LOUGHTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 165

March/April 2005 **www.loughtonhistoricalsociety.org.uk** Price 20p, free to members

Odds and Ends

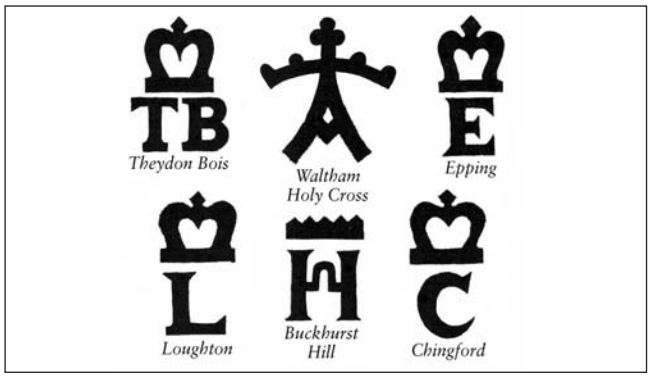
Warlies. With regard to Mr Smith's note in *Newsletter 164* I can report the two red brick obelisks, originally stuccoed, still stand about a mile apart in Upshire. The smaller of the two is on the hill behind Obelisk Farm in Fernhall Lane. The other obelisk stands between Dallance Farm and Breach Barns. Neither of the obelisks is inscribed in any way and the earliest record of them appears on a county map published in 1777 (Chapman & Andre). The obelisks are listed Grade II.

The Warlies and Woodredon Estates were sold to the Greater London Council in 1974. With the abolition of the GLC the estates were transferred to the Corporation of London and became part of the 'Buffer land' of Epping Forest. (The house at Warlies was not included and was sold privately and is now occupied by a number of small businesses.) RICHARD MORRIS

The parish marks of Epping Forest

STEPHEN PEWSEY

In his delightful little book *Epping Forest*, Alfred Qvist, Superintendent of Epping Forest from 1949–78, explained the ancient practice and importance of commoning in the forest. The right to graze cattle or horses within the forest is nowadays restricted to those owning half an acre or more of land in one of the forest parishes, such fortunate souls being known as Commoners. But their animals cannot just be turned loose in the forest. First they have to be marked, with a mark showing their parish of origin. Qvist helpfully provided an illustration of some of the marks:



He also lists Chigwell, Leyton, Little Ilford, Wanstead, West Ham, Woodford and Walthamstow as 'forest parishes' though he does not illustrate their marks, and while Buckhurst Hill is shown in the illustration as having a forest mark, it is not in the list of forest parishes. These marks, cast in iron and about 20cm high, are applied to the animals using long metal rods, and although Qvist gives much detail about the method of marking using a tar compound, in earlier less squeamish times the beasts were surely simply branded.

The curious thing is that the marks shown in Qvist's book, originally published in 1958 and revised in 1971, differ in almost every way from those shown in an earlier source, William Fisher's monumental *The Forest of Essex*, published in 1887. Fisher also illustrated the marks (see below) and provided a detailed history of their use. One of our current Verderers, Richard Morris, was unable to say offhand when the marks changed, though it was of course unfair to put him on the spot. Undoubtedly a little research (which I shall leave to others!) will reveal the date and reason for the changes.

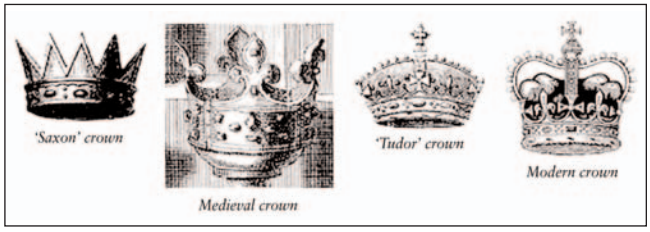
The marks shown in *The Forest of Essex*, being earlier, may be considered the more 'authentic', and this article is intended to show that a clever mind lay behind their creation.

But when did these marks first come into use? Fisher pointed out that in the alphabetic sequence of marks, there is no gap left for the Liberty of Havering or its individual parishes. Havering was removed from the forest in the reign of Edward II (1307–27), so the use of marks must be later than that. There are references in the 1630s to the parish marks, in the form of warnings by the bailiff of the forest to the constables to assert the need for marking and in the records of one of the forest courts for failing to mark cattle, but this is during the period when the Stuarts were re-asserting ancient forest laws, rights and duties, so the marks must be much older than that.

Each mark comprises a letter of the alphabet surmounted by a crown, and Morris, following Fisher, asserts that two of the parishes – Waltham Holy Cross and Wanstead – use a cross instead of a crown. This could indicate that the marks were devised before the dissolution of the monasteries, and marked out parishes dominated by monastic landholdings (Barking Abbey held land in Wanstead).

