

Windmill Road, the whole of Homefield Road and the flats between that road and St. Albans Road. Mr. H. Kellett Ablett, Chief Architect of the Development Corporation, was awarded, by the Minister of Local Government and Planning, the Urban Medal for the Eastern Region Housing. Although No. 25 Longlands, one of the block of houses at the corner of that road and Homefield Road, has a foundation stone describing it as 'part of the first house of the Highfield Neighbourhood', it was the adjacent block in Homefield Road which was ready for occupation first. And the first official tenant of the new town was Ben Adams (with his family), one of the building workers; though it was the Ellerbys, the next door neighbours, who actually moved in first. Ben and his family were visited by the Queen on her tour of the neighbourhood in July 1952 and it was their house which was used for the interior domestic 'shots' for the film which was made for recruiting new town residents from some outer London Boroughs.

22: The only Catholic Church in the borough was St. Joseph's in Boxmoor. It was not until the end of 1955 that the east parish was formed, and Father Vaughan appointed Priest. Pending the building of the church, services were held in Adeyfield Community Centre. His Eminence, Cardinal Griffin, said the first mass in November 1955, the foundation stone of the church was laid in October 1956 and it was officially opened by the Archbishop of Westminster just a year later.

23: A feature of the flats along St. Albans Road was the designing of a system of windbreaks which, supplemented by the planting of trees along the frontage of the road, was achieved through linking walls and trellised brickwork between the blocks of flats (which hid the back gardens).

24: Bennetts End House, together with the Brocks Estate (less the housing) and Westbrook Hay, was the first of the compulsory purchases made by the Development Corporation. Its occupant was an eminent K.C. who reluctantly gave up a long enjoyment of the amenities of the one-time farmhouse, which included extensive stabling which had been used by the local Hunt for their horses, and a huge barn

which in Victorian days had been the Mecca for barn dances of the district. These were demolished, as was kitchen garden and orchard to make way for the Eastwick Row housing. The occupancy of the house was taken over by the Corporation Chief Solicitor, but in 1954 the greater part of the building was leased to accommodate the private day nursery which had made a provisional start, in the Quaker Meeting House in St. Mary's Road. The present person in charge has been there since 1960, since when it has grown to be the largest in the town. A 400 years old <sup>elder</sup> yew tree dominates the remaining part of the once large garden, in which last year was placed the repaired statue 'Mother & Child' which, before being vandalised, stood in front of the McAlpine's building at Moor End. The nursery is called Merryhill.

25: There were innumerable orchards throughout the town, and among the many cherry orchards were some in which grew the white cherry (or hart as it was called originally). This road provides a considerable contrast in the housing between that on the right (dull, uniform, straight-faced terraced blocks) and that on the opposite side. The imaginative planning and strategic placing of greens and gardens, with hedge and tree, provide pleasing vistas looking across the dual carriageway to Jarman Fields on the other side. Nearing the end of the road, as you come in sight of the pedestrian bridge across St. Albans Road, you link up with the path (lined with firs at this point) which was mentioned earlier (see 7). This continues on the opposite side of the dual carriageway as you will see when you go on to the bridge for the panoramic view which it affords.

26: The foreground of the far-reaching view is dominated by the extensive Jarman Fields (earmarked on the master plan for a sports stadium). Its naming commemorates the dedicated service of one who was three times Mayor and Bailiff of Hemel Hempstead, and whose special contribution was in the field of education. The establishment of the first grammar school and the development of further education stemmed from his timely initiative and persistent endeavours.