LOUGHTON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 192

JANUARY–MARCH 2012 Price 40p, free to members

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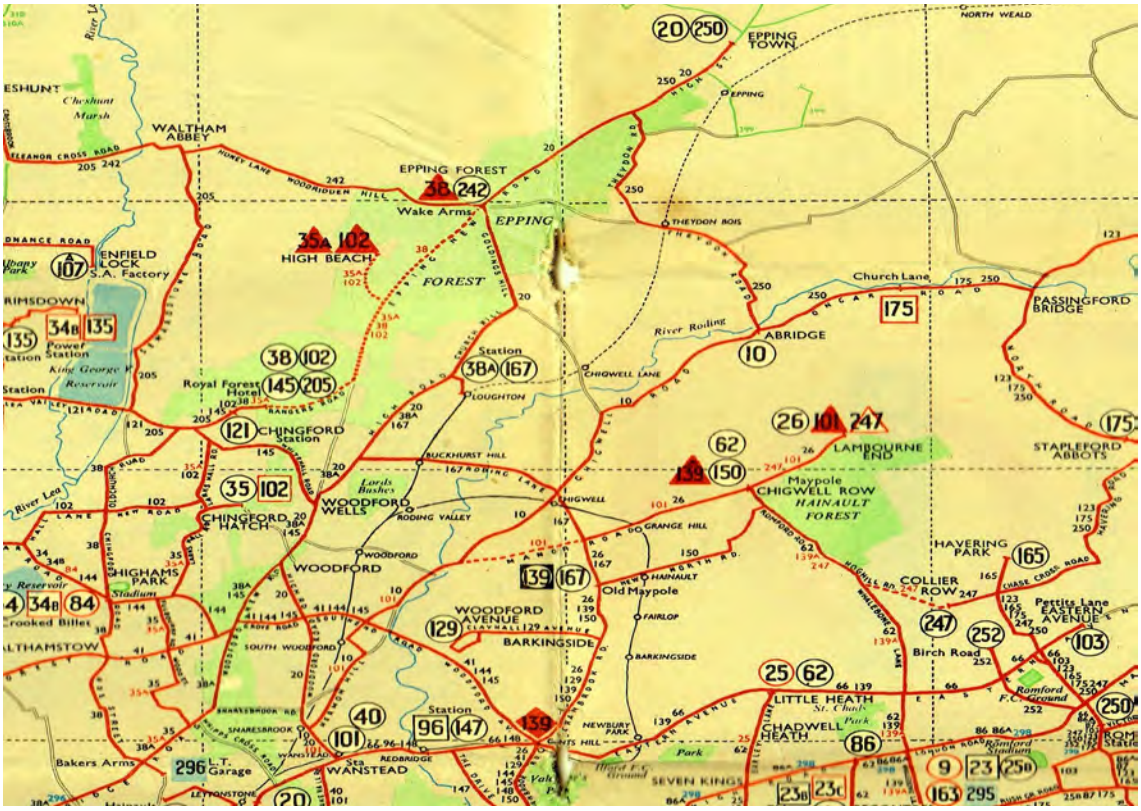


Local bus services – 1949

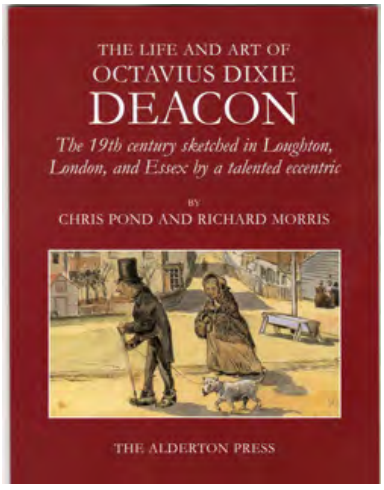
CHRIS POND

Mike Alston's interesting reminiscences of Loughton bus services (*Newsletter 190*) prompted me to dig out my 1949 bus map (above). Some routes (e.g., the 150 in Hainault) follow pretty much the same routes today. Others are completely different or non-existent, as the 26 past Grange Hill Station or the summer routes, shown in dotted red, to the Forest. The big change in London Transport routes to Loughton came in September 1968, when the Victoria Line opened, and many routes were diverted to serve the new bus station at Walthamstow Central. The map shows Epping Town, as opposed to Epping Green, the original settlement of Epping, and perhaps it was local history knowledge at 55 Broadway that added the 'Town'. The Central Line is shown dotted north of Loughton – at the date the map went to press, it had not been electrified north of Loughton (see *Newsletter 182*).

By the way, Green Line coaches were at first lettered, not numbered, and our two routes ran to Bishops Stortford and Ongar. When the latter was restarted after the Second World War, it was cut back at Epping.

Curiously, despite the exponential growth in car use since 1949, more roads are now covered by buses than then, though perhaps with less frequent services.

Local book wins national award



Epping Forest District Council is joint winner for 2010 of the prestigious Alan Ball Local History Award for the best work of local history produced under the auspices of a local authority. The award is made by the

Library Services Trust, part of CILIP, the professional body for those engaged in information work for work done by Epping Forest District Museum and the Loughton and District Historical Society (LDHS).


LIBRARY SERVICES TRUST

Alan Ball Local History Awards

This is to certify that

Epping Forest District Council

Won this Award in 2010 for

The Life and Art of Octavius Dixie Deacon

By Chris Pond and Richard Morris

Chairman of the Trustees

The award is for *The Life and Art of Octavius Dixie Deacon* by Chris Pond and Richard Morris. Over a decade ago, the Museum purchased a number of sketchbooks by Deacon, a rather eccentric artist and publisher, who lived in Loughton from the 1870s to his death in 1916. The Museum has held two exhibitions of the paintings, which are mostly of scenes in and around Loughton, but lacked the resources to publish them itself.

In these days of co-operation between public bodies and the charitable sector, a joint project was agreed whereby the Museum would digitise the sketches and paintings, make them available free to the LDHS, who undertook to research Deacon's life and work. They also undertook to write a comprehensive introduction and publish them in book form under its Alderton Press imprint at its own expense and at cost price. The book was designed by Ted Martin to the highest graphic standards and printed by the Lavenham Press.

Tony O'Connor, curator of Epping Forest District Museum, said: 'This was a groundbreaking collaboration and I'm pleased to see its success recognised nationally.'

Chris Pond, LDHS chairman, added: 'I wonder what Octavius himself would have made of this award. From what we know of his outlook, I rather think it might be "Bah, humbug!" '

A question about John Strevens

[Much information is available about this local artist, but this article is only concerned with a question that appeared on 30 September last in a major national newspaper. Some members may well have seen it at that time – Ed.]

QUESTION: 'In the mid-Sixties, I named my daughter after one of a cute series of drawings of four (or five) little girls in charming poses. I remember Amanda and Harriet, but not the rest. The artist signed himself as *Strev*. Does anyone know anything of this artist and what his full name was?'

THE ANSWER: 'This was my father, John Strevens. Born in London in 1902, he attended classes at Regent Street Polytechnic and Heatherley's School of Fine Art, but was largely self-taught, copying Victorian paintings at the Guildhall and earning his living in a Fleet Street illustration studio until the start of World War II.

The year 1943 marked a turning point for his career with his first one-man show, and, by 1947, paintings such as The Three Princesses, depicting his daughters Jo, Vicky and Ginny, exhibited at the Royal Academy, earned him public acclaim. From then on he exhibited regularly there, as well as at the Royal Society of British Artists, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the Paris Salon.

'Happy Days'

After the death of his first wife, novelist Jane Cooper Strevens, he married my mother Julia Marzo.

He made several trips across France to Spain which inspired subjects for more London exhibitions, and his first trip to the US in 1961 led to an enthusiastic reception from American art collectors.

John continued to support his family by painting pictures destined for the popular British print market as well as portraits and colourful romantic fantasies of women, children and flowers.

Harriet (a little dark-haired girl in a bonnet, holding a cat) and Amanda (with a dog) were the best-selling prints in the UK in 1964, but there were several others. Some can be seen on the website johnstrevens.com. He signed these paintings Strev, saying – tongue-in-cheek – 'half his name, half his talent'.

The portrait of Harriet and other Strevs were inspired by my own moods and looks aged six, and

those of my childhood friends, though we didn't model for the pictures directly.

Portrait of John Strevens in his studio, 1979, by Bridget Strevens-Marzo

A new lifelong working relationship began in the late sixties when US art dealer Kurt E Schon tracked him down after seeing a painting, *The Woman in Black*, in the International Directory of Art.

Well into his 80s, John Strevens travelled to the US to meet collectors and paint portrait commissions from life; but in his book-lined and music-filled studio at the end of the garden of his home met collectors and painted portrait commissions from life. But his book-lined and music-filled studio at the end of the garden of his home in Loughton, Essex, was a refuge and his main source of inspiration until the end of his life in 1990.'

BRIDGET STREVENS, London E1

Browns of Loughton

The photograph below, taken on 8 March 1964, and passed on by Richard Morris, shows the 199 High Road site exactly as many of us remember it. It is well worth supplementing this with some notes on the company's history, set out below.

