

LOUGHTON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 190

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School Green, York
Hill, 1906
(The William
Chapman Waller
Collection)



'Viewing History': The Society's 50th year

'For the growing good of the world is partly dependent on un-historic acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.' George Eliot, *Middlemarch*, 1871.

I remember when '50 years' sounded a very long time
Now such a span simply calls for thanks and celebrations;
Meanwhile our made-up clocks, calendars and instruments
Calculate universes, geology, archaeology, cultures,
science.

Meanwhile 'History' records powerful people and
headline events

As competing-truths strain and stretch: omit and airbrush;
But some historians bend-down and attend to whispers.

They listen to local memories, voices, letters, diaries,
research –

So, may Loughton, with all its differing people, tell our
story

And reach for the common good.

TONY HOLDEN*

*Tony Holden's poem 'Jacob Epstein and Loughton' was published in *Newsletter* 173 in 2007: his 'Selected Poems 2010' are available at www.tonyholden.org.

George Pearson in Loughton

STEPHEN PEWSEY

George Pearson was a pioneering British film-maker and Loughton resident, whose cinematic achievements are commemorated with a blue plaque on the

wall of Staples Road Junior School. However, his life in Loughton has not been researched in detail to date; it seems clear from documentary sources that his experiences as a Loughton headmaster were a springboard to the educational film-making for which he later became famous.

Born in Kennington on 19 March 1875, Pearson described his early memories as 'jolly bus drivers, mule-drawn trams, pony carts, and penny-farthing bicycles'. His father, also George, was a silk-tie cutter. After an idyllic if restless childhood, he decided upon teaching as a career, and in 1894 entered the Diocesan College for Schoolmasters at Culham near Oxford. His first teaching appointments were in the grimy heart of Victorian London; he was a senior assistant at St. Paul's School, Haggerston, then headmaster – at the young age of 26 – of St Mark's School, Old Street. He also found time to wed the sister of a college friend: he and Edith Helen Stacey were married in 1903.

George Pearson had a real vocation for education, and enjoyed his work, but longed to get out of the smog of London to a country school, where he saw a chance to give his boys a more rounded education: many London schools did not even have playgrounds and nature study or art was all but impossible. In the hope of getting a country posting, George gave up his headship and became a roving senior assistant for the London School Board. In 1905 he got his lucky break and was appointed headmaster to a school in Hornchurch, then a rural Essex village. However, he barely had time to write out the 12 times table a hundred times before he successfully applied to become head of the Boys' School in Staples Road, Loughton. Aged 32, he took up his post in 1907, and moved to 'Tresco', No 16, The Uplands, Loughton, with Edith and their children, Malcolm and Audrey.



George Pearson (standing in centre background) at Staples Road School

This house was probably owned by the Foster family and let on a yearly tenancy, like many in The Uplands. It was later to be occupied by Thomas Weatherall, designer of the Loughton War Memorial.

There were 300 boys at Staples Road in seven classes ('standards') aged between 7 and 14. Pearson's predecessor George Clarke was a tough act to follow; he had been headmaster there for no less than 46½ years! So Pearson's first entry in the school log book was naturally a little cautious: '1 July 1907. I took charge of the school this morning after having been introduced by Revd W Lord, Mrs Allen, Mr Tee and Mr Leach.' These were the School Managers, who visited the school almost daily to keep an eye on things.

At last George had a project as large as his imagination. As a supply teacher in London, there had been, as he wrote in his autobiography 'no place for my ideals in the crowded babel . . . ruled by a barrack-room discipline, discipline that angered me by its rigidity . . . teaching was robbed of its delight'. Here on the edge of Epping Forest, he frankly admitted he had elbow room 'enough to leave me free to make experiments to my heart's delight'.

The first thing he did was to brighten up the school. On the blank walls he stuck prints from a selection of great paintings, and branched out into other artistic endeavours, too. Poetry was read aloud, and a museum was begun. This was probably a cabinet of trinkets, as the log for 12 October 1909 records that 'Mr E E Which presented the museum with a collection of curios from Australia'. Natural history – with the forest on the doorstep – formed an important part of school life. It was under George Pearson's enlightened leadership that children were first allowed to play in the forest at playtime; he also ensured they had hands-on experience by setting up a gardening class on a vacant plot next to the playground, and there were practical trips, too: '10 Sep 1907: Standard Three visited the hives of Mr Austridge today', and '17 Nov 1907: Standard 6 left school in order to visit Mrs Allen's garden – she has a collection of fungi to explain to the lads'.

George introduced a violin class, and sent the 'second master', Mr Lebbon, to Ilford to interview a violin teacher. Herbert Lebbon was a significant character in the musical life of Loughton, who organised his pupils into a very competent string orchestra and, even more surprisingly, persuaded many sceptical parents to part with 18 shillings for a violin and a further sixpence a week for a lesson.

Sports were not forgotten either. George set up a school football team as soon as he arrived, and he quickly set about creating a cricket team as well. He was also responsible for introducing an element of school uniform, in the form of a green and black cap. According to the School Log, it was the boys themselves who wanted something distinctive to wear.

Alongside this musical and sporting education, Pearson promoted amateur dramatics. Lopping Hall was the venue for these productions, which included his own stage adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in 1911. When the Girls' School was built next door in 1911, one of the highlights of the school year was a parade to Lopping Hall as part of the Queen of the Flower Festival. This was separate to the much-loved May Day festivities, which included the crowning of a May Queen and dancing round the Maypole. Maypole dancing was one of the few times when the boys were allowed to meet the girls – a high wall separated the two schools – and took place in various parts of the village, including Drummaids, Traps Hill and, more prosaically, the school playground.

As well as regular trips into the forest for nature study, George Pearson's pupils could also expect an annual outing to London, provided they had shown themselves to be hard-working and well-behaved through the school year. The Hon George L Bruce, builder and owner of Woodberrie Knoll, took them by train to visit sights such as Westminster Abbey and London Zoo. Another group of boys was taken on a week's holiday to Littlehampton by Fred Brand, a noted local historian and organist at St John's Church.

The school often closed for village events such as the annual Flower and Sports show, and, on days such as Empire Day, there were no formal lessons. The Coronation in 1911 was the occasion for a whole week off. School also closed to troop across to Lopping Hall for daytime rehearsals for the many evening concerts which took place there in the Edwardian era. However, amidst the fun, disaster and disease were often lurking. The log books are full of entries such as '6 Sep 1907: Archie Davey broke his leg by falling from a tree which he had climbed on his way home from school'. And on 21 June 1909, 'Two fresh exclusions (A & P Diggins) were notified today on account of scarlet fever'.

Sadly, not all the boys lived up to his high expectations. On 3 April 1908, he recorded '4 strokes J Cordell for climbing on the roof of the school and acting deceitfully when questioned', and a few days later 'James Trapp [excluded for] . . . fighting outside school'. Parents did not always appreciate his disciplining their children: '14 July 1908: A very abusive letter received by me from Mr Speed relative to the proper punishment of his son.'

The worst case he had to deal with was the theft of 3 shillings from the purse of one of the teachers, Miss Bailey. One Alfred Hicks was the culprit. 'I sent for a constable . . . the prosecution of Hicks was determined upon as a moral lesson to the school boys, as Hicks has had a very bad influence on the school for some time' (11 June 1909). Justice was swift then; Hicks went to court on 17 June and received four strokes of the birch.

On the whole though, Pearson's light touch seems to have paid off; the inspector's report received on 10 June 1912 noted, 'This is a distinctly good school. The boys work willingly and intelligently and no pains are spared to make the methods of teaching interesting'.

George's life outside school was not always easy. In March 1910 he had to take time off work 'to supervise the removal of my household goods'. Many houses were rented annually, even by the grander families, and when the family's tenancy came to an end in The Uplands, they had to move, to 'Fen Villa', later, 22 Queens Road. His wife was heavily pregnant at the time, and his youngest daughter Winifred 'Freddy' Cecily was born at No 22; Freddy Pearson went on to work in the film industry herself. There were other family problems. His other daughter Audrey fell ill, and spent several weeks in hospital, and, at the same time, his wife Edith was sent to a sanatorium in Suffolk and spent much of 1910 there. Perhaps she was suffering from what is now called post-natal depression? As a result, the Pearson household was supplemented with a 'mother's help', a 40-year-old widow named Catherine Westray

The position of headmaster was a substantial one in Edwardian Loughton, and George must have known all the important people in the village. He mentions visits from W W Jacobs and Arthur Morrison, and the fact that he took his 'part in Loughton's local life, and found a wider interest in its affairs by election to the Urban District Council'.

In fact, he was only a councillor for one year, after winning the local election of 30 March 1912. He took his seat on 12 April, and was faced with a controversy; should the council sell its old dustcart to the Askew family or not? The Askews controlled much of the local transport fleet and already held several council contracts. After much argument, the cart was sold for £5. Pearson did not vote.