However, this assumption is based on a false premise. All the marks do in fact show a crown, though there

is a wide variety of design no doubt based on the artistic ability of the local forest reeve (who was responsible for overseeing the marking) and the skill of the local blacksmith. Royal crowns in England evolved over time, as did their heraldic depiction. The earliest form is known as the 'ancient' or 'Saxon' crown. By the time of the Plantagenets this had been modified by Continental, or more particularly French, versions, and was decorated with fleur-de-lys. The Tudors seem to have been the first to introduce, at least on their coinage, the 'flying buttress' crown with arches over the top of the head. In due course this became more elaborate, and was in turn influenced by the Hanoverian 'bonnet' crown, resulting in the familiar royal crown of today.



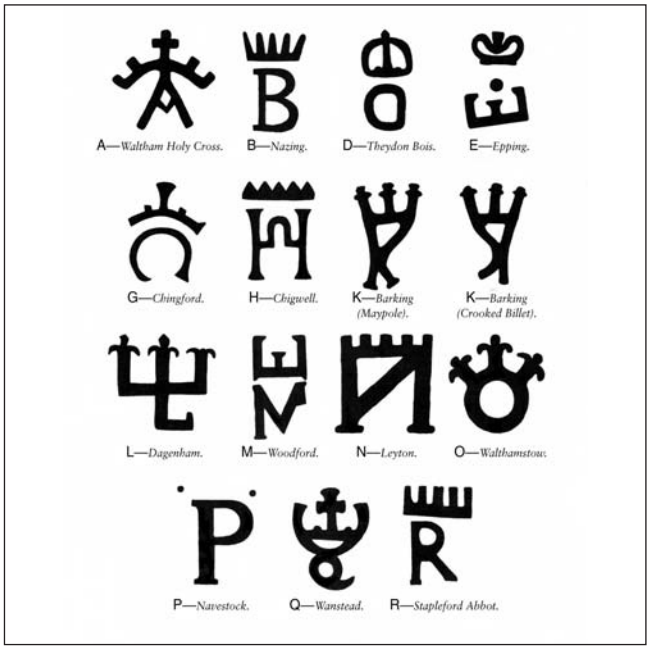
The marks are all variants of these four types, and monastic considerations do not enter the discussion. If monasteries had any influence in the design of the marks, it might be expected that Barking would also use a cross, or even Loughton, where Waltham Abbey held land.

As well as the crown, each mark comprises a letter of the alphabet, from A to S, though, according to Fisher, by 1748 the marks for several parishes had gone missing. These were Lambourne, Loughton, Roydon hamlet and West Ham. The letters for these parishes were I, F, C, and S, respectively. Missing marks might suggest that those parishes did not often common their animals and only rarely needed to use a mark, but Loughton cannot be in this category.

One of the most interesting aspects of the marks is the cleverness of their design in depicting their parish. Medieval heralds were adept at punning imagery, known as canting, in coats of arms, and something similar seems to be going on, on a humbler scale, in the parish marks of Epping Forest. The assignment of letters to each parish looks as though it was a random matter, but many of the marks have adapted their letter to signify the parish, using the fact that the actual iron mark could be looked at from either side, or inverted.

There does in fact seem to be some sort of plan behind the sequence of letters. The route from A to S roughly forms two clockwise circles, one north and one south of the Roding. Starting at A, for Waltham Holy Cross (Waltham Abbey), the cross-stroke of the A has been designed so that when inverted, the letter then becomes a W for Waltham Holy Cross.

The D of Theydon Bois is apparently reversed, but is in fact the medieval letter eth or edh, which represented soft th- sounds (as in 'thing'; there was another letter representing the hard th- sound found in 'that'). So Th- for Theydon Bois. E for Epping is straightforward. F for Loughton may seem a puzzle, but reversed and inverted, it becomes a common enough way of writing L in the Middle Ages. G for Chingford is drawn to resemble the C of Chingford. The H of Chigwell has a yoke-like cross-stroke which forms a C, so making CH for Chigwell. Lambourne had an I, which is simply a lower-case L for Lambourne. K for Barking is undoubtedly a lower-case medieval b turned upside down. Fisher stated that Barking, being such a large parish, used two marks. 'normal' K was used for the north of the parish (i.e. what later became Ilford), and K reversed for the south.



Woodford's M becomes a W for Woodford when inverted, while the O for Walthamstow is drawn in a peculiar way in which the crown surmounting the letter has become a W, for Walthamstow.

Wanstead has been assigned a Q, but once again the design of the crown is key. It has been made into a bowl shape, forming the letter U. The letters QU represented several sounds to the medieval ear, including the cw- sound of Anglo-Saxon words such as cwen (meaning woman, and the origin of the modern word 'queen'), a more guttural qw- sound in imported foreign words such as cushion (spelt 'quishin' in Chaucer's day), and a much softer hw- or w- sound. At any point before about 1600, Wanstead would have been pronounced much more like 'Hwann-sted', so the letters QU would have been readily identified with the name.

