

1

Upper Thatched Cottage was demolished. Fortunately Lower Thatched Cottage survives, an attached extension makes it a suitable for modern living. The rural hedge has been replaced by a suburban looking wall and garden hedging.



Then: 1910 ?



Now 2014

2

Surprisingly little change can be seen in these two photographs. The road has been surfaced and it is now rare to see cars like this. From this angle the new houses are obscured by vegetation. Following a successful campaign to preserve them the evergreen Holm oaks are still there. The square building on the right is no longer a shop.



3 “Then”: The hunt assembles outside the Bell Inn. This must have been an exciting event for a small, sleepy village hence the gathering of children and many open upstairs windows. The landlord of the Bell, which dates back to the 15th century, from 1906 until 1938 was Frederic (Jack?) Turnell. In 1938 the parents of Christine Vereker took over and it has been in the same family ever since. “Now”: John and Christine Vereker manage to successfully combine a friendly local pub, Nationally famous restaurant and luxury accommodation. The small wooden cottage on the left has been replaced by the contrasting modern redbrick Doctors surgery. The wooden house/butchers next to the Bell is structurally unaltered but has gained a cement and pebble dash render. The lovely Rolls Royce would look more at home in a “Then” photo

Then: circa 1920?



Now 2014



4

This has been a butchers shop for many years. “Then” was probably leading up to Christmas judging by the lavish display. “Now” Chris is keeping the tradition going. I must say, I much prefer his refrigerated display inside rather than the meat hanging by the roadside exposed to flies and dust from the un-surfaced road...



Then: 1914?



Now 2014

5 “Then” shows Bill and Doris Orriss standing in the entrance of their Newsagents/general stores which they ran for many years after moving the business up from their old shop part way down South Hill. The Woolmarket, just in the right of the picture, is still being used as a dwelling with windows and chimneys.

“Now” shows Aylin Simpson, with arms folded, celebrating a very special day as it is her first anniversary of taking over the shop.



Then: 1950's ?



Now 8th May 2014

6 The building on the left is High House. It was once owned by the Vincent Family and Phillip Vincent, designer and manufacturer of the famous Vincent motorcycles lived there. This is celebrated by a Green Plaque by the archway. Later Eileen Fowler took over High House. She became famous for her radio and television exercise programmes of the 50s, 60s and 70s and is regarded as the forerunner to today's keep-fit gurus. The building is now a luxury Hotel, as is Hill House to its right, both part of the Bell Inn family business.



Then
1920s?



Now 2014

7

This building now called the Woolmarket was first mentioned in records in 1525 when the Manorial Court moved from Arden Hall to Horndon Market Hall. By 1594 the wool trade in Horndon had declined and the building was used for other trading. The building was converted into a cottage in 1688 then in 1718 it was converted into tenements for housing poor parishioners following a donation from Mr John Poley. This continued with part of the building being used as a public meeting room in some form right through to 1960 when the accommodation was judged too poor for habitation. “Then” shows the building with the downstairs accommodation boarded up. In 1969, with donations from The National Trust for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings and Thurrock Urban District Council, the building was carefully restored to its original form of a market hall shown in the “Now” photo.

Then: 1960's?



Now 2014



8

This building was Tyrrell & Sons Grocers, Drapers and Post Office. The bunting and Royal Crest that covered the middle window suggests a special occasion, such as the coronation of Edward VII on August 9th 1902 or of George V 22 June 1911. More likely it was the annual celebration of British Empire Day that took place on 24th May every year.

This building later became The Cooperative Shop. "Now" it is the Well House Art Gallery.

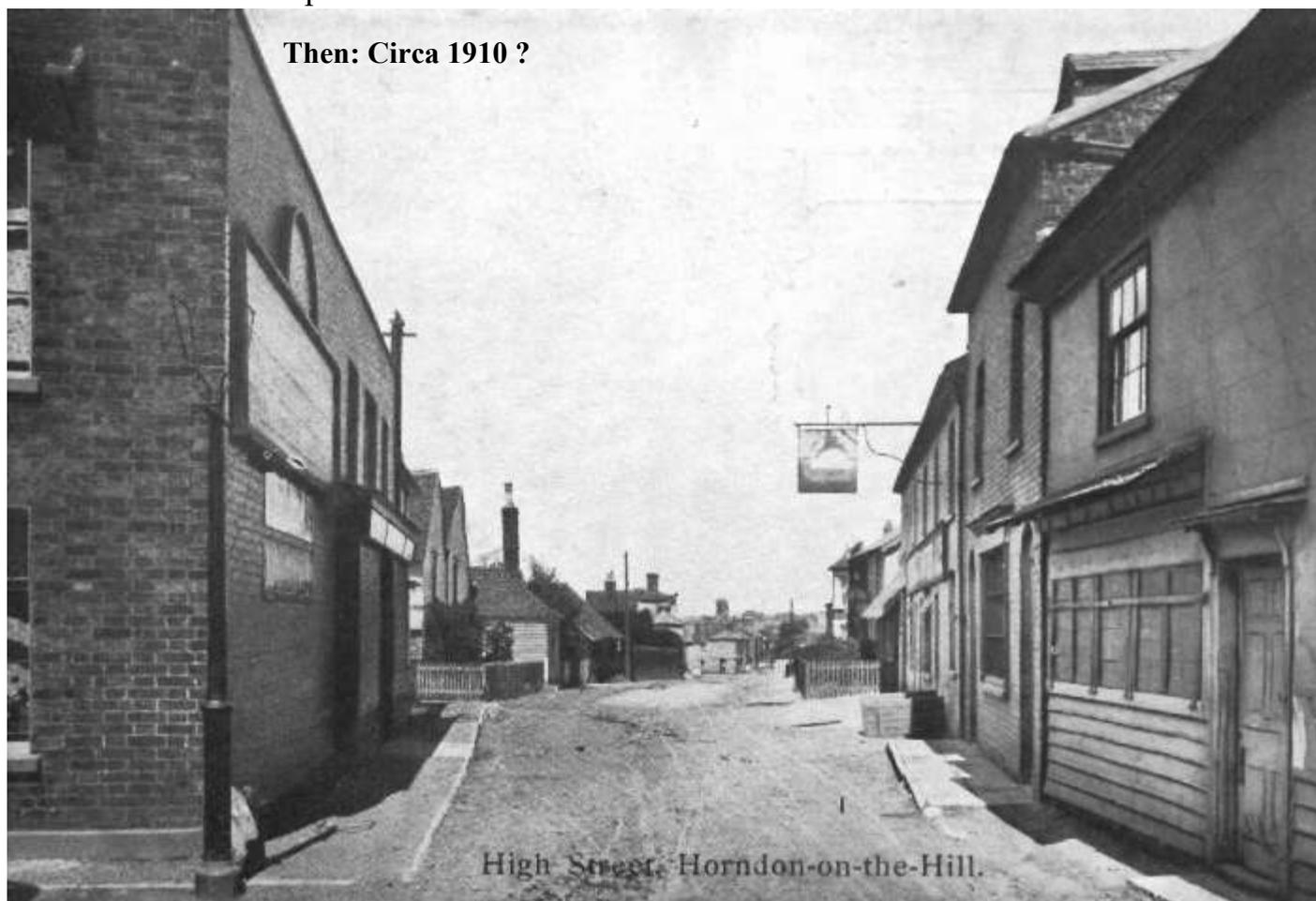
The brick facade is a later addition that hides a centuries earlier timber framed building with many fine beams including a King Post.

