

WELHAM GREEN OR NORTH MYMMS POSTAL ADDRESS?

NORTH MYMMS NOTES NO 2

Long before the days of computer mapping, postcodes and automated sorting the postal service relied on humans to read and sort the mail, in Victorian times you expected your postcard to Mother to arrive the afternoon you posted it, but there was a problem for Welham Green and it's near namesake Walham Green (nr. Fulham & Chelsea London.)

Due to human error or bad handwriting it was possible your postcard or letter could go to the wrong sorting office where the error would then be found and the mail returned to the correct location, a delay of perhaps a day or so, no good if you were saying to Mother I shall be home today for tea at 3.30pm! and no good for Victorian standards!



WG138. Postcard. Nash's Corner 1900,s

G. Knott

A coloured Postcard of Walham Green SW6 at around the turn of the 20th Century, a bustling London Suburb. From 1880-1952, Fulham Broadway underground station was called Walham Green. Interesting this postcard was advertised on an internet auction site as being in Hertfordshire.

Compare the same era in Welham Green, perhaps a few farm carts or the gentry in their carriages going about their business, though none evident in this picture.

So the General Post Office as it was known then came up with the solution, Welham Green would be known as North Mimms (note the spelling this didn't change until the mid. 20th Century), which of course was the Parish, Welham Green being at that time the largest settlement in the parish, result no conflict and Mother would get your postcard that afternoon as expected and tea would be on the table.

This situation continued until the 1990's when a number of residents new to the village possibly unaware of the history complained to the Post Office about the fact that you had to explain that North Mymms as a Village did not exist but was really Welham Green and they wanted the North Mymms label dropped.

So the Post Office conducted a survey of every address affected and the result was a fine balance, so in a judgment that King Solomon would have been proud of, changed the postal address:

From XX Any Road to XX Any Road,
North Mymms Welham Green,
Herts North Mymms,
AL9 XXX Hatfield
 Herts
 AL9 XXX.

Interesting to note the modern name of Walham Green is Moore Park Estate, regarded as one of the most desirable parts of Fulham to own a property.

People power and common sense came together.

Mike Allen 2016 with thanks to Richard Papworth, whose family ran the North Mymms post office for many years and provided the idea and some of the information, please acknowledge if used.