

LOUGHTON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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52nd Season

Victor's

This picture, dated 1974, by H A Francies has been discovered in Loughton Library. It shows Victor's – the handyman shop. The much-loved spired building was designed by Edmond Egan as a bakery, to elegantly close the corner between Smarts Lane and High Beech Road. It was later demolished to make way for a car park. The artist has captured the neat swan neck electric lamp, adapted from a gas lamp. CHRIS POND



The Victoria County History of Essex – an update

As many members will know, the Victoria County History (VCH) was founded in 1899 and originally dedicated to Queen Victoria. The future of the Essex VCH relies on the Victoria County History of Essex Trust, which raises funds for the work to continue.

The Trust reports that work is progressing on Volume XII, which will cover 'St Osyth to the Naze:

North Essex Coastal Parishes'. Two volunteer groups are very active; the one at Clacton held a successful Local History Day on 4 October 2014, and the group at Newport are working on producing what will be known as a 'short' – a well-illustrated paperback which they hope will be popular, and encourage others to volunteer in the work.

Volume XIII will be on the subject of Harwich and Dovercourt. It is hoped that work will begin on 19th century Harwich in 2015/16, with a 'short' produced in due course. The Diamond Jubilee Appeal to raise funds for the VCH was very successful, but more is required to ensure that the work continues, and to enable researchers to complete Volume XIII.

Donations, legacies and bequests are always welcome, and the Chairman of the Trust, Martin Stuchfield, can be contacted at Pentlow Hall, Pentlow, Essex, CO10 7SP.

Loughton Outreach Day, 4 July 2015

The Essex Record Office is organising a Loughton Outreach Day on Saturday, 4 July 2015. This will take place on the upper floor of Loughton Library, between 10am and 3pm. The participants will be the Essex Record Office, Essex County Libraries, Loughton and District Historical Society and the City of London Corporation (Conservators of Epping Forest). LDHS and the Corporation will have stands and display tables, but the highlight of the day will be the 1882 Epping Forest Arbitration Award map. This unique coloured map measures 30ft by 13ft, and has not been seen on display for many years. It is intended to display it in its full unrolled length, and it is expected that it will be of great interest to people in the whole Epping Forest area.

The Essex Record Office will also bring other exhibits connected with Loughton. Schools are invited to become involved, and there will be at least two talks on local subjects arranged. Put the date in your diary!

The Buckhurst Hill Military Service Tribunal 1916

The fine photograph on page 2 tells quite a story of Buckhurst Hill in 1916. The gentlemen photographed are the members of the Military Tribunal.

Bill Oliver explains:

On 11 February the Military Service Act was published. The main clauses of the Act stated that every civilian male over 18 and under 41 years of age in the United Kingdom (except Ireland) must register and be ready to serve when his age group was called up. Of course there were exceptions, such as clergymen, the sick, men in reserved occupations and conscientious objectors (after an examination by the local Tribunal, who ruled on all requests for exemption). Any man who did not register his willingness to serve by 2 March was assumed to have registered anyway! Tribunals were set up in all parts of the country to comb out men and to rule on whether they should be excused from being called up for service in the armed forces.



What kind of cases did they hear?

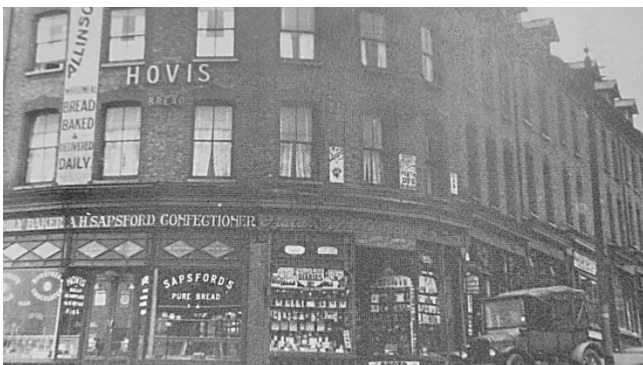
Mr A H Sapsford, baker, of Buckhurst Hill, appealed for the exemption of Charles Valentine Cowler, a bread baker, who, being only 27 years of age, was not in a certified occupation. The Local Tribunal expressed the opinion that the employer should find an older man. Appellant stated that this was the only man he had left and he depended on him for the bread work. Besides Cowler he had only his boy, his daughter (aged 17) who did the delivery and his niece (aged 15) who helped in the shop. He himself did about two hours' delivery a day and was otherwise in the bakehouse.

Captain Howard – Can't your wife do some of the baking?

Appellant – No, a woman can't do it.

Captain Howard – They are doing it elsewhere during the day.

Captain Howard submitted that this was not a matter of national importance, but only a case of hardship to the employer. The appeal was dismissed, the man not to be called up for six weeks. (Charles would fall in April 1918, killed in action in Palestine and buried there.)



Sapsford's bakery at the bottom of Queen's Road, Buckhurst Hill

By 1917 the flow of volunteers had all but dried up as the men remaining, and their mothers, wives and sweethearts saw the horrendous casualty lists and realised how the lives of their loved ones were being wasted. Tribunals all over the country were weeding out men for the armed forces who, in their opinion, were in non-essential

occupations, or doing jobs that could be performed either by men not fit for service or by women. The local paper regularly reported the decisions of the Tribunals that sat in Buckhurst Hill and the surrounding parishes, with the power of life and death over their neighbours:

Sydney Arthur Day, Fine Arts publisher's rep, aged 38, married, appeal dismissed.

Thomas Radmall, caterer, passed for general service (Thomas would be listed as killed in action in 1918).

John Hardy, single, aged 24, passed for general service.

J T Heath, Sanitary Inspector, exemption until the end of the year.

E G Bird, hay carter, aged 18, single, one month's exemption.

John Otley Marshall, organist and professor of music, aged 33, married, appeal dismissed.

Who were the men in the photograph?

So, who were the men in the photograph, and what qualifications did they have to pass judgment on their fellow men of Buckhurst Hill?

The Captain Howard mentioned above is not in the photograph, but he would have been Bernard Howard, the son of David Howard of Devon House (and nephew of Eliot Howard of Ardmore) in Buckhurst Hill. Bernard lived in Loughton and, as Richard Morris indicates:

In 1914 he was mobilised as a serving territorial soldier, together with three other members of the family, who were all members of the Artists Rifles. However, during 1915 the importance of the chemical industry to the conduct of the war became apparent, and early in 1916 Howard was recalled and seconded to the newly formed Ministry of Munitions and sent back to Ilford to boost factory output, particularly of quinine, which was urgently needed in ever increasing quantities as the area of war spread to malaria-ridden countries, and of which Howards was practically the only potential source of supply for the British Empire.

Moving round the table, staring at the far left, the first man is Sir Charles Stafford Crossman, who would have been 46 years old in 1916. He lived at Buckhurst Hill House and his wife was a Howard, so he was related by marriage to Bernard Howard mentioned above. He had been called to the Bar in 1897. (His son Thomas Edward Stafford Crossman was to be killed in 1940 whilst serving in the RAF Volunteer Reserve.)

The second from the left is John Conquest. He was a wool merchant, born in 1842, who lived at Granville Lodge, Palmerston Road. His son Geoffrey had volunteered to serve in the Boer War. John Conquest, a highly regarded member of the community of Buckhurst Hill, was in poor health, and the next year, 1917, he and his family moved to Southsea for the benefit of his health.

The third man, with the white beard, who appears to be chairing the meeting, is Thomas Jeffries. He was born in Hackney in 1854 and was a poultry salesman. He had four daughters and the family lived at Langford House, which was at the top of Queen's Road.

The next man, holding the paper, is Charles Linder. The son of shipping merchant Samuel Linder of Oakfield, Charles, who also worked in shipping, would have been living at St Just. He was born in 1867

and so would have been 49 years old in 1916. His three brothers were also all just too old to serve, although one of them, Samuel Ernest, was a member of the Metropolitan Special Constabulary, Buckhurst Hill Squad, in 1916.

The next man, Walter Collett Smith, lived at Roycroft (in King's Avenue; it is now the surgery). He was born in 1867 and was a flour merchant. His son, Harold Collett Smith was an articled clerk, who enlisted in December 1915 whilst serving in the Woodford Cadet Company. He went to France in August 1916 and transferred into the Royal Engineers in 1917. He returned to the UK in October 1918 and was demobbed in 1919 holding the War and Victory medals.

The last man was John Seabrook, of Bourne Villas, Princes Road. He had two sons who served in the Great War, George Henry, who was wounded, and John William, who enlisted in the Royal Navy in January 1908. He was transferred into the Royal Australian Navy in 1913 and was invalided out in September 1918. His account of the sinking of the German ship, the *Emden*, which is described in the book by Bill Oliver (see below), refers to 'the spirit of the public schoolboy' instilled into the pupils of Buckhurst Hill Boys' School, of which Mr Gratton was the headmaster.



