

NEWSLETTER 217

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55th Season

Buckhurst Hill House



The building now known as Buckhurst Hill House first appears on the 1839 title map, and is also shown on the 1843 Ordnance Survey map as 'Academy'. It does not appear on a map of around 1820 but it may have been too small to note on that map. Local historian Chris Johnson has identified the building as dating from around 1816, a house with a schoolroom, stables and outbuildings.

In *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 4: Ongar Hundred (VCH)* there is the following:

About 1824 F C L Klingender opened a school at Buckhurst Hill House, held on lease. By 1831 he had raised mortgages totalling £1,000 on the property and in 1833 he offered the premises for sale at £1,690, asking nothing for any goodwill attached to the school. He was adjudged bankrupt in 1834. Francis Worrell Stevens, who had been a master at Bruce Grove, Tottenham, under Rowland Hill, took over the school and continued it until 1848.

So it would appear that Buckhurst Hill House was built around 1816, and the first known use was as a school with the first headmaster between 1824 and 1834 being F C L Klingender.

This was Frederick Charles Lewis Klingender who was born in Germany, and naturalised in 1828. He was married to Sarah Ann (Rodwell) on 16 April 1807 at St Luke's, Old Street. They had a large family of some 10 children.

F C L Klingender married again on 16 January 1828 at St John's, Hackney, and his second wife was Catherine Martha Siffken. They had a daughter Catherine E who was born in Buckhurst Hill in 1832 (died 1913). Before coming to Buckhurst Hill Frederick was a schoolmaster and lodging house keeper at Sylvester Row, Hackney. It is likely that Frederick went to the United States after leaving Buckhurst Hill as there is no record of his death in this country; it is known that his son Melchor George was married in New Orleans in 1856 (although he later lived in Liverpool). Catherine Martha Klingender declared herself a widow, letting apartments in Great Malvern in 1851; she died the following year.

In 1841 the building was known as Woodford House, a school for boys, and the schoolmaster at that time was Francis Worrell Stevens. He later became famous, or perhaps, infamous, for claiming that the idea of the postage stamp and the penny post was his and not that of Rowland Hill. The place and date of Stevens' birth are not known. However, it is recorded that he was 85 when he died in 1890, which would put his year of birth as 1804 or 1805. His father, William Seaman Stevens, had established a school known as Albion House in Loughton. In 1827 William Stevens sold the school to his son Francis.

On 18 December 1830 Francis Stevens was married to Barbara Vickers at St John's, Hackney.

In the records of the Sun Fire Office, Francis Worrell Stevens is shown as having insurance for Albion House Academy in 1832. Rowland Hill taught French at the Albion House Academy for five months, and it was during this period he was alleged to have removed papers from the house which he later used to promote the penny post as his own idea. The above extract from the VCH states that Stevens knew Rowland Hill from Bruce Grove but the story about the school in Loughton sounds more likely.

The 1841 census for the school shows the Stevens family in charge of the school with three assistant masters and three servants. There were 53 pupils, all boys between the ages of 7 and 18. The VCH continues:

The house was then empty for a year but the school was reopened in 1851 by Thomas Bickerdike who in that year had an assistant master and fifteen boarders between nine and fourteen years of age. Bickerdike left Buckhurst Hill in 1853 and the house was not afterwards used as a school.

The 1851 census indicates Thomas Bickerdike as a schoolmaster, with his wife Mary, who was from Radnorshire. Also in the house/school was his niece Mary Evans, and her brother John Evans, who was assistant schoolmaster. The Evans siblings were also from Radnorshire, indicating, if the census records are correct, that Bickerdike and his sister both married people from that part of Wales.

At the time of Bickerdike's headmastership there were three servants and 15 pupils, boys between the ages of 9 and 15.

As mentioned above, the VCH states that after Bickerdike's time the building was not used as a school, but in fact the 1861 census shows that the school continued in operation for a while longer. By then the headmaster was Joseph Frederick Hopkins whose wife Sarah was an Evans from Radnorshire,

indicating a family connection continuing from the previous headmaster. Hopkins had been in partnership with John Evans, mentioned above. The *London Gazette* of 4 April 1856 announced:

Notice is hereby given that the partnership lately subsisting between us, at Buckhurst Hill House in the parish of Chigwell near Woodford, in the county of Essex, in the business of schoolmasters, was this day dissolved by mutual consent, as witness our hands this 25th day of March 1856 – Joseph Hopkins and John Evans.

Hopkins was assisted by three 'tutors', William New, aged 21, Augustus Clapham, aged 24, and young Albert New, only 15. There were 30 boys listed as pupils, and also one female boarder, 11-year-old Caroline Spill, whose 13-year-old brother Frederick was a pupil. Joseph Frederick Hopkins died in Buckhurst Hill in the first quarter of 1867 – this may mark the end of the use of Buckhurst Hill as a school.

The first occupant who can be traced as actually living in the house as a private resident is John Lucas Allen (born in 1814), in 1870. He is shown as still there in a directory of 1882, but there is no trace of him in the 1881 census, as he had died at the end of 1880, but the house was not yet sold. In the 1871 census he is described as a widower, living with his niece Mary J Runder (or Runder, the writing is unclear), and the Pigott family, man, wife and daughter acting as gardener, cook and housemaid. John Lucas Allen was a builder, of Finsbury Square.

St Paul's Lorrimer Square designed by Henry Jarvis in Victorian gothic, on ground given by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, was completed and consecrated in 1856. The ground round the square was let in several lots to three builders, John Marsland of Walworth Road, John Lucas Allen of Finsbury Square and Jon Abbott of Manor Road, South Newington, and the houses in the square were built about the same time as the church. (British History Online.)

John Lucas Allen was quite a character. In 1863 he accused a man of libel, who had handed in the following letter to Allen's club, the Royal Thames Yacht Club, then at 7 Albermarle Street:

Sir, unless some provision is made for your wife, I shall set on foot a subscription among the members of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, on behalf of the poor woman, whom according to the newspapers, you married for her property and then deserted. And when you were brought to the court as a rogue and a vagabond you proposed through your solicitor she should sell her bed, and you would pay for her support at the workhouse; you at the same time living in affluence with another woman. Truly a delightful acquisition to the Freemasons, the Royal Botanical Society and the Royal Thames Yacht Club, who no doubt must feel themselves highly honoured in having you as a member. I must add that you and your partner Velly of Chelmsford are two base scoundrels, and a disgrace to any civilised community. Yours etc. A MEMBER

Allen claimed that he recognised the handwriting as that of the son of his wife Ann (Harley; they married in Windsor in 1843). She was in the process of getting a divorce from Allen, quite a scandal in the

1860s. John James Harley of 17 The Grove, Hackney, was accused of libel but denied that he wrote the letter. What came out in court was that Allen had already been accused of keeping a brothel; this was no doubt a reference to his having another lady in his house besides his wife – this was Mary J Runder, whom he had adopted as his 'niece'! Allen said that all the trouble was caused by disgruntled tenants to whom Allen had given notice to quit. Allen also said that his wife was much older than him; she had 'represented herself as younger than she was'. (Strangely enough census records and his death record show that he too lied about his age.) Initially the case, which was covered in the *London Standard* in November 1863, was adjourned, and later Allen withdrew his accusation of libel, although Harley continued to protest that he did not write the letter.



Buckhurst Hill House in 2010 – it has since been refurbished. Compare this image with the view above and you will see an upper row of windows has been added.

Ann Allen died on 24 March 1864, before she could get a divorce. In the newspaper announcement of her death, John Lucas Allen is described as being of Sussex Place, Regents Park, and Hadleigh House, Essex. He later moved to Buckhurst Hill House, taking his 'niece' with him. He died on 23 November 1880, in Brighton:

The will dated November 2 1880 of Mr John Lucas Allen, late of Buckhurst Hill, Essex, who died November 23 last at Brighton has been proved by Miss Mary Jane Runder, George Brinsley and John Ryle, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £80,000.