Pearson did not play a particularly active role as a councillor. He was placed on the Finance Committee – the rate was only 1s 6d in the pound! – and the splendidly named Fire Brigade, Allotments and Forest Committee. Here he made his most significant contribution: on 14 May, it was agreed to paint the exterior of the Fire Station (which was then a wooden hut in Station Road), and paint it vermilion no less. The last meeting he attended was on 26 March 1913, by which time he had already left his post as headmaster and entered the film industry.

Lopping Hall was the venue for his 'road to Damascus' moment in 1911: '... the arrival of a travelling showman at the local hall induced me to spend an idle evening there. I went, daringly, for it was not respectable for a schoolmaster to be seen at so vulgar an entertainment as the cinema! But that brief and crude emotional film I saw, revealed with sudden force that here was the medium in which I could work, a vehicle for mass instruction...'

Pearson contacted Pathé Frères, and met their London team, who got him writing short scripts through 1912. At last in October he went to Paris and was offered the job of managing London's Pathé

Studio in Great Portland Street. As he recorded in the school log:

'Oct 28 (1912) I was absent to-day with the consent of my Chairman – having been called on urgent private matters to Paris.

Oct 29 I returned to duty this morning and during the day drafted my resignation as headmaster which resignation will be in the hands of my managers tomorrow.'

His post as headmaster of Staples Road Boys' School ended on 31 December 1912, but his last day at school was on 18 December. Having got the annual prize-giving out of the way two days earlier, his final entry in the log reads: 'This is my last entry as headmaster of this school. I am leaving the position on December 31st 1912 having accepted a situation in education work connected with the cinematography industry.'

When he left, he was given a gold watch and chain by the staff, but the boys gave him a more emotional tribute. When the next headmaster arrived, a strict Welshman named Williams, he found chalked on the school's brick gate-pillars: 'We want Pearson back, down with Williams'!

One mystery remains. In his autobiography Pearson refers several times to the visit to Loughton, indeed to Staples Road Boys' School, of the Alake of Abeokuta 'in his colourful robes'. The Alake ('King') Gbadebo (reigned 1898–1920) of Abeokuta, a British client-kingdom in what is now Nigeria, did indeed visit Britain where he made a considerable impression on London society with his flamboyant costumes. However, the Alake's six-week visit was in the summer of 1904, before Pearson was head at Staples Road. The school log book and the council minutes make no reference to such a visit, and the Court Circular in *The Times* reported his movements meticulously but did not mention Loughton. It is an attractive image to conjure up for Edwardian Loughton; the African king in his bright garb striding past the King's Head and making his way up York Hill to see George Pearson. However, it seems more likely that George misremembered the whole thing, which actually occurred when he was a supply teacher in London.



Blue Plaque to Pearson

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Annual General Meeting

The 50th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 12 May. The President, Heather, Lady Murray of Epping Forest, welcomed over 150 members and visitors to the meeting, a record for the Society. She and the Chairman commented on the continuing success of the Society which was principally due to the hard work of the Officers and other members who ensured the smooth running of the meetings, and contributed to the publication of the Society's *Newsletter* and books, one of which had recently received a national award.

The retiring Treasurer reported that the Society's finances were in a healthy state. At the time of the meeting the Accounts for 2010–11 had not been certified by the Independent Examiner, but this was completed a week after the AGM, and we are grateful to Edmund Vowles for undertaking this task.

Some village institutions

PERCY THOMPSON

The Village Pound originally stood in Rectory Lane opposite St Nicholas' Church and exactly facing the end of Border's Lane (before its diversion). It was built of stout oak posts and rails, similar to the pounds which still remain in the Forest, and was erected (or, perhaps, reconstructed) by Mrs Ann Whitaker, the then Lady of the Manor, in 1764: two of the original oak posts still remain and have the initials AW and date 1764 cut into them. Close behind the pound was an open Stable or Shed (mentioned in 1737) in which worshippers from distant farms could put up their gigs whilst attending services at the old Church opposite: over the Shed was the original Sunday School Room built by Mr William Whitaker Maitland in or about 1831. In later times, and within living memory, a black boarded shed adjoining the 'King's Head' inn on King's Green was used as a Pound, and also as a Mortuary when occasion required. I remember one occasion when Mr J H Tee, a solicitor living in Golding's Park Road, himself drove some cows, which had trespassed into his garden, not for the first time, along the High Road, intending to impound them in this Shed: their owner was glad to compensate the damage caused to the garden, in order to release them from legal custody.

The Cage, or Lock-up, stood on King's Green, on the wayside waste, and is referred to several times in the Overseer's Accounts: the Green itself was often called Cage Green. The Cage was demolished in 1865 by order of the Manor Court: it was a brick structure, of two cells.

As to **Stocks**, there is no direct evidence that any existed in Loughton, but an old name, 'Stocks Elm', for the spot where the road from the Warren joins the High Road, opposite Newnham House, and at the entrance to the village, is suggestive of the stocks having been set up here

beneath an elm-tree but this is pure conjecture. One would have expected the stocks to be placed near the lock-up.

The Police Station was originally the house on Church Hill where afterwards Martin Harris for many years had his saddler's shop and which is now a butcher's shop. It is referred to in the Rate Book for 1851 as 'Police Station near the Feathers'. About the year 1860 the present police station [demolished in c 1970] was built on what was the roadside waste.

Re 'Local airfields'

A query from MIKE ALSTON

Congratulations to Ted Martin on his fascinating article on 'Local Airfields' (*Newsletter* 189). However, there is one apparent omission, and that is the airfield located, in the 1930s, just to the west of the road running between Abridge and Theydon Bois. I say 'apparent' because it was a bit of a curiosity and may not have been classified as an airfield. So far as I recall, it had just one very modest hangar, in which a few light aircraft were stored, and no control tower or other buildings. But it must have been quite extensive and kept in good condition, because at least two substantial air displays were held there in the mid-'30s. It was certainly large enough to cope with a big three-engined Armstrong Whitworth Argosy airliner (mentioned in my own aviation article, 'Air Loughton' in *Newsletter* 184). Also curious is that it existed so close to the relatively major airfield at Stapleford Tawney.

Can anyone provide some background history?

Reply: from Jim Watts, the Theydon Bois webmaster: 'There was a Civil Airfield to the left of Abridge Road when going towards Theydon Bois. It is now farmland. The field is about midway between Abridge and where the M11 crosses the Abridge Road. It seems it existed between November 1932 and the start of the 2nd World War in September 1939. See: [http://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/Abridge-\(Essex\)-\(Loughton\).php](http://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/Abridge-(Essex)-(Loughton).php)

Local hero

TED MARTIN

Edric William Broadberry (1894–1967) lived in Buckhurst Hill. He joined the Essex Regiment on the outbreak of the First World War, aged 19, served with them at Gallipoli and then learned to fly at Aboukir in Egypt. He was promoted to Captain on 2 May 1916 and seconded to the Royal Flying Corps on 8 November 1916. On his voyage back to England his ship was torpedoed but he arrived home in January 1917. He took some sick leave and then went on a refresher course at the Central Flying School which had been formed at Upavon in Wiltshire on 12 May 1912. It had been in operation less than five years but by the outbreak of war had contributed 93 pilots to the RFC.

Broadberry was posted to A Flight of 56 Squadron RFC¹ at the end of April 1917. 56 Squadron was an élite unit, then stationed at Vert Galant Farm, near Doullens. Among his contemporaries were Albert Ball VC and Cecil Lewis and the CO was Major R G Blomfield. They were flying SE5s on patrols over enemy lines and moved to Estrée Blanche field at the end of May but in one month 4 pilots had been killed, 6 wounded (of whom 3 had been taken prisoner) and one was injured. Among the dead was Albert Ball.

On 21 June they were sent back to England (to Bekesbourne, three miles from Canterbury) and A Flight was sent to Rochford (Southend) the following day. Because of the bombing of London by German Gothas on 13 June the government ordered that there should be interceptor patrols on both sides of the channel by two élite fighter squadrons, so 66 Squadron was sent to Calais and 56 Squadron to Bekesbourne.

The pilots regarded the interception of Gothas as a fairly easy task after daily offensive patrols in France and decided that this posting should be a bit of a holiday. Their friends, families and girlfriends were invited to Bekesbourne and a dinner-dance was planned in a marquee in which they built a dance floor.

However, Captain Broadberry had other ideas and asked Major Blomfield for permission to marry.