Gratton School, otherwise known as the Princes Road School, where public school values were instilled into the boys

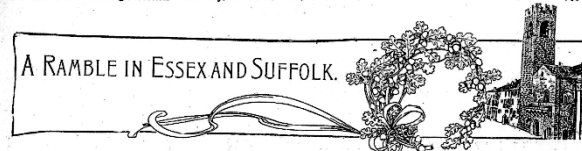
An interesting mix of men, not serving themselves in the Army because of age, ill-health or reserved occupation. They would all have known each other through business, family contacts or perhaps worship in the same church. It is interesting to speculate how popular some of their decisions would have been, and if there was any resentment against them once the full death toll of the Great War was known.

Compiled by LYNN HASELDINE JONES with thanks to CHRIS POND for the photograph of the Tribunal, and acknowledgement to BILL OLIVER for his book *The Path of Duty*, published by the Royal British Legion, Buckhurst Hill Branch, in association with LDHS in 2009, and RICHARD MORRIS for information about the Howards in *From Clouds to Quinine* published by LDHS in 2004.

A ramble in Essex and Suffolk

Such is the patriot's boast where'er we roam,
His first, best country is at home

The Motor-Car Journal, Saturday, November 6th, 1909.



I fear me rather that the modern automobilist neither says nor thinks this; he seems to prefer the restlessness and excitement of touring abroad; it is true the roads and certainly the hotels there are better, but he who takes the little trip I am about to outline will, I am sure, confess that for fine air and enchanted peace spots, woods full of wild flowers that charm all human eyes, deep dark valleys, hills of purple heather, flowered lanes, old romantic churches, and even waterfalls and gentle murmuring gliding streams that stray by many a winding nook, he may spend many a seasick hour or pass unpleasant minutes at a foreign custom house, and then not be rewarded by sights as beautiful as can be had by this short motor run from his own London residence.

It was on a glorious June morn, and Holborn did not seem to be Holborn as we drove along, past the Viaduct, round to the right by the General Post Office. It was barely 5am and we had the roads all to ourselves, and soon had left the Exchange, Whitechapel, the Brewery at Mile End – which always brings to my mind Besant's 'All Sorts and Conditions of Men'. At Stratford, just beyond the church, we turned to the left, and at Snaresbrook we began to leave the arteries of brick, of commonplace cottages, all built in rows and all the same, and entered the country. We leave the Infant Orphan Asylum on the left, pass the three Woodfords – Woodford, Woodford Green and Woodford Wells – then take the turning on the left through the sylvan forest itself, by tangled glades with oak, hornbeam and pine and branching holly, a real woody theatre, with here and there a marshy hollow, and everywhere the tender pathos and the awe and solemn stillness of the deep forest. One can imagine the old coach days, and the fear the passengers had of the 'gentlemen of the road'. Romance has shed a rather rosy hue on their 'gentleness and manners', Lytton and Ainsworth have made heroes of those Knights of Industry who borrowed whether the lender would or no, and in the time of William III, had a home in the leafy coverts and plundered all who came along this road. And when you listen to these wild traditions, ye who love these haunts of nature should remember that other footpads now frequent these parts, and that traps do still abound, but they are legal traps – police traps; but, beware, you may be fleeced in them, as in days of old the coach passengers were by another variety of road official, so 'Watch for the signal from afar off, harken to the signs and words of warning, even of the AA scout'.

By High Beech, which is in truth high, and from where glorious views can be had of the surrounding country – on the right Kent with Shooter's Hill, and in the other direction the eye ranges over Hertfordshire, past the Wake Arms, once so famous for cock fights, and then on the right of the road the Amesbury [*sic*] Banks will be seen. These are some prehistoric earthworks covered by trees, and are also supposed to mark the site of Boadicea's last stand and battle. One's mind goes back, one seems to hear the bellowings, the shudders, the shocks, when thousands 'gainst thousands came clashing like rock, and the rain became scarlet, as the result of that dreadful revelry, and all the ground with shiver'd armour was strewn. Where now a

tree peacefully grows was once a ghastly heap of half dead, there uproar and desolation reigned. Alas!

But when all is past, it is humbling to tread,
O'er the weltering field of the tombless dead,
And see worms of the earth and fowls of the air,
And even beasts of the forest, all gathering there.

Along the wide street of Epping, with its fine bold church, and just beyond the workhouse turn to the right, through well-wooded country, to Rood Street, and, keeping to the right by South Weald station, make for the quaint church at Greenstead. Here once, for a night, the body of St Edmund rested when on its way to Bury St Edmunds. The walls of the nave are built of the trunks of oak trees, set upright, and probably are nine hundred years old, and it is one of the best preserved samples of a Saxon wooden church that can be found. Pass the red brick gables of Greenstead Hall, and at Chipping Ongar the moat and mound of where an old castle stood will be seen. This, in 1162, was the home of Richard de Lucy, the then Lord Chief Justice. Leave the river Roding on the right, turn to the left, and at Shelley House, but before reaching Shelley Hall, bear to the right and so approach High Ongar. Further on, but a little to the left of the road, is Norton Mandeville, a very ancient village, and in the parish church, near the pulpit, there is still the iron support of the once universally used hour glass. Then by Oxney Green on to Writtle, where King John had a fine palace, of which now but the mound remains. The church should be visited for the many brasses there to be seen. It has been restored, and about a hundred years ago the tower fell, which is commemorated by the local rhyme –

Chelmsford Church and Writtle steeple
Both fell down but killed no people.

Chelmsford almost adjoins Writtle, and is a busy market town, famous for being the first in the country to be lit by electricity. It is the old Roman station of Canoenium. The Shire Hall and old church should be seen. A fairly good road leads to Springfield, said to be the original of Goldsmith's *Deserted Village*.

The Motor Car Journal, Saturday, 6 November 1909

Submitted by JOHN HARRISON

Theydon Garnon market and fair

After my article on Fairs was published in Newsletter 203 I was contacted by Peter Newton, Chairman of the Theydon Bois and District Rural Preservation Society, who kindly supplied the following article showing that there was a charter for a fair at Theydon Garnon, dating from 1305.

TED MARTIN

Background

The Domesday Book of 1086 shows three 'Theydons' in the vicinity of the River Roding near Abridge, although in it they are spelt 'Taindena'. In Anglo-Saxon this means 'thatch valley' as presumably there was a plentiful supply of reeds growing by the river. Originally the most important was the one we now know as Theydon Garnon, largely because it was on the drove road for animals being driven from East Anglia to London.

The 12th century Church of All Saints is all that now survives but the outline of the road can still be seen in the churchyard. Some idea of its one-time importance is given by the Tudor tower with its peal of six bells and the north aisle built by John Houblon

who founded the Stock Exchange and whose son was the first governor of the Bank of England. A list of people with memorials in the church is set out on p 5.

The church is still a 'going concern' although it does not now have a hinterland and the congregation arrive by car. In its heyday it must have been a very wealthy benefice because the old rectory next door is a huge house in its own grounds and was at one time, I believe, advertised for sale as an hotel. On the other side of the churchyard is a listed house called The Priory, again with extensive grounds and landscaped ponds, which by its name may have had a bearing on the church history.

When the railway arrived in the area, on its way to Epping in 1865, they called the station 'Theydon Bois', although it was over the hill and half a mile from the then tiny village of that name, and the rest is history!

The 1305 Charter of Edward I

Some 30 years ago a firm in the City of London were clearing their offices preparatory to moving and found a deed box containing an original Royal Charter. No one knew to whom it belonged or where it had come from, but, as it was for Theydon Garnon, it was passed to a member of the Theydon Bois and District Rural Preservation Society committee and they in turn lodged it at the Essex Record Office for safe keeping, where it remains to this day.

In 1305 Edward I visited Hugh de Gernon at the site of what is now called Garnish Hall, hard by the Church of All Saints, Theydon Garnon, and with his entourage Edward virtually 'ate him out of house and home'. In recompense, when he left he granted Hugh de Gernon a charter that entitled him to hold a market every week on a Thursday and a fair every year lasting three days at the feast of St Margaret the Virgin – unless these were detrimental to neighbouring markets and fairs. Sadly Epping market took precedence, but a fair was held at what is now called Fiddlers Hamlet until it was officially closed down in the 19th century because of rowdiness!

There is a life-sized colour photograph of the charter in Theydon Garnon Church (see page 16). The 700-year-old Charter itself is in good condition, written on parchment, with green and gold silk cords holding the king's large seal in green wax.

'Gernon' is Norman French for 'moustache' – i.e. Hugh de Gernon means 'Hugh of the moustache' – and from it comes 'Al Gernon' or what we know today as 'Algernon'.