The Essex Standard, West Suffolk Gazette and Eastern Counties Advertiser, Saturday, 12 March 1881

His niece Mary Jane married in Brighton in 1884 William Boughton Stirling, a doctor of medicine (and probably John Lucas Allen's doctor), who gave Buckhurst Hill House as one of his addresses. He had been born in Edmonton in 1842, and died in Brighton aged only 44 on 30 March 1887. As a single man his premises were at 2 Nottingham Place, Marylebone, but he also had premises at 86 High Street, Whitechapel and 113 Marine Parade Brighton. His death was announced in the *London Gazette* and letters of administration were awarded to Mary Jane.

Later the occupant of Buckhurst Hill House was Colonel William Booth Bryan, as shown in directories of 1896 and 1902.

William Booth Bryan was the son of John Bryan, a



lace manufacturer from Nottingham. His first wife was Hannah, the daughter of Henry Roberts of Nottingham. She died on 17 June 1904, and is buried in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill. His second wife was Alice Angelique, the daughter of M S

Philips, of London. They had two sons and two daughters. William Bryan was educated at Nottingham Grammar School and became the Borough Engineer for Burnley 1873–76 and the Borough and Water Engineer for Blackburn 1876–82. He then became the Chief Engineer to the East London Waterworks Company 1882–1904. In 1913 the Metropolitan Water Board completed the building of the Chingford Reservoir. On 15 March water was admitted by His Majesty King George V and Queen Mary. Newspaper articles referred to the fact that it was designed by William Booth Bryan, M Inst CE, and constructed under his supervision by Messrs Wall Limited.

Bryan was Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the second Tower Hamlets Volunteer Rifle Corps 1889 - 1903 and the Honorary Colonel of the 17th Battalion, County of London Regiment. He later lived at Elmstead Wood, Chislehurst, and he died on 27 October 1914.

During the early years of the 20th century (confirmed in directories of 1909, 1923, 1929 and 1933) this house was occupied by Sir Charles Stafford Crossman. He was born on 8 December 1870 in Hambrook, Gloucestershire. He attended Winchester and New College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar in 1897 and in 1926 was appointed junior equity counsel to the Board of Inland Revenue. From 1934 to his death in 1941 (on 1 January 1941, in Tetbury) he was a Judge of the Chancery Division.

Sir Charles was married to Helen Elizabeth Howard (born on 12 September 1876 in Stamford Hill; she died in 1961), daughter of David Howard and Anna Dora Jowitt of Devon House, just across the road from Buckhurst Hill House.

Of note in the Church of St John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill is a painting over the west door of Elisabeth, mother of John the Baptist, visiting Mary. The painting, by Miss Playne, was given in memory of Anna Dora Howard by her daughter Lady Crossman. The Reverend Canon J Gaunt Hunter states that the artist (whom he refers to as 'he') used Lady Crossman as a model for Elisabeth. The remaining paintings in the series, of the Adoration, were painted over many years later. Miss Playne was the daughter of Herbert Clement Playne, MA, headmaster of Bancroft's School (see *Newsletter 214* for more about Beatrice Playne). Lady Crossman was a supporter of the Church of St

John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill, being Enrolling Member of the Mothers' Union and Chairman of St Faith's Home in Loughton.



The painting in the Church of St John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill, see also page 16 for a colour version.



Left: Probably the most famous resident of Buckhurst Hill House, Richard Crossman (photo from the internet)

The Crossmans had three daughters and three sons, the most famous of whom was

Richard Howard Stafford Crossman, OBE, the Labour politician (born on 15 December 1907 at Porchester Terrace Bayswater; he died on 5 April 1974 at Prescote Manor, Banbury, Oxfordshire).

Richard did not appear to get on well with his parents. (A biographer states that his parents were Victorian and religious, and that Richard regarded his mother as having a 'less educated mind'; he did not get on with his father at all. His parents did not approve of his first wife, Erica Gluck – they asked her to leave their house 'a decision which Crossman believed made a mockery of their Christian beliefs and demonstrated a lack of charity'.)

Another son was Pilot Officer Thomas Edward Stafford Crossman, who was killed on 31 May 1940 whilst serving in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. There is a wooden memorial to him in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill. The other son was Geoffrey Danvers Stafford Crossman, born 1906. The daughters were Bridget Helen Stafford Crossman, born 1903; Elizabeth Stafford Crossman, born 1910; and Mary Stafford Crossman, born in 1913. Mary married in 1938. Her husband was Charles Powys Woodhouse, of Achimota College, Gold Coast Colony. The wedding was at the Church of St John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill and was taken by the Bishop of Uganda (*Woodford Times* 1938).

There is reference in some sources to the Crossman family being brewers, involved in the firm Mann, Crossman and Paulin. It has been suggested that the Warren Wood public-house on the Epping New Road was erected by the family to benefit from the stage coach trade bypassing Buckhurst Hill on the Epping New Road (built 1834). This does not appear to be true; I can find no connection between the Crossmans of Buckhurst Hill and the brewing family with its origins in Berwick on Tweed. In any case the family arrived in Buckhurst Hill many years after the Warren Wood was built.

Buckhurst Hill House originally had considerable grounds (there must have been tennis courts in the time of the Crossmans as a biographer of Richard Crossman states that Clement Attlee, who lived in Woodford, played tennis with the Crossman family and made a point of attending Mrs Crossman's funeral – she had left Buckhurst Hill some time before her death) which were sold off for the building of houses on both Queen's Road and Knighton Lane.

It is not known what the house was used for during the Second World War but it is known that the Ministry of Works leased a plot of land to the rear of the house and were still there in 1948. Plans to convert Buckhurst Hill House into at first seven flats, and later six flats, were submitted in November 1947 by R Seifert, architect and surveyor, of 28 Great Ormond Street, WC1, on behalf of the owner, W Crossman, then of 22 Carringham (? the writing is unclear) Gardens, Golders Green. Further alterations were done in 1963 by Lewis and Tucker for Wellbourne Holdings.

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LYNN HASELDINE JONES

Love in lodgings –

WIDOW AWARDED £25 DAMAGES

The breach of promise case in which the grocer wrote lovingly to his former land-lady on butter paper was finished yesterday in the King's Bench Division. The lady in the case is Mrs Minnie Muir, a boarding-house keeper, of West Kensington, and the man whom she alleged to have professed the great passion for her is David Weir, junior, provision merchant. The promise was said to have been made in April, 1908, Weir at that time being one of the boarders at Mrs Muir's house. Mr Weir admitted that the promise was made, but pleaded that it was cancelled by mutual consent. Since the engagement between the parties terminated he had married another lady. Evidence was given yesterday by Mrs Trelfell, a neighbour of Mrs Muir, who said she was called to Mrs Muir's house on September 3, 1908, when Weir was leaving. She overheard the following conversation – Mrs Muir: David, why are you leaving my house like this? David: If you want to speak to me we will go into the dining-room. They adopted this suggestion, but Mrs Trelfell said she could still hear what was said. It was this: Mrs Muir: David, what about our engagement? David: That remains the same. In the witness-

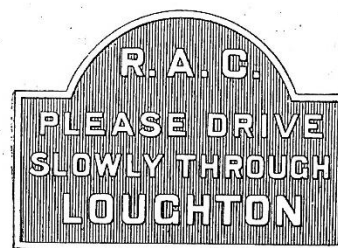
box, on his own behalf, Weir said he was engaged to Mrs Muir about the beginning of May, 1908, and things proceeded satisfactorily until the beginning of August, when she commenced accusing him of all kinds of things which were unjust and untrue, and practically made his life unbearable. She complained of his coming home late, although he was detained by business. The wedding had been deferred until October, but before that time he received a solicitor's letter inviting him to make an offer of damages, for breach of promise. This, he contended, justified him in marrying Cissie Davis (who was manageress of his business) on November 9. He asserted that he proposed to Cissie ten days before he married her. 'I couldn't marry a woman like that,' he said, referring to Mrs Muir. 'She rushed at it like a mad bull'. (Loud laughter.) Weir stated that his business had been turned into a company. He had qualifying shares as a director and received £100 a year as fee. He was now living in Loughton, Essex. He did not buy his wife an engagement ring. 'Because there was not time?' suggested counsel. 'Nor funds either,' retorted Mr Weir. The jury returned a verdict in Mrs Muir's favour, awarding £25 damages. Judgment was entered accordingly. *Evening Express*, 22 October 1909

Please drive slowly through Loughton

I found this article in the *RAC Journal* of 28 June 1912. Theoretically, the Loughton sign could have been erected in Loughton, Buckinghamshire, but looking at maps from that era it does not seem to have had a major through road which would warrant such a sign. I wonder if anybody can confirm this sign was erected in 'our' Loughton by providing a photograph showing it.

"PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY."

THE experience gathered by the Club in conducting the opposition to applications for reduced speed limits has shown that in a large number of cases an arbitrary special speed limit would be quite unnecessary if signs of a suitable kind, requesting motorists to drive slowly through them, were erected at the principal entrances to the towns or villages. The R.A.C. has recently succeeded in securing the withdrawal of many applications of local authorities for reduced speed limits



by a promise to provide signs (one of which we illustrate), and in every case in which this has been done, the presence of the sign, which is so designed as to command attention, has resulted in a material reduction in the speed of cars generally through the place in question, and has thus entirely satisfied the local authorities. At its last meeting the Touring Committee decided to erect signs at the entrance to Kirkham, on the Preston-Blackpool road; Tutnall, on the Bromsgrove-Redditch road; and Alconbury-Weston, on the Great North road.

JOHN HARRISON

Soapsud alley

My father once said my 3 x great grandparents, Matthew Branch and Mary Ann Davis, lived in Loughton in 'the Brick Ground houses at the time of the 1841 census. Mum, Dad and six children. I think that may have been known as Soap Sud Alley.' Does anyone know where this might have been, please? Perhaps in the York Hill area? JACKIE BARBET

Rail mail



In 2017 the former Post Office railway reopened as a tourist attraction, and is well worth a visit.

Construction began in 1913 when tunnels were hand dug by workers using the Greathead Shield. Work was suspended during the Great War, when the tunnels were used to protect art from the National Gallery and the British Museum. Work continued in 1924 and operations began in 1927. The railway had over six miles of tunnels, and eight stations from Paddington through Mount Pleasant, and Liverpool Street. Automatically controlled, with no drivers or guards, the trains did not carry passengers, but every day carried over 40,000 bags of mail underneath the busy streets. The Post Office railway was re-branded in 1987 as Rail Mail, when it celebrated its 60th anniversary. With the changes in demand for postal services and the greater use of road transport, the railway was closed in 2003. It was possible to visit the railway in the 1950s and 1960s, but, now it has reopened, it is possible to take a ride on one of the tiny trains. We went at half-term, when it was incredibly popular with children. The museum is excellent and the train ride, for which you must book a time slot, is very well done, with stops in the tunnels and at platforms to watch video projections of the operation.

For entry times, ticket prices and further information, visit www.postalmuseum.org. The address of the museum is Calthorpe House, 15–20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA.

THE EDITOR

My memories of Dr Fazekas

A very 'human' doctor

The Editor's article in *Newsletter 216* certainly did jog my memory and I'm delighted to share several vignettes with readers.

One of his patients was my friend, Ralph Brentnall, who'd been one of the last victims of a polio epidemic – just prior to medical advances that largely stopped this crippling disease. But Ralph was tough, and respected by the rough and ready local lads. He was one of our 'gang'. Ralph studied hard – he became a highly skilled draughtsman and travelled the cheap and hard way, hitchhiking, etc, all over Europe. He was also an accomplished chess player and enjoyed matches with his doctor – Doctor Fazekas. And, on occasion, won a game. In the meantime Ralph visited my family and played chess with my son Paul, aged seven, who also, on occasion, won a game.

A clue was given in Lynn's piece that a tribute appeared in the *Morning Star* after his unexpected death. I had recently joined the local Buckhurst Hill Communist Party branch where, of course, I met comrade Fazekas along with other great characters that included Ken Hoy, who for many a year was Chair of the Friends of Epping Forest, his wonderful wife Joan, Tony Atienza, a headmaster and enthusiastic member of the Communist, later Socialist, History Society, and Len Dunstan, a banker. It's possible that the person talking to the doctor in the photograph was in fact Tony Atienza, then Chair of the CP branch.

My last vignette is about my visit to Dr Fazekas as a 'patient'. My turn to see him. I had an urgent request, a certificate to cover my absence from work – I didn't want the sack. Quite busy he was that day, then my turn to see him. Immediately his face lightened and we embarked on a discussion regarding the latest political state of the nation – the details I can't remember. After some time he realised he might have more patients waiting – I said 'a small queue'. I, no doubt, looked particularly healthy as I'd just enjoyed swimming and sunbathing for the first time that year, at Southend-on-Mud. I told him the truth. Dr Fazekas was quite definite, I had gastro-enteritis and signed the certificate accordingly. I was covered! I didn't get the sack.

PETE RELPH

Eating Out Guide 1968

Buckhurst Hill

The Roebuck, Tel BUC1620

Lunch from 12.30 to 2.15pm. Table d'hôte from 12/6; à la carte main dishes from 12/6. Tea from 4 to 5.30pm, 4/6. Dinner from 7 to 8.30pm, table d'hôte from 12/6; à la carte main dishes from 13/6. Accommodation – six single and eight double rooms. The hotel stands at the highest point in Epping Forest on the turnpike that in coaching days led to Newmarket and Thetford. Carey's Road Book noted it as being ten miles and two furlongs from Shoreditch church. The house goes back in local tradition 200 years, when it had extensive pleasure gardens behind the hotel, and swings and roundabouts were set up on the green in summer time. It had a reputation for trade dinners and 'beanfeasts' and the present high standard of party catering

maintains this tradition. Only a part of the old inn remains in the present building, where the dining room, lounges and bar have been recently redesigned.

Stag Restaurant (Bald Faced Stag), Tel BUC8425
Open all year (closed Sunday evenings)
Lunch from 12.15 to 2pm. À la carte main dishes from 10/6.
Dinner from 7 to 10pm. À la carte main dishes from 10/6.
First class à la carte. Huge selection always available.
Recommended by Egon Ronay Guide, etc. the restaurant seats 80 people and caters for every occasion to the highest standard.

Epping

The Bell Motor Hotel, Bell Common, Tel 3137
Lunch from 12 noon to 3pm. À la carte main dishes from 10/6. Dinner from 6 to 10.30pm. À la carte main dishes from 10/6. Accommodation – restaurant seats 65; cocktail bar, motor hotel has 40 bedrooms. A Trust House hotel.

North Weald

The King's Head, North Weald Bassett, Tel 204.
Open all year except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
Lunch from 12.30 to 2.15pm. À la carte main dishes from 10/6 to 17/6. Dinner from 7 to 10pm. À la carte main dishes from 10/6. In a vaulted, beamed dining room good home-cooked English food is served in English style. The inn is over 500 years old.

Woodford Green

Kingfisher Restaurant, pool and club, 30 Oak Hill, Tel 504 9292/3/4.
Open all year.
Lunch from 12 noon to 2.30pm, Table d'hôte inclusive price 18/6, à la carte main dishes from 12/6. Dinner from 7.30 to 11pm. À la carte main dishes from 12/6. Dinner dancing from 8pm to 1am every Friday and Saturday. Discotheque every Tuesday 8.30pm to 2am. Banqueting facilities available for between ten and 300 persons; choice of three rooms.

Woodford (South)

The Gatehouse Restaurant, 84 High Road, Tel 01 504 0475
Lunch from 12 noon to 3pm. Special menu for lunch (no fixed price); à la carte main dishes from 16/6. Dinner from 6pm to 1am; à la carte main dishes from 16/6. Continental and Greek dishes a speciality. This fully licensed restaurant which has been open for about three years, accommodates sixty people. Special Greek show four times a week, including a seven-glass balancing act by the proprietor, Mr Pantayis Panteli.

No restaurants in Loughton were included.

Essex Countryside, Vol 16, No 140, September 1968

Four Chigwell brothers in the Forces

When my father, Ronald Burningham, died, in 2003, I began to mull over his life and realised that it had been a total life of caring for others. I concluded that the address I gave at his funeral should form the basis of a book about the life of caring of my Dad, of whom I was very proud.

During the Second World War, the Men's Club in Chigwell, the village in which my father and his brothers were raised, started to publish a single page newssheet which contained extracts of letters from

local lads serving in the forces on the front page, and on the back page, there was snippets of news of the goings on back home in Chigwell. I discovered that on the front page of the *Bulletin* for April 1942 there was a spread about four brothers who had joined the Forces. It consisted of photographs of Ron (my Dad), Stan, his twin brother, Wilf and Maurice, with a short article about each of them, detailing where they were at that time in their wartime service careers. This copy of the *Bulletin* was the inspiration to put their whole story together in a book called *Four Chigwell Brothers in the Forces*.