Although his CO was not keen on pilots getting married or even being engaged or having regular girl friends, he gave his consent. As Broadberry had been posted with A flight to Rochford, he was in a good position to make the arrangements because both he and his fiancée, Kathleen, lived in Buckhurst Hill. They were married at St George's, Hanover Square, on 2 July, and as Captain Broadberry's best man, Gerald Maxwell, was on standby, Major Blomfield deputised. The bride recalled that 'he flirted like mad with all my bridesmaids'. They left for a honeymoon on the south coast.

Meanwhile the squadron was awaiting the reappearance of the Gothas and nothing much seemed to happen for days, until on 4 July the Gothas bombed a naval base at Felixstowe. Eighty-three interceptors were sent up, including 10 from Bekesbourne and four from Rochford, but the raiders were on the their way home in minutes and none of the 83 pilots even saw them.

That same afternoon the squadron received orders to return to France the next day and when Broadberry phoned in from Brighton, he was told to get back to Rochford and then to Bekesbourne as quickly as possible. He drove up with Kathleen but when he arrived at Rochford he found that A flight had left for Bekesbourne. His SE5 was still there so he hopped over the Thames to Bekesbourne and, confirming that they were to go to France the next day, he asked Blomfield if he could go to town to collect his kit. Blomfield thought he meant Canterbury, and said he could 'take a tender' (a Flying Corps lorry), but Broadberry meant Buckhurst Hill. He chose a driver and a tender and when asked 'Where to, Sir', said, 'Buckhurst Hill, Essex'. The

drive went well and, as it was many years before the Dartford Crossing, the route had to be through London to cross over the Thames. They arrived at the Blackwall Tunnel which was closed at sunset to non-essential traffic. The sentry refused to let them pass, even though Broadberry explained that he was due to go to France and was going home to collect his kit. The sentry was dubious, so Broadberry ordered him to fetch the sergeant of the guard. As soon as he left to do this they drove on.

They left Buckhurst Hill in the early hours of the next day and arrived at Bekesbourne at 8am. The CO didn't know officially of the 'slight' deviation from the permitted route but one of Broadberry's colleagues ragged him about it for years.

Eighteen aircraft took off from Bekesbourne on 5 July and landed at Estrée Blanche at 5pm. Their morale was high after their 'holiday' and they were eager to get to work. On 7 July at 6 pm A flight flew the last patrol of the day, engaging three black two-seaters but they all had gun stoppages and had to break off the attack. The next two days were wet and windy so they passed the time decorating their aircraft, which was unusual in the RFC. The planes of Manfred von Richtofen (the 'Red Baron'), which were based opposite 56 Squadron, had been painted in different colours giving rise to their nickname of the 'Circus'. Broadberry's plane received a crocodile's head with its teeth dripping blood and another plane had a Spanish dancer and the name 'Conchita', while another had red and white stripes.

At 6 pm on 12 July A flight flew off on the second offensive patrol of the day. They were attacked over Menin when they were at 14,000 feet by 15 Albatros machines and Captain Broadberry and two colleagues were shot down in the first attack, and he was the first to be hit. He related the incident:

'There was a sudden burst of machine gun bullets which riddled my aircraft. The instrument panel in the cockpit was hit, there was a sharp burning pain in the calf of my right leg, the engine began to splutter and then completely petered out. Looking back I saw that a number of enemy aircraft were descending on us from the direction of the bright sun. Realising that it was now impossible for me to engage in a dogfight, I put the SE5 into a vertical nosedive which I maintained until about 2,000 feet from the ground, hoping that my adversary had not followed me down . . . When pulling out of the dive, I realised that I was 10 or 12 miles over the enemy side of the lines and that I had not enough height to glide to our side, so I switched over to the gravity fuel . . . and switched on the ignition again. To my great relief the engine picked up . . . [I] managed to make a normal landing at Bailleul aerodrome.'

When Broadberry went into the mess at Bailleul and took off his boot he found it full of blood. After an anti-tetanus injection he was taken to an advanced dressing station and then to hospital at St Omer and then returned to England.

The loss of Broadberry was a blow to 56 squadron as he was the second most effective pilot in the squadron at this point in the war. He had been shot down by Oberleutnant Eduard von Dostler who was himself to be shot down and killed on 21 August. Broadberry's SE5a aircraft, A8918, had been delivered

on 31 May 1917 and was taken out of service on 14 July 1917 with bullet damage.



Edric William Broadberry (1894–1967)

I have been unable to establish Edric Broadberry's subsequent career or even if he returned to combat before the end of the war. On the formation of the RAF on 1 April 1918 his army rank would have changed to an RAF rank. There is a record of his promotion from Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant in the 1923 New Year Honours and from Squadron Leader to Wing Commander on 8 April 1937 which indicates that he stayed in the RAF. The army rank of Captain is equivalent to the RAF rank of Flight Lieutenant, so it would appear that he dropped a rank to stay in the RAF and only recovered his former equivalent rank in 1923.

Captain Broadberry's eight victories, which qualified him to become an 'Ace'² were:

| Date | Time | Aircraft | Opponent | Location |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 12 May 1917 | 0845 | SE5a (A8903) | Albatros D.III (Destroyed) | E of Lens |
| 20 May 1917 | 1410 | SE5a (A8903) | Albatros D.III (OOC*) | Guesnain |
| 23 May 1917 | 1900-1915 | SE5a (A8903) | Albatros D.III (OOC) | Aubigny |
| 26 May 1917 | 1930 | SE5a (A8903) | OOC | Gouy-sons-Bellone |
| 27 May 1917 | 1900-2000 | SE5a (A8903) | Albatros D.III OOC | E of Bugnicourt |
| 07 Jun 1917 | 0850-0940 | SE5a (A8918) | Destroyed | Poelcapelle |
| 07 Jun 1917 | 0850-0940 | SE5a (A8918) | OOC | Ledeghem |
| 11 Jul 1917 | 1930 | SE5a (A8918) | OOC | Houthoult Wood |

* OOC = 'out of control'.

He would have been 45 on the outbreak of the Second World War and, if still in the service, would be unlikely to fly in a combat role. He died on 26 December 1967, just 12 days after his 73rd birthday.

Notes

1. 56 squadron RFC was formed on 8 June 1916, mobilised and posted to France in April 1917, equipped with the then new SE5 fighter aircraft. On arrival at the front with the latest fighter and some very experienced pilots, rumours began among the Germans that it was an 'Anti-Richthofen Squadron', dedicated to remove the Red Baron. There was no truth in the story but the squadron did shoot down and kill Leutnant Werner Voss, Richthofen's nearest rival in 1917.

By the end of the war the Squadron had scored 402 victories, and has many famous fighter aces in its ranks: Albert Ball, Arthur Rhys Davids, Cyril Crowe, Duncan Grinnell-Milne, Edric Broad-

berry, Geoffrey Hilton Bowman, Gerald J C Maxwell, Harold Molyneux, Harold Walkerdine, Henry Burden, James McCudden, Keith Muspratt, Kenneth William Junor, Cecil Lewis (see below), Leonard Montague Barlow, Maurice Mealing, Reginald Hoidge, Richard Maybery, William Otway Boger, Charles Jeffs, William Roy Irwin, William Spurrett Fielding-Johnson.

Cecil Lewis was a very remarkable man who went on to be a founder of broadcasting in this country in both radio and television and a talented writer. His exploits in the First World War were told in his book *Sagittarius Rising*. He also won an Oscar for the film script of *Pygmalion*. He died aged 98 in 1997.

During the course of the war, 40 of the squadron's pilots were killed in action, 20 wounded and 31 taken prisoner.

2. The term 'ace' (now flying ace) was first used by French newspapers during the First World War, to describe Adolphe Pégoud as *l'as* ('the ace'), after he shot down five German aircraft. At the start of the War, aircraft were used only for reconnaissance but when aircraft began to shoot or force down other aircraft, different systems to count victories were developed and different air services used different methods for crediting aerial victories. The number of victories required to qualify as an ace varied.

The Germans had to shoot down 10 aircraft and gave credit to a single pilot with each destruction of an enemy aircraft, and only after visual verification of the wreckage of the plane or its crew. The French system also only counted aircraft destroyed, but granted full credit to every pilot or aerial gunner who participated in a victory. Most other countries and the United States adopted the French system. British aircraft, which often fought over German lines, could not follow the German system of visual verification of the wreckage of the aircraft or its crew. British practice awarded credit for combats endorsed as 'decisive' by the commanding officer of the squadron and this could include German planes 'driven down' or last seen 'out of control' but not verified to have crashed. The term 'ace' was never officially used by the British.

Sources

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Internet.

Warlies Park House

SUE McKINLEY

[The text of this article is reprinted from The Friends of Epping Forest Newsletter, Spring 2011, with their kind permission; the photographs are from a commercial brochure.]

Warlies Park, contiguous with the Copped Hall Estate, forms an invaluable area of Epping Forest Buffer Land. The house itself, while being prominent in this rolling landscape, is in private ownership and divided into office suites. Between 1921 and 1978 it was a children's home owned by Dr Barnardo's.