Company history*

The multi-million pound business which is now Browns of Loughton Limited had its beginnings in very humble circumstances. In 1932, at the age of 22, Mr Frank Brown, the founder of the present-day company, rented a lock-up garage in Loughton, and set himself up as a one-man outfit repairing and buying and selling motor-cycles and cars. Despite having very little money to finance this venture, business prospered, and four years later new larger premises were rented and staff were employed to assist in the repair work, and Austin and Morris were interested enough to promote Brown's as an agency for their vehicles.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, the nature of the business diversified tremendously. The then Ministry of Supply requested all garage proprietors to turn their premises into munitions works to assist with the War effort. With the proceeds of the sale of a second-hand fire engine to the *Daily Mirror*, Mr Brown was able to buy lathes, drills and ancillary machinery, and employed a new workforce composed of boys and girls aged between 14 and 17.

A fleet of cars was set up as a taxi firm, as another offshoot of the business, and was commissioned to take hundreds of families away from blitz-stricken London into the relative safety of the countryside, and to be on 24-hour call taking expectant mothers to hospital.

After the War, the machinery purchased for munitions manufacturing was put to more peaceable uses, and this side of the business continued and grew under the name of Browns Engineering Works (Loughton) Limited, specialising in the production of precision engineering equipment including the 'BECO' trolley jack.

The continued growth of the engineering business resulted in a move to larger premises in 1950. Two acres of dilapidated land and buildings were acquired at the site of what was then 'Goulds' of 250 High Road Loughton. In the same year, the motor trading activities were officially incorporated as a limited company in the name of Browns Garage (Loughton) Limited.

Shortly afterwards, the present car sales site at 199 High Road was purchased, and a franchise with Austin Morris was established. The organisation by now covered every aspect of motor-vehicle service, including petrol retailing – being one of the first Esso stations in the UK; bodyshop repairs – in the premises now occupied by Clements and Moore in Forest Road; vehicle rental – the Smarts Lane Triangle premises being used for storage and servicing of these vehicles; and the sale of technical spares and accessories from the old building at 199 High Road.

With the addition of new showrooms and aftersales facilities at the High Road site in 1960, the motor trading activities became less fragmented with all facets of the business operating from the same location. 1977 saw the then British Leyland franchise relinquished in favour of Vauxhall Motors, and in 1980 Mr Matthew Brown joined the company as Managing Director.

Under pressure from Epping Forest District Council who were trying to separate off industry from shopping and residential areas, the engineering business moved to the newly built Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate in 1982 and the site vacated at 250 High Road eventually became Morrisons supermarket.

For many L&DHS members, the Christmas lights on the great tree overhanging the showroom have been one of Loughton's favourite sights.

*The company history is from the company website, 'Browns of Loughton'. For interested members, further notes on the website continue to the present day.

High Beech – before speedway

CHRIS POND

The place of High Beech as the first speedway track in the UK is well documented. But in leafing through a book of 1981, *Train and Transport, a Collector's Guide*, by Anderson and Swinglehurst, I came across two illustrations which indicate that in the late 1890s a cycling circuit existed there, presumably the forerunner of the speedway track behind the King's Oak. I haven't yet had time to research this, but I know that in 1899, the ECU was merged into the Essex and Middlesex Cycling Union, who later had a track at Wood Green. Sadly, the second one is rather faint.

It may be that one of our members has further information.


Essex Cycling Union, Limited.

100 MILES RACE

AT

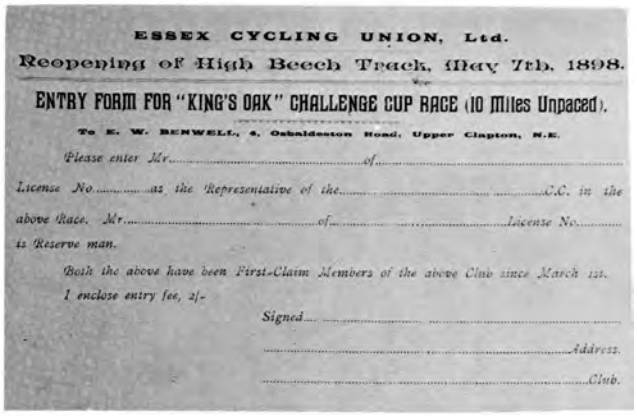
HIGH BEECH TRACK,

SATURDAY, AUG. 21st, 1897.

COMMENCING 3 P.M. SHARP.

OFFICIAL

ADMIT THE BEARER.


ESSEX CYCLING UNION, Ltd.

Reopening of High Beech Track, May 7th, 1898.

ENTRY FORM FOR "KING'S OAK" CHALLENGE CUP RACE (10 Miles Unpaced).

To E. W. BENWELL, 4, Oakbidston Road, Upper Clapton, N.E.

Please enter Mr.....of.....

License No.....as the Representative of the.....C.C. in the above Race. Mr.....of.....License No.....is Reserve man.

Both the above have been First-Claim Members of the above Club since March 1st.

I enclose entry fee, 2/-

Signed.....

.....Address.

.....Club.

Crime and punishment in Victorian and Edwardian Buckhurst Hill

LYNN HASELDINE-JONES

The Buckhurst Hill Outrage in 1867/8

The affair began with a stabbing; the outrage was not so much the terrible event of a young girl being stabbed by her lover, but what happened to her afterwards.

On 24 April 1867, 16-year-old Matilda Griggs was stabbed 13 times with a dagger by 23-year-old Frederick Alexander Watkins. They had been acquainted for two years and a child had been born, for which Frederick had made an allowance. He was the son of a jeweller with premises at 36 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. She was the daughter of a poor well-sinker of Buckhurst Hill. It would appear that on the evening in question he called to see her and they went out for a walk. They had some kind of argument and the stabbing took place. Matilda fell to the ground and Frederick ran off, eventually some hours later handing himself in to Epping police, having walked there from Buckhurst Hill throughout the night.

The newspapers made quite a story of the fact that whilst Matilda was lying on the ground in a field, two calves came up to her and lay down on either side of her, keeping her warm such that she survived the night and was later found by a policeman. She was taken home and, as the doctor thought that she might not survive, the magistrate took down her statement as a 'dying deposition'.

On 19 May Frederick was re-examined by magistrates at Waltham Abbey and Matilda, still in a weak state, repeated the evidence given by her deposition. Frederick was committed for trial and bail was refused. Matilda, however, then thought better of testifying against Frederick and decided not to give any further evidence, believing that without her evidence he would not be convicted. However, not only was he convicted and sentenced to 20 years' penal servitude, but she was arrested as well!

The Buckhurst Hill Outrage was the name given to the outcry that followed her arrest in January 1868 and her appearance at the Bankruptcy Court, for owing the Crown £40 – 'she was detained in custody to satisfy a claim by the Crown of £40, the amount of recognisances entered into by her to appear and prosecute the person who attacked her; and she was arrested by order of the Barons of the Queen's Exchequer, because she did not appear at the Central Criminal Court to prefer a bill of indictment, and prosecute the law with effect against Frederick Alexander Watkins for felony, as she was bound to do by her recognisance'.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* took up the case, and declared the Bankruptcy Court proceedings 'farcical'. Their writer said: 'Can anything be conceived more absurd and unjust? . . . If this is the way we contrive to bring the guilty to justice and to make the innocent pay for their conviction, it is scarcely to be wondered that our notions on international law and free trade in land are still in their present hazy condition.'

Matilda was in prison for a while, but was released later in January 1868 when sympathising friends paid the amount required. The *Pall Mall Gazette* used the case to argue for the appointment of a public prosecutor.

Local newspaper reports of crimes in Buckhurst Hill

Here are some interesting extracts from the local newspaper about crimes in Buckhurst Hill in the Victorian and Edwardian period.

29/8/1884. Arthur Douglass, 29, described as a sailor, and refusing to give his address, was charged on remand with being concerned, with another man not in custody, with stealing from inside the Buckhurst

Hill Post Office at 7 Victoria Terrace, a cash box tray containing £17 0s 4½d. The Post Master was Mr Hall, and he was assisted by his fellow shopkeepers – 'Benjamin Hickman, the manager of a boot shop, said that on the day in question he was standing at his shop door, three doors from Mr Hall's, when he saw the prisoner leave the Post Office. He came towards the witness with a cash tray in his hand, which he endeavoured to conceal as he passed the witness. The prisoner went a few doors lower down, and then, seeing Mr Hall at his heels, he stooped down and put the cash tray on the pavement and proceeded. The witness picked it up and handed it to Mrs Hall. All the money was there but for a few half pence.' It was later revealed that the prisoner had been sentenced in October 1882 to 15 months' imprisonment and three years' police supervision for stealing 25 watches, valued at £30, in the name of W Marryat. Douglass pleaded guilty and was referred for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

10/1/1890. At the Epping Petty Sessions on Friday James Frederick Sheppard of High Road,[1] Buckhurst Hill, was summoned for neglecting to have his child vaccinated. The defendant did not appear and the facts having been stated by Mr Wilks, Relieving Officer, a fine of 10s[2] and costs was imposed.

