

# THE HISTORY OF ARDEA 6717

Ethelbert Lodge was formed in 1885. During the initial discussions that lead to its formation one of the names that was considered was "The Heron Lodge".

The reason for this may have been related to the idea that Herne Bay got its name from the nearby village of "Herne" and that "Herne" is derived from "Heron". In fact "Herne" probably got its name from the Old English word for corner and may have arisen from the sharp bend in the road from Canterbury to the coast that occurs in Herne.

During the Victorian period Herne Bay was expanded to meet the demand for Seaside Holidays. The planned expansion was based on the Grid system and Herne Bay was going to be a model town. It was proposed that the name "St. Augustines" should be adopted. This proposition was rejected. If you look at the centre of Herne Bay you will see the grid layout in the same way as you will in many American towns and Cities.

We assume that, when the formation of Ardea Lodge was being discussed the name was chosen as Ardea is a genus of Heron and thus reflects either – 1) its location in "Herne Bay" or 2) its place as the daughter of what might have been "The Heron Lodge".

It is our understanding that Ardea what formed in 1948 as, after the war, Ethelbert was so big that it was very difficult for Brethren to progress. The formation of Ardea thus split the potential membership and allowed more chance of progression.

## *Ardea Cinerea means Grey Heron*

The grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) is the largest heron in Europe. It has a long neck, a strong, dagger-like bill and long yellow legs. In flight, the neck is folded back, and the wings are bowed. In adults, the forehead, sides of the head and the centre of the crown are white, whereas in juveniles these are greyish. The sexes are similar in appearance.

The grey heron feeds mainly on fish, which it hunts by patiently standing completely still at the side of the water, and striking rapidly when a fish comes into range. The prey is caught in the bill or speared; amphibians, small mammals, birds and invertebrates may also be taken. Feeding areas are often vigorously defended against intruders. It breeds either solitarily or in colonies, called heronries, in woodland close to water. The heronries are usually traditional sites used by successive generations. The flat nest of sticks is built in the crown of the tree early in the year, and four or five eggs are laid towards the end of March, though often earlier in mild winters. Both parents share the duties of incubation, which takes 25 to 26 days. The young, which are covered in down in their first days of life and are fed on regurgitated fish, fledge after 20 to 30 days.

Common and widespread throughout Britain. The grey heron is known throughout most of temperate Europe, and extends through Russia as far east as Japan. It reaches south through China to India, and is also found in parts of Africa, and in Madagascar