The entries were:

A/C M Burningham. Was known, some time ago, to have proceeded somewhere overseas with a contingent of the RAF. News has recently been received that he is now at Karachi, India, where we trust he will not find it too hot.

Pte W Burningham. Serving with a motor transport section of a famous Highland Regiment. He has seen service in the Shetland Isles, and is now serving in a town in the extreme north of Scotland.

Pte R Burningham. With the RAMC. After serving for some time in Co Down, Northern Ireland, is now attached to a military hospital in South Wales.

Cpl S Burningham. Was serving with the RAF before the commencement of hostilities and now with a Special Duties Flight at a southern station.

My father and his brothers lived at 94 Hainault Road. Their father (Arthur Burningham) was a shoe repairer by trade and a lay preacher at the chapel in Smeaton Road. Their father and mother are buried in the churchyard at St Mary's, Chigwell. The original house in Hainault Road was demolished some years ago and a new detached house built on the site.

Arthur was either United Reformed or Congregational. I was brought up in a Congregational church but in Wickford. My daughter and I visited the chapel over 10 years ago and it was being used by an evangelical congregation and was a lovely old building. I now live in Dorset and all my relations in the Chigwell area have all passed away.

The book has not been formally published. It was not a commercial undertaking but I had it professionally printed on a run of 100 and I would be happy to sell them at the cost price of £10 each plus postage. Please contact me on

colinburningham@hotmail.com.

COLIN BURNINGHAM

Mr Burningham kindly sent a copy of his book to LDHS and I am pleased to recommend it as a most interesting read of the incredibly varied experiences of four brothers who between them saw much of the world in those difficult days.

EDITOR

Rev Edward Shillito, MA (1872–1948) – a poet in Buckhurst Hill

For a period in the 1920s and 1930s the Rev Edward Shillito lived in Buckhurst Hill, in a house called Lyndhurst, now 29 Scotland Road. He was the much loved minister of the Buckhurst Hill Congregational Church.

Edward Shillito was born on 4 July 1872 in Hull, the son of Francis Lomas Shillito, a clerk for a

shipowner who later became a Congregationalist minister, and his wife Helen. He had three brothers, George, Edward and Frank and a sister Elizabeth.

He was educated at Silcoates School, Wakefield, Yorkshire, and Owens College in Manchester.

He trained for the ministry at Mansfield College Oxford (the original purpose of which was to provide theological training and further education for non-conformist ministers; it was mainly associated with the Congregationalists and it still exists but it is no longer a religious institution). He began his pastorate in Buckhurst Hill on 2 February 1919, having held pastorates at Albion Congregational Church, Ashton-under-Lyne (where he was Assistant from 1896), Tunbridge Wells in 1898, Clifton Road, Brighton, in 1901, Harlesden in 1906 and Hampstead. Here he was assistant to Dr R F Horton at Lyndhurst Road, hence the name of his house in Buckhurst Hill.



Left: The Rev Edward Shillito (courtesy of St James's URC Buckhurst Hill).

His public recognition service at Buckhurst Hill was held on 26 March 1919, the sermon being preached by the Rev H C Carter of Cambridge. He stayed at Buckhurst Hill Congregational Church until 1927/8, when he retired from active ministry to concentrate on his literary work, and his

place was taken by Alex Birkmire.

Shillito's service to the Student Christian Movement, the Church Council of Missionary Education, the London Missionary Society and his contributions to Christian journalism in Britain and the United States led to his appointment in 1920 as Editorial Secretary of the London Missionary Society, a position from which he retired in 1932.

Edward's wife was Annie Elizabeth (Brown; they married in 1901) and they had three children, Miriam Eirene, 1902–1989, James Francis (born in 1906 and married in 1929 to Enid Marion, the daughter of builder Alfred Stokes of 3 The Drive, Buckhurst Hill; he died in 1995) and Alan Edward, born in Hampstead on 13 May 1910. Miriam became a teacher of English, James was also a teacher, having been educated at Bancroft's School. He was a much-loved, if eccentric teacher of biology, and was one of the first to take pupils on walking holidays abroad, in his time at Buckhurst Hill County High School (1943–1953). Alan was educated at Chigwell School and Oriel College Oxford, and later became a senior civil servant in the Admiralty. Alan Edward Shillito married in 1934 Dorothy Jean, the daughter of Robert Jackson Davies, of Fernieside, Westbury Road. They had two sons and three daughters, and lived at 8 Baldwins Hill, Loughton. A E Shillito was appointed CB in 1964 and died on 3 March 1991.

The Rev Shillito was a prolific writer; his publications included:- *Looking Inwards*; *The Hope and Mission of the Free Churches*; *Through the War to the Kingdom*; *The Omega and other Poems*; *Jesus of the Scars*; *The Christian Year in War-time*; *The New Days*; *The Return to God*; *Life and Work*, 1926; *Poetry and Prayer*; *Craftsmen All*, 1932; *Nationalism: Man's Other Religion*, 1933; *The Way of the Witnesses*, 1936; and *You Can Find God*, 1937.

Shillito was known for his poems inspired by the Great War.

Hardness of Heart

In the first watch no death but made us mourn;
Now tearless eyes run down the daily roll,
Whose names are written in the book of death;
For sealed are now the springs of tears, as when
The tropic sun makes dry the torrent's course
After the rains. They are too many now
For mortal eyes to weep, and none can see
But God alone the Thing itself and live.
We look to seaward, and behold a cry!
To skyward, and they fall as stricken birds
On autumn fields; and earth cries out its toll,
From the Great River to the world's end--toll
Of dead, and maimed and lost; we dare not stay;
Tears are not endless and we have no more.

Shillito's work is known internationally; the following is from the website of the Sand Hill United Methodist Church of West Virginia:

In times of great suffering, grieving people often pose a challenge to any minister within earshot: 'Why did God allow this evil to happen?' To answer that question, a pastor must develop a theodicy (i.e., a response that justifies belief in an all-loving and all-powerful God in spite of sin and evil). Although the existence and extent of evil is a profound mystery, the message of Christianity shines through even in darkness. According to the Bible, *not even God* exempted Himself from the agony of human suffering. The second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, God of very God, experienced a gruesome encounter with pain and agony on the cross.

This very truth struck Rev Edward Shillito, as he watched wave after wave of wounded young men return from the First World War. How could Christianity still be 'good news' to those who had seen the slaughter of brutal trench warfare in the European theatre of battle? Shillito, a Free Church minister in England, saw a partial reply in the following teaching: among all the world religions, only Christianity portrays a God suffering as a man. The following poem, *Jesus of the Scars*, was his attempt to explain this clearly comforting truth in a world wracked by war, death, injustice, and natural disasters:

Jesus of the Scars

If we have never sought, we seek Thee now;
Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;
We must have sight of thorn-pricks on Thy brow;
We must have Thee, O Jesus of the Scars.
The heavens frighten us; they are too calm;
In all the universe we have no place.
Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?
Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.
If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;
We know to-day what wounds are, have no fear,
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.
The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;

But to our wounds only God's wounds speak;
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.

Edward Shillito died on 11 March 1948; his wife Annie died in 1966.

References

With thanks – conversation with Roger Lineker on 28 March and 26 April 2013 concerning the Shillito family.

Terence Atkins and Graham Frankel for information about James Shillito's time at BHCHS.

The Companion to Congregational Praise 1952, pp 504–505, courtesy of Roger Lineker.

Teverson, George: *A Brief Chronicle of Fifty Years' Service in Buckhurst Hill, Buckhurst Hill Congregational Church 1874-1924* (Loughton Library).

Who Was Who online courtesy of Essex Libraries.

www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk

www.norman.hrc.utexas.edu for the deaths of Annie and James Shillito

www.sandhillumc.wordpress.com for *Jesus of the Scars*

www.sonnets.org for *Hardness of Heart*

LYNN HASELDINE JONES

Correction (or is it?)

