

HOMES

AND GARDENS

JULY 1956

TWO SHILLINGS



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In Next Month's issue of **HOMES AND GARDENS**



THREE ROYAL BIRTHDAYS

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Princess Anne were all born in August. Dorothy Laird pays a tribute to three royal ladies, and describes how each of them, in her own way, is a leader of fashion for her generation.

Glamis Castle where Princess Margaret was born.

The Absolutely Complete Book of Perfect Housekeeping

Something to smile about on holiday!... by ELINOR GOULDING SMITH

ENJOYING YOUR HOLIDAY!

by PHYLLIS BENTLEY

VISIT TO YUGO-SLAVIA

by SYLVIA NORTON

ANNE CRAWFORD'S HOUSE IN HAMPSTEAD

The delightful home of the star of television and cinema, described by Phyllis Buchanan.

VIRGINIA GRAHAM • ANTHONY GILBERT • ELIZABETH FOSTER



The front of the delightful old house. Attractive features are the whitewashed walls, gables, diamond-paned windows and the lych-gate.

THE REFFELL FAMILY has owned Manor Farm since 1850. They first came to England from France during the French Revolution, and settled in Surrey. One branch of the family took up brewing, and the others became farmers; the farmers came to the

Wraysbury district, and have stayed there ever since.

Manor Farm is not just a name, it really is a farm. The cluster of red-roofed picturesque outbuildings, including several lovely old thatched barns, straggle up each side of the quiet cul-de-sac leading to

Wraysbury church, and complement the farmhouse of the same period. About four hundred acres are farmed by Mr. Reffell, who specialises in pedigree Guernsey cattle.

The present Mr. Reffell's grandfather was the first member of the family to come to the farm, which originally formed part of the Marquess of Downshire's estate. The original house, which was constructed of oak framing and filled in with wattle and daub, was rebuilt in 1729. Parts of the original oak framing still exist. The comparatively recently whitewashed walls show up the old gables and excellent examples of diamond-paned windows to advantage.

There is evidence that the house was at one time a much larger residence, and that it extended considerably in the direction of the churchyard. In the garden the foundations of the earlier portions of the house have been discovered, and Mr. Reffell believes that a house has stood on that site, using the original foundations, since the fifteenth century.

In 1850 it was very much "modernised" by the first Mr. Reffell, and a good deal of the lovely oak work and beams were hidden from view. Also, there is no doubt





The back of the house seen from the main lawn. The wall of one wing is entirely covered with an ancient Wistaria.

that other attractions were scrapped at that time with a view to making it more of an up-to-date residence. The present owner has been busy discovering long-concealed old beams.

In the morning room, which faces the garden and has french windows on to the lawn, a fine open chimney was uncovered during renovations. It was a delightful example, but presented rather a problem to the owners. Owing to the comparatively small size of the room it was not considered practical to preserve the fireplace in its original open state, much as they would have liked to do so. Instead, an attractive brick fireplace was built over it, and the old beam exposed across the top. This fine beam has been waxed, and adds to the attractiveness of the room and fireplace, and also serves to mark the original chimney-head.

THE HALL, which is the oldest part of the house, now has some honey-coloured pine panelling, uncovered by Mr. Reffell in recent years. It had previously been covered for many years by white plaster. The panelling had suffered a good deal by its long concealment, and when taken out for repair it revealed some lovely

oak framing which dates back to the early sixteenth century. Wherever possible these beams are now showing.

Although repairs have been made to the old tiling in the hall, it is mostly in an excellent state of preservation, considering that it is thought to have been under con-

stant traffic of feet for hundreds of years. A few handsome pieces of brass, and a slender seventeenth-century grandfather clock in pine to match the panelling, furnish the hall.

The dining-room is in fine Tudor style, with rich dark oak panelling. The carved



A side view of the old Manor, with its charming garden, showing the lovely line of the



The handsome Tudor-style dining-room, with oak-panelled walls and large brick fireplace. The table—the top of which was made of two ten-foot lengths of oak—was used for many years in the Duke of Buckingham's kitchens. It had to be shortened to fit into this room.

oak head over the mantel was discovered walled up in the house. The brick fireplace—which suffered rather badly when the house was “modernised” about a hundred years ago—was recently re-built in its original pattern, with the old mouldings faithfully copied.

The dining-table is a fine, solid piece, and was once in the Duke of Buckingham's kitchens, where it had done duty for hundreds of years. Its solid oak top was

made from two ten-foot lengths of wood. Mr. Reffell had to shorten it to fit the size of his room, but the alteration was done with care to retain the original balance, and to preserve the top in keeping with the handsome solid base. The dining chairs are beautiful examples of Sheraton's earlier work, and pastel shades in curtains and carpet contrast with the dark wood.