When the Charter was found the Rural Preservation Society put it on display in the village hall and the assistant curator from the County Record Office came and gave a talk to a capacity audience of villagers about its history and background. Later, at its 700th anniversary in 2005, we did the same again, to a rather smaller audience, and the assistant curator again came, but by this time he was head curator and about to retire!

The text of the Charter

Edward by the Grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine:– to his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs,

Reeves, Officers and all his Officials and Faithful Subjects, Greetings.

You are to know that we have, at the request of our well-beloved and faithful William de Deen, granted, and confirmed by this our charter, to Hugh Gernoun that he and his heirs for ever may have a market every week on Thursday at his manor of 'Theyden Gernoun' in the County of Essex, and a fair there each year lasting three days, that is on the eve, the day and the day after the feast of Saint Margaret the Virgin, unless that market and that fair would be detrimental to neighbouring markets and neighbouring fairs; and that they may have free warren in all their demesne lands of the said manor, provided nevertheless that those lands are not within the bounds of our forest, so that no person may enter those lands to hunt there or to catch anything which belongs to a warren without the leave and agreement of Hugh himself or his heirs, under pain of forfeit of ten pounds to us.

Wherefore we wish and strictly order for ourselves and our heirs that the said Hugh and his heirs for ever may have the said market and fair at their said manor of 'Theyden Gernoun' with all liberties and free customs belonging to this kind of market and fair, unless that market and that fair would be detrimental to neighbouring markets and neighbouring fairs; and that they may have free warren in all their said demesne lands, provided nevertheless that those lands are not within the bounds of our forest, so that no person may enter those lands to hunt there or to catch anything which belongs to a warren without the leave and agreement of Hugh himself or his heirs, under pain of forfeiture of ten pounds to us, as has been said.

With these witnesses: Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex; Aymer de Valance, William de Briouze; Adam de Well; Roger de Mortimer; Robert de la Warde, Steward of our Household; Philip de Verney and others.

Given by our hand at Westminster on the first day of November in the thirty-third year of our reign.

By a writ bearing the Privy Seal Well

People memorialised in All Saints Church, Theydon Garnon

The church had connections with London through the centuries:

<i>Died</i>		
1475	Sir John Crosby	MP for London 1466. Auditor of the City accounts. Sheriff 1470. Warden of the Grocers Company 1452–54. Donated £50 to building the Church tower.
1513	Robert Fabyon	Historian. Clothier of London and member of the Drapers Company. Sheriff 1495.
1567	Ellen Branch	Wife of John Branch, citizen and merchant of London. Brass tablet.
1602	Anne Fitzwilliam	Wife of Sir William closely connected to Royal Court. Elizabeth I held a Council at Gaynes Park, Sir William's home and then in the Parish.
[Became rector in 1624]	Nicholas Wright	In 1634 held a house-to-house collection in the Parish for the repair of old St Paul's Cathedral.
1672	James Meggs	Rector 1661–1672. In 1666 collected £27 5s 0d for the relief of victims of the fire of London.
1681	Sir John Archer	Law student at Gray's Inn. Barrister 1620. MP 1656.
1682	James Houblon	Lived at Coopersale House and in Wallbrook Ward in the City. Pepys called him 'Father of the London Bourse' (the Stock Exchange). He built the north aisle of the church in 1644. His

		son John was the first Governor of the Bank of England.
1688	Richard Butler	Of the Middle Temple, London.
1714	Denton Nicholas	Practised as a doctor in the Parish of St Paul, Covent Garden.
1724	Jane Wormlayton	Wife of John, Citizen and Skinner of London.
1732	Richard Rogers	Lived in Aldgate High Street, London. Members of this family lived in Theydon Garnon for over 400 years.
1733	Joseph Truman	Citizen and Brewer of London.
1792	Charles Moody	Merchant in London.
1796	Jamineau Cheveley	Barrister and Eccentric. The family lived in the Parish before 1608 and were connected with the law in London. All are buried in the family vault at the east end of the Church.
1897	Chisenhale Marsh	Family closely connected with the City of London. Still resident in Theydon Garnon. Memorial windows. Connected with Gaynes Park.

Note

The information in this article comes from William Palmer, *They Were Here: People and Events at All Saint's Church, Theydon Garnon, Essex, from the Twelfth Century Onwards* (edited and published by his wife Muriel Palmer, 1987). The translation of the Charter was noted as published by permission of the County Archivist.

PETER NEWTON

The Red House, Buckhurst Hill

This was situated on the corner of the High Road and Gladstone Road, where the beginnings of St John's Terrace and St John's Court are now. It is thought that the Red House was built in 1868 as a public-house, the Gold-Digger's Arms, supposedly by a miner returning from the Australian goldfields.

The existence of the public-house is confirmed by the census of 1871 which states the Gold-Digger's Arms was run by Charles Rayner, a publican who also ran the Title Deed in Queen's Road. His wife was Mary and they had at that time five children: Sarah, the eldest born in Forest Gate, and the others, Clara, John, Edward and Lucy, all born in Buckhurst Hill, indicating that the family were in Buckhurst Hill by 1860.

In 1872 the building was purchased by Nathanael Powell of Luctons as a school to train girls in domestic and laundry work.

In 1881 the Matron was 52-year-old Mary A Maylin, from Kent, and she was assisted by Rachel Clarke, aged 25, who was described as a laundress. There were 17 inmates, from 13 to 16 years old, who were all described as unemployed domestic servants.

By 1886 the home had been taken over by the Rescue Society for Girls, which as early as 1881 already had an establishment in Buckhurst Hill, in Russell Road, called Kestrel or Astral House. The Matron in the period 1886 to 1895 was a Mrs Elizabeth Linley. (This was the mother of Thomas Benjamin Linley of Homebush, Westbury Lane. She had experience of such institutions, having run one in Southwark in 1881. Her husband had been a schoolmaster.)



The Red House (photograph courtesy of Stephen Pewsey)

By the time of the census of 1891 Mrs Linley was known as the Superintendent and was already 73 years old. She had two assistants, Alice Knight, a laundress, aged 21, and Edith May Andrews, general assistant, aged 19. There were then 25 inmates, all girls aged between 13 and 19. They came from all over the country. On her retirement the next Matron was Mrs Susannah Arnold, a widow (1902–1908). She had an assistant, and two ladies to deal with the laundry. In her time there were 24 inmates aged between 13 and 18. In 1909 the Matron was Miss Donovan, she was still there in 1914.

By 1923 it was described as the Preventive Training Home under the Rescue Society for Girls, with Miss Pardon as Matron.

From 1925 the building became a cottage home for invalid and crippled children from Plaistow, and in 1929 the local directory described it as the Ratcliff Children's Home. Apparently shortly after this it became a private house. Later still it became a youth hostel, and one local man remembers it being popular with Scandinavians.

A local man who was a pupil at Bancroft's School during the Second World War remembers 'to obtain an off the ration dinner on school days I was sent to a British Restaurant. There were two locally. One was in the Memorial Hall, adjacent to St Mary's Parish Church, and another was in a house (now demolished) on the corner of the High Road and Gladstone Road, Buckhurst Hill. I believe the house was at one time a YHA hostel. I usually went to Buckhurst Hill as it was nearer the school. The food was quite satisfactory and wholesome.'¹ In 1955 the owners, who were the Ratcliff Settlement Trustees, applied for permission to change the use of the rear kitchen block to a church. The Buckhurst Hill Christadelphians wanted to hold services there, but the proposal was refused by the Council, as the Council itself had decided to acquire the land for clearance.

Note

1. Plummer, Philip C: *Recollections of Woodford in Bygone Days* quoted in Lovell, John (Ed): *Woodford – 80 Years of Memories 1932–2012* (Woodford Historical Society, 2012).

LYNN HASELDINE JONES
with acknowledgement to STEPHEN PEWSEY

Tillingham and its ancient connection to St Paul's Cathedral



St Paul's Cathedral's estates in Tillingham in Essex can lay claim to being the longest continuous freehold ownership in the country, pre-dating the 1086 Domesday Book (in which the canons are listed as owning 20 hides and six acres) by nearly 500 years. In building the first Cathedral on the site of today's St Paul's in AD 604, Mellitus (first Bishop of London) was granted the Tillingham lands by King Ethelbert of Kent in order to endow the proposed Cathedral with the rents forthcoming from it. It is believed that Augustine (who had arrived from Rome to Christianise the Anglo-Saxon pagans in 597 and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury) had converted Ethelbert to Christianity in the early 600s before dying in 604. A 12th century copy of the deed confirms this and ends with the injunction: 'If indeed anyone tries to contradict this donation, let him be anathema, and excommunicated from all Christian fellowship, until he gives satisfaction . . .'

