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What's In A Name?

Many people may not be aware that the name "Etonbury" has local connexions, and have probably wondered why the new Secondary Modern School between Stotfold

and Arlesey took that name.

In the second number of the school magazine, "The Yeoman", the headmaster, Mr. R. N. Alexander, gives the explanation. He says "Eton", an Anglo-Saxon word, means "a river land", and "Bury" means "fortification" or "a wall defensive to a house".

Only one and a half miles from the school is a stream known locally as Dudley's Ditch, and following this, in a northerly direction, are the Anglo - Saxon earthworks known to archaeologists as "Etonbury". During the 16th and 17th centuries there was, in Arlesey, Etonbury Manor, in the possession of the Brown family. The family of Maddox were the next squires of the village, but unfortunately the manor fell into decay and traces of it were destroyed.

He says: "We in our turn are striving to bring back the name of Etonbury to its former prominence. Our aim is not to 'lord it' as in the time of the manoric of Arlesey, but to defend and strengthen, as in Anglo-Saxon times. Our fortress does not defend men and women from attack and physical injury, but endeavours to give a balanced and guided viewpoint. It aims to equip its defenders with high principles and strong characters able to withstand the assaults of life and to defend themselves 'against the envy of less happier souls'."

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