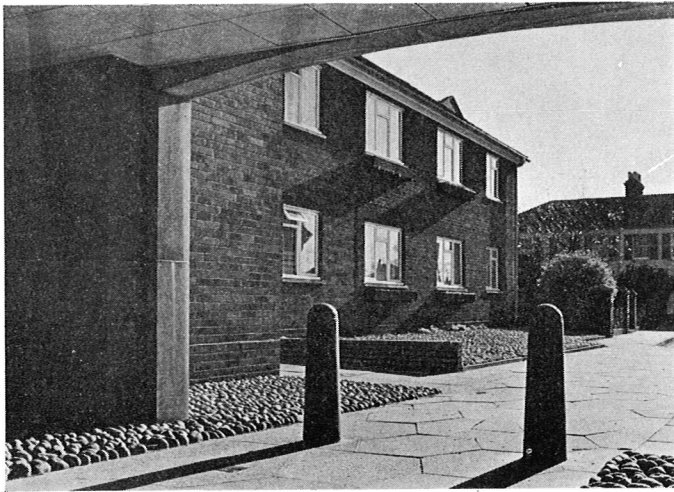




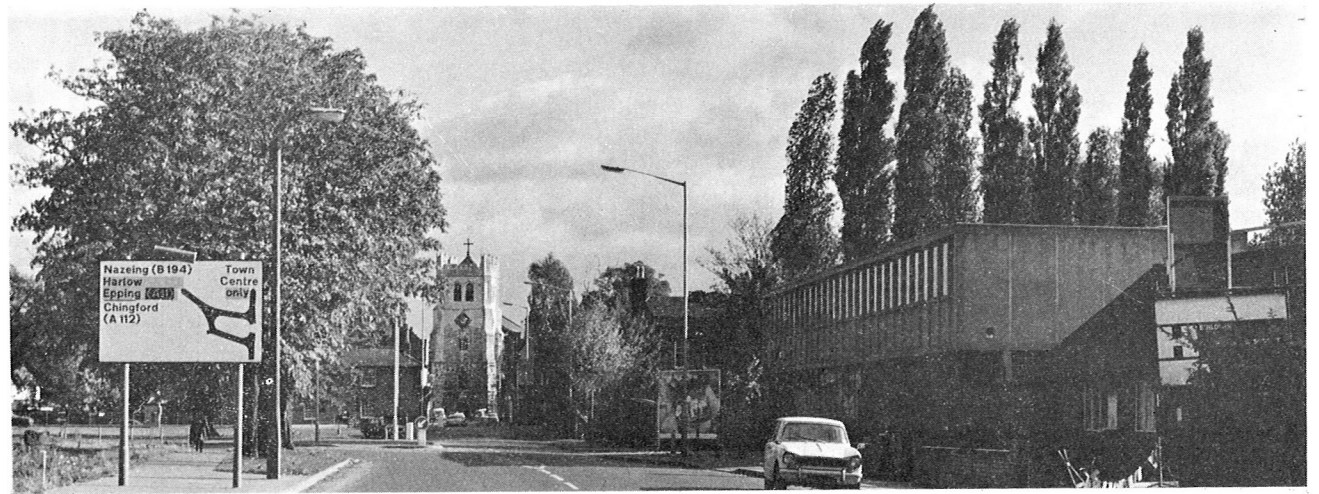


Sailing at Fishers Green, where small boat
enthusiasts enjoy excellent facilities
Photo G. W. C. Taylor





Above Fountain Place
Photo R. A. Robertson



Bottom right A view along Highbridge Street, circa. 1905 The Almshouses on the right were destroyed through enemy action

Right The same scene in 1973





Above What occupied the Town Hall site before 1903? These old buildings, which housed the fire station, magistrates' room, Police Station and reading room. It was here that the Waltham Abbey Building Society held their first meeting in 1847

Bottom The last barge horse
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Bottom This was the view from the Church Tower (looking south) circa. 1890

Bottom right This is the same view to-day. Some of the cottages in Greenyard can still be seen
Photo R. A. Smith

Opposite page, top right The cattle market, Romeland, as it was at the end of the last century

Far right The cattle market to-day
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