The earliest reference to Werlys in the Hamlett of Upshyre appears in the will of Elizabeth Hyll in 1519. The lands, tenements and appurtenances, occupied by one Thomas Sawtrey, were to be sold as soon as possible, hopefully to Thomas Knyght – whether or not he did buy it is not yet known.

By 1594, Warlies was held by copyhold tenure of the Lord of the Manor of Waltham and was in the possession of Samuel Foxe, son of John Foxe (1516–87) the author of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*.¹ The house was much smaller than it is today; parts of it are thought to survive in the cellars and inside walls on the north-east side. Samuel, who had been in charge of the Royal Palace of Havering, died in 1629/30. For four months, Warlies belonged to his wife, and then passed to his surgeon son, Thomas. He bought up land and cottages

and added them to his father's copyhold. He died in 1662 and Warlies passed to Sir Richard Willys, husband of Thomas' daughter Alice.



Barnardo's girls training for domestic service circa 1940



When Sir Richard died in 1690 the estate passed nominally to his son but since he was 'bereft of his wits' and was unmarried when he died 11 years later, Warlies again passed through the female line (Sir Richard's daughter, Anne) to her husband Christopher Davenport. When he died in 1713/14 the copyhold lands at Warlies comprised just over 180 acres.

Christopher Davenport's daughter, Frances, being unmarried, was accepted as tenant of Warlies in her own right until three or four years later when she married and her husband Richard Morgan 'was admitted to Warlies under his own name' in 1720.

Over the next 20 years Richard added about 110 acres to the estate, improved the mansion and grounds and erected a small temple in the park. This is still a prominent feature in the landscape and now that the Corporation of London allows open access to the Temple Field it is possible to approach the folly and read the date, 1737.

Warlies now continued its tradition of passing through female hands: first back to Frances, then to her only surviving near relative Julia Carter and to her daughter, Martha Catherine Carter, who was six years old when she inherited Warlies in 1768. By 1780 she was quite alone in the world and the Lord of the Manor of Waltham Abbey recognised two of her father's relatives as guardians. One of these was her cousin John Aubrey, related to the author of *Brief Lives*.² By all accounts he was not a pleasant character. In 1783 he married his ward Martha and her fortune of £150,000 (having previously married

an orphan heiress who had died after 10 years). Within four years he had sold Warlies for £11,500.

The next owner of Warlies, Walter Urquart, secured the freehold and sold the house and estate of 397 acres and two roods for £18,000 in 1801.

James Reed owned Warlies from 1801–14 and added a number of plantations and a farmhouse. By the time he sold it to William Banbury in 1814 the estate consisted of 500 acres.

When William Banbury's widow sold to Sir Edward North Buxton in 1851, Warlies became home to a family of social reformers, politicians, diplomats and naturalists whose combined achievements are astonishing.

Edward North Buxton never lived in Warlies and died soon after buying it but left it to the eldest of his sons, Thomas Fowell (always known as Sir Fowell). With a family history of Quaker zeal for social reform, particularly of the prison system (they were related by marriage to the Frys) and the abolition of the slave trade, Sir Fowell continued in the same vein, concerning himself with social problems in the East End where the family brewery Truman, Hanbury and Buxton, was sited, sitting on the committees of the Anti-Slavery Society and the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society. With his brother Edward North Buxton of Knighton he took a prominent part in the agitation leading to the passing of the Epping Forest Act and was named as its first verderer. Together they added several hundred acres of woodland to the forest.

Bachelor Wing circa 1880



Georgian Wing circa 1860



In 1862 he married Victoria Noel who made various rearrangements and additions to Warlies House, which probably helped to accommodate a

family of five sons and five daughters and the many visitors from all walks of life and all over the world who were welcomed to Warlies.

Locally, they upheld the paternalistic relationship between squire and village, building the Church and helping in local activities and looking out for hardship.

I was lucky to know Ronnie de Bunsen, grandson of Sir Fowell and Lady Victoria, and loved to hear him speak of canoeing on the Cobbins Brook and playing on the staircase in Warlies. He and my dear friend Raymond Cassidy researched the information on which I based this article. The full text is available from Waltham Abbey Historical Society and is well worth reading.

Notes

[1. John Foxe was educated at Oxford and made a deacon in 1550. Exiled from 1554–1559, during the reign of Mary Tudor, he wrote a first Latin draft of his *Book of Martyrs* which was then published in English in 1563 as *Actes and Monuments of these Late Perilous Days*, with a revised and enlarged edition appearing in 1570. The book was tremendously influential, being used as a companion volume to the Bible in English churches and houses for many years and is an historical source for its accounts of the deaths of Protestant martyrs. Ed.]

[2. John Aubrey (1626–1697), English antiquary, best known for the anecdotal *Minutes of Lives* now known as *Brief Lives*. It was first published as part of Anthony à Wood's *Athenae Oxonienses* (1690) and first published separately in 1713 and is a valuable source of information on the lives of important 17th century people. Ed.]

The World Cup: little red and yellow cards

TERRY CARTER

Some L & DHS members probably know that the 2010 World Cup, although held in South Africa, and the upcoming UEFA EURO 2012 competition, both have a decidedly local connection. For those who don't, this isn't to do with famous English players living in Chigwell, Loughton or Theydon Bois (as many of them do). No, I refer to the red and yellow cards that referees will be flashing *ad lib* at players who break the rules.

The man responsible for these globally accepted, colourful innovations to the 'beautiful game', is Ken Aston, (1915–2001). Headmaster, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Indian Army, referee and referee instructor, Kenneth George Aston took charge of two matches in the 1962 World Cup finals. Ken lived locally, and his son, Peter, who became a leading British athlete, attended Buckhurst Hill County High School.

Ken Aston became a referee in 1936. During the Second World War, he joined the Indian Army and finished the war as a Lieutenant-Colonel serving on the Changi War Crimes Tribunal. He started refereeing again in 1946 and became a League referee in 1950. Aston officiated at the European Cup Final in 1960 and the FA Cup Final in 1963. After he retired he was appointed to the FIFA referees committee and later chaired it.

I was attending an Old Buckwellians' Annual Dinner, sometime in the 1970s, where Ken, guest of

honour, related the following:

'I was in the FIFA office in 1966, when Bobby Charlton called. Charlton had read in the newspapers that he and his brother Jack had been booked in their World Cup match against Argentina the day before. The Charlton brothers apparently hadn't noticed the referee telling them so. Later that day, sitting in my MG sports car, stuck waiting for the traffic lights, then finally watching them change colour, I suddenly came up with the solution to the Charlton Boys' problem. Eureka. Red and Yellow Cards – so obvious. I also introduced the substitute referee, who later became the 4th Official, and the number board to announce the substitutions.'

The rest is history, proving, yet again, that simple solutions are so often the most effective, and so it was with those cards. Maybe, when one or other of them is flashed, whether in Premier League games, other major tournaments, or just a pub match on Hackney Marshes, those members who enjoy football (not everybody, I well know) will remember how and why they came in.

Ken Aston died in 2001, but his legacy lives on.

Loughton's bus garages



These are images of the new and old Loughton bus garages. The old garage was built in 1922 and lasted till 1954; it then became the Co-operative Bakery. The new one was designed by architects Yorke, Rosenberg and Mardell and was closed in 1986, replaced by Maple Gate flats.

In the first photo we see the funeral of Mr Longhurst, c1936. A 'B' type bus B43 (built at Walthamstow in 1911, and nicknamed 'Ole Bill') is in attendance (see below).

Re-Hearsing

JOHN HARRISON

Quite often local history research, and indeed research into other aspects of history, work on having contacts and passing information through them. This is a story of how such networks worked in quite an unusual way. It started with our chairman Chris Pond sending me an e-mail with a couple of photos of the old and 'new' (though now demolished, of course) bus garages in Loughton as he thought I would be interested to see them. The new garage, at the junction of Church Hill and Rectory Lane was demolished soon after we moved to Loughton in 1988 and Laings built the Maple Gate houses and flats on the site, so I was familiar with it, even if it was demolished a few weeks after I came here. Though I was aware that what is now the Homebase store opposite had been Loughton's bus garage until the new one was completed in 1954, I had not seen a photo of it in use as the bus garage, so I was particularly interested in this photo (reproduced above).