Tillingham lies in the extreme eastern end of the county of Essex (the word combines East and Saxons) on the Dengie peninsula between Bradwell-on-Sea and Burnham-on-Crouch.

By the end of the 19th century this holding produced some £800 for Chapter (the equivalent of £91,000 today), but they were only entitled to spend the income not the capital. Tillingham was excluded from the rearrangement by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners at that time of every cathedral's endowment properties in return for a lump sum. In 1876 Chapter purchased an additional 170 acres of reclaimed enclosed land. In all, it amounted to 1,568 acres including the three farms of Tillingham Hall, Weatherwick and Marsh Farm. Like so much of the east coast the farmland was severely damaged by the 1953 floods.

H G Wells mentions the village in his infamous 1898 book *The War of the Worlds*. Episodes of *Doctor Who* (starring Jon Pertwee) were filmed on the marshes there in May 1972.

The current estate consists of both agricultural and residential properties. In total it extends to over 1,300 acres divided into three tenanted arable farms. Marsh Farm is out on the Dengie peninsula, protected by a

sea wall and salt marsh. Weatherwick Farm is closer in to the village of Tillingham. The third tenanted area is smaller. The properties for rent are in three categories: there are seven individual apartments in Tillingham Hall, four semi-detached cottages also in the village and a farmhouse and two cottages out near Marsh Farm. The total number of occupants varies but is on average between 20 and 30.

Strutt and Parker acts as the cathedral's agent for the estate. The present value of the whole estate is approaching £7.5m with the majority of this value being in the grade two agricultural land. The Cathedral pays careful attention to the setting of rents and to the management of the estate, and of the tenanted farms. Chapter makes regular visits to Tillingham and remain patrons of the 12th century church of St Nicholas. There are over 1,000 residents in the village.

Thus historic connections continue today and, at two December services each year, a large group from the parish of Tillingham are given reserved seats in the Cathedral, over 1,400 years after the original transfer.

ROGER WALKINTON*

*Reprinted with the author's kind permission from the Autumn/Winter 2014 edition of *Dome*, the newsletter of the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral. For more information about the organisation, see their website at www.stpauls.co.uk/Support-St-Pauls

Another railway anniversary

On 24 April 2015, the railway line from Loughton to Epping and Ongar reaches the 150th anniversary of its opening; on 28 April the present Loughton station reaches its 75th anniversary of being brought into use, replacing the one provided in 1865 (for more on that, see the LDHS publication, *The Loughton Railway 150 Years On* (2006)).



Met by car at Loughton's second (1865) station

The history of the extension line is somewhat convoluted. Powers obtained by the Eastern Counties Railway (ECR) in 1846 to build a line through Loughton parish to Epping were allowed to lapse, and it was not until August 1859 that another Act of Parliament authorised a line to Ongar by the nominally independent Epping Railways Company. Its principal promoters and directors were: George Parker Bidder (who had been engineer for the ECR's Loughton branch, was then chairman of the Norfolk Railway Company and had various other interests); John Chevallier Cobbold (a leading citizen of and MP for Ipswich, and involved with the Eastern Union Rail-

way Company (EUR)); Edward Stillingfleet Cayley (MP for the North Riding of Yorkshire, and involved with the EUR Co); and George Josselyn (an Ipswich solicitor) – none of them with any great interests in this part of Essex. They appointed Peter Bruff as Engineer to the Company (he carried out several railway and other civil engineering works in north-east Essex and Suffolk). The first meeting of proprietors was held at Epping in February 1860, at which the directors bemoaned the lack of support from the ECR and made the usual optimistic statements as to progress. Some of the shareholders whose names were recorded in the minutes can be identified as lessees or occupiers of land required for the railway in Theydon Bois, Theydon Garnon and Stanford Rivers parishes. No further meetings were recorded at Epping, and those in London were not crowded events. It is not clear how much of the authorised £100,000 capital (in £10 shares) was raised, but it seems that no land was actually purchased, never mind any works being started.

Meanwhile, the ECR, Norfolk, EUR and other railway companies were at last settling their differences, which resulted in the formation of the Great Eastern Railway Company in August 1862. By a separate Act the powers of the Epping Railways Company were transferred to the ECR before that amalgamation with a stipulation that no dividend could be paid until the ECR's line was completed and opened for public traffic; quite how the ECR was persuaded to agree to this is not recorded. Thus it was left to the GER to arrange for land purchases and construction; the works were soon 'offered' to Thomas Brassey (who had built the Loughton line) without inviting other tenders, probably because of his known flexibility as to accepting payments in stock or other 'paper', even before the land was acquired. The GER's own Engineer, Robert Sinclair, was responsible for the works.

Inevitably the block on paying a dividend leaked out to the Stock Exchange and shareholders, and the Company had to admit it; fortunately by then (January 1865) the works were well advanced and the Board of Trade sanctioned the opening on being given assurances as to the method of working the trains and obtaining proper powers for the level crossing at Theydon Bois (see also *Newsletter* 170).

The line was built as single track, with Epping as the passing place for trains; gradients are rather steeper than those on the original line to Loughton. Space for a second track was provided beneath bridges over the line, but not on those under it.

The first station from Loughton is where the line crosses over Chigwell Lane, although the GER named it Chigwell Road at first, in the usual way of suggesting it might be near Chigwell village; that was put right in December. A two-storey house for the station master had a single-storey annexe which formed the entrance, office and waiting shelter. A small goods yard was provided from the beginning, coal probably being the main inwards traffic. The nearest dwellings were Bridge Farm (next to it on the river side), the house later known as Hatfields next to the ruins of Loughton Hall, the Rectory at the corner

of Pyrles and Rectory Lanes (the home of the Lord of the Manor, the Rev. John Whitaker Maitland), and Rolls Park and Woolston Hall in Chigwell. The next new house close to the station was built in about 1890 for the manager of the North Metropolitan Tramways Company, which leased Loughton Hall Farm (until 1901) as a 'rest home' for their large number of horses. Named St Hilda's, it occupied a site opposite the junction of Borders Lane with Rectory and Chigwell Lanes, and had a private footpath to the station on the line of what is now Torrington Drive from The Broadway. At this period the line was being doubled as far as Epping, so the station acquired a second platform with waiting rooms and a canopy, and an open footbridge to it.

Four cottages were built in 1896 next to the line on the south-west side of Chigwell Lane for railway employees (signalmen, porters and platelayers). The station was closed as an economy measure from May 1916 to February 1919. Its fortunes changed after the Second World War, when the London County Council built housing on Maitland's Loughton estate; with electrification for the Central Line came 'temporary' platform shelters and booking hall, and a change of name to Debden on 25 September 1949. Rebuilding was often talked about (with ideas for a bus interchange) but the present arrangement dates from April 1974, when metal canopies were provided on both platforms and the footbridge – not the prettiest of structures, but they serve their purpose. The line then passes over the Pyrles Brook on a five-arched brick viaduct.



GER 2-4-2 Tank Engine

Theydon Bois (initially just Theydon) was built as a two-platform station with a slightly larger entrance and office building attached to the house, but the second platform with its waiting rooms was not brought into use until 1884–85 when excursion traffic had increased to justify it. The middle parts of the canopies and the footbridge were also added. Some new houses had been built by about 1875 on the Forest side of the road to Epping north of the church, with ideas for more, but further development there was halted by events that led to the Epping Forest Act of 1878. There was a small goods yard from the start which was extended slightly in the early years of the 20th century, and provision was made for getting milk churns on to the up platform directly from the east side of the station. The canopies on both

platforms were extended each end as part of minor alterations for the Central Line.

Epping was an important traffic objective from the start with two platforms, the entrance and office building being slightly larger again than Theydon's. Goods facilities reflected its status as a market town (cattle pens were provided in about 1869), and the gas works had its own siding. The doubling of the line from Loughton for an increased train service from 1893 brought the need for additional locomotive and siding accommodation. A covered footbridge was provided (the platforms never did get canopies of any kind) and coincidentally the station master's house was enlarged.

Beyond Epping the traffic never justified more than the original single line, and the stations at North Weald and Blake Hall retained their original layouts, with the small type buildings and goods yards as at Chigwell Lane. North Weald, near the summit of the line, became a passing place in 1949 and gained a prefabricated concrete platform to what was previously a goods siding. Blake Hall closed at the end of October 1981.

The line passes over the Cripsey Brook on another five-arched brick viaduct shortly before it reaches Ongar, which had the same type of building as Epping, although only a single platform. It too gained cattle pens, in 1868. Before carriage heating came into common use (well into the 20th century on this branch), higher-class passengers could have 'foot-warmers' (metal containers filled with hot water); a new building was specially erected here in late 1896 to cater for this service ('apparatus' was mentioned in connection with a porters' room added in 1887). Four cottages for employees were built in 1892, and another seven opposite them in 1912–13, some distance from the station. The goods yard was well equipped, and enlarged slightly in 1900.