The drawing-room is thought to have been added in 1845. It is a spacious room

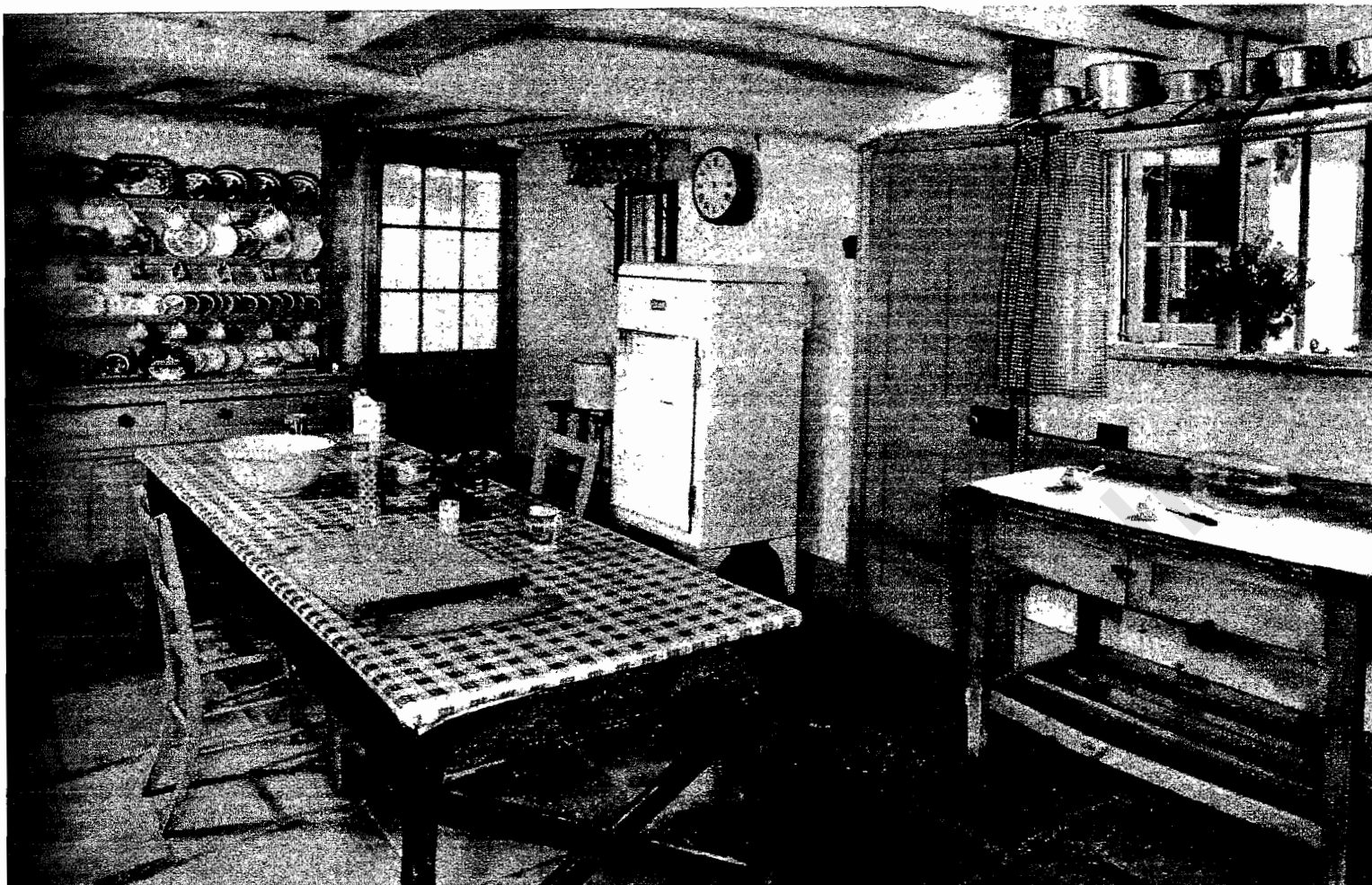
with cream walls and large windows, which face on to the front. The room is furnished with some fine antique pieces, mostly in mahogany. A large oak dresser makes a handsome stand and frame for some pretty china—chiefly a collection of old willow pattern pieces.

The kitchen at Manor Farm is a delight. It is a tremendous size as kitchens go to-day, and has a low beamed ceiling. The beams have been painted white to give an appearance of height, and to add as much light as possible, because the original windows—still retained—are rather small. All up-to-date labour-saving devices have been added to the kitchen, and yet the old-world look of it has been successfully retained. The handsome flagstones are cool in summer, and in winter are covered with rugs for greater warmth. The dresser is full of attractive china, and the windows look on to the garden and lane. The main boiler is in this room—so it is always warm.

In a corner of the drawing-room china dishes, ladles, etc.—mostly willow pattern—are housed on an old Welsh dresser, which makes a most suitable stand and frame for the collection.



THE HOUSE has two staircases leading to the first floor. The main stairs are solid oak and lead to a landing with some fine beams, in keeping with the wagon roof at the top of the stairs. The bedrooms are all a comfortable size, with plain cream walls, and are furnished to accord with the style of the house. Each item of furniture is a selected piece, and treasured by the owners.



The kitchen, with whitewashed beams and the original windows, retains the charm of antiquity, although it has had modern labour-saving equipment added. The original old flagstone floor is cool in summer, and in winter is covered with rugs for comfort and warmth.

In a house of this kind, owned by people who appreciate its charm and antiquity and wish to preserve it—the natural desire of all householders to make their home comfortable and labour-saving often leads to a heart-rending battle between the old and the new. The twists and the turns, the numerous doors and windows often make it appear that comfort is impossible unless drastic changes are made, and these may spoil the

original effect of the building. Mr. and Mrs. Reffell have used both skill and ingenuity at Manor Farm, and while uncovering the old, and retaining all the ancient charm of the seventeenth-century structure, they have invested the old house with a comfort certainly not enjoyed by earlier owners.

The entrance door in the main hall opens on to a flagged path, leading to a lych-gate. The gate—a comparatively

recent addition—has been built of old timber from a derelict barn, and is roofed with old red tiles similar to those on the roof of the house.

Surrounding the house are well laid out gardens, in which there is an old sundial, dated 1643. Mrs. Reffell superintends the gardening herself, fostering the early-English herbaceous plants, and the sweet-smelling climbing roses—interspersed with rockeries, and varieties of ferns.

The tiled hall, with honey-coloured pine panelling, is the oldest part of the house.



The main bedroom, with cream walls and plain fitted green carpet. The old bread chest on the right, and the fine four-poster bed, are in keeping with the style of the house.