The photo, however, attracted my attention for another reason. With my motoring interests I have had occasional contact with the Classic Hearse Register (CHR) over the years. It started when I was researching Wilsons Coachworks of Loughton and Dan Warriner of Warriners Undertakers supplied me with a photo of an early Panhard hearse which Wilsons had bodied (see *Newsletter 157*, April 2003). I had forwarded that to the CHR at the time as I knew they would be interested in it and subsequently we have had occasional contact – I have sent them copies of articles about hearses I have found in old motoring magazines and I wrote an article on hearse registration numbers for the club's magazine, appropriately called *Mourning News*. I knew they would be interested in this photo of a pre-war hearse and e-mailed it to them, copying Chris in. Chris then said he had several more photos from Dan Warriner of hearses and funerals and these were copied to me and the CHR including some of the funeral of Harry Jeffrey, the Captain of the Loughton Fire Brigade on 23 April 1939 when the coffin was carried on a fire appliance. The CHR have said they would use them in one of their magazines in due course, so the Loughton and District Historical Society has ended up helping the Classic Hearse Register!

Chris tells me that the funeral depicted in the photo in this issue above was that of a Mr Longhurst and it took place in 1936. Presumably Mr Longhurst was a manager at the bus garage or a particularly popular driver or conductor, but we have not managed to find out anything more about him. The hearse is a Daimler and from its CMX (Middlesex) registration we know it dates from 1935. The bus, LN 4743 (Fleet No B43), is an AEC B-type built at Walthamstow in 1911. It was one of the London buses that accompanied the British Army to France in the First World War. After the war it operated in normal service until 1920 before being withdrawn.

According to the Imperial War Museum website subsequently, 'the Auxiliary Omnibus Companies Association, refurbished the bus as a permanent memorial to the role played by London buses in the First World War and it was named 'Ole Bill' after Bruce Bairnsfather's wartime cartoon character. In its new role, the bus appeared regularly in Armistice Day parades and other special occasions until being presented to the Imperial War Museum in April 1970.' The bus is now on display in the Imperial War Museum.

Loughton bus services in the 1930s

MIKE ALSTON

My memories of those distant days – some 80-odd years ago – could well contain inaccuracies, but may help others to reconstruct Loughton's road transport system at that time.

In the very early 1930s the LGOC (London General Omnibus Company) operated two local services – No 100, which ran between the Elephant & Castle in London, and either Loughton Garage at the bottom of Goldings Hill, or 'Epping Town' (the addition of 'Town' has always intrigued me, as I don't know why the additional appellation was considered necessary). The second service was No 138 between London's Victoria Station and Loughton's 'The Crown' Hotel. Both services had double-decker buses, mostly the NS model first introduced in 1925, which had solid rubber tyres and so produced a bumpy ride. A few years later this model was replaced by the LT, which had six pneumatic-tyred wheels, but still retained an outside staircase. In due course another model, ST, appeared, complete with inside stairs between the two decks. About this time several things happened. There was a short period, I think called 'deregulation', when a number of different companies were allowed to operate. One was Western Superways, which had single-decker brown coaches, and another was 'Yellow Tiger' which had lighter brown coaches. However, these 'pirate' or independent operators, as they were called, didn't last long. In July 1933, the London Passenger Transport Board unified all bus services, and the words 'London Transport' replaced 'General' on bus sides. Also changed were the route numbers, from 100 to 10A and 138 to 38A.

Around 1935, London Transport introduced the Green Line coach services in the Loughton area. These single-decker vehicles were distinguished by their comfort, and that they were more speedy as they had far fewer stops than the red buses. Loughton had two routes – No 718 between Epping and Windsor, and No 720 between Bishop's Stortford and Aldgate. On the question of stopping places, there was a significant change in 1935. Up till then it was (surprisingly) permitted to hail a bus anywhere between official stops – although, often, the bus driver pretended not to see, and simply swept past. From then on this practice was, sensibly, withdrawn.

A well-remembered feature was the ticket inspector, a formidable figure in black-capelet-fitted raincoat, who would board a bus unexpectedly and check every passenger's ticket. This meant that conductors had always to be careful when issuing tickets, to ensure they had punched the correct destination. Thus, tickets in those days were elaborate affairs with a different colour for each value and with dozens of destinations printed on them. All these coloured tickets were held clipped to a long wooden board, starting with one (old) penny in white, and moving up the price scale. One curiosity I remember was a small one and a half penny pink ticket whose use I never discovered. I once asked a conductor, who smiled, and said it was for people who took up one and a half seats! In contrast to the black-coated inspectors, drivers of the buses wore long white coats during the summer months. While they looked smart, it seems odd today that they were so well-dressed as, inevitably, the coats were easily soiled and must have cost a lot in laundering!

If there is one outstanding memory it is of our favourite conductor, Don, who was often on the bus taking several of us youngsters to school in Woodford. Now and then he would walk up and down the bus calling, 'All fares please', while studiously ignoring the hands holding up our tuppences. That is until an inspector was believed to be ahead; usually signalled by a conductor on a bus coming in the opposite direction. He would then rush around collecting our money and issuing tickets.

Mike is one of our regular contributors, and I was interested in the following, part of the covering note with this article. I am sure he won't mind my passing it on.

'I always look forward to the next Newsletter. My main activity at this time is organising a small naval reunion for the remaining members of a destroyer on which I served in 1943. Inevitably our numbers diminish as the years go by, but we still have over 30 who served in the ship. I wrote, and self-published, the history of the ship in 1993 and managed to dispose of around 500 copies. Looking back, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience – and particularly doing research at the Public Record Office in Kew. The amount of material hidden in their files is truly amazing.'

Book review

Villagers: 750 Years of Life in an English Village, by James Brown. Amberley Publishing, Cirencester Road, Chalford, Stroud, Glos, GL6 8PE. ISBN 978-1-4456-0347-6. 256pp, paperback, £16.99.

Gamlingay is the largest village in west Cambridgeshire and, you might be thinking, what has this to do with Loughton in Essex? But this book presents us with a history of Gamlingay and its people from the Middle Ages to the present day which would have been replicated in hundreds of villages throughout England, including Loughton. Most of our ancestors were originally villagers so we need to understand more about their lives.

Any rural idyll is relegated to Constable paintings and Wordsworth as James Brown tells of the

poverty, back-breaking labour and oppression of the rural population up to the early nineteenth century, which time he declares to be worse for them than the Middle Ages. Anyone who has read E P Thompson's book on the English working class will agree with him.

James Brown's life's hobby has been researching the history of his native village and his first book, *Gamlingay*, was published in 1989. However, after 20 years he thought he 'hadn't known the half of it' so he rewrote the original book, adding new material he had discovered.

Gamlingay seems never to have belonged to Cambridgeshire, 'jutting pugnaciously into Bedfordshire' with a postal address 'Near Sandy, Bedfordshire'. It never had a resident local squire, one of the largest landowners being Merton College, Oxford.

The chapters on the Manorial System and life on the manor are excellent and informative reading. The author also covers the role of the church, local disputes, the way of death, wills, furnishings and the standard of homes, dissenters in the village, rogues and paupers, 'Captain Swing', the severity of punishment for minor offences (a villager transported to Australia for stealing a duck worth 1s (5p)), enclosure of the fields, fires, agricultural reform and the poor law. The story is brought up to date in the final chapters.

Everyone will find something here of interest: the Downings who gave their name to *that* street in London; John Bunyan gave a lift to a young woman on his horse and both got into trouble for it; how Bedfordshire's riots against the Militia Act spilled into Gamlingay in 1757; and the stories of Emily Shore and Margaret Gardiner.

But where are the photographs? Even the smallest history publication is today replete with them to add to the interpretation and enjoyment of the text. There are none here, just some good maps.

Production values are good: a nice typeface (Sabon), quality paper (on which photos could have been printed), good printing and a stout binding. The page margins are too small at the foot and I spotted about four minor errors. The index is split into subjects, persons and places, which is *not* helpful to the reader. It is also spaced out to fill the allotted pages but there are none of the usual continuation lines at column and page breaks, which is also unhelpful.

However, this book is an easy, interesting, informative and entertaining read, and the author is to be congratulated on his industry and skill. Highly recommended. ****

TED MARTIN

Glasscock's Rose Nursery – the post-war years

PETER COOK

Post-war Loughton has seen many changes – not all for the better, some may say – often resulting in the disappearance of a sometimes small and seemingly insignificant building or piece of land that may have served a more useful purpose in times past. One such

site was Glasscock's Rose Nursery at the top of Forest Road where once stood 'Rose Villa', a large detached house with an equally large front garden, the roses from which it derived its name in neat beds, each edged with Victorian rope tiles and separated by gravel paths. Nothing remains of the nursery or the villa, nor could I find any reference other than in the 1923 *Kelly's Directory* which listed '157 Forest Road – Jas Glasscock Rosegrower'. By 1939 the 'Rosegrower' was omitted from the entry, so it would seem that the business had closed some time previously. Thus I can only recall the site as I knew it during and after the Second World War, by which time it was serving as allotments.