Goods traffic ceased entirely in 1966, and the yards became car parks (Debden to Epping) or eventually housing (part of Theydon Bois and Ongar).

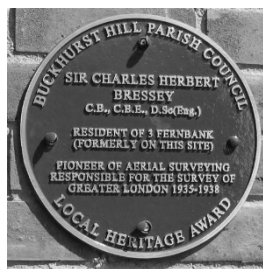
Train services at the opening of the extension were sparse – weekdays to London: 7 per day from Epping, 5 from Ongar, with only 3 on Sundays (Loughton had 20 and 14). By 1892 Epping and Ongar had 11 on weekdays (Sundays 3 and 2), and after 1893 these numbers doubled. There was a further increase during the 1930s, with 36 from Epping and 15 from Ongar by summer 1938 (Sundays 30 and 9). Some trains did not call at the quieter stations like Chigwell Lane.

Electrification to Epping (September 1949) brought further increases even to Ongar (36 weekdays, 24 Sundays a year later, probably the best it ever had), and by late 1963 Debden had as many weekday trains as Loughton (130) while Epping had 68. Then politics intervened, and the whole service level fluctuated; by the time the Ongar service was withdrawn (30 September 1994) Epping had 83 weekday trains and Debden 90 (Loughton 131). The ensuing two decades brought a steadily increasing weekday service from Epping (now 168), Debden (180) and Loughton (213), Saturdays not far behind and 125 at Epping on Sundays.

IAN STRUGNELL

Food for thought in Loughton Way and Oakwood Hill

Sir Charles Herbert Bressey is commemorated by a plaque on the site of his former home, Fernbank, in Church Road, Buckhurst Hill – perhaps he would not have been so fondly thought of had his plans come to fruition . . .



The electrification of the Loughton branch of the LNER is certain to stimulate development. Road communications are poor in the neighbourhood, and the local town planning proposals do not comprise roads of the magnitude or continuity needed for service of the increased population . . . The rapid changes in this area make it essential that the line of through routes should be safeguarded and provision made for the inevitable expansion of traffic.

Such a route running parallel with the electrified line has been examined and its feasibility assessed. Starting with the junction of the Woodford–Ilford road at Maybank Road, it would run along Latchett Road and St Barnabas Road to Snakes Lane. From here a new cut would be required to connect with Hillside Avenue, which would be followed along its entire length. Then it would pass under the Woodford Junction–Ilford line of the LNER Branch, to join Buckhurst Way, Albert Road and Loughton Way. Thereafter the route would continue along the valley parallel to the railway line, crossing Chigwell Lane and passing under B172 a short distance east of Theydon Bois station. The viaduct which will replace the existing level crossing at this point can readily be so designed as to enable the new route to pass beneath Theydon Bois which would be joined to the new route via a connecting link crossing the railway south of Theydon Bois station. Continuing parallel to the railway for about three-quarters of a mile, the new route bridges the line at a cutting and strikes north-westward to join the Epping Road (A11) at Bell Common, following the existing road and terminating at the Bell Inn, a total distance of 8¼ miles.

In surveying this route I have had the advantage of consultation with London Passenger Transport Board.

The Bressey and Lutyens Report
Highway Development (Greater London), 1937
Submitted by CHRIS POND

D W Gillingham: chronicler of the Roding Valley

For those who missed the excellent talk in November 2014, here is the text of the hand-out provided by the speaker, Ken Worpole.

It is timely to remember Essex naturalist and writer, D W Gillingham. Born in Walthamstow in 1906, after moving with his family to Canada in 1911, he returned to settle in Loughton in 1934, where he lived at 28 Roding Road until his death in 1965.

Throughout his Loughton years he kept a journal – eventually published in 1953 as *Unto The Fields* – a meticulous and exquisite record of the woodlands, streams and rivers of the Roding Valley, rich in bird-life, small mammals and wild flowers, even though the streets of London’s East End were less than 10

miles away. From the hills of Loughton he claimed to be able to hear the roar of the London traffic, or from the height of Epping ridge see the smoke from steamers on the Thames at Galleons Reach. Others may want ‘scenery’, he wrote, ‘but the beauty of the English countryside is far less in its wide panoramas than in its intimate nooks and corners, in what lies near to hand’.

Read *Unto the Fields* with the OS map close to hand and it is astonishing how much Gillingham observed and recorded in such a tiny area between Epping Forest and the Roding Meadows. His early morning and weekend walks never took him more than four miles from home, mostly between Chigwell Lane and Warren Hill, but in these ‘intimate nooks and corners’ he saw otters, deer, stoats, foxes, redshanks, snipe, lapwings, owls, herons, nightingales, dozens of different finches and song-birds, many becoming familiars, their habitat and routines ecstatically noted and loved. ‘Find me a fairer spot in Essex!’ he wrote of a walk close to Chigwell Lane, before going on to admit that there were as many other such places in the country as there were people to cherish them.

Unto the Fields is worth searching out, the early editions beautifully illustrated by Harry A Pettitt, a book illustrator whose work continues to be admired. In Gillingham’s writings there is little mention of work, of domestic life or other interests – just an obsessive empathy with birds and their migrations, nestings, feeding patterns and interaction with the rest of the natural world. From such patient observations, the modern reader is given access to a myriad of small worlds to be found in suburban lanes and along the banks of the smallest Essex creeks and rivers. In Gillingham’s case, his notebooks recorded Loughton before the arrival of a wartime barrage balloon station and, subsequently, a new housing estate close by, which he felt would imperil the wildlife living close by, perhaps for ever.

Thanks are due to Jan Kinrade for additional biographical information about Gillingham.

KEN WORPOLE (www.worpole.net)

The match girl and the heiress



A reminder that there has been a change of programme for the Annual General Meeting of the Society. The AGM on Thursday, 14 May, now will be followed by a talk by DR SETH KOVEN of Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA.

We have been fortunate that he has agreed to speak on the subject of ‘The Match Girl and the Heiress’ – the remarkable story of the friendship between one of Loughton’s most famous citizens, Muriel Lester (above), and the match factory girl, Nellie Dowell, who

together inaugurated a Christian revolution in the slums of early 20th century London.

Dr Koven describes his book, *The Match Girl and the Heiress* (Princeton University Press), as exploring the love friendship and global lives of a half-orphaned Cockney match factory worker, Nellie Dowell, and the daughter of a well-to-do shipbuilder and pacifist feminist humanitarian, Muriel Lester. These unlikely soulmates sought to remake the world according to their own utopian vision of Christ's teachings. *The Match Girl and the Heiress* reconstructs their late-19th-century girlhoods of wealth and want and their daring 20th-century experiments in ethical living in a world torn apart by the violence of war, imperialism and industrial capitalism. This project grew out of two ongoing studies. The first is a history of humanitarianism from the 18th to 20th centuries. The second analyses the political, cultural and religious work of Christian revolutionaries in 20th century Britain, who committed themselves to lives of voluntary poverty in pursuit of justice in Britain and its Empire.

More on the 'Razzle Dazzle'

Chris Pond supplied a quotation giving a description of the 'Razzle Dazzle' as used at the fair on Chingford Plain, and shown in the illustration, in the article on Funfairs in *Newsletter 204*:

The 'Razzle Dazzle, which some proprietors call the Aerial Switchback, is more easily pictured than described. It is a sort of travelling trapeze which slides along a couple of strong wires.



The starting point is about ten feet higher than the finishing point, and you may (if you have a fancy for such amusement) go whirling down this inclined plain without any further injury than loss of dignity. At the lower end you will come with a bang against a hard cushion placed to soften the collision. It is an invention some three years old, and a little of it goes a long way. Combined with the heat of the day, and a constant return to the public-house, the 'Razzle Dazzle' rivals the roundabouts and swings in producing the effects of muzziness.

From 'Bank Holiday in the "Forest"', *Illustrated London News*, 12 August 1893.

The Sothebys of Sewardstone Manor

Will Francies in his article on 'The Oldest Tree in Epping Forest' (reprinted in *Newsletter 204*, from *Essex Countryside*, 1969), makes a brief reference to the poet William Sotheby (1757–1833), and describes his home as Fairmead Lodge.

The Sotheby family came to the area in the second half of the 17th century, and in 1674 James Sotheby purchased the manor of Sewardstone from William Pocock. The manor of Sewardstone occupied the southern part of the parish of Waltham Holy Cross, between the Forest and the River Lee, and probably

was originally part of the Bishop of Durham's great manor of Waltham, and latterly remained part of the demesne of Waltham Abbey until the Dissolution.