In *Newsletter 215*, in the article concerning the Ridgeway Park Model Railway (page 5), there is reference to the park being situated in Coleman's Moor Lane, Chingford. Chris Pond has pointed out that the entrances to the park are in fact in Chingford Avenue and Endlebury Road. But Terry Carter replied:

As regards Coleman's Moor Lane, there seems to be an unnamed path/lane running within the park, at the Chingford Avenue end, on the bend of which the Clubhouse stands. The source I saw, and checked today, certainly names Coleman's Moor Lane as its location. Perhaps it is, or was, known historically by that name to the members.

David Boote, Chair of Leyton and Leytonstone Historical Society, and an authority on footpaths within Waltham Forest borough, writes:

I've not heard of Coleman's Moor Lane; it doesn't come up on a 'Google' search, and it's not in *The Streets of Waltham Forest, Vol Two Chingford*, by J M Hayward. On a map of the borough from when London phone numbers started 01 it is Rethingham Way which leads off Chingford Avenue to the edge of Ridgeway Park where the model engineering club has its base. There is a footpath running west from Heathcote Grove which runs parallel with Chingford Avenue and for a section has just railings separating it from the miniature railway track. I don't know of a name for this path, and it is a path rather than a track. It appears on the Godfrey reprint of old Ordnance Survey maps but otherwise that map doesn't help. Chingford Avenue doesn't itself have an entrance into Ridgeway Park. It sounds as though there must be some reason for the Coleman's Moor Lane address, but I do not know.

Chris Pond is certain that there is no Coleman's Moor Lane. In addition I have been contacted by a member of the Chingford and District Model Engineering Club, David Thame, who says the address of the club is actually Ridgeway Park, Peel Close, Old Church Road, Chingford E4 6XQ.

THE EDITOR

The London Mithraeum

Worth a visit is the Mithraeum, which has recently opened in the European headquarters of Bloomberg.

The Temple of Mithras is believed to date from around AD240, and it was first discovered in the early 1950s during the excavation of a bomb site. Thousands of people visited the site, and the remains were moved to an open-air position a short distance from where it had been found. With the redevelopment of the whole area, the remains of the Temple are now a feature of the Bloomberg complex, 7 metres below the modern street level. Artefacts associated with the Temple are displayed at ground level, and the descent down to the Temple is by stairs or lift. The visit to the Temple itself is accompanied by mist, lighting and sound effects, to recreate some of the atmosphere thought to be part of the cult of Mithras. The address is 12 Wallbrook, EC4N 8AA; it is open Tue to Sat 10–6pm, Sunday and Bank Hols 12–5pm, first Thurs of the month 10–8pm. Admission is free but must be booked in advance: (www.londonmithraeum.com)

THE EDITOR

Epping, Australia



Have you ever wondered if the names of our towns are to be found anywhere else in the world? Well here is an interesting tale. Whilst my husband and I were in Australia visiting our son and family over Christmas 2016 we had a free day and decided to have a drive to explore a bit more of the area where they live. Their suburb is a few miles north of Melbourne and on studying the local map I came across the town of Epping, about 12 miles north of the City. On closer inspection of the map of the town we noticed three streets with very familiar names as you can see from the photos! The area is very flat and has some very smart properties. There is also a small shopping mall in Epping and I think the town is larger than ours. On looking up on 'Google' I have found 6 more Eppings in the world and 3 Epping Forests, two are in Australia and one in the USA

which we visited some years ago, and that one has some local street names such as Roebuck Avenue. All of these places have their names thanks to people from this area when they emigrated in the 1800s. I have only found one Buckhurst Hill in the world, OURS!! We are unique it would seem!

VALERIE THAME

Prostitution in Victorian Colchester

University of Hertfordshire Press has launched the third in its series of Essex local history books *Prostitution in Victorian Colchester* under the imprint 'Essex Publications'.

The decision to build a new army camp in the small market town of Colchester in 1856 was well received and helped to stimulate the local economy after a prolonged period of economic stagnation. But there was a downside: some of the soldiers' behaviour was highly disruptive and, since very few private soldiers were allowed to marry, prostitution flourished.

Having compiled a database of nearly 350 of Colchester's nineteenth-century prostitutes, the authors examine how they lived and operated and who their customers were. What were the routes into and out of prostitution and what was life like as a prostitute? Was it even seen by some as an acceptable way for girls and young women to boost inadequate earnings from more respectable work?

As well as providing a vivid portrait of nineteenth-century Colchester, this study will appeal to all those interested in the history of women's work, policing and society more widely. The authors are:

Jane Pearson who taught local and social history at the University of Essex. She has published papers on Essex local history and is preparing a medical history of Colchester.

Maria Rayner carried out research into Colchester's Lock Hospital and currently works within the NHS.

The book costs £18.99, ISBN 978-1-909291-97-3.

CHRISTOPHER DUNKLEY

The Essex Motor Club

The *RAC Journal* had regular reports of the activities of the Essex Motor Club. Here are some extracts from them. I have only reproduced reports which I think readers will find interesting. There were other reports of time trials, hill-climbs, etc, which do not warrant repeating. As far as possible I have tried to replicate how the reports were set out in the *RAC Journal*.

*The Annual Outing for Crippled Children from Shadwell took place on 23rd October, when about 100 little cripples were taken in motor cars for a day in Hainault Forest. Upon their arrival at the Forest at 11 am, a hot dinner was ready for each child, and afterwards they had the free use of a set of swings and half a dozen donkeys, donkey riding being the premier attraction. Amusements and games were indulged in until tea-time. After a good meal the children were driven back to their homes. An interesting feature was some acting by the older girls, who gave a performance of

Cinderella. A large number of members including Mr and Mrs Stenson Cooke, joined the children at tea. Members will be glad to hear that Mr Cooke is now convalescent after his recent accident. [Ernest Stenson Cooke (1874-1942) was an Olympic fencer and the first secretary of the Automobile Association.]

The thanks of the club are due to all those members who assisted in the organisation by the loan of their cars or by subscription. The whole of the expenses of the outing are borne voluntarily by the members and friends, and no part falls upon the Club's funds. Members who have not yet returned their collecting sheets are requested to do so at their earliest convenience. – 8 November 1912.

*On February 5th the Annual Cripples Tea was held at the Lowood Street School [This was a special school in Stepney], when the 80 little cripples attending the school were given a good meal, followed by an entertainment by *The Merries*. Both the tea and the entertainment were much appreciated by the little ones, while those members who attended spent a very enjoyable time. Among those present were Mr and Mrs Stenson Cooke and Mr and Mrs Whitcombe, who very kindly arranged for the entertainment. – 14 February 1913.

*The seventh Annual Report and Balance sheet were presented at the Annual General Meeting at the Great Eastern Hotel [Liverpool Street] on March 17th. The financial condition of the Club is satisfactory, the cash balance being well over £120.

*The membership showed an increase during last year, 255 members being on the books on December 31st, 1912.

*Among other work carried out by the Club for the benefit of automobilism may be mentioned the provision and erection of caution signs, the removal of an obstruction from the High Street, Brentwood, the scheduling for special warning signs of several dangerous bridge approaches, opposition to speed limit applications, an endeavour to persuade the county authorities to take action under the Advertisement Regulation Act, 1907, in respect of unsightly roadside advertisements, etc.

*The programme for the year 1912 included the opening meet at Horham Hall, Thaxted, the seat of Mr A P Humphry, MVO, JP; a hill-climb at Bottledown Hill [near Billericay]; a surprise motor mobilisation near Chelmsford, where members were entertained by Mrs Vickers; and a speed-judging competition, after which the competitors were the guests of Lord and Lady Petre at Thorndon Hall [Ingrave]. – 21 March 1913.

*The 'Bogey' Competition was held on March 30th. Competitors had to ride round a course, no distance or time being given to them. At the conclusion, the rider who was nearest to a tie which had been previously selected and sealed up, was the winner. Competitors were started at one-minute intervals. Bogey time was 93 min. 26 sec. The winners were D S Kapadia (92 min 45 sec) and D S Parsons (90 min 15 sec) – 4 April 1913.

*The early morning Ride will take place on Sunday next, and full particulars have been sent to all members who have applied for them. After the Ride, breakfast will be partaken at the 'Green Man', Harlow at 7 am. – 16 May 1913.