The villa was still the family home and Mrs Glasscock gave music lessons, with a leaning towards the banjo, ukulele-banjo and similar stringed instruments and, during the summer months, the sound of her classes, manfully strumming away, could be heard through the open windows. It was only very recently that a childhood friend who lived a few doors from me in Forest Road and was a pupil, admitted that although he had a good ear for music he couldn't read a note, although it was a long time before the tutor caught him out! The house was demolished some years ago, and replaced by a block of flats, built in a style not exactly complementary to the adjoining Victorian cottages.

To return to the Nursery, access was by a gravel drive alongside the house, bordered from the forest on the left by a hedge which, after crossing a bridge over the brook, gave way to a high brick wall. Behind the house to the right was a large walnut tree which produced a fine crop each year and was a prime target for 'scrumping', if the term can be applied to nuts as well as fruit.

In the 40s there was little to indicate that a seemingly thriving nursery business had once existed there. A small brick building, probably once serving as an office, stood alongside a dilapidated wooden greenhouse cum potting shed which – possibly because roses did not require bedding plant nurturing – was not in the style of a conventional greenhouse, having a high gabled roof, large windows in heavy frames, and all the woodwork mostly devoid of its original black paint. Alongside was a somewhat overgrown area which had obviously been cultivated at some time past, probably for the roses as the odd bloom would sometimes appear through the undergrowth. Along the high wall to the rear stood some outbuildings, which served various purposes from storage lock-ups to stabling for one or two horses, while on the other side of the path was an orchard, its apple and pear trees unpruned for many a year but still producing fruit.

At the end of the orchard a rise in the ground opened onto the allotments, with the red buildings of the old Shaftesbury Home and the rear gardens of Staples Road to the left, the rear gardens of The Drive – shielded by a thick holly hedge – ahead, while along the third side of the triangle ran the brook and Forest Road gardens. Whether this had been a further growing area or simply open ground,

I know not, but the allotment plots and the grass paths separating them, bore the look of having existed a long time before ever I set foot there. The Glasscocks still owned the land and Bill Glasscock could be found more often than not sitting on a very large upturned clay flowerpot which stood alongside a galvanised water tank, the only source available for filling watering cans. All the plots were taken and, it being wartime with the government encouraging the public to 'grow your own' and 'dig for victory', were well cared for. Even after 65-odd years the names of some of the ploholders still come to mind, and George Snazell, 'Dingy' Mace, Bill Carter, Bert Clark, Mr Moxon and John Wilson along with the aforementioned Mr Glasscock were among those to be found on weekends and summer evenings, tending their crops and exchanging not only the usual banter that prevails on allotments, but also their surplus crops.

It was on my father's plot that I learned the art of vegetable growing at a very early age – as well as earning pocket money weeding the onion patch, earthing-up potatoes and collecting peasticks – all of which stood me in good stead when in later years I had a plot of my own on the Potato Ground. It also provided easy access to the brook which could be explored further along its course as far as Woolworths, given you were equipped with 'wellies' but still prepared to get wet feet. It was sometime during this period that a decision was made to clean Baldwins Hill Pond which had become badly silted. This was effected by the simple expedient of releasing all the water through the control gate and employing a large dragline excavator to then remove the silt. Releasing the water also included the fish in the tidal wave which swept down the brook, and, when the surge had subsided, my friend Eric Carter and myself, whilst playing round the allotments, found two large tench in a pool well down behind Forest Road. Shortly afterwards children could be seen emerging from the forest with buckets or large cans containing examples of probably every fish that ever inhabited the pond!



Rose Villa', Forest Road

As far as I am aware the allotments remained in use to some degree until the plot was finally sold for development. The house was demolished, the walnut tree cut down, and the wandering brook, where we caught sticklebacks, disappeared into a large underground pipe, which, together with the orchard,

the allotments and the last remnants of the old Shaftesbury Home all now lie under the houses and gardens of the Shaftesbury Estate.

At this point I had considered this article complete until I learned by chance that not quite everything was lost. It appears that when the house was being demolished Mrs Sawyer, an elderly Forest Road resident, saw the Victorian edging tiles being thrown in a skip and, on asking if she could have them, was told to help herself. She collected her wheeled shopping trolley, and, since the tiles were heavy, made an untold number of trips up and down the road removing all she could find and putting them to use in her own garden. Mrs Sawyer has passed on, but the tiles were saved once again and now edge the borders in the garden of her daughter, Barbara Wilcox, an L & DHS member.

A very neat ending, no doubt just like Barbara's borders – Ed.

Dissent in Loughton in 1931

PERCY THOMPSON

Religious dissent was late in establishing itself in our district. Although a minister, Mr Richard Willis (no doubt accurately described as 'a godly and painful preacher'), was appointed to the rectory of Loughton in 1638, with Captain Robert Davies and Henry Osborne as his elders; Willis's successor, the Reverend Edward Wyrley, conformed in 1662, and, at the Archdeacon's Visitation of 1683, we learn that, at 'Lowton', 'all ye whole parish received ye Sacrament at Easter and Whitsuntide last', while at Theydon Bois on the same occasion there were 'noe dissenters in ye Parish' and at Wanstead we are told that 'all ye parishioners except some Quakers were to Church and have received ye Sacrament'.

In 1799 George King of Loughton, head of a family of dissenters, was fain to direct by his Will that he should be buried 'in my own burying ground', there being then no other alternative to the parish churchyard. Not until 1812 was the first dissenting meeting formed in Loughton, in a small room provided and fitted up by one . . . Searl; in the following year (1813) a chapel was built, the forerunner of the present Baptist Church.

The Wesleyans and Baptists have now each their church and there are also interdenominational chapels at Forest Hall and Golding's Hill.

The Roman Catholics are even now [1931] represented in Loughton by only a few families and until 1927 had no church nearer than Woodford; during the Great War, refugee families of Belgians domiciled in Loughton – all of them Catholics – were allowed to hear Mass in the Small Lopping Hall, served by a priest from Woodford.

Jews were still almost non-existent with us.

Percy Thompson Notes 2/Dissent in Loughton in 1931

Loughton Sodom?

Submitted by CHRIS POND – from the *Baptist Magazine*, June 1869

About the time at which Mr Brawn entered upon college life, the moral and spiritual condition of the forest-village of Loughton, in Essex, had awakened the attention of a few

warm-hearted Christians who resided in the village and near it. Amongst these were a substantial farmer [presumably George Gould, CCP], who had been accustomed to worship at Harlow, where his father and grandfather had each for forty years ministered the Word of Life, and a small tradesman, the families of both of whom still maintain an honoured and useful connexion with the congregation they were instrumental in raising. Mr Brawn subsequently married into the family of the former of these two worthy men.

These friends, with a few others, began to meet for prayer and counsel, in the hope of better days for the village where their lot was cast. At first an outbuilding was lent for their humble commencement; and when this became too small, ampler accommodation was provided, and preaching the Gospel on Lord's-day afternoons and evenings by the students of Hackney and Stepney Colleges became an institution among them.

It is somewhat humbling, if not a reproach to the numerous and wealthy Christian Churches of London, that many of the villages around the metropolis were then – some of them still are—in a darker and more neglected condition, as to evangelical influences, than the villages in the vicinity of almost any considerable provincial town. Those of Mr Brawn's native county [Northamptonshire], though that county is almost exclusively agricultural, would favourably compare with the villages of Essex, Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent. The condition of Loughton at the time to which this record refers, though the people all lived within fourteen or fifteen miles of the centre of London, is described as 'marked by gross ignorance and appalling vices'.

The Allan Warren murder, 1957

TERRY CARTER

One of the worst local incidents on record took place in Loughton in the late 50s, a dreadful episode which at the time changed attitudes about allowing Loughton's children as much freedom as they had been used to.

Allan Warren, 7, of Carlton Colville, Suffolk, was on holiday with his family, staying with his uncle, Colin Warren, of Smarts Lane. He was abducted from a car outside The Crown in Loughton High Road on Saturday, 10 August 1957, and his body was found on the site of a new house in Connaught Hill on the 11th. He had been sexually assaulted, stripped naked and asphyxiated. His clothes were found on the Central Line at Bethnal Green. We residents of Smarts Lane, including the Editor, who then lived some 50 yards from where Allen was staying, felt particularly disturbed about the case, not only because of his tender years, but also because suspicion fell, totally wrongly, as it transpired, on one of his relatives, who was questioned in custody for some days.

The real perpetrator, Horace Henry Edwards, 36, a bench hand from Wanstead, was charged with his murder. He had tried to commit suicide. There were demonstrations when he appeared at Epping Court and, later, relatives, friends and others organised local petitions seeking maximum justice. He eventually pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Old Bailey on 26 October 1957.

Although relatively few current local residents may be aware of that case, I am certain those who do remember it find it hard to condemn current parents who might seem excessively zealous in protecting their children.