West Ham as the last in the sequence gets S, which is of course S for Stratford, the only settlement of any size in the early parish. Of course, the system does not work for every parish mark. Nazeing's B, Roydon's C, Dagenham's L, Leyton's N, Navestock's P and Stapleford Abbots' R do not seem to contain any visual clues to their parish. But overall, these witty visual puns seem to indicate a single sharp organising intellect behind the assignment of the parish marks. It is hard to believe that across south-west Essex, a dozen different parish reeves all separately came up with canting sym-

bols for their areas. Perhaps we should look for the answer amongst the new-made men of Henry VII's entourage. The first monarch of the Tudor dynasty had a tidy mind, a strong sense of orderliness, and a conqueror's licence to make change. It was he who restored order to the royal forests, largely to ensure a steady revenue, but in doing so he both revived traditional courts and created new procedures where necessary, one of which may have been the setting up of the system of parish marks for commoned animals. Delegated to one of his clever new courtiers, this job was then carried out as an exercise in wordplay and symbolism so fashionable in Tudor England.

In passing, it should be noted with disappointment that these historical badges are so little seen about the Forest today. Few people are aware of them and only Theydon Bois uses its traditional D on its village sign (rather than the modern 'TB' parish mark illustrated in Qvist!). As more towns and villages in our area put up such signs, there is surely scope to display these ancient badges again. Loughton's crowned F would have made rather a handsome and intriguing town emblem connecting it to its forest heritage in a more direct and particular way than the rather vapid leaping deer we have ended up with. Deer of one sort or another are used by a great many local authorities, but Loughton's strikingly simple crowned F is quite unique. Of course, Loughton's deer does have one unfortunate distinction; it faces from left to right. It is a fundamental heraldic rule that objects are always shown facing right to left (think of the three lions of England), and to show them reversed was exceptionally unusual. This position was known as 'coward' and was invariably a badge of shame, used to indicate cowardice in battle, treachery or some other great crime. A very regrettable symbol for our town to say the least!

Sources:

Fisher, William *The Forest of Essex* (1887), pp. 299–302.
Morris, Richard , *The Verderers and Courts of Waltham Forest in the County of Essex* (2004), p. 10.
Qvist, Alfred, *Epping Forest* (1971), pp. 23–25.

Sir William Addison (1905–1992) – a retrospective

RICHARD MORRIS

In April we celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Sir William Addison, who although not born in Essex, became a distinguished and eminent person in his adopted county through his contributions to the community and the historiography of Essex. Addison was the author of 19 books the subjects of which covered not only topographical and biographical studies of the county and its people, but also wider fields of national interest. Where does he stand today in the iconography of Essex historians?

William Addison was born on 4 April 1905, at Mitton in the Ribble Valley near the point in the Hodder Valley where, at Dunsop Bridge, the road plunges into a gorge called the Trough of Bowland. In such a beautiful area it is little wonder that William became devoted to the topographical and social history of England. He was educated at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and, in 1929, he married Phoebe, daughter of Robert Dean of Rimington in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

William's and Phoebe's decision to move south was influenced by the expansion of industry into the Ribble valley. They bought a small sports car and a caravan in which to search England for a place in which they could live their own natural lives, and it was almost by chance that they came to live in Essex. They were invited to spend a few days with some friends at Buckhurst Hill, in Epping Forest, and they were also to spend some time in Suffolk. However, while visiting Epping Forest they found their way to a bookshop in Loughton, which by chance happened to be for sale, and William bought it. The bookshop became the base for Addison's activities as an author, historian, magistrate and much else.

Epping Forest was to be an abiding passion for the rest of William's life and he was quickly to come to know it, and by 1945 he had written the first of three volumes about the forest. The first volume dealt with the forest's literary and historical associations with biographies of some of the more prominent persons who lived in or visited the forest. George Bishop, in his review of the book for the *Daily Telegraph*, commented that 'A walk with Mr Addison through Epping Forest is more than a charming stroll along leafy lanes. It is a pleasurable lecture-ramble on forest history and literature by a man in love with his subject. Mr Addison is a worthy academic verderer with a sure place on the fireside rambler's bookshelves.'

In his *Portrait of Epping Forest,* published in 1977, Addison provided an historical account of the development of the forest from the early twelfth century, when it became a royal forest and a favourite hunting ground for the monarch, to the fight to save it from inclosure in the nineteenth century, and the appointment in 1878 of the Corporation of London as Conservators of the forest. In the last volume of the trilogy published in the year before his death in 1992, William returned to historical figures associated with the forest.

