

Stanbridge, Tom

Mr Tom Standbridge was a general miller who ground corn for the local farmers in 1930s. He had stationary engines and he used to let the local boys start them up for him. When they asked if they could come and see him, he used to reply: 1 boy is a boy; 2 boys is half a boy and 3 boys is ne'er boy at all.

Brass Band

In the early 20th century, Wilstead used to have it's own brass band which practised under a big old oak tree in Church Road near the crossroads. The oak tree was later removed to make way for a small workshop style factory and in 2005, the factory gave way to houses. The euphonium was played by Joseph Cook, Thomas Richardson was on cornet; trombone was played by George Mastin and Arthur Mastin played trumpet. The drums were played by Jim Toll.

Chapel Lane Sweet Shop

Two cottages stood at the top of the lane and Mrs Fox kept one. She had a sweet shop in the front room and when children had ½ d to spend they used to buy sweets on their way to infant school.

Finding, Trueman

This Wilstead timber merchant had a house in Chapel Lane and is reported to have been the first to have a flush toilet. His daughter Mabel later married George Crawley and she was prominent in the Wilstead W.I. Chapel and Church fetes were held on the land on corner of Chapel Lane as featured in Wilshamstead Homestead of Friends.

Elephant & Castle Cottages

Featured on page 5 of booklet 10 of this series these cottages at one point had the tenants of Frank Summerfield; 'Tricky' Fuller and Mrs Ingersole. One day, a little the worse for wear, 'Tricky' was found sitting on the very top of the thatch. Frank Summerfield had a penny farthing bicycle and rode back from Bedford on it. To dismount he used to flop over sideways into the front garden. He helped out in the village bakery.

Ragged Britches

The fields to the west of Wilstead Wood were once known as Ragged Britches.