The Sotheby family held Sewardstone for over two centuries. Mary Sotheby, widow of James, was owner in 1693. Their son James held his court there in 1699 and 1715. In 1722 he devised the manor to his brother William, who held it in 1755. He was dead by 1769, having left a son and heir William, then a minor. Sewardstone was occupied for some time after the death of William the elder by his widow Elizabeth, who had married Nash Mason. However, in 1785 Nash Mason and William Sotheby the younger sold the copyhold of the Manor House at High Beach together with other land within the manor to William Barker Peppen, but the family still held the lordship of the manor.

William Sotheby the younger, poet and literary patron, was eight when his father died, and his guardians were Charles Yorke, Lord Chancellor, and his maternal uncle, Hans Sloane. William was educated at Harrow School, but at the age of 17 purchased a commission as ensign in the 10th Dragoons and went to study at the military academy at Angers. He was subsequently stationed with his regiment at Edinburgh, where he made the acquaintance of the young Walter Scott.

At the age of 23, William increased his financial resources by marrying Mary (1759–1834), youngest daughter of Ambrose Isted of Ecton in Northamptonshire. Sotheby would have been living at the Manor House at High Beach throughout his childhood and until his marriage in 1780. William and Mary had five sons, William, Charles, George, Hans, and Frederick, and two daughters, Maria and Harriet Louisa. Shortly after his marriage Sotheby retired from the army and purchased Bevis Mount, near Southampton, and began to devote himself to literature, and in particular to a close study of the Latin and Greek classics.

In 1791 Sotheby moved to London, and began to divide his time between a house in Mayfair and his property at Sewardstone, where the family, with the sale of the copyhold of the Manor House, now only had the use of Fairmead Lodge in the New Lodge Walk of Epping Forest. He probably spent most of his time at his London house but gave the address of his 'country' seat as Fairmead Lodge. Like his ancestors, William acted as Master Keeper of the New Lodge Walk, and it is likely he entertained his literary friends and hunting acquaintances at the Lodge.

William Sotheby had become a prominent figure in London literary circles. He joined the Dilettante Society in 1792, and in 1794 was elected a fellow of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries. He entertained the best-known literary figures of the day, and had a benevolent interest in the struggles of young authors. Sotheby's skill in translation secured for him a wide literary reputation. In 1798, after rapidly acquiring a knowledge of German, he published *Oberon*, a poem, a translation of Christopher Martin Wieland's *Oberon*, which had already achieved popularity in Europe.

An equally good reception awaited Sotheby's verse translation of Virgil's *Georgics*, which appeared in 1800 with further editions in 1815 and 1830. However, although Byron described Sotheby as one who wrote poetry with sincerity, his large poetic output was not well received. His attempts at writing tragedy also met with little success. A number were offered to Drury Lane, but were rejected by the actors.

Following the death of his son William, a colonel in the Guards, in 1815, he went on an extended European tour with his family and two friends. By the late 1820s, Sotheby mainly devoted himself to a verse translation of Homer. William Sotheby died at his home in Lower Grosvenor Street, London, on 30 December 1833, and was buried on 6 January 1834 in the family vault at Hackney Churchyard.

Charles Sotheby (1783–1854) second and oldest surviving son, who succeeded his father to the manor of Sewardstone, was a naval officer who attained the rank of Rear Admiral of the Red. He lived at Lowndes Square in London. Charles's and his first wife's eldest son, Charles William Hamilton Sotheby (1820–1887), was high sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1881, having succeeded to the Ecton estates inherited by his grandmother, and lived in that county, and also inherited the lordship of the manor of Sewardstone, but it appears that the lordship was sold out of the family in 1884.

The purchaser of the manor was Thomas Charles Baring, a member of the banking family, who lived at Wallsgrove House, High Beach. He died in 1891 and was succeeded as lord of the manor by his son Harold H J Baring. A daughter of Thomas Charles Baring, Muriel Ursula, married Henry Stephen Brenton in 1901, and they lived in the Manor House at High Beach. Harold H J Baring died in December 1927, and his sister, Mrs Brenton, succeeded to the title of lord of the manor. She died in November 1950 at the Manor House at High Beach, when it seems likely that the title to the manor passed to her elder daughter.



The Manor House at High Beach – the mansion is split into three houses. The wing to the left is the old house built in the late 17th century

Sewardstone Manor House at High Beach remains today although now split into three houses. The Grade II listed building is of red and grey brickwork, dating from the late 17th century, and having two original projecting wings with Dutch gables at the front. Alterations in the 19th century included a block between the wings with a similar gable, and a large addition to the north.

Fairmead Lodge, which came into the ownership of the City of London Corporation with the passing of the Epping Forest Act of 1878, became one of the Forest 'Retreats', run by the Bartholomew family, but was demolished in 1898. RICHARD MORRIS

Murder novel set in Loughton

The latest Ruth Rendell novel, *The Girl Next Door*, published in 2014 (Hutchinson, £18.99), is set in Loughton. It is the account of an entirely fictitious double murder in 1944, and the subsequent lives of the protagonists, and the complications of the break-up of a 55-year marriage.

Ruth Grasemann (as she was) was born in South Woodford, but came to live as a child in Shelley Grove, and attended Loughton High School for Girls.

The novel revolves around those who lived during the Second World War in and off Brook Road, Tycehurst Hill and Shelley Grove; the main locale being Spareleaze Hill (called 'The Hill' in the novel). But Baldwins, York, and Traps Hills also feature.

The period atmosphere and *genius loci* are very good, but the book is not without some inaccuracies (Rendell seems to forget the Underground did not reach Loughton till 1948, probably doesn't know Loughton was taken out of the Met Police area in 2000, and seems to think the 1865 police station is still there; the trustees of the Lopping Hall would probably be glad to have a few high-level professional conferences there, too). Only the purists, however, will worry about such little things, because the novel is a very worthy (and readable) addition to the canon of Loughton literature by the leading author with a background in these parts. CHRIS POND

A real murder: wife murder in Epping Forest

On Monday one of the Epping Forest keepers discovered the body of a woman in a lonely part of the wood, not far from Lippett's Hill. The throat was cut from ear to ear, and the grass near the place where the body lay was covered with clotted blood. News of the discovery was at once conveyed to the police at Loughton, and in consequence of a report which they had previously received, that a woman residing at Lippett's Hill had been missing since the previous day, inquiries were set on foot, which resulted in the identification of the deceased as the wife of a labourer, named Charles Revill, said to be the stepson of a local policeman. It is stated that Revill and his wife were seen together on Sunday about half past three, when they were quarrelling about some money matters. That was the last time deceased was seen alive. On the identification of the body the police at once proceeded to search for Revill, who was arrested on Monday afternoon by police constable 22N. On being told the charge, he professed complete ignorance of the affair, and said that on going home on Sunday he walked in front, and thought his wife was following him. He afterwards missed her, and neither heard nor saw any more of her until told that her body had been found.

On Tuesday morning the prisoner, who is about 25 years of age, was brought before the Magistrates at Waltham Abbey, charged with the murder. On the charge being read over to him, and the usual question put as to whether he

pleaded guilty or not guilty, he replied in a firm tone – 'Guilty'.

It was shown that the prisoner and his wife were living apart, and that on 12th May, when a razor, which the prisoner had taken to be sharpened, was returned, he said if his wife did not go home with him that night, he would cut her head off with it. He was, however, in drink at the time, and no importance was attached to the remark. On Sunday, the 9th inst, the prisoner and the deceased dined together at the house of the latter's parents, and a dispute arose as to 3s, the property of the deceased, which the prisoner had borrowed, and which he was spending for drink. Prisoner ran away, and his wife followed him, and nothing more was seen of her till her dead body was found the next morning. In the meantime the prisoner saw a friend with whom he walked from a public-house on Sunday night, and then said he should not go to work any more, and in reply to a question as to what he had done, he said it would be known on the morrow.

The Magistrates remanded the prisoner till tomorrow (Saturday).

The inquest on the body was opened before Mr C C Lewis, junior, at the Owl Inn, Lippett's Hill, High Beach, yesterday (Thursday), and after some formal evidence had been taken, it was adjourned till tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon, to admit of the attendance of the prisoner.

Essex Standard, West Suffolk Gazette and Eastern Counties Advertiser, 14 June 1878.

Another newspaper described the incident as follows:

Following lunch with her parents on 10th June, Revill (a gardener) went out to fetch some ale for them all to share. When he returned home over an hour later he was drunk. Revill and his wife began to quarrel over money when she grabbed him by the lapels and struck him. He knocked her to the ground and fled from the house. Against advice from her family she followed him into the forest where her body was discovered the next day, her throat cut from ear to ear.

Other newspapers around this time indicated that Charles Revill lived at Platt's Farm, Sewardstone. His wife was Esther (née Cordell) who was 21 when she was killed. The police constable who arrested Revill was Mr Tubb.