In 1957 William Addison was elected a verderer of Epping Forest, an office going back to the twelfth century, and which he held with one short interval for 27 years. He was thus able to speak with authority in writing about the forest, its history and its management. He was a verderer during the time that the Ministry of Transport was seeking to implement several road development schemes, including the improvement to the North Circular Road at Waterworks Corner, and the construction of the M25 and M11 motorways. The proposals for a motorway crossing the forest at the sensitive point at which the woodlands merge with Green Belt land to the north, roused the fighting spirits of the forest as nothing had done since the early arguments in the

1880s over the management of the forest. In Addison's view most of the other problems came under the heading of 'Effects of Urbanisation', and the current proposals for house building in the county, together with the regeneration of Harlow, the M11 corridor development, and a second runway at Stansted Airport, have shown his concern to be a valid one.

The first of Addison's books whose scope went beyond the confines of Essex was *The English Country Parson,* a social history of the clergy, and replete with colourful characters and authentic historical and social scenery. Harold Nicolson, in a review in the *Daily Telegraph*, described it as 'a gentle, nostalgic, reverent sort of book', and John Betjeman, writing in the *Daily Herald*, commented that 'Mr Addison writes with reverence and affection'. The success of the book was proven by the need for a reprint in 1948. A year later Addison returned to the Essex scene with his description of the society of Stuart Essex in *Essex Heyday.*

Addison's literary output in the 1950s was prodigious with his topographical study of *Suffolk* in the County Series (1950), *Worthy Doctor Fuller* (1951), *English Spas* (1951), and *English Fairs and Markets* (1953), followed, also in 1953, by a history of *Audley End*. In the latter respect William Addison demonstrated his scholarship by producing a work of wider interest and scope than those previously written about Audley End. In a foreword to the book, Lord Braybrooke wrote that he had 'been impressed by the skill and enthusiasm with which Mr Addison had tackled tens of thousands of documents, now in the Essex Record Office'.

The 60 miles of waterway between London Bridge and the Nore which had for more than a thousand years been vital to the security and prosperity of London, provided a rich historical source for Addison's *Thames Estuary* published in 1954. A year later the charming and entertaining *In the Steps of Charles Dickens* was published, in which Addison toured England searching for the original towns and buildings in which Dickens had set his novels. Chigwell and High Beach are among the several Essex connections mentioned.

In 1978 Addison, by now Sir William, published two slim volumes on *Understanding English Place-Names* and *Understanding English Surnames*. The first volume was dedicated to P H Reaney, the author of *The Place Names of Essex* and whom Addison knew well. The books are useful basic guides to their subjects but the same ground had been covered on several previous occasions by other authors, and it is slightly difficult to understand why Addison chose to repeat this. However, the Place-Names volume was reprinted in 1979, with the *Essex Chronicle* commenting that it was 'a scholarly but eminently readable work'. In the 1980s Addison wrote three books on aspects of English rural life: *The Old Roads of England, Local Styles in English Parish Churches,* and *Farmhouses in the English Landscape,* all extensively illustrated.

Essex Worthies was published in 1973 and amounts to a selective *Dictionary of National Biography* for the county. In completing such a massive task it was inevitable that errors crept into the details of some of its subjects, but nonetheless it is a book of reference for all who delve into the county's past. It was also in 1973 that Addison wrote the guidebook for Wanstead Park.

In 2001 I was shown a manuscript containing approximately thirty poems written by William Addison over a 20-year period starting in 1936. The background to many of the poems is the forest, and of course the period also covers the Second World War. I felt that Addison's published works should include a selection of his poetry and, with the support of the Corporation of London, a small volume was published in 2002 under the title *Winter Forest and Other Poems*.

Between 1955 and 1973 there is a gap in Addison's literary output, with no books published during this period. There are possibly a number of reasons for this, the principal one being that by the middle of the 1950s he had become very involved in serving the community as a magistrate and verderer, as well as sitting on innumerable committees associated with recording the history of the county. All this left little time for his own historical research.

In 1949 Addison had been appointed a Justice of the Peace, sitting on the Epping Bench, and within six years had been elected bench chairman. After a temporary move to Westcliff-on-Sea in 1966, where he sat on the Rochford bench, he moved back to Epping and was Chairman of the Epping and Ongar Petty Sessions until 1976. His deep interest and commitment to the magistracy led to a place on the Council of the Magistrates Association of England and Wales, and he was subsequently elected chairman, a post in which he served with distinction from 1970–1976.

In 1978 the Epping Forest Centenary Trust was formed to celebrate the centenary of the protection of Epping Forest. Its principal aims are to increase young people's understanding of the forest and its habitats. Addison, together with Alfred Qvist, the then Superintendent of the Forest, played a major role in establishing the Trust, which continues today to reach out to those young people who would otherwise have

LOUGHTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Registered Charity No 287274 www.loughtonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Chairman: Dr Chris Pond, Forest Villa, Staples Road, Loughton IG10 1HP (020 8508 2361)
Secretary: Richard Morris, 6 High Gables, Loughton IG10 4EZ (020 8508 4974)
Treasurer: Mrs Eve Lockington, 19 Spring Grove, Loughton IG10 4QB (020 8508 4995)
Membership Secretary: Ian Strugnell, 22 Hatfields, Loughton IG10 1TJ
Newsletter Editor: Ted Martin, 34 Hornbeam Road, Theydon Bois CM16 7JX (01992 814445)

little opportunity to visit and understand the rural environment.

The Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress was set up in 1964 and William Addison, then President of the Chigwell Local History Society (later to change its name to the Loughton and District Historical Society), was one of the founders who devised its first constitution and set out the guidelines for its work. He served as President of the county's senior society, the Essex Archaeological Society (now the Essex Society for Archaeology and History) from 1963–66. The scholarly *Victoria County History of Essex* benefited from his chairmanship of the Editorial and County Committees for many years. Addison was president of several local history societies and on the national scale his professional qualifications were recognised by his Fellowships of the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Historical Society.

In 1973 William Addison became one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Essex and in 1974 a knighthood was conferred on him for his distinguished work in so many areas of public life.

Addison was a writer of graceful prose and an engaging speaker. His capacity for hard work, the qualities of sound and moderate thought, and a natural poise, made him an effective and respected chairman of the bodies on which he served. Dignified and businesslike certainly, but also tolerant and friendly, so that he gained universal respect and affection. His books will remain a permanent memorial to his versatile life. There is also a recording of him narrating an evening of poetry and prose about his beloved Epping Forest, which was made at the first Forest Festival in June 1967. Sir William Addison died at Epping in November 1992 in his eighty-seventh year.

The Harveys of Rolls Park, Chigwell

RICHARD MORRIS

The Harvey family originally came from Folkestone in Kent, where, in 1578, William, the first of the seven sons of Thomas and Joane Harvey, was born. They also had two daughters. The fifth son was Eliab, born in 1589, and it appears that he or his brother, William, purchased an estate at Hempstead in Essex shortly before 1647. William Harvey was to become the celebrated physician who discovered the circulation of the blood. He seems to have spent little of his time in Essex and it was his brother Eliab, and his son, also Eliab, who purchased the manor of Barringtons and came to live at Rolls Park in Chigwell.

As was often the case in the seventeenth century, the success of many members of the Harvey family was founded on their interests in the City of London where the first Eliab (1589–1661) was a merchant trading with Turkey. In fact it is probable that Eliab came to Chigwell through his contact with Robert Abdy, John Chapman and Robert Abbott, who were also in the Levant trade and lived at Chigwell.

Eliab Harvey's son, Sir Eliab Harvey (1635–1699) was the first Harvey to come to prominence in Essex, where he was a Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lieutenant and MP. Succeeding generations were to follow similar paths in service to the local and county community over the next 200 years. Rolls Park was within the legal limits of Waltham Forest, which consisted principally of Epping and Hainault Forests. The Harveys participated fully in the administration of the Forest with seven members of the family fulfilling the offices of either Master Keeper, Lieutenant, Verderer or Steward of the Court of Attachments from 1684 to 1830.

Much of the history of Essex has been shaped by the sea, and the Harvey family provided one of the heroes of Trafalgar when Captain Eliab Harvey (1758–1830), later to become Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey, commanded the *Temeraire* at the famous battle in 1805. Turner's well-known painting 'The Fighting *Temeraire*' can be seen in the National Gallery. Most heroes have a streak of eccentricity in them and, to judge from the letters of Eliab's wife, Louisa, to her eldest daughter, the Admiral was no exception.

The interior of the house at Rolls Park must have been one of the most richly decorated in the country in Georgian times. Fortunately a photographic record was made in 1918 before the sad decline of the house during and after the Second World War, which led to its demolition in 1953; only the orangery, stables and a cottage remaining. Part of the decoration of the house included many portraits of members of the family by well-known artists such as Sir Peter Lely, Sir Godfrey Kneller and Thomas Hudson. A number of the portraits have survived and remain in the ownership of descendants of the family, the Harveian Society of London, Galleries and private collectors. In the research for my book on the Verderers of Waltham Forest, I was privileged to be able to photograph 13 of the portraits.

The Harvey family connection with Hempstead, Essex, continues today. When the first Eliab Harvey was living at Winchlow Hall at Hempstead, he had built at the church of St Andrew the north chapel, above the Harvey vault. The chapel contains monuments to many of the distinguished members of the family, and the coffins of 49 Harveys lie in the vault below the chapel.

Other members of the descendants of Thomas and Joane Harvey, who did not live at Chigwell, achieved success in business, government service or in military careers. My book on the Harveys, which will be available at the March meeting, describes the careers and life of those members of the family who lived at Rolls Park, and, in particular, Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey, in this year of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

The book has colour plates of the Harvey family, photographs of Rolls Park in 1918 taken for *Country Life*, and engravings of *Temeraire* at Trafalgar.