Dr Keith Simpson, the Home Office Pathologist, at Epping where Horace Henry Edwards was accused of murdering seven-year-old Allan Warren. The boy's body was found on a building site in Loughton on 11 August 1957.

Lost hospitals of London – Theydon Towers

[Some L & DHS members may never have heard of Theydon Towers, Theydon Road, Theydon Bois as it was before the Second World War. This is a brief account of its short history.]

Medical dates 1921–1937; medical character: convalescence

After the First World War, the South West Ham Committee (a branch of the West Ham Relief Committee, later renamed the West Ham Committee of the Charity Organisation Society) presented Theydon Towers, a large yellow brick 19th-century mansion house, to Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End for use as a children's convalescent home. The building had previously been used as an auxiliary military hospital during the war.

The Home was officially opened by Princess Mary in 1921 and the South West Ham Committee agreed to maintain the property. An adjacent cottage was redecorated and furnished by Mrs C E Leo Lyle (later Lady Lyle), the wife of the Chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital. It became a Home of Rest for the nurses of the Hospital who needed a few days' break.

In 1924 the South West Ham Committee was disbanded and the cost of the upkeep of Theydon Towers became the responsibility of the Hospital. The Convalescent Home closed in 1927 because of the difficulty in finding the money for its upkeep; there were also insufficient children in need of convalescence. Later the house was sold and the proceeds invested as a fund for meeting the cost of children's convalescence.

And now . . . Recently the site has been redeveloped by Time & Tide Homes at a cost of £7.2m. During 2008 the mansion house was

converted into four apartments, while the stables and office block became a three-bedroom house. A four-bedroom house had also been built in the grounds.'



[Freely Adapted from the Lost Hospitals of London website – Ed.]

The Baldwin's Hill allotments

PERCY THOMPSON

A transcript from RICHARD MORRIS of the notes made by Percy Thompson in 1928, and included in his *Notes on the History and Topography of Loughton*, vol. 2.

A. 'The Poor's Piece Potato Grounds'

According to Mr W C Waller, the manor court rolls show that on May 13, 1813, Miss Anne Whitaker granted to the Rev Anthony Hamilton a parcel of waste 'between the Poor House and the High Road at Golders Hill', of nominally three acres extent (actually 2ac 2r 30p) to hold to him and his successors in the Rectory for the use and benefit of such of the poor and industrious inhabitants of the parish as the rector and churchwardens for the time being shall nominate as yearly occupants for the cultivation of potatoes or other vegetables for the better support of themselves and their families: the fine paid was 10s 6d and the quit rent was fixed at 6d.

On June 9, 1817, a further grant of three acres of waste 'adjoining the fields and garden of William Bazire', brought the 'Botney' Allotment Grounds (as they are still called by the old inhabitants) to their present size of 6 acres, divided into 48 plots. The quit rent thus became 1s annually.

The allotment grounds are still divided into two areas: 'The Old or Lower Ground', with 24 plots, and the 'Newer Upper Ground', also with 24 plots. After payment of the quit rent, rates, repairs &c, the balance [of] income is distributed to the tenants in prizes each year. In 1845, and again in 1847, no prizes were given, and no rent was paid, in consequence of the failure of the crops owing to the potato disease, then so very prevalent; many of the plots were described in the Overseer's A/c's for that period as 'a total failure'.

On March 24, 1859, the Vestry unanimously resolved that any allotment-holder who was found working his plot on Sundays should forfeit his ground.

In 1859 W Parrish was convicted for poaching and as a consequence was deprived of his allotment for two years; in 1860 another allotment-holder, John Feast, was similarly deprived for the like conviction; and in the same year W Philpot forfeited his plot for 'having been committed to Prison'.

In 1861/2 John Bacon, junr, suffered the same loss for a like committal; and on Sept 21, 1863, James Bacon had to be prosecuted for stealing turnips in Plot 24 in the 'New Ground'.

The decision of the Vestry to dispossess any of the tenants who should be found at work on their plots on

Sundays had been duly made a condition on the printed Agreements made with the tenants, but evidently did not suffice as a deterrent. On March 27, 1862, the Vestry Minutes record that, 'in consequence of some of the tenants being seen working on their pieces on the Sunday the Prizes have been reduced by direction of the Trustees'.

The existing Book of Accounts begins in March 1867,¹ when the expenses for the previous year are tabulated as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|-----------|--------------|
| Cutting & repairing hedges | £1 | 7 | 0 |
| Poor Rate (two instalments) | | 14 | 0 |
| Land Tax (two instalments) | | 2 | 7 |
| Income Tax (three instalments) | | 1 | 3 |
| Quit Rent | | 2 | 0 |
| A/c Book | | 7 | 0 |
| Highway Rate | | 3 | 0 |
| | | <u>£2</u> | <u>16 10</u> |

After 1868/9 the item of expense 'Income Tax' does not appear, except, curiously enough, in 1883/4, when it reappears as 3s for that year only. The quit rent appears as 1s only each year after the first year, which probably includes an arrear of payment; the same remark may apply to Income Tax.

The Churchwarden signs the Accounts each year until 1874/5. From then on to 1887/8 no check seems to have been kept on the accounts, although these were no doubt presented each year to the Easter Vestry; from 1888 to present time the Accounts have been regularly audited yearly.

In 1868 James Hutson forfeited his plot, 'having been convicted', and in 1870 Joseph Bacon, also having been convicted, suffers the like deprivation.

Others forfeited their holdings for neglect.

As recently as 1902/3 an item of expenditure was 7s 'labour for repairing Fences against the Deer'.

After payment of expenses, the balance income was to be expended in prizes; nevertheless, the A/c's disclose a tendency to build up a reserve fund. Thus, in 1867/8, the balance in hand was only £2 2s. 2d. Ten years later, in 1877/8, it was still only £1 10s. 11d. In another ten years, in 1887/8, it jumped to £11 9s. 1¼d. In 1897/8 it had been reduced to £5 12s 6¾d and in 1907/8 further reduced to £3 0s. 11¼d. A decade later, in 1917/18, it was steady at £4 16s. 5d., and in 1927/28 it reached the unprecedented sum of £23 12s. 8d. From the year 1923 on, the balance was accumulated at a quicker rate by reason of the fact that less amounts were awarded as prizes to the allotment-holders; whereas, twenty years before, it was usual to allot £3 or £4 (once, as much as £6) in prizes, in 1927 only £1 13s 6d was so awarded and that is a fair average for ten years past. This seems to point to less careful cultivation of recent years.

In this connection, the record of Alfred Willingale is a remarkable one. His name appears in 1874 as an applicant for a plot. He was allotted a half-plot in the 'Upper or New Ground' at 1s 3d rental (plot 10½), and at the end of the first year of his holding was awarded a prize of 1s 3d for careful cultivation. In 1875 he was given a prize of 1s 9d and in 1877 one of 9d. In 1878/9 he exchanged his half-plot for another at a higher rental (3s 4d), being No 24½ in the 'New' Ground, and received 1s prize. In 1880 the judges' comment on his cultivation was 'very good', and the same in 1887. In 1882 the comment is 'good', and a prize of 9d awarded. In 1883 no record is kept of prizes awarded. From 1884 until 1926, Alfred Willingale continued to receive a prize each year for his plot. The prizes varied in

value from 1s to 10s, the latter being received in 1924 and 1925, for the best kept plot on the allotments. Invariably the judges commented that the condition of his plot was 'excellent'.

From 1906 to 1908 he worked an additional plot on the 'New' Ground (No 8½), earning a 6d prize and the comment 'g[ood]', after a season's trial of plot No 4½ on the 'Old' Ground.

During the whole fifty-four years (!), Alfred Willingale paid his rent regularly (as, indeed, did all the allotment-holders), and from 1879 to the present year (1928) he has tilled the same plot (No 24½) at the same rental of 3s 4d yearly, and, when over 81 years old, he has in two successive years gained special prizes 'for the best kept ground in the Allotments'. Surely, a wonderful record!

Some interesting facts in connection with the association of other members of the Willingale family emerge from a detailed examination of the Allotments Account Book.

Taking first the case of Thomas Willingale, the father, we find that he held plot No 20½ in the 'New' Ground from 1867/8 until his death in August 1870, when his widow succeeded him in his tenancy for a long term of years, until her own decease in or about 1888, whereupon her son Samuel took her place and held the same plot until his own death in December 1911. In eight years the widow was awarded prizes, and her son in eighteen.

William Higgins was also an allotment holder. He rented plot No 24 in the 'Old' Ground in 1868/9 and on his death in March 1870, his widow succeeded him in the tenancy, which, however, she gave up in 1871/2.

These facts give the lie to the reciprocal allegations: 1, that the Willingale family were ne'er-do-wells, and 2, that the lord of the manor vindictively tried to hound them out of the parish.