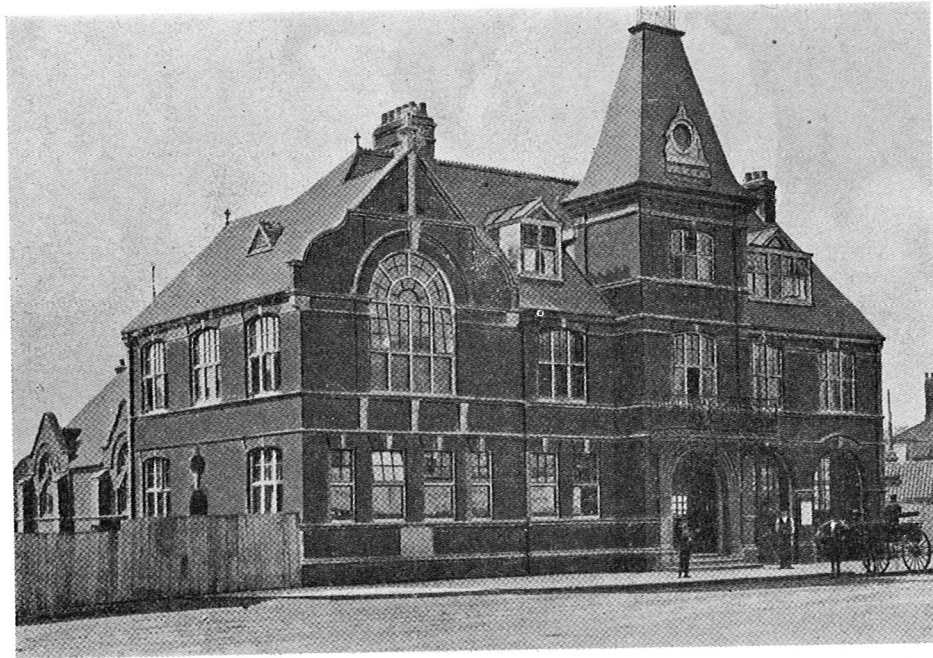




Below An early view of the Town Hall

Bottom Mr. John Bentley of Greenfield Street, whose grandfather was responsible for building the Town Hall in 1903/4

Photo R. A. Robertson



Opposite page An early view of the main assembly hall within the Town Hall—set out, it would appear, for a sale of work!