Loughton UDC in 1905

IAN STRUGNELL

The Minute Books of the Loughton Urban District Council were transferred from Loughton Library to the Essex Record Office in 1999, and some have been made available as digital images via the ERO Seax Catalogue and the internet. The year 1905 is contained in Volume 2 (ERO Ref. D/ULo/1/1/2) and although no great events occurred it is perhaps of some interest to consider what the Council did then, as it moved into its sixth year of existence. From Davis' *Epping, Loughton & Ongar Almanack, 1905* (copy in Loughton library) the estimated population of the parish was 5,000.

There were 12 Councillors, of whom four retired in rotation each year, but there was no change after the 1905 election. The Chairman was Arthur William Leech, the other Councillors being Dr Roland Harrison Allport (Vice-Chairman), J C Chilton, Jun, George Plush Clarke, Charles Savin Foster, Horace Herbert Francis, Ralph Godin, John Herbert Gould, Martin Harris, J A Herd, H Lincoln and Henry George Sharp. Meetings were usually held on the second Monday in each month (no meeting in August) at 7.30 pm, in the Council Offices on the first floor of an extension to the Public (Lopping) Hall built a few years before; Mr Godin did not attend after January, but no reason was given. The Annual Meeting, at which the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committees were elected, was held in April after the election. There were four Standing Committees – General Purposes (the whole Council), Finance (5 members), Sanitary (8), Highway (7) and Allotment Forest & Fire Brigade (6) – and an Education Committee (6); the Chairman was an ex-officio member of all.

The salaried Council Officers were: the Clerk, Rate Collector, and Assistant Overseer (in the person of Joseph Hawkins Hayward, who lived at Forest Villa, Staples Road); Surveyor: Horace White, ARIBA; Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Butler-Harris and Sanitary Inspector, or Inspector of Nuisances: Sydney T Bocock. The latter two were appointed annually by the Council, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board; the appointment of Overseers of the Poor for the parish (Samuel Wilks and Jethro Ambrose) was also minuted. The Treasurer was Eliot Hinder, manager of the London Joint Stock Bank below the Council Offices.

There were monthly reports from the Sanitary, Highway and Finance Committees, and also from the Medical Officer of Health, who provided the numbers of births, deaths and cases of infectious diseases. Over the whole year there were 101 births, but only 44 deaths; there were 8 cases of infectious diseases, some of which were treated at the Epping Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital under a formal contract. The Council arranged for burials in the Loughton Cemetery, but the details were recorded in separate minutes elsewhere.

The Sanitary Committee was responsible for drainage and sewerage, including the Sewer Farm near the River Roding. They also dealt with overcrowding and other nuisances, for which statutory notices could be served and proceedings taken if necessary, and the granting of licences to game dealers. Plans for new buildings were submitted for approval of their drainage and sewerage arrangements.

The Highway Committee dealt with the maintenance and lighting of roads and paths in the district, also the granting of licences to sell petroleum products. In July, the Committee's attention was drawn to the need for clearing gullies promptly after a storm. A persistent subject for discussion was the condition and lighting of Station Road, which was legally the responsibility of the Great Eastern Railway Company but tended to be neglected by them. Matters came to a head in July when a deputation from the Council called upon the General Manager of the GER, with the result that it was eventually agreed that the Council would bear the cost of making up and paving the part now called Station Road and the Company agreed to contribute to the cost of doing the same to the part now called Old Station Road (which name was first used in the November minutes). Both parts of the road would then be taken over by the Council, who would recover some of their costs by charging the owners of premises along the road under the Private Street Works Act 1892, a procedure which had been followed in the case of Ollards (or Allards) Grove earlier in the year. The roads then became 'highways repairable by the inhabitants at large'. The apparent confusion caused by roads having two names resulted in Ollards Grove being decided on for that road, and Queens Road for that also called Queens Park Road.

Sanitary and Highway work was done by the Council's own workmen (there was a depot in Smarts Lane), and contractors including W & C French and E Askew & Son. Household refuse was collected by a contractor and taken to the Sewage Farm.

On some occasions the Conservators of Epping Forest pointed out that the Council had done work on Forest land without permission, but matters seemed to have been resolved amicably. During the year, the position of Reeve to the parish of Loughton became vacant and the Forest Committee was asked to nominate a suitable candidate – whom the Conservators refused to appoint, and the process had to be repeated.

The Education Committee was called upon in February to decide how additional school accommodation was to be provided, with the difficulty that the Trustees of the girls school refused to allow the buildings to be enlarged; it was proposed to use the girls school as an infants school and enlarge the existing infants school into a girls school. The question of the County providing a Secondary School was raised later in the year.

The Fire Brigade did not attend any major fires, but in July the Committee gave permission for a demonstration of their new engine to Chigwell Fire Brigade.