*31/1/1890.*At the Stratford Police Court on Saturday James Smith, carman, of Johnson's Cottages, Princes Road, Buckhurst Hill, was charged with stealing a quantity of potatoes, value 2s 6d, the property of Mr H Wells, builder, of Queens Road. Detective Johnson of the Woodford Police said he watched the prisoner and examined a cart he was driving which contained sand. He turned over some of the sand and found the potatoes hidden beneath it. The prosecutor said that since he had bought the business of the late Mr John Egan he had been robbed to a large extent. On one occasion he missed as much as 6cwt of lead. The prisoner, who denied the theft, but admitted having potatoes in his possession, was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

7/2/1890. Mr Arnold Francis Hills[3] was also in trouble for failing to vaccinate his daughter Mary Monica.

14/2/1890. At the Police Court at Stratford on Saturday, Charles Warren, 16, Sidney Pavitt,[4] 16, Robert White, 16, Louis White, 16, and Henry Sleaman, all of Buckhurst Hill, were summoned at the instance of Inspector Pearman for throwing stones to the danger of the public at Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill, on 29 January. They pleaded guilty. Sleaman was fined 5s and the other lads 2s 6d and the costs.

23/5/1890

At the Stratford Police Court on Saturday James Smith, a labourer of no fixed home, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Buckhurst Hill on Friday. The prisoner said he was out all day picking wild flowers and had a drop to drink and it overcame him. PC Harry Green said that at half past eight on Friday night he saw the prisoner drunk in the High Road, Buckhurst Hill. The prisoner was shouting and when the witness requested him to go away he refused. He was fined 10s and costs, or three days.

10/10/1890

Henry Sleaman in trouble again! At Stratford Petty Sessions Kate Sleaman was summoned for assaulting her husband, Henry Sleaman. The defendant denied that she struck her husband or that she was drunk. She complained of her husband coming home late. The Bench dismissed the case, remarking that there appeared to be faults on both sides.

27/10/1911

On 19 October at Waltham Abbey His Honour Judge Tindal Atkinson heard how Albert Henry Rex Hill, a surveyor, of Buckhurst Hill was suing fishmonger Henry Ward, of Lower Queens Road, for selling what Hill considered was an inedible salmon. Hill's wife gutted the fish and found over a pound of roe in it. She cooked it but it was 'like leather, and there was no colour or taste in it'. His Honour said that this might have been caused by the cooking, which brought laughter to the court. After some debate His Honour decided to believe Hill and the fishmonger was obliged to pay back the 5 shillings the fish had cost.

27/10/1911

Another serious matter dealt with at Stratford Police Court was the case of Harry Smith, alias Carter, a labourer, of Albert Terrace, Queens Road, who was charged with stealing 25 cabbages, worth 6s 3d, the property of Messrs Gould of Loughton. There had been a number of cabbage thefts recently, which caused Goulds to appoint a foreman to watch over the field. He saw Carter leave with a bag containing 18 cabbages. He stopped him and arranged for him to be arrested. Detective Saunders visited Carter's house and found other cabbages, which he had stolen the day before. As the prisoner had several convictions against him in the past, for larceny and poaching, he was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

References

Morning Post, 29/8/1884, from British Library 19th century newspapers courtesy of Essex Libraries.
Woodford Times, 1890, in Loughton Library.
The Observer online, courtesy of Essex Libraries.
Woodford Times, 1911, with thanks to Dr Chris Pond.

Notes

1. He was living at Hawstead (a large house now replaced by flats) at the time.

2. The fine had obviously increased over the years; Charles Crofton Black of Hill House (now Braeside Junior School) had been fined 2s 6d for the same offence in 1884.

3. He lived at Devon House (now replaced by Devon Close), and later at Monkhams in Woodford.

4. The 1881 census shows Sidney as a child of six, living with his father George, who was a gardener, his mother Mary Ann, and his brothers Herbert, Charles, Henry and Frank, and his sisters Minnie, Mary and Edith, varying in age from 21 years (both the oldest brothers were labourers) to 11 months, at their home, 14 Albert Terrace – a large family in what would have been a small house.

Hop-picking – II

MIKE LEAR

The article in *Newsletter 191* by Terry Carter ('Did you, or a relative, go hop picking?') brought back many happy childhood memories.

Our family lived in Stepney and went hop-picking every year, which we looked forward to with great anticipation. This was the only holiday for hundreds of hard-pressed East End families. It was a working holiday for women and their children. The husbands stayed at home working and would come down to the hop fields at weekends. Actually they came late on Saturday afternoon, because Saturday was a working day up to lunchtime. The 'five-day-week' did not come in until well after the War was over.

The end of August was a time of great excitement as my Mum and Grandmother started packing the trunk and cases with bed linen, clothes and pots and pans in readiness for our four or five week stay 'down hopping'. We usually got on the back of a lorry with a driver who had borrowed it from his place of work. Two hours later we would be unloading our meagre possessions outside our hut.

Terry's description of the barrack-like huts was very accurate, but our huts were even more primitive.

In the middle of a field known as 'The Common' there was a long barrack-like building which was made of wood and corrugated iron and divided internally into two rows of small huts back to back. The dividing walls were corrugated iron which did not extend up to the tin roof, so you could hear the noise from all the other families.

The interior of the hut had, as Terry described, an earth floor and the only furniture being a couple of shelves on the far wall.

Once our possessions were unloaded it was the children's job to go to the faggot stack. Faggots were tied-up bundles of hedge cuttings, three or four feet long, which we would haul back to the hut where Mum and Grandma would lay them on the floor to make a bed the length of one side of the hut. Our next job was to get straw from another stack which would be stuffed into mattress covers and laid on the faggots to make the communal bed.

The cookhouse for all the families was no more than an open shed, with a stone wall at the back, sloping back to make a chimney. The bottom of the wall formed a long fireplace, above which was an iron bar, with hooks to hang the cooking pots over the fire, fuelled by spare faggots.

The loos were a row of tiny sheds, just as shown in cowboy films. They had a wooden seat suspended over a lime-filled trench.

The only source of water was a solitary standpipe, It was the children's job to fetch water in enamel buckets to use for our washing and cooking requirements. Our lighting was from oil lamps.

My father was always forward-looking for modern labour-saving ideas, so we were one of the first families to have a paraffin fuelled Primus stove. This was very handy for boiling a kettle or saucepan quickly, and could also be taken to the hop field for a brew-up.

However, Dad hated 'hopping'. He felt that we were exploited, cheap labour and resented the primitive conditions and the superior, patronising attitude of wealthy farmers. In their eyes, we were inferior beings and they treated us accordingly. Their horses and cattle had better conditions and accommodation than us. However, as far as the mothers and children were concerned, it was great to be in the countryside, with numerous friends and a chance to get away from it all, and at the same time earn a few much-needed pounds.

Hop-picking was hard work. The hop vines (or bines as they were called) grew up on rows of 15-foot-high poles, with wires stretched across the tops, forming long, dark alleys of bines, laden with hops. A bin was placed in the alley, and one family would work, picking the hops, until they reached the end of the row, before starting on another alley of bines.

The bin was a stretcher-like contraption with hessian sacking, suspended beneath and supported at each end by a trestle. The bines would be pulled down from the poles and laid across the bin. Mum and Grandma then sat on either side of the bin and picked the hops into the sacking, lifting and moving the bin along the row as they exhausted the bines.

When the bin was full, the 'tally man' would empty the hops into a large basket called a 'bushel'. There was always an argument and Mum would have to make sure that the tally man did not squash the hops down to get more in, and so pay less. I distinctly remember, in 1940, that the price paid for a bushel was three old pence (3d – just over 1p).

However, we kids were not involved much with picking. We were left to play and roam all over the fields, having a great time. We only went back to Mum when our stomachs told us it was a mealtime, to be fed with sandwiches, apples and a drink.

My last time 'down hopping' and the most eventful, was in 1940 when I was 8 years old. The bombing of London had not started when we left for the hop fields at the end of August, but the Battle of Britain over the skies of Kent had begun. Despite this we still went down to Kent. It was not long, however, before the 'Battle' took place in earnest, with Spitfires and Messerschmitts locked in aerial combat.

We had a grandstand view of probably the most important battle of the whole War as far as Britain was concerned. Our brave airmen defeated the mighty Luftwaffe, forcing the Nazis to abandon their invasion plans.

It was a great adventure for the kids as we watched the circling planes and listened to the screaming engines and chatter of machine guns as the planes twisted and turned in mortal combat.

Every now and then a plane would fall out of the sky, trailing streams of smoke and flames. Hopefully a white blob would appear far above as the pilot bailed out of his stricken plane, and parachuted across the fields.

The planes would crash, with an almighty bang and we kids would race to the scene, hopefully before the army stopped us from picking up bits of the aircraft as souvenirs. If we were lucky, we would climb into the ruined cockpit to collect a dial from the destroyed instrument panel. By October we were no strangers to death. One morning we were told that we would be evacuated to safety in the country as we could not go back to our homes, which by now were involved in the height of the Blitz on the East End.