Below The same place in 1973—but a different exhibition

Photo G. W. C. Taylor





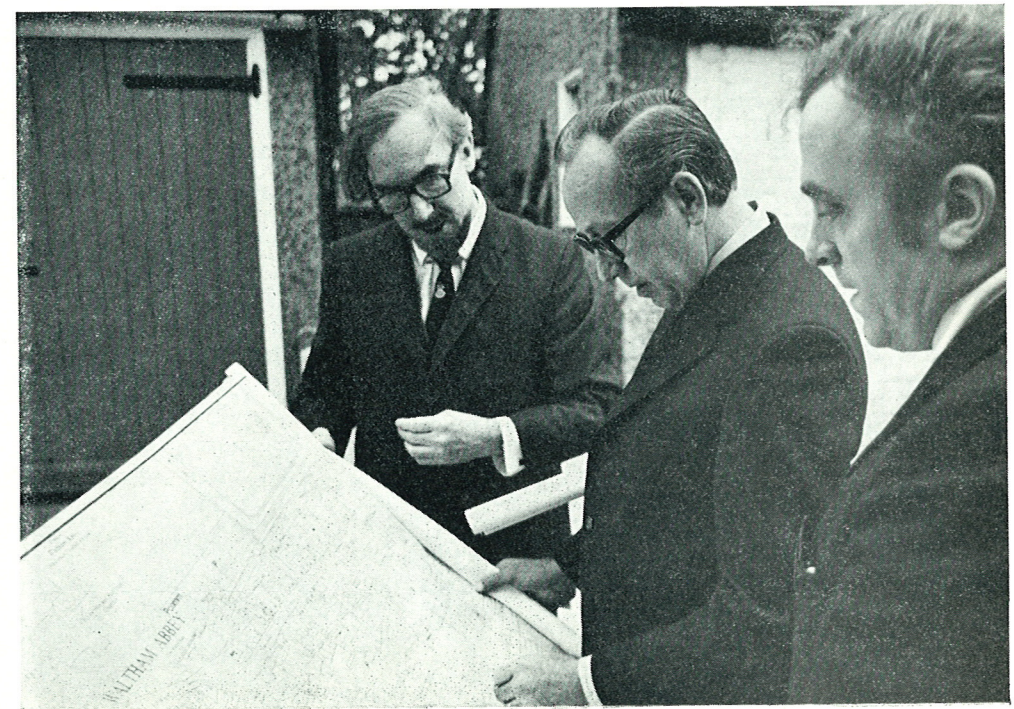


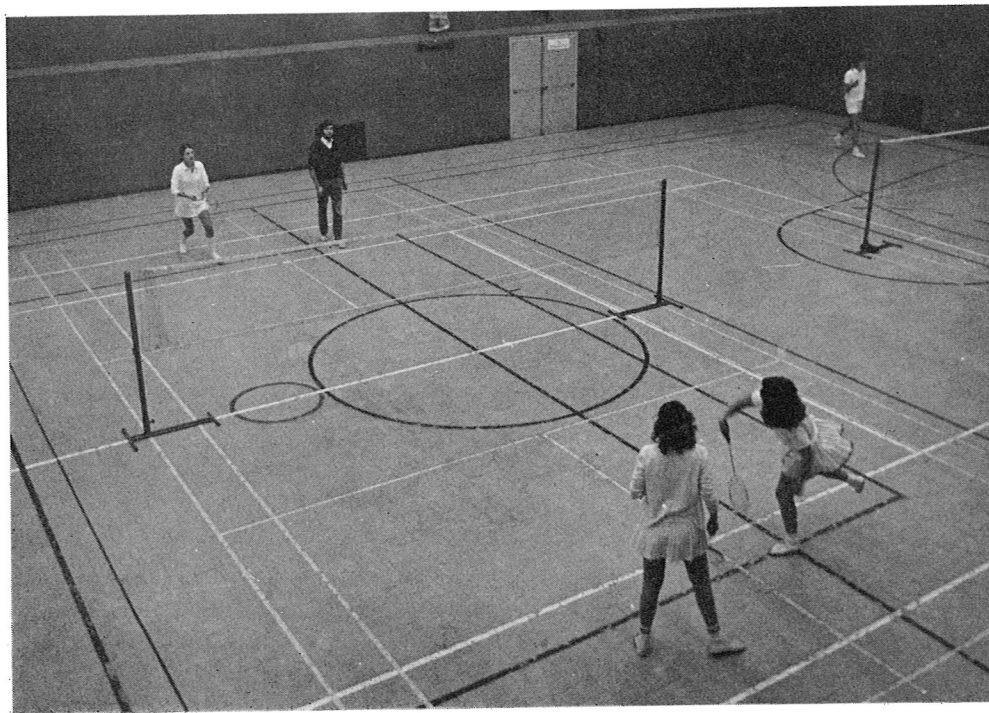
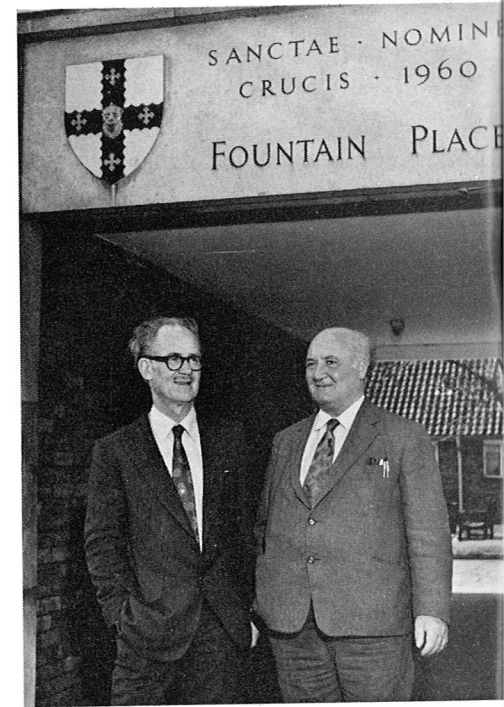
Opposite The Market Square, as depicted on a "giant card per half-penny post" of the early years of the century

Below To-day the market still flourishes—and the background is much the same

Right At the top of Sun Street, on the site formerly occupied by Messrs. Cowing
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Bottom right What of the future? The Town Centre is being redeveloped, and this picture shows Highways, Planning and Development Committee and Town Centre Sub-Committee Chairman Councillor Albert Matthews (right) discussing problems with Engineer and Surveyor, A. J. Edmonds (centre) and Deputy Clerk John Tompkins
Photo R. A. Robertson