*The Members' Hill-climb was held on June 21st at Lippett's Hill, High Beech, and a very good day was spent. The classes were limited to motor-cycle events, on account of the

surface of the hill not being all that could be desired. The fastest time of the day was made by G Griffith on an 8 hp *Zenith*, but up to the time of going to press the results on formula had not been completed.

*The Midnight Ride to Yarmouth starts from the Shire Hall Chelmsford. Supper will be taken at Barnard's Hotel, Chelmsford, from 10.30. This is one of the most popular and most enjoyable rides of the year, and this year at least three ladies are accompanying the riders. – 27 June 1913.

*Arrangements are now complete for the Gymkhana which will be held to-morrow, Saturday, at the King's Oak, High Beech, near Loughton. The event is being held, as last year, in conjunction with the Walthamstow Motor Club, and members of other affiliated clubs are invited to attend. An excellent programme has been arranged, and tea will be served on the lawn during an interval. This fixture is specially arranged for the benefit and instruction of the ladies, and it is hoped they will attend in force. The competitions include tilting at the ring, belt-changing, apple-bobbing, musical chairs, threading the needle, etc. Full particulars and additional tickets may be obtained from Mr Frank Roberts, Baldwin's [sic] Hill, Loughton. – 4 July 1913.

*The Gymkhana organised by this club and the Walthamstow Motor Club, was held on July 5th, when a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. The only thing which damped the ardour of the competitors, and more than 400 spectators, was the rain which fell at intervals. It was not, however, sufficient to spoil the sport, and did not come down in earnest until the function was all over. A hockey race was included among the events, and in this event each competitor was provided with a hockey stick and had to drive his ball from the starting line to the goals posts over a course of about 150 yards. Competitors were allowed to turn about as they pleased so long as their feet did not touch the ground. As the course was only about 30 feet wide, this turning was productive of many hair-breadth escapes. The entries in all classes were very numerous, and the competitions had to be run off in heats. The meeting was held at High Beech, near Loughton, in the prettiest part of the forest, and in one of the points in Essex. – 11 July 1913.

There were only a few further reports until this rather poignant one:

MR ERNEST J BASS, the honorary treasurer, has joined the Army Service Corps and expects to go to France very shortly. Up to the present thirty-two members have joined the Forces, included in which are five members of the committee and the captain, Mr Ray Abbott. – 6 November 1914.

Inevitably one wonders how many came back from the war. JOHN HARRISON

Oddities a little further afield: Chadwell Heath

Some say the origin of the name Chadwell Heath is the stone marking the site of St Chad's Well pictured below. The stone reads:

St Chad's Well

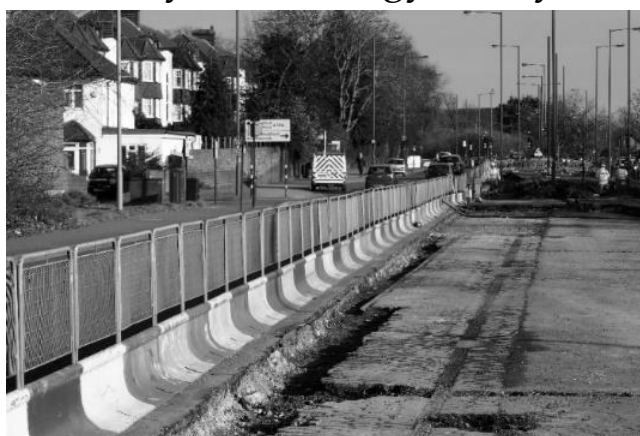
The site of St Chad's Well from which the name Chadwell Heath is derived. This tablet was placed here by the Ilford

Borough Council on behalf of the citizens of Ilford to commemorate the Festival of Britain, 1951.

The stone can be found on the south side of Billet Road, at the western end. Recommended for *A Stroll Through History in Chadwell Heath* is the leaflet of the same name by Christine Goldsmith, of the Chadwell Heath Historical Society.



Tramway archaeology in Leyton



The road junction at Whipps Cross, which for many years has taken the form of a roundabout which was installed to facilitate the introduction of trolleybuses in 1939, was being remodelled in December 2017. The works revealed a length of the tram tracks which were covered by soil when the green central reservation along Forest Rise, between Whipps Cross and Foresters Drive, was laid as part of the construction of the north-eastern approach to the roundabout. The tracks were last used by trams on 10 June 1939, trolleybuses taking over the next day. The site foreman allowed me to take these photographs, telling me that at least 20 people came to take similar photos in the week I was there, including the Museum of London. Some of the tracks were removed; other sections have been tarmacked over in January 2018, no doubt to be found again by a later generation of road-builders. PETER HASELDINE

Frank Amsden Biner

Frank Amsden Biner was born in the summer of 1898 in Loughton to William G Biner and his wife Miriam Palmer. His siblings were Miriam, born 1891, Harold William, born 1893 and Gladys, born 1897. His middle name came from his paternal grandmother, Hephzibah Amsden. Frank, 5'9½" tall, matriculated as a student at Loughton School in the University of London January (school-leaving) exam in 1915, placed

in the second division in English, mathematics, Latin, French, history and geography. He was living at his father's home, 49 Seymour Gardens, Ilford.



2nd Lieut. F. A. Biner.

He joined the 28th London Rifles (the Artists' Rifles), a territorial force, on 18 August 1915. He was appointed L/Cpl on 3 March 1916, until 25 January 1917, when he was discharged from 13 Company 2nd Artists' Rifles OTC, Hare Hall Camp, Romford, on being appointed 2nd Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps. He was serving at home until he went to France with the Royal Flying Corps.

Frank's death was reported to his family in a letter of 11 December 1917, saying that he had sustained multiple wounds on 3 December 1917 and that when he was brought into No 39 stationary hospital in the field (in Aire May 1917 to July 1918) he was dead. He had died as a result of an accident in which three other airmen died, too, their aircraft having collided. Those also killed were given as Lt W G Titchener, 2/Lt H K Johnstone and A/M D Clement, flying with Frank Biner. Sadly, the letters to his father sorting out his back pay and who would inherit (he died intestate) were delayed as the family had moved around March 1918. He left effects of 1 scarf, 1 letter and 1 wristwatch with strap and guard. The local paper reported his death in 1917 saying:

Second Lieutenant Frank A Biner, RFC, killed in action, aged 19 years, was the youngest son of Mr W G Biner, manager, Messrs Olney, Amsden and Sons Limited, 9-11 Falcon-street, London, EC. He left Loughton School in midsummer 1915 and joined the Artists' Rifles. From there he obtained a commission in the RFC in January of this year [1917] and was killed in action on December 3. Mr Biner's eldest son, Corporal WH Biner, HAC, is in hospital, wounded.

He is buried in the Commonwealth graves section of Aire communal cemetery, Pas de Calais, in plot IG17 and his death is recorded on the Loughton King's Garden Church war memorial.

CHRIS WILSON*

*Reprinted by kind permission of Stephen Goddard from *The Chronicle*, the monthly newsletter of the Buckhurst Hill branch of the Royal British Legion, issue 813 of December 2017.

More about the Biner family

Reginald Amsden Biner

He was born in the last quarter of 1891 in Clapton, Middlesex to Benjamin Amsden Biner and his wife Alice, of Parkanaur Avenue, Thorpe Bay, Essex. He had enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry and is given in the annual drill pay-list of A company 52nd Regiment at Sewell Camp in 1914. He emigrated to Canada in October 1908 on board the ship *Dominion*, sailing out of Liverpool, when he is given as 'boy' on the passenger list, aged about 17. He appears to have been alone. Lance/Sgt Reginald Amsden Biner died of wounds at No 17 Casualty Clearing Station, known as Remy Sidings on 18 May 1916 and is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

in plot VI.D.44A. The cemetery is on the site of the large clearing station and hospital established to manage the wounded during the war. He was 24 years old.

The war diary of the 5th Battalion describes a series of actions in trenches in May 1916 around Bedford House. On 14 May 1916 the diary says:

Weather: cold. Wind: NW. Trench 37 shelled and breached, otherwise fairly quiet. 40 reinforcements arrived. Casualties: 5 OR wounded.