We left by train for an unknown destination, which in my case happened to be a small Welsh-speaking town in Carmarthenshire, South-West Wales. I did not return home to London until almost five years later, and never went hopping again.

St Ethelburga's Home for Girls, York Hill (1908–1923)

This Home's origins lay with the Alexandra Home for Girls in Kilburn, North London. The Alexandra Home moved from its location because the Society thought the old house was too cramped for the children's needs, and it disagreed with the 'sooty little garden overlooking the railway'. When more suitable premises were found during 1908, in York Hill, Loughton, the Alexandra Home moved and became St Ethelburga's. The children now had a house with a good garden, and plenty of space to play.

The new Home was officially opened by the Bishop of Barking on 3 July 1908. Loughton, on the borders of Epping Forest, was perfect for the 40 girls (who were aged 8–14) to show off their crop-growing skills. For the first time they had they own little gardens and could grow vegetables under the supervision of Miss Harland, the Matron. The Home also included eight house-girls who would remain at the house for two years after leaving school, in order to learn housework skills. The Home closed in 1923.

Another result

Barbara Birchwood Harper, one of our regular contributors, despite living far afield in Cornwall, was trying to find information about her grandfather, Walter Neville's regiment. Chris Pond referred her to the Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum, Ian Hook:

23/10/2011

I wonder if you can help me please. I have several photos of my grandfather, Walter Neville, in uniform but cannot discover anything about the regiment. He was unfit for WW1 but seems to have enjoyed his time with the company he belonged to.

It has been suggested that he could have been in a Territorial Regiment. Can you help please. I currently live in Cornwall so cannot call in at the museum.

I attach a photograph of him in uniform and of his group if it helps. Many thanks, Barbara Birchwood-Harper.

Ian Hook replied the following day:

Dear Ms Birchwood-Harper

Your man is a Private soldier in a Territorial Force (TF) unit, the 4th Battalion Essex Regiment.

He is in his scarlet Full Dress uniform worn on best parades. I suspect that the group outside Shrublands (where is this, do you know?) might be the Detachment to which the new Colours (the flags) were presented by The Marchioness of Salisbury at the 4th Bn HQ at Gordon Rd, Ilford, on 11 June 1910. The dating is certainly 1908–1914.

The Colours were laid up in the Essex Regiment Chapel at Warley on 4 April 1965 and remain there.

The TF consisted of a small core of Regular officers and non-commissioned officers, the Permanent Staff, who administered and trained a larger body of part-time, voluntary soldiers who did military training in their spare time, at weekends and on evenings, and who met once a year for a 15-day training camp, the latter often the only 'holiday' that working men had.

The TF Battalions for the Essex were the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th (Cyclists) Battalions. The role of the TF was Home Defence, fighting overseas and Imperial policing being the job of the Regular Army. I hope this helps,

Yours sincerely, Ian

24/10/2011 – Barbara to Chris Pond

Dear Chris, Ref my grandfather's photo, I took your suggestion and contacted the military museum in Chelmsford, the reply herewith, I am adding a photo of the troops at camp in case you want to mention the matter to the society members or hold them in your archives in case of any later enquiries. Many thanks, Barbara.

And finally . . . 24/10/2011 – Chris to Barbara

It's the Shrubberies, of course, not Shrublands. Chris.

Barbara's Grandfather, Walter Neville, is second from the left in the back row.

Tales from the Census, 1801–2011

With the 2011 census having taken place last year it is perhaps instructive and amusing to look at how it has changed since the first one in 1801.*

1801. In 1801 Rectors, Vicars, Curates, or Officiating Ministers, and Overseers of the Poor collected information on all people asking questions about houses, persons and occupations: where they happened to be at the time of taking the account.

1841. People were asked: 'Whether Born in England, Ireland, or Foreign Parts', and to sign a declaration: 'The foregoing is a true Return for this House, or for such part of this House as is occupied. Witness my hand.' This was the first time householders filled in their own census Schedules – but the enumerator still transcribed the information for the records.

1851. A penalty was introduced: 'Persons who refuse to give CORRECT information, incur a Penalty of Five Pounds'; besides the inconvenience and annoyance of appearing before two Justices of the Peace.

People were asked their Condition: 'Write "Married", "Widower", "Widow", or "Unmarried" ', whether they were 'Deaf-and-Dumb or Blind', and their relation to the head of the family: 'State whether Wife, Son, Daughter or other Relative, Visitor, or Servant.' The declaration was also updated to say that the schedule included all the 'Members of this Family'.

The front page explained the census's purpose as showing: the number of the population – their arrangement by ages and families in different ranks, professions, employments, and trades – their distribution over the country in villages, towns, and cities – their increase and progress in the last 10 years.

1861. A logo appeared on the schedule as did a confidentiality statement: 'The facts will be published in General Abstracts only, and strict care will be taken that the returns are not used for the gratification of curiosity.'

1871. 'Imbecile or Idiot' and 'Lunatic' were added as categories to the Deaf-and-Dumb or Blind question.

1891. Enumerators started to record the 'Total of Houses and Tenements with less than Five Rooms', and 'Single' replaced 'Unmarried' as an example in 'Condition as to Marriage'.

1901. This was the first census on a Sunday, the last that enumerators transcribed and the final appearance of 'Witness my Hand'. 'Feeble Minded' replaced 'Idiot' as an example in 'Deaf-and-Dumb or Blind', children (as well as men and women) were asked to state their occupations, and the 'Where Born' question had new examples added: 'If in a Foreign Country, the name of the Country' and whether the person be a 'British Subject', a 'Naturalised British Subject' or a 'Foreign Subject', specifying nationality such as 'French, German, etc'.

1911. This was the last appearance of the 'infirmity' question and the first instruction that all: entries should be written in ink. The form stated that: 'The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions', and Russian was added as an example in the list of nationalities. 'Total Children Born Alive', 'Children Still Living', and 'Children who are Dead' were added to the marriage question.

1921. The penalty increased to £10, and the first mention was made of applying in the prescribed manner to make a separate confidential return. A question on education appeared ('Whether attending any institution for the purpose of receiving Instruction' and if this was 'Whole-time' or 'Part-time'). Divorce (D) was added as an example in 'Marriage or Orphanhood'. (Orphanhood included examples of 'Father Dead', 'Mother Dead', 'Both Dead'.)

1931. People were directed to include newborns as 'Baby' if no name had been given. 'Mother' replaced 'Daughter' as an example of 'Relationship to Head of Household' and Polish replaced Russian as an example of nationality. A new question about usual residence – and the address requested of those who had a more usual residence elsewhere – was included.

1941. There was no census in 1941 because of the Second World War.

1951. 'Employee' replaced 'Servant' as an example, Household Arrangements (for Water Supply, Cooking. etc., Piped water supply within the house, Cooking Stove or Range, Kitchen Sink, Water Closet, Fixed Bath) were asked about for the first time, and the children part of the marriage question was reworded: 'State for each married woman under age 50, the total number of children born alive to her, [and] whether she has given birth to a live-born child during the last twelve months'. The nationality question was updated to ask British persons not born in Great Britain or Northern Ireland: whether 'British by Birth or Descent', 'British by Naturalisation, British through Marriage, or British through Registration etc.'

1961. Question marks were used for the first time (as well as state or write), and the last references were made to 'he' as the 'head'. Trinidad and Poland were added to the existing Country of Birth example (also 'At Sea'). Italian, Yugoslav and Polish were given as nationality examples. 'Housewife and Home Duties' replaced 'At Home' as an example of employment and 'Total number of children born alive to her in marriage' was asked of all women, rather than just those under 50. People were asked for their qualifications but only in Science and Technology, and a question about 'Persons Absent' appeared. 'Has she been married more than once?' was added to the marriage question. Men were not required to answer a similar question.

1971. Tick-boxes, and a request to write in ink or ballpoint pen and BLOCK CAPITALS appeared, and the penalty for refusing to take part rose to £50. People were asked their 'Date of Birth', rather than their age and this was the final appearance of the 'fertility' question which, this time, asked women under 60 to: 'Enter the month and year of birth of each child born

alive to her in marriage; include any who have since died.' New questions included 'Date of Entry into UK' and 'Country of Birth of Father and of Mother', and 'Number of Rooms in accommodation'. 'Daughter-in-Law' and 'Paying Guest' were added as examples of 'Relationship to Head of Household', but for the only time, and this was the last time that 'Visitor' and 'Boarder' appeared in the same section.

1981. The form was addressed to 'Head or Joint Heads or members of the Household', and a census contact telephone number appeared. Householders were also asked for theirs: 'May the Enumerator telephone you if we have a query on your form?' Enumerators had new tick-boxes to complete about the property: 'Accommodation is in a: caravan, mobile or temporary structure, purpose-built block of flats or maisonettes, in any other permanent building.' Wives could finally be acknowledged as the head of a household through the addition of 'Husband' in the 'Relationship to head' section ('Daughter' appeared as well – last seen in 1921).