Opposite page top left The Paternoster Sports Centre, a joint use venture with the County Council, was opened in 1971. Acting Manager Brian Stokes is seen here chatting with Councillor Riley. Doug Neuff took over as Manager on 1st January, 1974

Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Top centre Recreation and Allotments Committee Chairman Councillor S. D. (Peter) Riley (right) pictured at the King George Swimming Pool Roundhills with Manager John Evans (centre) and the Council's Acting Treasurer, Stanley Joyce

Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Top right The Council have carried out some attractive housing schemes, one of the most admired being that at Fountain Place. The picture shows Housing Committee Chairman, Councillor David Berry, with Housing Manager Richard Jones (left)

Photo D. S. Lewis

Bottom right An improvement scheme is planned for the old part of the Town, and here are pictured Public Health Committee Chairman, Councillor Norman Paul (right) and Chief Public Health Inspector George

Blakey, at Woollard Street

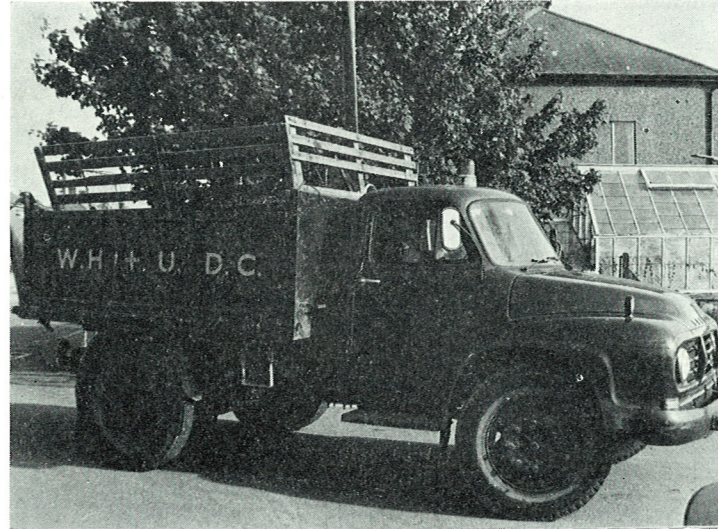
Photo D. S. Lewis

Bottom left Inside the Sports Centre badminton is one of the many popular sports

Photo R. A. Robertson

This page No Council can function without its "outside" staff—and here are just a few of them

Photos J Littlefair & G. W. C. Taylor





Top The Urban District Council (Councillors Denis Sherman, Mrs. Elizabeth Webster and Mrs. Doris Berry not depicted) in 1973

Back row left to right:
Councillors Albert Matthews, Mrs. Margherita Bird, Mrs. Jean Taylor (Chairman), Mrs. Joan Hewins (Vice-Chairman), Peter Riley and Mr. A. J. Edmonds, Engineer and Surveyor
Front row, left to right:
Councillors Chris Sumner, Ron Knibb, Cyril Hewins, Norman Paul and David Berry

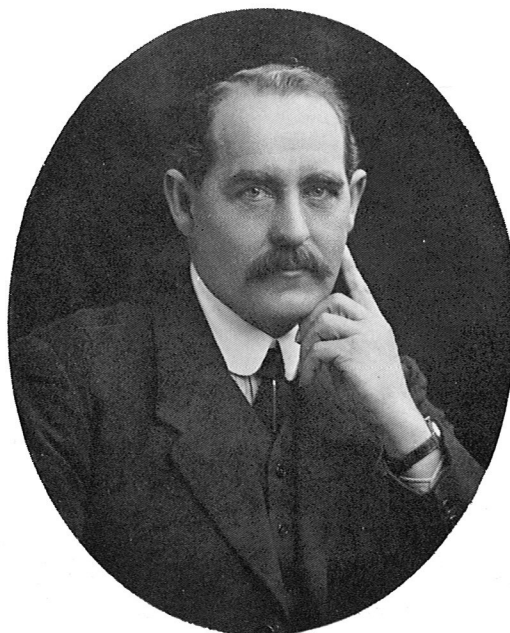
Bottom The Council in session
Photos D. S. Lewis





Above The Clerk of the Council since 1963
Mr. David G. Jones
Photo G. W. C. Taylor

Below left Almost the first—
Arthur J. Edwards, Chairman 1903-05 and 1912-21
Centre H. O Larsen, Chairman 1921-23, who gave to the
Town the Recreation Ground which bears his name
Right G. Tuck, Chairman 1923-25



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