

## PART 2 --

# STOCK'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Approaching Stock from Billericay the first building of-interest one encounters is Lillystone Hall, now divided into separate residences. The main building was erected about 1830, but the name can be traced back as far as 1483, when it was "Lylystones", presumably relating to the name of the owner of the property. In 1607 this had become iillingstones, and in 1777, Lilly Stone. In his book on Stock L.D.Jarvis asserts that the present building was erected on the site of an old Manor House, called "Stock House", associated with Great Blunts Manor, on the road to Billericay. The accuracy of this assertion is in some doubt, since although old documents constantly refer to "Lylystones", there are no known references to "Stock House". It therefore seems likely that there has been a house on this site, called "Lylystones" for five hundred years.

At the south end of the Hall is a semi-circular building, which was once Stock's Roman Catholic Church, but which has not been in use since St.Joseph's School in Mill Road was converted for use as a Church. The Lillystone Hall building was erected in 1875 by the Gillow family, who then resided at the Hall, and is said to have cost £3,000, a very considerable sum for the 19th century. Owing to the peculiarities of the site it was not possible to orientate the Church, and the south-west wall is circular. The whole building is very massive, the walls being as much as three feet thick. When it was in use it had a seating capacity of 100 persons.

The gardens of Lillystone Hall are noted for their beauty, and are occasionally opened in the Summer months, in aid of charity.

Proceeding up the very steep hill, planted on either side with trees which overhang the road, practically obscuring the sky from it, one passes Stock Primary School on the left, almost at the summit of the hill. This is the old "National School"; being the oldest educational establishment in the village, having been erected about 1840. The School can have changed little in appearance since it was built, the increase in pupils being accommodated for by the erection of a new School near the centre of the village.

Crossing the road one comes to what is undoubtedly the most interesting village building, the Parish Church of All Saints. In the space available it is not possible to give a comprehensive description of the Church and its history, but those who would like more detailed information should purchase "All Saints Parish Church, Stock Harvard" by "L.J.H.", an excellent little booklet.

All Saints Parish Church consists of a nave, . north aisle, tower, porch, chancel, and chapel. The belfry is surmounted by a spire, on top of which is an unusual weather vane shaped like a dragon. Part of the Church dates back to the 11th century, the porch and north aisle having been added in the 14th or 15th centuries. The chancel dates back to 1848, and the chapel to 1901. The three bells ate dated 1577, 1799, and 1847.

In 1940 a land mine fell in the churchyard, blowing out the windows of the Church and much of the stone tracery, the roof and spire being severely damaged.. Unfortunately none of the stain lass windows survived, and the churchyard was devastated. The Church was out of action for ten months, but years of careful, hard work have restored it to its former beauty. A very attractive pair of entrance gates have been added, and the devastated section of the Churchyard laid out as a Garden of Remembrance.

Opposite the Church, standing behind a small green, are Stock Almshouses, still occupied by old folk. These consist of a long, low rectangular block of red brick, divided into four dwellings. These were originally erected by Sir Richard Twedye in the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1st, and have been altered little since. Their condition is excellent, and their appearance is very attractive.

On the small green in front of the Almshouses is a small pump, well preserved - a memory of the days when there was no piped water supply, and the villagers had to rely on pumps and wells for their water.