1991. The question about sharing a flush toilet with another household made its final appearance, and the refusal/false information fine increased to £400. An Ethnic group question was asked ('White, Black-Caribbean, Black-African, Black-Other, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Any other ethnic group'); as was 'Use of central heating', and 'Hours worked per week'. Living together as a couple was added as an example of a 'Relationship in Household'.

2001. A website reference appeared and, breaking years of census tradition, completed forms could be returned by post instead of being handed to an enumerator. A Text phone number for the Deaf was included and this was the first time that visitors were relegated to a separate part of the form, without the expectation of answering all questions. In the 'Travel to Work' question, the 'British Rail Train' tick-box became simply 'Train' and a new box was added: 'Taxi'. 'Bicycle' replaced pedal cycle. Partner replaced 'Living together as couple' in 'Household Members and their Relationships within the Household' and a new style 'matrix' showed the relationship of every person in the household to each other, rather than just to Person 1 (Householder). 'What is your religion?' was added as a voluntary question, while Bed-sits appeared as a new example of accommodation type, and 'Offshore installation' was added as a tick-box in work address.

2011. This is the first time for census online completion and for the questionnaires to be posted out rather than hand-delivered. The relationship question was updated to include a same-sex civil partner, and Conservatories and Studies were added to the examples of rooms to count. 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' and 'Arab' tick-boxes were added to the ethnic group question and new questions included 'Number of bedrooms', 'National identity', 'Main language (including British Sign Language)', and 'Visitors'.

* This article is based on a leaflet issued by the 2011 Census, *Census Wording 1961–2011* (www.census.gov.uk) which we gratefully acknowledge.

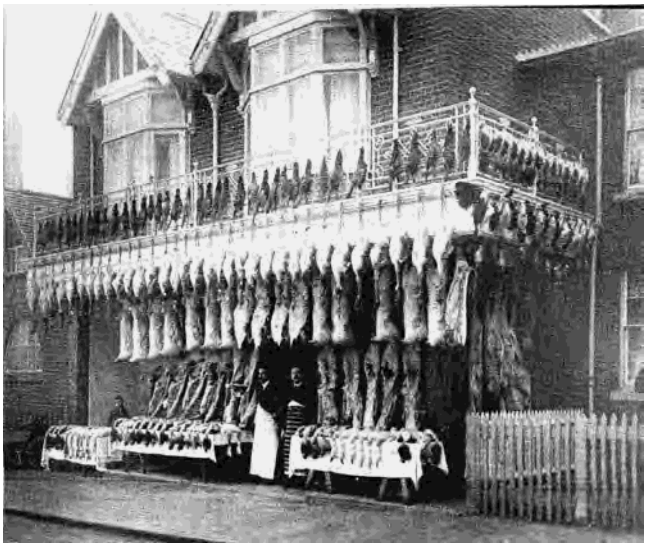
Passing on . . .

TERRY CARTER

On October 18th I received the following e-mail from Chris Pond:

The former owner of Bosworth's died in hospital today. He had been found in a state of collapse at his house early this morning. Rex was full of memories of old Loughton, and for some years kept a small museum of local bygones in the former slaughterhouse behind the butcher's shop. In earlier years, he had been a mainstay of the Loughton Cricket Club. Another link with old Loughton passes . . .

No doubt like many, many others, I was saddened by this. I knew Rex Roberts through links with Loughton Cricket Club, as well as through his shop at 4 Church Hill, opposite. Rex was 89, and came to Loughton in 1936. Despite the almost 20-year gap in our ages, we played together in various Loughton elevens over a period of, probably, 15 years or so. He was a charming man, who always took a keen interest in bringing on the talents of the junior members.



Bosworth's butcher's shop, Church Hill, 1910. A striking display of meat! Until the recent closure, Bosworth's were the oldest family firm still trading in Loughton, having been founded in 1886. The shop was largely rebuilt in 1906. The premises above once housed the reading room of the Loughton Institute, but in the rebuilt shop they were converted into accommodation. (Reproduced from *Chigwell & Loughton – A Pictorial History* by Stephen Pewsey.)

Also a cause for sadness, Bosworth's, as most L &

DHS members will know, closed last year. On its site for over 100 years, it was almost the oldest shop in Loughton, after Hutchins the Chemist, (now housing Loughton Post Office), by the drinking fountain, and the former Loughton Nurseries, also close to the fountain.

Another death that stirred old memories was that of Miss Barbara Hull, who died in Norfolk, on 15 September 2011, aged 88.

Perhaps less well known than Rex, Barbara Alice Hull, MRCVS, was an extremely kind and likeable person, and a vet who genuinely cared for her 'patients'.

I took animals to Miss Hull quite a number of times, although the first Loughton vet I remember going to with family pets and birds, probably in the late 40s, was Miss Cradock in Church Hill, near Warriners, the funeral directors. Just as there were few doctors and dentists, vets in Loughton were also scarce. In fact, for a while, she may have been the only one.

I always found Miss Cradock friendly with a genuine love of animals. Later she went into partnership with Miss Hull and the two worked together for some years in Church Hill, before moving to premises at the bottom of Station Road. Later on, I think it was when Miss Cradock retired, Miss Hull entered the veterinary practice in Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill. She was always pleasant and approachable and, as the saying goes, 'no job was too small'.

I am unaware of when she retired and moved away, but her passing is genuinely to be regretted. What Chris said of Rex applies to Miss Hull: 'Another link with old Loughton passes.'

Stanley Morison 1889–1967: a different Essex man – Part 1

TED MARTIN

Early years

Stanley Morison was born at Kent Villa in Tavistock Road, Wanstead, on 6 May 1889 and his birthday was on the feast day of St John ante Portam Latinam, the patron saint of printers. His adult life was devoted to the study and practice of typography but this could not have been foreseen from his background. His father was an unsuccessful commercial traveller for a firm of textile merchants based in the City. Morison spent most of his childhood and early adult years (1896–1912) at the family home in Fairfax Road, Harringay. His mother cared for the family and when Morison's father deserted, when Morison was 14, she ran a greengrocer's shop in Camden Town. Morison said he had never eaten so much fruit in his life.

His mother encouraged Morison to read and to study and even though his early education was at a ordinary local school he obtained a scholarship and was able to move to a secondary school controlled by a City livery company. He stayed there until he became 16, taking an interest in railways, stamp collecting, cricket and reading widely.

In 1905 he became a clerk at the British and Foreign Bible Society but converted to Catholicism in 1909. His work stimulated his interest in book production and printing. His conversion was an embarrassment to a Protestant organisation, so he moved to a French bank, where he was unhappy but continued to educate himself by reading widely.

At King's Cross station on 10 September 1912, on his way home from the City, Morison bought a copy of *The Times* containing a Printing Supplement. He thought this was a 'spectacular' production and decided after reading it to study typography and type design. The supplement told of the history of printing and of the current state of the printing industry and its allied trades. It said that new fonts were needed so that there would be a wide and good choice for every kind of book. There was much about the need for the private presses to be examples that the ordinary printer could follow, with reproductions of pages from the books of the private Kelmscott and Ashendene Presses.

The Imprint and Burnes and Oates

The Supplement fired his imagination but it also carried an advertisement for a new publication, *The Imprint*. He bought the first issue, 13 January 1913, which also contained an advertisement requiring 'the services . . . of a young man of good education and preferably of some experience in publishing and advertising . . . ', so he applied for the job and got it. The *Imprint* did not publish for long but Morison was able to learn the mechanics of printing, and about typefaces, especially the face that had given its name to the journal, 'Imprint', which was the first font cut especially for mechanical composition. Morison also developed his skill as a writer during this time. But the job at *The Imprint* brought him into contact with the Meynell family where his publisher was Gerard Meynell. Gerard introduced Morison to his uncle, Wilfred Meynell, the managing director of the Catholic publishing firm of Burnes & Oates and Morison's religion would be an advantage in his work at the firm. Wilfred Meynell was an advocate of good production values for book printing and his 21-year-old younger son, Francis, dealt with book design with Morison joining as his assistant.

In his new position Morison was able to meet those who were at the forefront of book and type design, including Eric Gill and Bernard Newdigate. From 1905 Newdigate printed for Burnes & Oates at the Arden Press.

Stanley Morison and Francis Meynell designed many books, printing some of them at the Oxford University Press using the Fell types which Morison had first encountered in *The Times* Printing Supplement of 1912.

First World War and printing jobs

On the outbreak of the First World War, both Morison and Meynell became conscientious objectors, having similar religious and political views. In 1916 Morison was imprisoned as a 'war resister' in Wakefield Prison.