All these things required money (about £3,700) to be raised through rates, which the Finance Committee dealt with. The General District Rate was set twice a year in March and September, payable from the following month, being 1s 6d in the pound on both occasions; to which was added the Poor Rate (1s 7d for the year) and others to a total of 6s 5d in the Pound for the whole year (the same as the previous year, and considered to be low compared with other Urban Councils near London). The accounts were examined by the Government Auditor, who reported those for the year ending 31 March 1905 as 'very satisfactory'.

Many other matters were dealt with by the Council at the ordinary meetings, or sometimes by the Clerk and Officers in between. There was, however, no mention of Shaftesbury Retreat and the children's outings that had caused much disquiet in earlier years. Towards the end of the year, a Furniture Committee of five members considered the important question of furnishing the Council Chamber, deciding upon floor covering, chairs, table, clock and curtains.

Scandal in the Patent Office

DONALD EDMUNDS

[*Donald Edmunds spent most of his working life in the Patent Office. This article, originally written for the Office Examining Staff magazine, throws an interesting light on Victorian bureaucracy.*]

The headlines might have read as follows:

HEAD OF PATENT OFFICE EMBEZZLES INVENTORS' FEES
FRAUD IN GOVERNMENT OFFICE UNDETECTED FOR 12 YEARS
LORD CHANCELLOR'S PROTÉGÉ ACCUSED
TREASURY IGNORES NON-RECEIPT OF PATENT ACCOUNTS FOR 30 YEARS

It couldn't happen? – But it did – and not all that long ago.

In 1865 a Select Committee of the House of Lords investigated the conduct of Mr Leonard Edmunds (no relation), who had been nominal Head of the Patent Office, in its various forms, since 1833. There seems to be no doubt that over his period of 32 years in office Mr Edmunds had appropriated thousands of pounds of public money and although eventually, when found out, he repaid nearly £8,000, thousands more were still owing. However, he had very influential friends – and this may be why one of the main points at issue seemed to be not, should Mr Edmunds be imprisoned, not even should Mr Edmunds be fined, but should Mr Edmunds, now over 60, get his pension?

My first opportunity to enjoy these fascinating but confusing glimpses of the way of life that made Britain great in Victorian times came when I was taken by a key-jangling Office historian to the sacred archives of Office history, a murky room thick with the dust that only the Victorian main building of the Patent Office can produce. With tender care and a scholastic enthusiasm that I found hard to share, he handed me a massive tome entitled 'Report on the Resignation of Mr Edmunds'.

'The facts are all there', I was told. So they might have been but they were buried in a welter of statement and counter-statement, accusation and cross-accusation which filled the enormous pages and made the story more baffling than any work of fiction. I turned hopefully towards the end but this revealed no neat summary nor authoritative conclusion. I could not even find out if Mr Edmunds lost his pension as well as his job.

The story began in 1833 when the post of Clerk of the Patents (i.e. nominal Head of the Office) became vacant and Lord Chancellor Brougham wished to appoint his nephew, it being a lucrative but not exacting post. Unfortunately, his nephew was too young so it was decided, as a superb piece of Jobs for the Boys, to ask a friend, Leonard Edmunds, who lived with them and already held two other posts, to stand in for the nephew at the not inconsiderable salary of £400, with the proviso that £300 of this should be paid to the Brougham family. This plum for Mr Edmunds was said to be a reward for the services of his deceased father on Lord Brougham's behalf, although since the Office expenses (estimated at £100) had to be paid out of what was left of his salary, the reward seems of doubtful value. However, by cooking the books (notably by making an unauthorised allowance of 12s 10d for each parchment skin) Mr Edmunds made the best of it and, 19 years later, when the Office set-up was changed, he became its new Head, with an additional salary of £600.

It appears that Mr Edmunds was not overworked in his various positions – according to witnesses he attended the Office probably once a fortnight during six months of the year, arriving about 3.45 pm and stopping for only a few minutes. For the remainder of the year he attended not at all. It seems that he was not very popular. One witness said that he did nothing even when he was there 'except discharge persons'. However, he did manage to find time to organise his main fund-raising gambit which was quite simply to run two accounts at his bank, one being his own and the other receiving inventors' fees and honestly labelled 'Patent Office Account'. He then transferred money as he wanted it from the Office account to his private account. He called it 'borrowing'. It is not clear whether this was due to muddle-headedness or criminal intent. A bit of both, I fancy. Apparently, it was nobody's job at the Treasury to check his accounts or even to check that they received any monies. In 1853 he went a bit further and omitted to hand over any money at all – 'by accident', he said. Then, in the following 11 years, 'by what may be called

cowardice', did the same thing. Nobody at the Treasury took any notice.