On 17 May 1916 in trenches, the diary records:

fine weather and NW wind. Enemy shelled trench 36 with 77mm shrapnel and trench mortars. We retaliated with 18 pounders, trench mortars and Stokes Gun. Several enemy shells also fell in support and in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters. There was less sniping than usual. Casualties: 2 officers . . . and 5 OR wounded.

It is possible this was the action in which he was fatally wounded.

Benjamin Clive Biner

Ben (as he was known) was born in the summer of 1894 to Benjamin Amsden Biner and his wife Alice Stroud, whose address was given as Balgores Lane, Squirrels Heath. He was one of six children born to the couple, three of whom were alive in 1911. Ben was educated at Parmiters School, London NE, and then at Clarks College. He worked as a wholesale draper for Biner, Sharpe and Co having left school at 17 to go to Germany to learn the lace trade.



Second Lt. B. C. Biner.

He served as a rifleman in 1/5 London Rifle Brigade (LRB) (enlisting in 1911) and trained for 169 Trench Mortar Battery. Between 28 August 1915 and 17 September 1915 he served 21 days detention for an offence under section 40 of the Army Act. He was promoted L/Cpl on 6 May 1917 and commissioned as 2nd Lt in the 18 Royal Irish Rifles (RIR) (attached 4 E Yorks) on 25 September 1917 which he had joined on 5 May 1917 at Fermoy from No 7 Officer Cadet Battalion. This was despite being in trouble for insubordination at 7 Officer Cadet Battalion on 9 August 1917 for not paying attention at a lecture and being sullen.

However, in a letter dated 17 February 1917 from Lt Gen Comny(?) XI Corps, L/Cpl Biner BC 5th London Rgt attached 169 TMB (Trench Mortar Brigade) was

13 months in France, NCO for 5 months through the Somme fighting. Left school at 17 and went to Germany to learn the lace trade. Stayed there 16 months and then went to England and went into business (wholesale draper) and stayed there until he enlisted. He had 10-12 people working under him before he enlisted. Is capable, determined . . . NCO.

He was home until 31 January 1916 when he was with the expeditionary force in France from 1 February 1916 until 24 February 1917, when he came home until 25 September 1917 when he was

commissioned. He was reported missing in action on 27 May 1918 but was in fact an injured prisoner of war (PM 45012). According to a Geneva Red Cross report he was captured on 27 May 1918 at the Plateau de Californie, on the ridge known as Chemin des Dames, south of Laon in France. He was part of the army defending this ridge when they were surprised and over-run by German troops in May 1918. According to a letter of 25 October 1918 the report of the Staff Surgeon of the hospital at Treves (a German) says he 'died 21 July 1918 at 2.15 a.m . . . of a shattered leg (lower part, left) with sepsis. He was buried in the cemetery at Treves (Trier) in grave No KI 36' but was re-interred later in the Commonwealth War Cemetery, Cologne Southern Cemetery, in plot XIV.E.7.

A fellow injured prisoner, J A A Flynn wrote to his mother with similar news. He was married in 1917 to Edith Alice Wheatley, daughter of F J Wheatley. She was Mrs Biner of Burnham House, Heath Park Road, Romford, (her father's home) when he died. As Ben Clive Biner he left through Administration on 7 February 1919 effects of £306 10s 10d to his widow (who remarried in 1919 to one George H Taylor).

So both sons of Benjamin Biner died in the Great War.

CHRIS WILSON

An interesting programme

The Buckhurst Hill Athenaeum will enter on the second half of the session next Monday, and the syllabus which has been prepared indicates that the meetings will be of more than ordinary interest. Next Monday Lieutenant-Colonel J H Patterson, DSO, will give a lecture on *Wild Men and Wild Beasts of East Africa*, with lantern illustrations, and the following week Dr Haydn Brown will discourse on the important question of *Physical Degeneration and a Cause*. On February 4th Mr H L Sackett will endeavour to show *That the Construction of the Channel Tunnel would be a menace to the security of England*, and a week later Mrs Despard, one of the foremost ladies in the ranks of the Suffragettes, will try to convince the Society *That Women have a right to the Parliamentary Franchise*. Other subjects will be dealt with by Mr J Tinkler of the Social and Political Education League, Mr S Hazzledine Warren, FGS, FZS, Mr WP Forbes, JP, of Wanstead, the Rev Addison A Charlesworth, Mr W Vincent of Loughton, and Dr Leonard Hill, FRS.

Woodford Times, 19 January 1907

Mrs Despard on Women's Suffrage

On Monday evening last a most spirited debate took place at the Buckhurst Hill Athenaeum on the question of votes for women. There was an excellent attendance, the Rev J R Legge occupying the chair. The discussion was opened by Mrs Despard, one of the leaders of the active branch of the movement, who spoke most eloquently, and put the case before her audience in a very lucid manner. She said women were citizens, having most important duties to perform, the chief of which was that of motherhood, and as such should be entitled to a vote. In every well-ordered family there was always the dual influence of husband and wife, both working together harmoniously, and consequently everything went right. The state was only a home on a larger scale, and politics housekeeping on a larger scale, and

we should never have politics on a grand or true scale until we had dual management. It was not a fact that women wanted to get supremacy, but they desired to stand at the side of and to help their brothers in this great work of the state. Men came to women at election times and asked them to canvass for them, and to go on platforms and speak about – what? – why politics, of which they were supposed to know nothing. Then, taxation, especially of articles of food, fell more heavily on women than on men. When the tax was put on sugar and bread the working man did not give his wife any more money for housekeeping, but only the usual 18s or 20s, and she had to pay the extra cost of these articles (and there were cases where it had made as much difference as a shilling a week) at the expense of proper clothing for herself and children. Yet women had no voice in taxation! At political meetings candidates were very attentive to propositions and questions put to them by men, who had votes, but if a woman ventured to ask a question she was simply smiled at, and given no answer, and if she persisted was hustled out, simply because she had no vote. When women had the vote they would do their utmost for those who were pledged for measures which they considered the best for the country. They would talk over things and see what it was they really wanted, and would get it. Fewer lawyers would be sent to Parliament, and then perhaps we should get laws that could be understood.

We wanted a better England, a better world. How were women to help in the important questions of unemployment, the feeding of children, etc, if they had no vote? The movement was not confined to England alone, but was universal, and other countries were at present looking to the women of England for inspiration. We were on the march, and were going on with the revolutionary movement, and, she added, were going to give a considerable amount of trouble.

Mrs Despard moved 'that women have a right to claim the Parliamentary franchise'.

Mrs Stacey was adverse to the use of force in forwarding the movement, and suggested that women should bind themselves not to work at Parliamentary elections until the vote was obtained.

Mr J Dietrichsen was afraid women could not go into the political world and treat it the same as men. They were physically different, and more liable to hysteria.

Miss C Jebb seconded the resolution, and pointed out that there were certain fundamental questions which appealed to women in a special way, and they would have a tremendous lever if they had the vote. With regard to the methods used to obtain the vote, no great reform had ever yet been carried out except by means not entirely to be approved.

Mr Akers suggested women should have the vote if it could be shown that the majority of women desired it.

Mr F T Shadbolt was opposed to the motion, and was afraid that if given it would be the cause of innumerable dissensions in every household in England.

Messrs J W Phelps, W J Read and Mrs R Allen also spoke, and supported the proposition, while questions were put by Mrs Needham and Messrs W J Phillips, Willmott, and Dietrichsen jun.

Mrs Despard replied briefly, and answered the various questions put to her.

The resolution was carried by 42 votes to 22, a large number present refraining from voting.

Arrest of Mrs Despard

Mrs Despard (who is a sister of Lieut-General French) took a leading part in the demonstration outside the House of Commons on Wednesday, and was one of the 61 ladies

arrested by police. She has carried out her stated intention of 'giving a considerable amount of trouble'.
Woodford Times, 16 February 1907

For more about the Buckhurst Hill Athenaeum see *Newsletter* 203.

Anyone for Bosworth's?