Also in 1916, he married Mabel Williamson, whom he thought to be seven years older than he, but later discovered she was actually 17 years older. They separated but did not divorce because of his Catholicism

On leaving prison in 1917 he took up with Francis Meynell, who was running the *Herald*'s book printing department, The Pelican Press. In 1919, Morison was asked to join the Press to take over Meynell's role. His two years expanded his knowledge of the 'Monotype' typesetting system, design, layout and copy writing. He studied typography and used his studies either in his work or would write and publish something about them. He wrote his first major typographical work: *The Craft of Printing: Notes on the History of Type Forms.* In later life he dismissed this early effort but it did set down his views of the faces he was using at that time. An excellent specimen sheet of types showing all the types and other ornamental pieces available at the Press accompanied the book and this influenced the publisher Frank Sidgwick who became an admirer of Morison's work.[1]

After two years at the Pelican Press, Morison went to the Cloister Press in Manchester. Charles Hobson had founded the firm to improve the design of printed matter and Morison was to be the firm's typographical designer. They both believed that most compositors had little design awareness, but they probably did not appreciate that there would not be much future for a compositor departing from a customer's instructions and layouts!

In 1920 Hobson brought in as his manager Walter Lewis, previously at the Ballantyne Press and the Complete Press. Lewis informed his publishing contacts that he was going to produce work to match the standards of the private presses.

Garamond and 'Monotype'

Morison did not like living and working in Manchester but he could use the John Rylands Library and occasionally went abroad in search of new types and paper. He produced a number of broadsheets to show off the typographical resources of the press and each sheet had some historical information added.

One of these showed Garamond typeface, produced by American Type Founders in 1917 and imported by Cloister Press. It was said to be based on one of Claude Garamond's types.[2] A leaflet was sent out to show it off and Frank Sidgwick said he would like a book set in it and asked for a short history of the type to go out with the book. Morison supplied this saying that the history was based on what was then known as its origins were obscure.

The Garamond type was a success and other typefounders decided to add it to their lists. A delegation of printers, including Loughton's Harold Curwen and Oliver Simon,[3] went to the 'Monotype' Corporation to ask for Garamond to be included in their range.

'Monotype' had started publishing their *'Monotype' Recorder* printed by a different printer customer for each issue. The January/February 1922 issue was produced by the Cloister Press and Morison wrote an article for it on Caslon Old Face type which had just been released to the industry. He slipped in a reference to Claude Garamond because that issue announced that production of this type was in hand.

As I've mentioned in previous articles, those early decades of the 20th century were propitious for a typographical revival[4] and Morison was now known to the 'Monotype' Corporation and to their managing Director, Harold Duncan, and they knew of Morison's studies into typographical history. When Morison opened a London office for Cloister Press he had a series of meetings with Duncan where he presented a programme for typographical designs which would deal with the future needs of the industry. This programme was adventurous and entailed a considerable investment on the part of 'Monotype'. Duncan decided to proceed and appointed Morison as the Corporation's typographical adviser.

The Garamond type was the beginning of the programme and while the attribution of the design to Garamond was later proved to be wrong,[5] Morison had to find an italic font to go with the roman. He recommended a font cut by Robert Granjon about 1530 which was difficult to manufacture but is a very beautiful italic and a great achievement and is still widely used.

Morison now had an office in Fetter Lane, London, at the 'Monotype' headquarters and made use of the St Bride Institute Technical Library. However, there was resistance both within 'Monotype', in the trade and at St Bride's to his ideas and it took more than 10 years before they began to spread and a younger generation began to implement them.

The Fleuron

In 1921 Morison, Oliver Simon and others tried to set up a group to publish annually a book showing that books set by machine could be as good as those produced by the private presses. This failed but Morison and Simon met to see if they could launch a periodical which would study all aspects of typography. Morison had lost his job because of Cloister Press's financial difficulties and had only his 'Monotype' position, so he and Simon decided in 1922 to start *The Fleuron.* Morison with some time on his hands went to Berlin to continue his studies and, on his return, found Oliver Simon at St Stephen's House, Westminster, at the London office of the Curwen Press, but Simon was allowed to use it as the office of *The Fleuron*. Morison moved in with him and his business life came to the front as his marriage ended and he had more time for his researches.

The Fleuron continued to publish with Morison as editor, the fifth issue appearing in 1926. The printing was transferred to Cambridge University Press and the Barbou type (see below) was used. Number 6 was issued in 1928. The final issue of *The Fleuron* appeared in 1930 covering Eric Gill's work and showing the first specimen of his Perpetua type. It also contained Morison's 'First Principles of Typography'. He defined typography as: 'the art of rightly disposing printing material in accordance with specific purpose; of so arranging the letters, distributing the space and

controlling the type as to aid to the maximum the reader's comprehension of the text.' It has been said that '*The Fleuron's* influence on good typography is incalculable'.

Authority on typography

At 'Monotype' in 1922 the cutting of the Fournier type was put in hand, one series of which was known as Barbou and used only at Cambridge University Press. This was not completely available to the trade until 1967.

In 1924 Morison became one of the founder members of the Double Crown[6] Club, a dining club for publishers, printers and designers and until 1956 presented more papers there than any other member.

It was about this time that Morison became accepted as an authority on typography and his work on *The Fleuron* meant that he became more widely known. Oliver Simon was the editor for the first four issues published between 1923 and 1925 and the Curwen Press printed them. Morison contributed two articles on his own account and two in collaboration with other authors. One of his articles, 'Towards an Ideal Type', was critical of the typographical ideas of William Morris, who, of course, was another Essex man.

'Monotype' Baskerville and other designs

Morison's financial problems were helped when Oliver Simon introduced him to the managing director of Percy Lund, Humphries & Co, a Bradford printer. He became an adviser to that company and designed a type specimen book and other work for them. Among these was *Penrose's Annual*, a showcase for advances in printing and design. Morison produced a simple design for the 1923 volume with the text set in 'Monotype' Garamond and in the 1924 edition he used 'Monotype' Baskerville.

The rediscovery of this 18th century type came about as part of the reaction to Victorian excesses and the over-use of 'Modern' typefaces[7] in the late 19th century and by the 1890s enthusiasm began to grow with the use of other typefounders' imitations of it. The 'Monotype' Corporation issued the face in 1923 and it quickly became popular, Morison saying that it was to prove of greater utility to the trade than any of the other types named after Baskerville.[8]

Morison's next design for 'Monotype' was Poliphilus and Blado. Poliphilus was a reproduction of a roman type used in 1499 by Aldus Manutius[9] in a book called *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*. Morison was not completely satisfied with it and it needed an italic font as the original did not have one so he used a design used by Antonio Blado.[10] This was based on a chancery script cut by Ludovico Arrighi[11] and was a result of Morison's researches into calligraphy.

These types were used by Cambridge University Press for Morison's *Four Centuries of Fine Printing*, published by Ernest Benn in 1924.

Notes

1. In 1925 Sidgwick wrote an article on Morison for the third issue of *The Fleuron* in a series entitled 'Contemporary Printers'. Morison was not a printer at that time but Sidgwick thought he was.

2. Because American and English printers had standardised on the Anglo-American Point System, type was freely interchangeable between the US and UK but not between the UK and the Continent which used a different system.

3. For Harold Curwen and Oliver Simon see my articles on the Curwen Press in *Newsletters 174, 175*.

4. See *Newsletters 151, 174, 175*.

5. Beatrice Ward in *The Fleuron*, No 5 (1926) showed them to be copies of types cut by Jean Jannon.

6. Double Crown was the name for an old size of printing paper: 20" x 30".

7. A late 18th century typestyle, having vertical stress and horizontal top serifs, e.g., Bodoni. The Victorian version was used in maths textbooks until about 30 years ago.

8. John Baskerville of Birmingham (1706–1775) formed his ideas of letter design while working as a stone carver and writing master. He made a fortune as a japanned goods manufacturer and retired in middle age to study typefounding and printing from 1750. He pioneered the manufacture of fine paper and inks, produced an edition of Vergil in 1757, the Bible in 1763 and Latin authors from 1772 to 1773. He was printer to the University of Cambridge from 1758 to 1768.

9. Aldus Manutius (1450–1515), Italian printer and classical scholar. He commissioned and was the first printer to use italic type.

10. Antonio Blado was one of the best Roman printers and worked from 1515 to 1567. He knew Aldus and was a Lombard like Arrighi.

11. Arrighi was a writing master and professional copyist. He published the first printed specimen book in 1522 to teach laymen the use of the letters needed for papal briefs as he was a minor official in the Vatican. He became a printer and publisher and adopted the differentiation between the letters u and v and i and j, as suggested by the poet Giangiorgio Trissino. He probably died in the Sack of Rome in 1527.

(To be continued.)

Newsletter 190

Two brief comments taken from an e-mail about our September/October 2011 edition, sent by Stuart Low, a Loughtonian now residing in Australia. Stuart is a regular reader of, and a past contributor to, the *Newsletter*.

I remember the murder* and a crowd of us walking in a line through the forest looking for the poor kid. It was a shock when he was found so close.

The bus garage story was also interesting. I remember one conductor would call out when the bus reached the garage 'Laht'n garige, or if you live on the other side of the road, Lowton Garrarge'.

* 'The Allen Warren Murder Case, 1957'.

Loughton Urban District Council Chairmen's board

An historic gilt-lettered wooden board has been found in Epping Forest District Museum's store. The board contains a list of the chairmen of the Loughton Urban District Council, which existed from 1900 to 1933. The council was in those days merged in the larger, and less local, Chigwell Urban District Council.

