

17: The planners of Hemel Hempstead avoided the mistake of having an undue dependence on one industry or a few big firms which might be vulnerable to changing market demands. This they did by installing not only a 'mix' of light industry but concerns (or regional sections of national concerns) for whose products there would be an assured continuing demand. The Post Office Regional Supplies Dept. is such a concern; and within the extensive and attractive grounds reaching from the office building towards the dual carriage way there is a constant coming in and going out of a wealth of printed paper representing a very considerable sum of money in store and transit.

18: Coxpond Farm ceased its farming activities with the compulsory purchase, in 1948, of all the agricultural land which belonged to it and which had been purchased by Brocks (Crystal Palace) Fireworks when they moved their factory from North Cheam to Cupid Green in 1933. During the war the land had been worked largely by Italian prisoner of war labour; and the pond in front of the farmhouse and opposite the barn on the other side, which was then very large and quite deep, had been used for testing the water-proof qualities of vehicles to be used in the D-Day landings. (Lord Reith received a military decoration for his direction of the preparations for the Normandy landings).

19: When Brocks moved their factory to Hemel Hempstead they built housing for their key workers (of all grades) along the two roads which were constructed running off Leverstock Green Road. These were Vauxhall and Ranelagh Roads, named after the London Pleasure Gardens - among the attractions of which the firework displays arranged by Brocks were a regular, spectacular feature. In 1938 one of the four brothers in the family arranged for the transfer of a surplus annexe from the London Hospital of which he was a governor, to the open ground on the north side of Vauxhall Road where a playing field for football, cricket and tennis had been developed. This became the clubhouse of Brocks Social and Sports Club. When, in 1948, the Development Corporation acquired by compulsory purchase the land which had been attached to Coxpond Farm (but not including that on which the housing was built),

membership was open to all living in the new neighbourhood and the 'village' of Leverstock Green and the club renamed Green Hills on the suggestion of one of the former Brock club members who still lives in Vauxhall Road.

20: The Cupid Green factory had been taken over during the war by the Ministry of Supply for the production of parachute flares, signal rockets and Verey lights; and on the land by the side of St. Albans Road the Development Corporation erected the wooden huts and prefabricated concrete shops transferred from the Cupid Green factory area. These were to be used as a hostel for the accommodation of workers (mainly Irish labourers) who were to do the heavy preparatory work of road building, drainage and sewage services in the new neighbourhood and town. It accommodated up to 300 workers and was closed in 1954, to become a Further Education Centre a year later; with some of the concrete sheds along the extension of Vauxhall Road becoming the Maintenance Depot of the Development Corporation, and one in Field Road being shared with Adeyfield Community Centre. This continued until 1963 when the huts were demolished; the Further Education Centre having moved to Marlowes three years earlier to become Dacorum College, but continuing the use of the Field Road Annexe (as it became) for certain engineering courses. The site was set aside for the building of sheltered accommodation for the elderly and adjacent blocks of flats for the elderly, with the services of a Warden. This building, Evelyn Sharp House, was officially opened in June 1974 (having been occupied since December 1973) by Baroness Sharp, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing (under a succession of Ministers) who had been a significant influence - not always for the better - in the development of new towns in general and Hemel Hempstead in particular, in dealings with whom (both Borough Council and Development Corporation) she played the role of Latter Day 'Iron Lady'.

21: The first contract for 100 houses, of 7 distinct designs, which was awarded to Jesse Meads of Chesham, covered those to be built along Longlands as far as