B. The 'Baldwyn's Buildings Ground', or 'Parish House Gardens'

This is a separate and distinct allotment ground, with only eight plots, which has its accounts entered in the book from 1876 to 1895 only. They are of the simplest: eight rentals of half-a-crown each form the annual income, which amount is paid, without any deduction for rates or taxes, into the Bank of England to the credit of the Official Trustees, Charitable Funds. The statement of account for the year 1914 is typical:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|
| Rent of eight allotments | £1 | 0 | 0 |
| Window rent | | 1 | 0 |

Paid to the account of the Charity Commissioners at Bank of England £1 1 0

Mr Waller gives the following account of the origin of this Ground.

In 1873 the Charity Commissioners ordered the demolition of five/six tenements used as Almshouses (these were probably the parish workhouse before 1837, but the record is confusing), which were unfit for habitation by reason of their dilapidated condition, and the sale of the materials. The site, with the gardens said to comprise about one acre, was to be turned into allotments. The proceeds of the sale, after allowance made for fencing and conversion, together with the annual rents received, was to be paid to the Banking Account of the Official Trustees, to be invested by them until sufficient Stock had been accumulated 'to provide pensions for one or more deserving poor persons, whether married or single, being parishioners of Loughton, and being members of the Church of England, to be applied by the said Trustees under such rules and

¹ Earlier A/cs, from 1832 until 1866 exist in the so-called 'Casual Poor 1832' book of Overseer's and Churchwardens A/cs.

regulations as shall be established by the further order of the Board'. (Sealed July 18, 1873).

At the end of 1915 this accumulated fund reached a total of £96 17s 1d. About 1926 these Allotments were sold with consent of the Charity Commissioners, and Stock purchased with the proceeds of the sale.

The above Almshouses must not be confused with the six still existing 'Whitaker Almshouses', which were built in 1826, on a different site granted from the waste by Mr John Maitland, the then lord of the manor, from a bequest of £1,000 left by Miss Anne Whitaker, who died in 1825.

More about the Neville family

Barbara Birchwood-Harper is now a resident of Looe in Cornwall, where she is an active local historian. In *Newsletter 175* (available on our website) she explained her connection with the Neville family, who came, with Charles and Betsy and their children, Reuben and Matilda, from Thaxted to Loughton in the mid-1860s. Most of the family, including Reuben, worked for Goulds and, on retirement, he rented a shop next to the 'Holly Bush', running it as 'Neville Bros, high class Fruiterers and Greengrocers', and travelled around in a pony and trap, becoming known as the 'grand old man of Loughton'.



Walter in his days of working for the family firm, Neville Brothers

Barbara's grandfather, Walter, was one of 12 children, one died aged 14 months. Arthur, the next to youngest, was killed at Gaza. Sadly, Charles was killed by lightning riding his horse down Blind Lane – now Church Lane.



Barbara writes: 'I attach a photo which I believe is of the TA in Loughton, probably before WW1 as my

grandfather, Walter Neville is standing 2nd from the left and he was moved to Kent in the war, to work on munitions.

I wonder if any of your members might have information on the TA. I think the photo was taken outside Shrublands.'

Chris Pond comments: 'I think it's the Yeomanry, outside Dr Butler Harris's house, The Shrubberies, before the Territorial Army reforms of 1908. But some reader may recognise the flag and thus identify it better.'

More about Prince George of the Yemassee

TERRY CARTER

In my *Newsletter 189* article on Prince George I described what I could glean about this mysterious young Native American Indian but, regrettably, had to end the piece in a rather inconclusive way. The article reached Marion Delfgou, via Richard Morris, and she has kindly added much of great interest, for which I am grateful. George's end remains a mystery, but I believe members will be interested in the following:

On 26 May 26 Marian Delfgou wrote:

Dear Terry

Thank you for your article on Prince George of the Yemassee. He was indeed at Chigwell School between 1713–14. We do have a little more information about him in our Archive Library.

He was the son of the Chief who was befriended by Reverend Gideon Johnson who sent his own sons to Chigwell School and persuaded the Chief to send his own 17 year old son also, under the sponsorship of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

His headmaster was Peter Noblett, a Frenchman originally named Pierre Nobilet of La Rochelle. Mr Noblett being Protestant left France after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He married Madeleine de Languigne at Thorpe-le-Soken.

We have a printout of the newspaper advertisement for the School which tells us that 'Chigwel has as good an Air as any place in this Kingdom (with) the convenience of a stage-coach as well as that (of) the Penny Post'.

We know that Reverend Johnson's sons came to Chigwell and paid £20 for the privilege. Prince George paid £25. Another pupil was William Henry Giraud (or Giraldo) who was the son of a minister at Torre Pellice in Northern Italy and probably Waldensian and later went to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, became Rector and Headmaster of Faversham, Kent.

We also have a list from the SPG Archives of the clothes and goods Prince George had to bring with him, which includes 6 muslin cravats, a pair of shoe buckles, shirts, knitted stockings, shoes and a knife and fork.

There is also a printout of the letter to the SPG written on his return to South Carolina in which he says he is learning from Mr Commissary Johnson. 'He is well kind to me always. I hope I learn better than when I was in School.'

Sadly in 1716 Prince George's father was defeated in a war with the settlers and he and his family sold into slavery.

What happened to Prince George we don't know.

While he was in England he was baptised in the Royal Chapel in Somerset House and was presented to King George I.

Some of this information is gleaned from our Governors' Minutes and the material from the SPG was collected by Godfrey Stott.

I hope you have room for this in your next news sheet.

With my best wishes

Marian F Delfgou, Archivist, Chigwell School

Arewater Green Almshouses and residents, 1895

From the William Chapman Waller Collection



'1912 and all that'

Judging from the following particulars submitted by RICHARD MORRIS of five plots of land for sale in Loughton in 1912, estate agents' hyperbole existed even in those days:

'This estate, which from its position is the finest and most exclusive in the neighbourhood, being on a hill, with views (that can never be shut out) over Kent and Surrey, is on the verge of an extensive Woodland of over 5,500 acres, and the portion of the Estate now offered having formed part of a Gentleman's Garden is in splendid cultivation and includes, besides valuable timber, an exceptionally well made full size Tennis Court.

Loughton (according to the Local Board's Report and Statistics) one of the healthiest localities in England is, unlike most of Essex, hilly, and for country scenery a revelation to the Town Visitor who has thought it impossible to find rural beauty within 12 miles of the Metropolis.

Quiet lanes and Forest paths afford rest for tired eyes and wearied brains, while for the socially inclined there are Golf (3 courses), tennis, Hockey, Cricket, Football and Rifle Clubs, dramatic and Musical Societies, with Hunting and Polo, Good Public Hall, Library and Reading Room.

The Local education facilities for Boys and Girls are exceptional, and the whole sanitary condition of the District as perfect as modern science can make it.

The Daily and Season Ticket rates are very moderate, the First Class fare return being £4 3s 9d and Second, £3 4s 3d per quarter, Liverpool Street.'

The plots for sale were on the northern corner of Pump Hill and Church Hill.

Did we know that?

A review article in the August 2010 issue of *The Local Historian* has a passing reference to the saving of Epping Forest which might be of interest. The book under review is *English Geographies 1600–1950*, edited by Elizabeth Baigent and Robert J Mayhew (Oxford: St John's College Research Centre £25 (ISBN 978-0-95449 756-9)).

Whichwood in Oxfordshire disappeared in the 1850s and Elizabeth Baigent explains in her paper in the book that the same fate seemed to await Epping Forest but was averted because of high profile campaigning, now believed to be one of the earliest victories of the conservation movement. In his review Alan Crosby points out that Baigent's paper focuses on the different narratives of the participants and politically-motivated commentators and that she argues that the credit for saving the Forest was claimed by pressure groups with different social, political and geographical constituencies. She argues that though working men were the beneficiaries of the action to save the Forest, they did not have much of a role in it and that claims to be saviours of the Forest were contested by upper middle class and professional interest groups. Some held idealised 'wholesome' images of the 'modern' working man which bore little resemblance to the impoverished, uncouth or unruly reality.

In the same issue. *Land, Agriculture and Industry in North-West Essex*, by Geoffrey Ball, published by Saffron Walden Historical Society (ISBN 978-1-873669-02-0, £7.50) is reviewed, covering farming and the wool trade and malting from 1086 to the early 20th century in north-west Essex. There is also a chapter on plans for a never-built canal which was projected at various times to link the Stort Navigation to the Brandon River in Suffolk, to provide a route north-east to the Great Ouse and The Wash. A plan of 1789 would have brought the canal to Saffron Walden. It was never built because the owners of the Audley End estate opposed it.

TED MARTIN

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