Loughton Urban District Council is important because it was the only truly local council Loughton had before the current Town Council was established in May 1996. The council was formed in 1900 out of the old parish council. Loughton society was then very polarised between church and chapel, Conservative and Liberal, but all the councillors stood for election without overt party labels. The board has now been loaned to the Town Council and is hanging in the Town Council chamber at Buckingham Court.

Cllr Roger Pearce, Chairman of Loughton Town Council 2003–04, with the Loughton UDC Chairmen's board.

The LUDC Chairmen listed are :

J W Maitland (1900–01) was rector and squire of Loughton and a prominent Tory. He had the sumptuous Loughton Hall built at a cost that would have built no fewer than 300 cottages in Smarts Lane or Forest Road.

J H Gould (1901–02 and 1906–08). The Goulds were nonconformist landowners, proprietors of the Albion Granaries, and Liberals. Their 'seat' was Brooklyn, a mansion pulled down in the 1960s for Loughton Library.

C S Foster (1902–04 and 1908–09). The Fosters were builders, responsible for The Uplands, High Beech Road, etc. Sir Frank Foster, was latterly knighted for services to Essex County Council.

Arthur 'Shotty ' Leech (1904–06 and 1925–26) was a prominent Liberal and Methodist. He ran the Post Office stores at Goldings Hill.

Sir Joseph Lowrey (1909–10), knighted for services to salvage in the First World War, lived in Upper Park. He was also a nonconformist and a notable benefactor to the town.

Henry G Sharp (1910–12 and 1926–27) ran the corner shop at 27 York Hill and lived in Queens Road.

John Herd (1912–14) and **Duncan Davey** (1914–16) were self-made builders. Davey built the lych-gate at St John's Church.

Dr Berthon Pendred (1916–18 and 1927–28) was one of Loughton's GPs, the more 'progressive' of the two. He lived at Holmdale, 199 High Road (now Brown's Motors).

Percy Thompson (1918–1920) was a local historian, who lived at 62 The Uplands. His collections of material, owned by the Loughton and the Guildhall Library, are very important.

Charles Jacobs (1920–22 and 1928-29) was a magistrate who lived at 26 Stony Path.

Bernard Farmborough Howard (1929–30 and 1932–33) lived at 30 Albion Hill. The family were pioneers of large-scale outdoor operatic performances, which took place in their garden.

William Nelson Wyles (1931–32) was a Methodist solicitor who lived at 18 The Drive.

From the website 'Loughton Town Council: Council History'.

Pole Hill's inaccurate obelisk

At Pole Hill, Chingford, there are two obelisks. There is a small concrete obelisk, marking the true modern position of the Greenwich Meridian. And there is the original large granite pillar here which has a plaque reading:

THIS PILLAR WAS ERECTED IN 1824 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE REVEREND JOHN POND MA, ASTRONOMER ROYAL. IT WAS PLACED IN THE GREENWICH MERIDIAN AND ITS PURPOSE WAS TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION OF TRUE NORTH FROM THE TRANSIT TELESCOPE OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. THE GREENWICH MERIDIAN AS CHANGED IN 1850 AND ADOPTED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IN 1884 AS THE LINE OF ZERO LONGITUDE, PASSES 19 FEET TO THE EAST OF THIS PILLAR.

The massive stone pillar put in the wrong place!

Loughton's early motoring pioneers

CHRIS POND

Whilst researching some pictures for our forthcoming book of Loughton photographs, I had recourse to the Registers of Motor Vehicles licensed by Essex County Council between 1904 and 1909.

Under the provisions of the Motor Car Act 1903, all cars (existing or new) used on public roads after 1 January 1904 had to be registered (in our case by Essex County Council) and had to be equipped with plates bearing the registration mark. That was a busy time at County Hall, as no fewer than 482 cars were allocated a number in the lettered series allocated to ECC, which started with the letter F and then one, two or three – later four – digits. From the look of the writing, most owners had actually pre-applied.

F1 was allocated to the County Council itself, and was affixed to a 1900-built car. When I mentioned this to Cllr Rodney Bass, the ECC chairman, he told me there was a picture of it, before numbering, on his wall and kindly allowed me to reproduce it below. The registration F1 was sold by ECC a couple of years ago, and the chairman's car is now registered ECC 1 instead.

Registrations F2 and F3 were both allocated to a Loughton resident, Henry Fletcher, the shipbuilder who owned the Dragons, and altogether six registrations were allocated to Loughtonians that first week.

I thought it might be of interest to give details of early Loughton motorists in the *Newsletter*. Some owners may, of course, have driven cars registered (by agents and dealers) elsewhere, or have registered their car other than in Essex. A few cars changed hands, sometimes with the owner keeping the original registration – e.g., Pendred sold his de Dion to Thomas Sanderson Angus of Pitreavie, Carroll Hill, in 1910, but Fletcher sold F2 to W C Lucking of Exel Lodge, Church Hill; it subsequently ended up as a lorry in Cornwall in 1916. Fletcher's other car (F3) was changed in 1906 to an 18hp Panhard-Levassor, and in 1913 to a 20hp Vauxhall. Until 1921, owners could keep their registration and transfer it to a new vehicle, provided the register was so annotated.

John Henry Knight also believed in changing his car (and index mark) regularly. J H Knight was a member of the London Stock Exchange, and thus probably well able to afford to do so. The novelist, W W Jacobs, and [Baroness] Vera Irene Can Newte, wife of another novelist, Horace Newte, feature in the list. The Baroness would appear to have been the first female Loughton car owner. James Green was the owner of the cycle agency that stood on the site of what later was Don's cafe and garden centre, next to the Forest Hall in the High Road, built in the front gardens of Chestnut Cottages.

Tranches of numbers were allocated for heavy motor cars and motorcycles. The first lorry in Loughton was 18–22hp F 2920, registered to Wilson and Wilkes, the garage and coachbuilder in Forest Road, on 10–11–08. It was green and had a van body. This was the only heavy vehicle registered in Loughton to the end of 1909. F 2275 was issued out of sequence for some reason. The Rexette tricar appears to have been numbered at first in the motorcycle sequence.

A curious feature of the index is that there is a very faint marginal note against F3, which reads 'Re-issued by Chelmsford LVLO [=Local Vehicle Licensing Office] 22 March 1976'. What happened there, I wonder, since such things were not generally permitted after 1962 – and how much did it cost?

No: F:	Name	Address	Car	Colour	Date
2	Hy M Fletcher	Dragons	10hp Panhard-Levassor	Walnut	1–1–04
3	ditto	ditto	7hp Panhard-Levassor	Red	1–1–04
22	Arthur Butler Harris	The Shrubbery, High Rd	10hp. No make stated	Green	1–1–04
106	Jas Green (dealer)	Chestnut Cottage, High Rd	6.5hp Bayer (2nd hand)	Green	9–2–05
141	Stanley Miller	Rose Farm, Traps Hill	6hp de Dion-Bouton	Green	1–1–04
149	Berthon Pendred	Kingswear, High Rd	4.5hp Steam Locomobile	Black/red	1–1–04
150	Jas Green (dealer)	Chestnut Cottage, High Rd	10hp MMC (2nd hand)	Green	5–1–05
432	Arthur Mills	Connaught Lodge	7hp MMC	Green	4–1–04
857	Godfrey Lomer	Lyndhurst, Nursery Rd	10hp Panhard	Blue	14–4–04
1248	Lawson Hunt Curtis	The Nook, York Hill	5hp Rexette	Green	8–10–04
1463	Fredk Faviell	Albion Hill	12hp Wolseley	Blue	2–6–05
1483	Jas Green (dealer)	Chestnut Cottage, High Rd	6hp Panhard	Blue	14–7–05
1811	Spencer H Murch	Oakhurst, Goldings Rd	14hp Spyker*	Red	9–4–06
1852	John Hy Knight	Loughton Lodge	12hp Gladiator	Green	1–6–06
1872	Edmund John Boake	Aberffraw, Nursery Rd	12hp Corre	Red/Green	5–7–06
2183	W R Clarke	Debden Hall	25hp Speedwell	Brown	5–1–07
2275	Harold Piggott	8 The Drive	8hp Rexette Tricar	Green	6–1–11
2553	Arthur Boake	Highstanding	30hp Napier	Green	15–1–08
2928	Geo F Cooper	Longcroft, Connaught Av	7hp Swift	Green	19–11–08
3305	John Hy Knight	Braganza, Connaught Av	12hp New Leader	Green	30–6–09
3325	Wm Wymark Jacobs	Feltham Lodge, Goldings Hill	12hp New Leader	Green	16–7–09
3341	Vera Irene Can Newte	Chestnuts, High Rd	10hp Alldays	Green	13–8–09
3358	Fredk Matthews	Phyllhaven, Alderton Hill	10hp Darracq*	Red	24–8–09
3631	John Hy Knight	Braganza, Connaught Av	15hp Straker-Squire	Green	26–11–09

I'm most grateful to John Harrison for reading and commenting on drafts of this article.