Another fund-raising activity practised by Mr Edmunds, in collaboration with his clerk, Mr Thomas Roscoe, was almost legal. Official Patent Stamps for resale to applicants were purchased wholesale (i.e. at a discount) from the Stamp Office. The discount went into the pockets of Messrs Edmunds and Roscoe. From 1833 to 1852 Roscoe received no salary and was remunerated solely by the stamp discounts. This would have been perfectly legal had they used their own money for the wholesale purchase and pocketed only the discounts. Unfortunately Mr Edmunds used public money (e.g. on one occasion £500) from his Patent Office account and then paid all the retail proceeds (e.g. £600) into his private account.

Thomas Roscoe appears to have been a very useful man. At one stage, and this must have been before Mr Edmunds got his 'Patent Office account' system going, Mr Roscoe received all the patent fees himself and, not having a bank account, took the money to his uncle, a nearby law stationer, who kept an account for him. The result was that the record for posterity of the finances of the British Patent Office, at the height of its industrial fame, were written by a Chancery Lane shopkeeper and headed 'Tom's account'.

An interesting sidelight on Mr Edmunds' personality is afforded by his reactions to the delinquency of one his employees, a Mr Smith, who abstracted £750 from Sale Branch receipts. (Incidentally, since the charge for a specification was only 3d or 4d, whereas the price of producing one is quoted as being over £600 in some instances, it is not clear how any profit was made.) When Mr Smith's little crime was discovered Mr Edmunds acted with commendable generosity. He proposed to retain Smith as an employee and hush up the affair, and he even organised a whip-round the Office to help him repay the money. Although he did not go so far as to contribute himself, the necessary money was raised. Unfortunately 'by a lapse of memory' Mr Edmunds only paid over £356. He quietly pocketed the remainder.

It appears that in those days it was nobody's responsibility to check that money received by the Patent Office was paid to the Crown and Mr Edmunds' irregular activities might never have been discovered had it not been for the personal antagonism in the Office between Mr Edmunds and a Mr Woodcroft – and a row over abridgments. Abridgments of specifications were written to order, when required, by barristers, at 7 guineas a time. Mr Edmunds accused Mr Woodcroft of letting his brother, who was not a barrister, partake of this lucrative work. In retaliation Mr Woodcroft revealed some of Mr Edmunds' defalcations, and the ensuing inquiry revealed the rest.

Although this may appear highly unlikely, it was all given in evidence before the House of Lords Committee. As for me, I'm thinking of changing my name.

The Crystal Brook Jug

TREVOR ROBERTS

During the 20th century, a number of dairy farms and dairies existed in the Theydon Bois area and milk was sold quite widely to the local populace; even smallholdings had a dairy cow, which supplied milk products. However, the creation of the Milk Marketing Board channelled most supplies to a central source so milk and dairy products became more readily available from large combines through their own shops and dairy roundsmen. By the end of the century these products were even accessible through many retail outlets, from supermarkets to small shops and newsagents. By 2004, the 20 dairy herds in this area had reduced to one. Enquiries about Crystal Brook Farm revived some interest in these farms or dairies and research established the following:

Crystal Brook Farm. It is believed that this was either part of, or located at, Little Gregories in Piercing Hill. Its existence is confirmed by a number of small, attractive cream jugs in the possession of a number of local residents. The jugs bear the inscription 'Crystal Brook Farm, Theydon Bois, England'. Beneath is the further inscription "ENT STA HALL" which means 'Entered at Stationers' Hall' which was a way of protecting copyright in the design of the jug by registering the design at Stationers' Hall in London. However, at one time the inscription on the jug was thought to refer to a stall at the entrance to Theydon Bois Station, which was run by the business. Here, the many hundreds of visitors to the Greys and Riggs Retreats could buy a souvenir of their visit, as is the practice today in many tourist areas of Britain. Therefore, many of these jugs must have been distributed locally and also throughout the country, if not worldwide.

The Dairies of Theydon Bois. *Pakes Farm.* This was owned by Jimmy Giblett and supplied most of the milk in the village with two deliveries each day. Bill Giblett opened a Dairy Shop in Forest Road where the Herringtons estate agency is now situated; a Mrs Spriggs managed the shop. Charlie Draper, who had a similar concern at Woodford Bridge, then acquired the entire business, which John Vincent managed for him.

Devon Dairy. This was believed to have been in Coppice Row near Riggs Retreat. It was owned by Dairy farmer J Wilkinson of Flamstead End, Hertfordshire, and managed by a J Williams.

Staceys Dairy. A small dairy in Theydon Park Road run by O S Stacey.

Cox's Dairy. Another small dairy owned or managed by the Misses Cox.

Hobbs Cross Dairy. Located at Hobbs Cross Farm in Theydon Garnon.

[Trevor Roberts is Local History Recorder for Theydon Bois. Reprinted from the *Theydon Bois Parish Newsletter* by kind permission of the author and the editor.]