According to census and other available sources, Charles was the stepson of George Guttridge, and he married Esther in 1875. She was the daughter of James Cordell and his wife Sophia. At the time of his death in 1881, her father James was living in the almshouses in Waltham Holy Cross, with his son William, who like James was a hay binder. With them was *grandson* Charles Revill, aged 5, so there must have been at least one child born to Charles and Esther.

And what happened to Charles Revill? The *Essex Standard* on Saturday, 23 May 1885, published this report:

The execution at Chelmsford on Monday is the first that has taken place in Essex since July 30th 1878, when a man named Revill was hanged for murdering his wife in Epping Forest. It is creditable to Essex that since 1868, when public executions were done away with, there have been only four executions in the County. The first of these was on 24th April 1871, when Michael Galloway was hanged; the second was on the 29th March 1875 when the criminal was the Purfleet murderer; the third was that of Charles Revill, who murdered his wife in Epping Forest, and was hanged on 30th July 1878; the fourth being the execution of James Lee on the 18th May 1885. All were West Essex cases. The first of

the four convicts, Michael Campbell, was, like Lee, a Roman Catholic, and committed his crime whilst engaged in a burglary. He was attended, like Lee, by Father Batt, of Chelmsford. The other criminals were all young men, more or less of depraved intellect . . . two committed their crimes when worse for drink. Lee was a man of considerable intellect, and in the prime of his life, and his crime was as deliberate as it was cruel and cowardly.

There have now been 28 executions at Springfield Gaol, 24 having been public. Including Monday's execution, there have been 288 executions in the County since 1768, an average of 2.46 per annum.

EXECUTION.—Yesterday at the Essex County Gaol, at Chelmsford, Charles Joseph Revell, who was sentenced to death at the late Essex Assizes for the murder of his wife in Epping Forest, suffered the extreme penalty of the law, Marwood being the executioner. Revell, who displayed remarkable firmness, walked to the scaffold, and after the rope had been adjusted, shook hands with Mr Lumley, the chaplain, saying, "Good bye: may the Lord receive my soul." The convict had a fall of nearly 7ft, and death appeared to be instantaneous. In the course of the day the usual inquest was held.

Of note in the above report is the mistake in the name of the first criminal – was he Galloway or Campbell? Why was the religion of the criminals relevant? Revill killed his wife in June and he was hanged only a month later – not much time to investigate the full circumstances of the sad affair and look into his mental state at the time, or to consider the future of the child, little Charles – how times have changed.

LYNN HASELDINE JONES

Loughton's bombs: a new theory

At 8.25pm on Oct 30, 1940, during an air-raid, a small high-explosion [*sic*] bomb fell on the lawn in front of the 'Old House' [formerly the Rectory] in Rectory Lane and blew out all doors and windows and displaced slates on the roofs. At [the] same time, a very large crater in [a] field by the Cottages opposite 'Hatfields' was made by a heavy HE bomb; and a so-called 'Molotoff's bread basket' scattered incendiary bombs all about Englands Lane and Rectory Lane but these did no damage.

At 10.15pm on Nov 15, 1940, landmines (two of them) destroyed the Goldings Manor House, injured Lord Stanmore and Miss Gordon, destroyed 5 or 6 houses in Goldings Road and damaging scores of others, killing 4 people; also another mine at Nursery Road did much damage and a third (not yet exploded) on 'New Loughton' caused evacuation of residents. This the worst raid on Loughton yet!

(Source: Percy Thompson's Notebooks, volume 4)

Why did Loughton receive so many bombs throughout the war? May I, as someone who was born in Loughton before the war, and has lived here ever since, put my theory forward? I lived in the Cottages mentioned in the above report for 30 October 1940. I was aware of the artillery camp, which began opposite St Nicholas Church, and included the brick clamps (close to the Churchill pub) stretching back along the length of the Broadway, with tank traps running along the rear. We were told that the bomb was an aerial torpedo, which was the sort of missile needed to blow guns out of their emplacements; we understood those at Loughton were the second largest in the country at that time. So perhaps 'Gerry' was

aware of the guns as early as 1940. Near Alderton Hall farm was a hard base for a searchlight and perhaps a gun stand; in the forest close to Ambresbury Banks was another hard stand with at least one gun and possibly a searchlight. One of these camp guns took a hit at some time, with at least one fatality. There was of course the balloon barrage site at Chigwell, and Loughton Hall and Rolls Park were taken over by the army. No wonder that perhaps the Germans believed that Loughton was in fact a garrison town.

MAURICE DAY

Redbridge and the First World War

Redbridge Museum is currently holding an exhibition entitled 'Redbridge and the First World War'. It is based on new research, and covers some aspects of the impact locally of the Great War. It looks at how the war affected local life, not just for the men who signed up, but for those left behind. One exhibit is a fascinating film, seven minutes long, showing scouts collecting vegetable waste for pig food, children collecting blackberries for jam, women collecting rhubarb and businessmen and clerks chopping wood for fuel (and clearly not used to handling axes!). It was all filmed in Ilford, and is of excellent quality for its time. The exhibition shows many objects, photographs and memorabilia, many on display for the first time. Available for purchase is a book, originally published in 2003 by the London Borough of Redbridge, entitled *The Ilford War Memorial Gazette*. This would be useful for anyone investigating family history in the Ilford area.



The Ilford War Memorial

To this end a public subscription was launched with an initial donation from Queen Alexandra.

The *Gazette* ran for seven issues from February 1920 until November 1926. Each issue contained a list of names of local war dead, and a selection of personal photographs and details of the actions in which some of the casualties were involved. Relatives of the deceased, it is thought, provided these personal details.

The publication also included a list of donors and information about the Appeals Plans for the Memorial and the Hospital. The final issue of the *Gazette* also included Ilford's Roll of Honour containing 1,159 names.

There is a website available:

www.redbridgefirstworldwar.org.uk

and a new book on the subject is planned. The exhibition began on 11 November 2014 and goes on until Saturday 30 May 2015, and is at the Redbridge Museum, 1st Floor, Redbridge Central Library, at Clements Road, Ilford IG1 1EA. It is open Tuesday to Friday 10 till 5, and Saturday 10 till 4. Take care when you choose to visit; it is very popular with school groups, and, whilst they are respectful, and as quiet as a group of children can be, the noise may be distracting, as there are recordings to listen to.

The Bedford Oak

A correspondent has asked whether the tree shown on the front cover of *Newsletter 202*, and described by the author of the article, Richard Morris, as the Bedford Oak, is not, in fact the tree which is also known as Grimston's Oak.

Maurice Day writes: 'I have enclosed a picture published 130 years ago. [Unfortunately, we could not reproduce this adequately so have substituted the picture from *Newsletter 202*. Ed.] If you look up Brimble's *Guide to the Forest*, and seek out the Grimston Oak, the name appears to have been changed.'



Richard Morris replies: 'The Cuckoo Oak, The Bedford Oak and Grimston's Oak are names given at various times to the same tree. It started off as the Cuckoo Oak, and was changed in the 1880s to the Bedford Oak following John Thomas Bedford's heroic work in saving Epping Forest 'for the people'. It was changed again in the 1890s following a request by Mr Grimston (a member of a well-known Hertfordshire/Essex Family) who wrote to the Superintendent asking that a clearing be made around the oak. I think Grimston was also a friend of the Buxtons, and it was suggested that the oak was renamed after Grimston – a pretty poor justification in my view. Several of us continue to describe it as the Bedford which has much more relevance than Grimston!

More information about the Bedford/Grimston Oak can be found in Ken Hoy's *Getting to Know Epping Forest*, published by the Friends of Epping Forest (2nd edition, 2010) and Tricia Moxey's *Favourite Trees*, published by Epping Forest District Council in 2008.

Pullman Coaches of Loughton

Does anyone remember Pullman Coaches of Loughton? They evidently rented as a depot a piece of ground by the side of the Crown (which is seen in the background of the photo below), and ran the three

AEC coaches, which had been converted from 1935 London Transport STL buses.



They had new bodies fitted and were reregistered about 1950, which is when I suspect this photo was taken. The firm was run by a Mr Parsons and the phone number was Loughton 4944 – other details would be welcome!

CHRIS POND

POW Camp in Buckhurst Hill: letter to the Editor

Hello, my name is David Broome. I was born and brought up in 32 Queen's Road. I attended Daiglen School and then Buckhurst Hill County High School. I left the latter and attended South-West Essex Technical College to study Land Surveying. After graduation, I worked in various overseas locations for about 8 years. I then worked for two UK survey companies, retiring in 1997.

One of my interests now is history, particularly related to various Wars. I have two modest self-published books, copies of which are in the British and other libraries.

My reason for contacting you now is that a couple of times over the past few years I have tried to learn more about the Italian Prisoner-of-War Camp situated alongside Forest Edge, between the road and the railway. It is now covered in housing and there will almost certainly be no trace of the old camp. It is not listed on the definitive English Heritage website and nowhere else can I find out anything about it.