*Members and readers who remember the old 1950s film favourite *Genevieve* may recall that John Gregson drove 'Genevieve', a Darracq, and Kenneth More was racing him in his Spyker.

Woodford Golf Club and its course

[A brief history, with illuminating social commentary – adapted from the Club website.]

Established in 1890, Woodford Golf Club is the second oldest in the Essex Golf Union. Its nine-hole course in Epping Forest was designed by Tom Dunn, who went on to be the architect of the Open Championship

course at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal, Kent. In 1890, *Golf Illustrated* quoted Scotsman Dunn as expecting the Woodford course to 'rank among the best around London'. And *Golf World* rated five of his course designs among the top 10 in Britain. Dunn, who was both a professional golfer and a club-maker as well as a course designer – like most of his Scottish compatriots of the time – laid out more golf courses in England than any other designer.

Tom also taught the rudiments of golf to two Prime Ministers: W E Gladstone (1809–98) and A J Balfour (1848–1930).

The 50 original members of the Woodford club paid one guinea for their entrance fee and annual membership. A ladies' section was established in 1892. The members at the time were professional folk – the likes of lawyers, bankers and doctors – who objected to playing golf with their grocer, baker or candlestick maker. So a different class (second-class) of membership, the artisan section, was created for the tradesmen, who had to perform tasks on the course, especially when the greenkeepers were away, for cheaper golf fees and restrictions on when they could play. Of course, artisans were barred from the clubhouse, small as it was. Among those admitted as artisans was Fred Mumford, a postal worker, who joined the club in 1936 and was a member for 69 years until his death, aged 95, in November 2005. After the Second World War, the club had the foresight to scrap its artisan section and all the artisans became five-day members. Fred went on to be awarded life membership in 2003.

The club survived the First World War reasonably well but not War Ministry depredations in the Second World War. Fearing landings by German gliders, the ministry had anti-gliding trenches, each 20ft wide and 4ft deep, carved across the 1st, 6th and 8th fairways and down the side of the 2nd. These trenches were not filled in until 1947. After that, the club set about re-establishing itself, and celebrated its centenary in 1990 and rebuilt the clubhouse on Sunset Avenue in 1997.

Spinning etc

PERCY THOMPSON

Throughout the eighteenth century, in Loughton as in other places (at Walthamstow, for instance, in 1711, twenty spinning wheels and reels were ordered for the use of pensioners and parish children in 'twineing silk') it was customary to provide poor women-parishioners with materials, such as flax, wool, etc, and with spinning-wheels, and to pay them for yarn spun and other work done, the articles made being resold by the overseers. One of the following entries seems to show that a distinct 'spinning house' was rented, to be used as a common workshop:

1727/8	A Speninwhele for goode Enever	2s 6d
1791	Jan 26. Paid for a spinning wheel for Erol Glin	3s 5d
1795	July 31. Paid for 6 Spinning Wheels	£1 4s 0d
1796	March 15. Mrs Matthew Spinning 3lbs	1s 0d
	Mrs Warren Spinning 3 lbs	1s 0d
	Mrs Kilpack Spinning 3lbs	1s 0d
	Received for Spinning	8s 0d
1796	Oct 9th Josh Adams for rent for Spinning House	£2 5s 9d
1800	May 2nd Paid Sarah Gray for hand-work	1s 4d
1801	Jan 18th Paid Warrens wife for 4lbs of Yarn	1s 4d
1802	Dec 9th Sarah Gray for Spinning	1s 4d
1803	May 12th Paid to Mrs Kilpack for Spinning	1s 4d

Percy Thompson Notes 2/Spinning etc., 23/06/11

Test tracks through the woods, 1873 style

TERRY CARTER

No doubt some in the L & DHS are aware of the event described below, and may be able to flesh it out much more, but I was unaware of it, until coming across an account of it by chance.

Knighton Wood's long forgotten steam engine test

Location: Knighton Wood, Monkhams Lane, Buckhurst Hill

Description: Monkhams Lane is a road to the South of Knighton Wood and which then becomes a path ineffectually separating Knighton Wood and Lord's Bushes. It's along this path that in 1873 a test of a new type of railway track was made. (note, some say 1872). 600 yards of single track were laid along this 1 in 20 incline to test the power of a steam tram, named Cintra.

The locomotive successfully pulled 2 carriages each holding 18 people reaching speeds of up to 20mph. The track was also an experimental design based on flat timbers laid end to end, and the steering was by a central steel rail on either side of which guide wheels attached to the locomotive kept the train on its tracks.

The experiment was a success and the engine was due to be shipped to Lisbon Steam Tramways Co Ltd in Portugal, but the steamship sank after a collision on its way up the Thames delaying its emigration.

We hadn't walked what is now only a footpath since moving from Buckhurst Hill nearly 30 years ago, but we were interested enough to revisit the old road, on 27 October, to try to envisage the 1873 event. The Internet photo of the site was pretty useless, so my wife took another, shown below, which makes it easier to imagine the track running along the path.

The 600 yards estimate of its length from Knighton Lane down to the Monkhams Estate felt accurate enough, so it was easy to step back in time, and accept that the brief description was a true one, which made our short trip worthwhile.

Apart from that, we were reminded how pleasant this part of Epping Forest is.

Most members will be aware of the facts in the following few notes:

Lords Bushes and Knighton Wood in all cover some 53 hectares of mature woodland managed by the Corporation of London.

Monkhams Lane, an ancient trackway that follows an old Anglo-Saxon boundary between the Manors of Chigwell and Woodford, cuts through the woodland, with Lords Bushes on one side and Knighton Wood on the other. Monkhams Lane is Buckhurst Hill's most historic carriageway – in fact, until the 1960s it was a legal right of way for carts and motors. Today it is designated as a footpath.

There are traces of an old pack-horse road through Lords Bushes. In 1873 a trial run of a steam tram was held in Lords Bushes, but that is another story. *[The above is the only version of it I could trace – Ed.]*

Farm Close. Monkhams Farm in 1839 included 178 acres and was let by James Mills to William Death. The farm survived until 1936, when it was broken up for building. The house was demolished but it stood at the south-west corner of Lords Bushes. *[On our walk much evidence of this was apparent].*

Any further information from members or other readers would be welcome.

Loughton miscellanea

PERCY THOMPSON(1866–1953)

The shops in the High Road, extending from the 'Royal Standard' public house as far as Whittle's drapery stores (both inclusive), are built on roadside waste, belonging to Epping Forest, enclosed in 1844, so were probably built then or shortly after. The former Police Station (on Church Hill) is mentioned in the Vestry Minutes of May 1854, the 'Royal Standard' in August 1860, and six cottages opposite the (old) Railway Station were assessed in October 1863.

The roadside waste extending from the corner of Trapps Hill northwards along the High Road to the Uplands Estate was enclosed in 1865, so that the two wooden cottages in front of the present Cricket Field (but not 'Monhyr Cottage' at the corner of Trapps Hill) must have been built then or shortly after. The 'cage' was demolished in March of that year (1865).

'Eaton Villas' are mentioned in the Vestry Minutes of March 1863.

The (old) Railway Station was assessed in March 1857.

The 'Crown' inn was assessed in October 1857.

The 'Bag of Nails' is referred to in the Vestry Minutes of December 1849 (but not named), and again by name in August 1862.

'Smith's Cottages (now renamed 'Sorn Cottages') and the shop are referred to in the Vestry Minutes of March 1857.

The 'Hollybush' inn is mentioned in the Vestry Minute Book of June 1869.

Alderton Hall Road is referred to in the Vestry Minutes as a new road in March 1873.

Forest Road was not taken over as a parish road until December 1879, Upper Park not until November 1882, Lower Park, Algiers [*sic*] and Meadow Road not until August 1893.

The roadside strip of waste land along the High Road, extending from the site of the Lopping Hall southwards to the 'Crown', was enclosed in 1865.

Mr C Hall Crouch records that an Adam chimneypiece 'in statuary and sienna marble', now in 'The Shrubbery', Loughton, came from the drawing room of Elm Hall, Wanstead, having been purchased by the wife of Dr Butler Harris about the year 1925.

In the grounds of Loughton Hall is an iron garden-seat which came from old Wanstead House; in St Nicholas Memorial Church is a gilt candelabrum which belonged originally to the great Napoleon, then was for a while in La Sainte Chapelle, then was purchased by the Earl of Mornington for Wanstead House, and finally was bought by Mr William Whitaker Maitland at the Wanstead House sale. [Information given by the Rev J W Maitland at a visit to Loughton Hall of the Essex Field Club, 22.5.1909.]

Epping High Street

LOUGHTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Registered Charity 287274) www.loughtonhistoricalsociety.org.uk
President: Heather, Lady Murray of Epping Forest
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: Paul Webster, 63 Goldings Road, Loughton IG10 2QR (020 8508 8700)
Membership Secretary: Ian Strugnell, 22 Hatfields, Loughton IG10 1TJ
Newsletter Editor: Terry Carter, 43 Hillcrest Road, Loughton IG10 4QH (020 8508 0867)
Newsletter Production: Ted Martin
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