THE RIDGEWAY:
Back Inn Time





KINGS HEAD, 1946


KINGS HEAD HOUSE, 2012

Mill Hill village, a stunning rural location set 122 metres above sea level attracted city merchants wanting to build large houses from the late 1700s. It now boasts the highest number of blue plaques in the borough, a good sprinkling of Grade 2 listed buildings and an unusually high proportion of the public houses which served locals from the 18th century still exist.

Notable Mill Hillians include botanist Peter Collinson who also founded a hospital for babies abandoned by their mothers in 1739, Singapore founder Sir Stamford Raffles, William Wilberforce who led the movement to abolish slavery and Thomas Nicolls, who lived in Ridgeway House which later became Mill Hill School. Nicolls went on to build the charming Almshouses by the Angel pond.

From the 17th century as road transport improved the Ridgeway became increasingly important as a means of travelling in and out of London. In 1825 carriages travelled into the city from the Angel pond – named after the Angel Pub set at the top of Milespit Hill - and an unusually large number of other inns opened to serve travellers. The Adam and Eve – first an inn called 'The Eve' built in 1717 – has since seen several rebuilds. A modern house now stands on the spot of a large public house called The Kings Head built in the early 1700s. Others such as the Three Hammers, The Plough (demolished on


ANGEL & CROWN, c1893

Holcombe Hill in 1931) and the Rising Sun served the far end of Ridgeway leading travellers north.

In 1868 the railway arrived in the area and gradually the village moved down the hill marking the beginning of the closure of the pubs and shops that had served the area for centuries.

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ANGEL & CROWN, 2012


THE ADAM & EVE, 2012


THE ADAM & EVE, c1890