Then: Circa 1910 ?



Now 2014

9 The shop on the right with a crude fold down shuttered window adjoined Swan Cottage, It has been long demolished exposing the end wall of Swan Cottage. On its site now stands a detached redbrick building “Hope House” set back from the road. The raised flower beds set on the original building line can be seen in the lower right of the “Now” photo.



Now 2014



10

An extra “Then” photo similar to the last but with some interesting differences:

- The wooden buildings that obscured the National School have been demolished.
- The thatch on the Cottage next to the Swan has been replaced by roofing sheets.
- There is a motor car on the road instead of a horse and cart.
- The number of cross bars on the electricity/telephone poles has been increased, probably as more households were connected to mains electricity, it seems too early for a great increase in the number of telephones in the village

The Swan Inn is much older than its appearance suggests, it is first mentioned in records in 1568 and became a prosperous coaching inn.

Then: Circa 1920 ?

Horndon-on-the-Hill



11

“Then” The name on the Swan sign is that of Clement Wright who was Licensee from 1901 to 1922 (possibly earlier to later). The Landlady “Now” is Rita Titchner. A horse drawn cart is approaching from the North. A series of wooden buildings front onto High Road and obscure the view of the National School building.

Then: Circa 1910 ?



Now 2014



12

This little wooden cottage belonged to the Skelton Family who were the Village butchers. It stood between the Swan and what is now the chase to Arden House. The brickwork in the right of the picture is the left side of the Swan archway to the car park. In later views of this cottage the thatch has been replaced by roofing sheets. Eventually the cottage was replaced by the modern house “Tradewinds” set back much further from the road.

Then: Circa 1910 ?



Now 2014



13

These timber framed buildings stood on the corner of Mill Lane where the Village Hall now stands. It is rumoured that these buildings were dismantled and shipped to the USA. A prefabricated concrete Village Hall occupied the site for many years. The present Village Hall was built in 1996.

Then: 1922



Now 2014



14

The late Major Money lived in No.1 Halls Row. This garage and his many old vans and cars contributed little to the aesthetics of High Road. The replacements, Arden View and The Willows are much 'easier on the eye'.



15

This shop built in circa 1890 by Miss Dale was a Grocers and Drapers. In the 1950's Eric Burdett took it over and was the baker for the Village for many years. The shop additionally sold groceries, sewing and knitting materials and was also the Post Office. After Eric died his Widow and her Son kept the business going for over a year but the competition from nearby supermarkets meant the business was no longer viable and it finally closed. In 2000 the shop was converted into a fine, symmetrically fronted private dwelling.

Then: Circa 1995 ?



Now 2014



16

The Methodist Church in the centre of the picture is little changed. The building on the left is not the same building despite a similar profile. In the 'Now', is the end of a terrace built in the 1960's or 70's. The building 'Then' was a dwelling called 'Sunnyside'. Out of the picture further to the left was a pub named The Black Dog Inn. The publican from the late 19th century until about 1912 was William Henry Fynn who was also a blacksmith. His wife was named Rosanna. The only vehicle visible 'Then' was a horse and cart whereas the road 'Now' is packed with cars.



17 Children outside the National School. The school has relocated to larger buildings in Hillcrest Road. The National School building is now used for Horndon Village Playgroup and Baby Room.

Then: Circa 1905 ?



Now 2014



18 North End of High Road looking over the Allotments and Arden Hall Chase. The Bungalow has gone, replaced by a copse of trees.
The Elm trees succumbed to Dutch Elm disease and the front fences and gates of Elm Bank have been removed to allow parking



19

Looking North from Arden Hall Chase. The most obvious change is the revised road layout including the Bypass cutting diagonally across the near field. By 'Now' it is already well established with a luxuriant hedge.

Then: circa 1910 ?



Now 2014