My uncle, the Newsagent H C Toone had two shops – one in Queen's Road and another alongside Roding Valley Station. My older sister, who died last year, and I used to walk between the two shops, passing the Camp. We were told to cross over the road so as not to pass close to the camp fence. I believe the prisoners created both flower and vegetable gardens on the site.

A close friend of my sister has recently confirmed that the prisoners taught her brother an Italian swear word and said that if you gave them a small coin, they would turn it into a ring or something else. After the War ended, the released prisoners used to drink in the British Queen Public House.

I believe that this is a minor but important part of the history of Buckhurst Hill. Would it be possible for you to canvass your members and maybe generally in the area to see if other people can recall the Camp?

Many thanks, Regards, DAVID BROOME, St Albans.

Mr Broome originally sent this letter to the Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society, and various members of the committee made enquiries.

Margaret Sinfield writes: I have spoken to Norman Willis: he remembers the Italian prisoner of war camp very well, it was on the left-hand side of

Forest Edge going from Princes Road, just beyond the house numbered 186, which is where the older houses finish. There were houses already on the opposite side of the road. The Italians lived in Nissen Huts.

It is believed that perhaps the camp was later replaced by prefabs, before the existing houses were built. Thanks to Patricia J Barrett for the view of the prefabs.



If anyone has any more information about the POW camp, please get in touch with the editor, who will pass the details on to Mr Broome.

Following on from this, Margaret Sinfield goes on to say: Italy did not enter the War until June 1940, when Mussolini declared war on Britain and France. Italy stopped fighting against the Allies in September 1943 when the Allies invaded Italy. There were 75,000 Italian POWs in Britain in 1943, in 600 internment and POW camps. These POWs included Italian civilians living in Britain, of which there were 15,000. In 1940 Churchill had ordered all the Italians living in Britain to be arrested and put into camps, for fear that they would become spies.

Tony Oliva, of Italian origin, had this to add:

Yes they came to arrest my poorly grandfather who was a diabetic and only just avoided internment which would have been a death sentence. Hundreds of innocent café owners and their families were arrested and some shipped to Canada where they were badly mistreated. Another shipload was sunk on the way to internment in Australia and all died.

Terrible times. Even worse for the German Jews who had fled the Nazis and were then rounded up and interned here amongst the same people who were their persecutors. Terrible times!

Michele Davies' father was Italian and her mother French; they met in London and had a couple of restaurants in Soho during the war where they both lived. Her father came here when he was 12 to wash up at the Savoy. Michele said:

I did not know that some Italians were sent to the dominions. My father who had lived and worked here since 1926 but had never taken British citizenship was interned in Southend; he thought that was bad enough – he had only ever lived and worked in W1 and thought Camden Town was a suburb so Southend was literally the end of the world for him.

My mother was left to run the restaurants and she always said she paid the Brits back by buying horsemeat presumably on the black market and selling it as beef throughout the war at huge prices. She thought the English eating their beloved horses and paying through the nose for it was some pay back!

Throughout his life my father never stopped cursing the English for having interned him – he was sure to mention it every Sunday lunch after a drink – but he never mentioned

anyone he knew having been sent abroad; but the first thing he did was acquire British citizenship as soon he was able to after the war and change his name so he could never be identified again as a foreigner!

Steven Neville, too, had a family connection to a POW camp, but this time in the Great War – his great grandfather was locked up because he had a German name, Sayfritz, even though *his* grandfather had been in England since the 1850s, when he arrived in Wolverhampton and worked as a clockmaker.

Many thanks to the people mentioned above for sharing this aspect of their family history.

Keir Hardie in Loughton

Mr Kier [*sic*] Hardie MP at Loughton – On Friday evening a meeting in connection with the Loughton Temperance Union was held at the Public Hall. Mr Gregson presided. Mr Kier [*sic*] Hardie MP said it was their desire to give the working men the chance of saying whether they would have beer sold or not, and at the present time they had no such chance. As a good Democrat he objected to the power of licensing public houses being in the hands of landlords or any other class other than the people themselves, for whose benefit it was supposed that the public houses existed.

Chelmsford Chronicle, 23 December 1892

Submitted by CHRIS POND

Roadside pond, Loughton



This postcard was recently for sale on e-bay. It shows a very singular house, with two belvederes (or maybe a pair of semis each with one?). The roadside ponds are Goldings and the Horse Pond near Spring Grove – the others being in the Forest.

Can anyone identify this building?

‘Supremely ridiculous’ scene on the railway

Newsletter 204 included an article on the house Dragons, and its owner, Henry Marshall Fletcher. Here is another side to Mr Fletcher’s character:

At the Worship-street police-court on Saturday Mr Henry Marshall Fletcher, a merchant, of the Dragons, Loughton, was charged with having assaulted Mr Charles Bond, in a first-class carriage on the Great Eastern Railway. There was a cross-summons by Mrs Fletcher against Bond for assaulting her. – Mr Bushby (the magistrate) said the violence used by Fletcher was inexcusable. Mrs Fletcher’s evidence was not only untrustworthy, but the assault alleged on her was supremely ridiculous. Her summons was an after-

thought. It was dismissed and Mr Fletcher for the assault was fined 40s and 23s costs.

Essex Newsman, 11 November 1893

Submitted by CHRIS POND

Restoration of the Anti-Air War Memorial

In Woodford Green there is a well-known monument, usually referred to as The Bomb or the Sylvia Pankhurst memorial (see page 16). For some time it was under wraps as the properties behind were demolished, and a new development built. It is very pleasing to note that it has recently been restored and a plaque has been erected giving details of the origin of the monument. The original was designed and sculpted by Eric Benfield in 1935, and was unveiled by R P Zaphiro, Secretary of the Imperial Ethiopian Legation in London.

The plaque reads:

The Anti Air War Memorial

Behind this memorial, on the site of the present Highbeam House, stood a property known as Red Cottage. From 1924 to 1954 it was owned by Sylvia Pankhurst, who opened a tea room here which she ran with her partner, Italian revolutionary Silvio Corio. Here they also wrote and published campaigning literature. In 1933, with their five year old son, Richard, they moved to a larger house at 3 Charteris Road, near Woodford station.

At the World Disarmament Conference at the League of Nations in Geneva, air bombing had been deemed an acceptable form of warfare. In protest, Sylvia Pankhurst commissioned this memorial. In the shape of an upturned bomb on a plinth, it was dedicated reproachfully to the delegates at the conference who had failed to ensure that air bombing was banned for all time. It was unveiled on 20th October 1935, but stolen soon after. Announcing the unveiling of its replacement in 1936, Sylvia Pankhurst published the following words: ‘There are thousands of memorials in every town and village to the dead, but not one as a reminder of the danger of future wars.’

The monument, Grade II Listed by English Heritage in 1979, serves to fulfil that function. The site on which it stands now forms part of the grounds of Highbeam House.

The plaque goes on to mention that:

the kind support of the following is acknowledged for the memorial’s unveiling on World Disarmament Day in the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, 24th October 2014. Galliard Homes, the Sylvia Pankhurst Trust, Redbridge Museum, Redbridge Planning and Regeneration, English Heritage, Hornbeam Publishing, City of London Corporation, Sylvia Ayling, Bruce Kent, Katherine Connelly, Linda Perham, Dr Richard Pankhurst and family.

Sylvia Pankhurst was a committed anti-fascist, and a strong supporter of Ethiopian independence. She was a friend of the Emperor, Haile Selassie, who invited her to spend her last four years living in the capital, Addis Ababa, where she was given a state funeral in 1960. Her grave is proudly pointed out to any visitors from England, the following photograph was taken in 2009:



Sylvia Pankhurst's grave in Addis Ababa



The Anti Air War Memorial

The Bag of Nails

In *Newsletter 203* at the end of the article about the *Plume of Feathers*, reference is made to the 'Bag of Nails' pub. Here is a delightful sketch of the pub by Octavius Deacon in 1877, when it was also called 'Bacchanals'.

The outline of the pub can still be recognised in Lower Road, although it now has an additional arch, and the last time I looked was being used as a kitchen design shop.



RICHARD MORRIS



The Theydon Garnon Charter (see page 4)

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: Linda Parish, 17 Highland Avenue, Loughton IG10 3AJ (020 8508 5014)
 Treasurer: Antony Newson, 17 Highland Avenue, Loughton IG10 3AJ (020 8508 5014)
 Membership Secretary: Ian Strugnell, 22 Hatfields, Loughton IG10 1TJ
 Newsletter Editor: Lynn Haseldine Jones, The Lodge, Snaresbrook House, Woodford Road, London E18 2UB (020 8530 3409)
 Newsletter Production: Ted Martin
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