



## Local History Collection

### 20 - History of Deep Meadows

Autumn 2023

Researched & written by Sarah Grace

If you live in Fifield, Oakley Green or the surrounding area you may have attended one of the Fifield Fun Days, held for the last few years in the fields at Deep Meadows. Even if you haven't been to this charitable Fun Day you can't have missed the occasional sound of steam engines and associated carriages.

Deep Meadows house is an Elizabethan timber framed house, possibly originally 3 mid-16th Century cottages. One cottage was likely to be a Wheelwright (at this time every village had a blacksmith and wheelwright) which is a craft passed from Father to son looking after and repairing the carriages, carts, traps, wagons, spinning wheels and making wooden wheels. As mentioned in a previous local history piece, Fifield and Oakley Green were on the packhorse route from Windsor to Reading. The garage area at Deep Meadows when refurbished showed signs that it had originally been a milking parlour and dairy.



The house was extended in the 19th and 20th century and is part timber frame with painted brick, old tiled gabled roofs, L-plan 3x3 framed bays. There are 4 chimneys with offset heads and clay pots, casement windows mainly 19th century, 5 windows on the 1st floor, 4 windows on the ground floor without glazing bars. Plank door in centre, now disused. Inside there are timber frames partly exposed, plain large section joists in one framed bay, other joists are chamfered with shield stops. The principal beam has similar chamfers and stops and has a large shaped bracket at each end. In the drawing room there is an inglenook chimney with large oak lintel and carving on the face.



The New Lodge sale of 1917 shows that the 12 acre site at Deep Meadows was in private hands and was not one of the 70+ lots sold. It is possible that at some time before then the cottages at Deep Meadows were given to the tenants or bought by them from what would have been Crown land.

**Raymond OF MAYFAIR  
IS HAIR**

“Teasy Weasy” at:-

AMERSHAM	3/5 Market Square.	Amersham 3789
BIRMINGHAM	138 New Street.	Birmingham 643-8844
BOURNEMOUTH	Bourne Court, Bourne Avenue.	Bournemouth 20888
CAMBRIDGE	at Joshua Taylor, Sidney Street.	Cambridge 51541
CARDIFF	at James Howell, St. Mary Street.	Cardiff 387121
COLCHESTER	at Fifth Avenue, Head Street.	Colchester 74784
DRAWLEY	at The Airport Hotel.	Crowley 34655
EASTBOURNE	37 Cornfield Road.	Eastbourne 27272
GUILDFORD	Norfolk House, 179 Upper High Street.	Guildford 60333
IPSWICH	at Francis Carter, Taverna Street.	Ipswich 52464
LIPHOOK	Forest Mead Health Hkts.	Liphook 3579
MAIDENHEAD	12 Colonnade, High Street.	Maidenhead 20181
NORWICH	at The Froyal Hotel, Bank Place.	Norwich 60808
RIGGATE	38 Church Street.	Rigigate 46633
RICHMOND	3 Hill Street.	Richmond 5488
SLOUGH	154a High Street.	Slough 20491
SOUTHAMPTON	64 Dray Lane.	Southampt 6844
WINDSOR	25 London Road.	Southampton 26555
WOLVERHAMPTON	10 High Street.	Windsor 63268
	4 Market Street.	Wolverhampton 27744

**MISS RAYMOND BUDGET ROOMS**

BIRMINGHAM	8/18 Great Western Arcade	Birmingham 226 6844
CARDIFF	at James Howell, St. Mary Street.	Cardiff 387121
DOULEY (Worce)	Fourtain Arcade, High Street.	Douley 55582
EYESHAM	at Hamilton Bell, High Street.	Evesham 6065
KIDDERMINSTER	at Hamilton Bell, High Street.	Kidderminster 62115

**LONDON SALON**  
39 Brompton Road  
Knightsbridge SW3  
01-584 4411/2

What I have been able to find out is that a family by the surname of Monk lived at Deep Meadows for many years prior to 1951 when the celebrity hairdresser Mr. Raymond Bessone O.B.E.(known as Teasy Weasy) bought the house and lived there for most of the next 30 years.

Teasy Weasy had hair salons in Mayfair, Windsor and Birmingham (plus several other UK cities) and had his own Saturday night TV show, which made him a huge hit and Britain's 1st 'celebrity' hairdresser. In 1954 during a TV appearance he showed his cutting skills and technique by 'snipping off a teasy bit here and a teasy weasy bit there'. This then became his catchphrase. In 1956 Teasy was flown to Hollywood to shampoo and set Diana Dors hair, the cost was £2,500, the equivalent of a small house in the mid 1950's!

Teasy Weasy had a great interest in Race Horses and 2 of his horses won the Grand National in 1963 (Ayala) and 1976 (Rag Trade, beating Red Rum!).

<https://grandnational.horseracing.guide/7650/teazieweazie/>

In fact the swimming pool at Deep Meadows was built on the proceeds from winning the Grand National.

Teasy Weasy was married to Jennifer and had 3 daughters (Cherry, Amber and Scarlet) who all lived at Deep Meadows and by the late 1950's they were divorced. He married his 2nd wife, actress Rosalea Ashley in 1965.

By the early 1980's Deep Meadows was up for Auction and it was in need of significant refurbishment. The sale was eventually made to David and Patricia Buck in 1981.



**Mr Raymond with second wife Rosalie**



David and Patricia also have 3 daughters born and raised in the house. David's 1st venture into steam engines at Deep Meadows was in 1983 when his Father-in-Law Arthur Atkins built the 5" gauge elevated miniature steam railway to David's design as well as a 3 1/2" gauge. Originally it was just 1 straight length of track but within 5 or 6 years this had been extended to a circuit of 1000'. This miniature railway has several miniature steam locomotives that can be used with sit upon trolleys and were used mainly for family and kids parties.

In the next magazine I will continue the story of the standard gauge and 5' gauge railway development.