I enjoyed *Newsletter* 216. The article on Smarts Lane and butchers' shops made me wonder whether there'd be an article for someone to write on the history of Bosworth's the butchers – there are some interesting old photos in the (new) Bosworth's shop and the old shop had character. DAVID LINNELL

Arrest of housebreakers 1823

Yesterday morning, on the arrival of the Woodford coach at the Royal Exchange, a patrol from Woodford rode up, and secured two of the four outside passengers; the other two made their escape through Pope's Head Alley; but one of them, in his flight, dropped a valuable gold watch, which was picked up by Mr Barnard, the proprietor of the coach. The two apprehended were taken to the Mansion House. On searching them, upwards of £15 of money was found on them. It appears that a house at Loughton, near Woodford, was broken open early in the morning, and property to a large amount stolen. From circumstances that transpired, these fellows were suspected, and one of the Woodford patrol immediately followed the coach, and arrived before they had got off the roof.

The Morning Post, Thursday, 11 September 1823

George Williams and Edward Edwards were indicted for stealing at Loughton on the 10th of September, a gold watch, value £18, a purse containing a sovereign, and other money, the property of J M T Turner, in his dwelling-house. Mr Jessop conducted the prosecution, and Mr Broderick and Mr Dowling the defence. It appeared in evidence that the prosecutor was a gentleman farmer at Loughton. On the morning of the 10th of September, after Harlow Bush Fair, his wife had left the property in question on her work table, with the parlour window open. After being absent from the room for about half an hour, she returned and found the property missing. It appeared that the garden gate in front of the house had been opened by somebody, and by that means the property was taken. Information was given to a constable, and it was discovered that four ill-looking fellows had been seen lurking about the house for some time, and had afterwards taken the Loughton coach for London. The coach was followed to town by the constable, who came up with it in Cornhill, just as the two prisoners were getting off. They were immediately charged with the robbery. One of them was seen to take a purse out of his small-clothes pocket, empty it of its contents, which he put into his waistcoat pocket, and threw the purse away; and the other threw down a gold watch, which was picked up from the pavement. When before the Lord Mayor the prisoners attempted to get rid of other articles of property, which turned out to belong to the prosecutor. The articles above-mentioned were now identified by the prosecutor. The prisoners strenuously denied their guilt, but called no witnesses. The Jury, under the Learned Judge's direction, found the prisoners guilty, and judgement of Death was recorded against them.

The Morning Chronicle, Thursday, 11 December 1823

A new Loughton author and a new Loughton sculptor

One might think Loughton had already marked up its fair share of artistic figures, but my attention has been drawn to two more! Jef Page of the Ilford Historical Society emailed me about Elsa Fraenkel, a noted sculptor, and then Ian Strugnell, in his perusal of the 1939 National Register, found Rona Shambrook, author of 50 novels, in Rectory Court.

Elsa Fraenkel was a German Jewish emigrée. She was born in 1892, and grew up in Heidelberg. She was a noted sculptor, and exhibited, amongst other places, at Leicester Galleries, Ben Uri Gallery, Leighton House Museum, Stafford Gallery, the Tate Gallery, and the Royal Academy. She moved to Paris in 1933 and appears to have arrived Britain in 1935. In 1939, she was living in St Marylebone, at 54 Charlbert Court, NW8. But in the last years of the War or early post-war years, she came to Loughton, living in the service flat of the Elms, a big house in Church Lane, demolished in the 1970s, and replaced by the close called Elmores. Elsa at some time moved to Woodford, and became a friend of Sylvia Pankhurst. She died in 1975. So Loughton had two prominent sculptors, the other, of course, being Jacob Epstein.

Rona Shambrook was a prolific author of light fiction. She had been born Rona Green in 1911. She married quantity surveyor Frederick Shambrook in Loughton in 1938; they came to live at 6 Rectory Court that same year. Her books, written as Rona Randall, were romantic, Gothic and historical novels. There are 85 titles in all listed in the British Library Catalogue, but some of these are reprints and large print books.

Rona also wrote two non-fiction books, one a history of Jordan (for which King Hussein wrote a preface) and the other, *The Model Wife, nineteenth century style*, 1989, a very useful study of 19th century domestic arrangements, which Rona says arose from research done for her dozen historical novels. The Shambrooks may have moved within Loughton and then to Hertfordshire and Kent in the 1950s. She was writing at the age of 90, and was still alive in a retirement home in Yorkshire in 2008.

CHRIS POND

Welsh newspaper miscellany

Active invalid wants to collect a debt from the Queen

Adam Lovett of Queen's Road *Buckhurst-hill*, was invalidated from the Army, and just to advance convalescence he went to *Ascot*, and apparently had a good time. On Sunday it is alleged that he tried to force his way into the Tower of London, giving as an excuse that the Queen owed him £8. Now, as a matter of fact, her Majesty does not live at the Tower, and is not in the habit of lending money to invalidated seamen. As *Lovett* got violent Mr Dickinson at Thames Police-court, fined him £5 for the trouble he had given.

Evening Express, 23 June 1896

English tea

Another suggestion for the depressed agriculturalist. The tea plant will not grow in England, but an acclimatised shrub, the *Chimonanthus fragrans* first brought from Japan to

England by Admiral Harvey seems, we gather from the *Horticultural Review*, to possess the essential requisites of tea. There are three or four varieties, all equally serviceable for making a beverage from the leaves, which is not much unlike the best green tea when milk and sugar are added. The shrub, we are told, thrives well at Buckhurst Hill, Essex, Gerrard Cross, Bucks, on a sandy soil with a southern aspect, and 'would do equally well in Kent, Sussex, Hants, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall, where many thousand acres are now vacant, or yielding unproductive crops, might be made serviceable and create a new and profitable industry'. The Ceylon tea is threatening to drive the China tea out of the market; it would be curious if 'English tea' should ultimately supersede both the products of China and Ceylon!

The Cambrian, 29 March 1895

The right of lopping of Epping Forest

At midnight on Saturday the eight hundredth anniversary of what is known as the 'lopping rights' of the parishioners of Loughton was celebrated with more than usual circumstance. Shortly before nine o'clock the commoners, verderers, and parishioners of the parish of Loughton assembled at the Robin Hood Hotel, High Beach, and partook of a venison supper prepared from the buck which, in accordance with annual custom, was hunted on Easter Monday last, and has been stall-fed since. The chair was taken by Mr John Chilton, the well-known and persistent advocate of what are termed the grantees' rights, who stated that it was a matter of congratulation to all present to think that, although 800 years had elapsed since the right of lopping was accorded to the parishioners of Loughton, still that right existed in its entirety, and would be exercised by those present that night in the usual form. Although the right of 'lopping' was inconsistent with the setting aside of land for recreation, still he was a strong advocate of the upholding of these rights until they were by a special Act of Parliament set aside. As they well knew, he had been called upon to address the Commissioners sitting at Westminster on Monday relative to these rights, and he should then propound the following scheme for their consideration. First, he should recommend 'hereditary' compensation as a right appurtenant to occupation; secondly, he should suggest that 20 acres of the most productive land in the parish should be set aside as allotments in one-eighth acre patches, to be perpetually vested in the parish officers, and to be appurtenant to the occupiers of small tenements, not to houses and lands, in consideration of the lopping rights being done away with; also that five acres be set apart for a recreation ground, to be also vested in a like manner, and that fuel of the proportionate value of 100 faggots, either in wood or coal, be for ever given to 12 poor widows of the parish of Loughton, or, failing them, widowers. This was the sum and substance of his scheme, and he had every hope of its success. Precisely as the clock struck twelve a procession was formed, and headed by Mr Superintendent Todman and a squad of the Metropolitan Police, mounted and foot, together with a body of the wood bailiffs of the Corporation, proceeded to Staples-hill, where the torches were lighted and the first bough was cut. After the cutting of the first bough, each one claiming lopping rights cut off a twig and this ended the ceremony. The procession then reformed, each person bearing his branch with him.

The Aberdare Times, 11 August 1876

Loughton, Essex – Salcombe College

Principal, Mrs Vivian, assisted by Resident Certificated English, French, and German Governesses, London Professors. The College is situated on a hill, and stands in its own grounds of two acres. Lawn Tennis and Croquet. Close to Epping Forest, and 12 miles from London. University and

other examinations. Excellent class-rooms and well-furnished sitting-rooms. Terms moderate and inclusive. References: Revs J Angus, DD, W Durban, BA, J A Spurgeon, also W Olney, F A Owgan, MD, J Passmore, Esqrs. Prospectus, with view of College, sent on application.

South Wales Daily News, 3 September 1888

Undeserved honour

A correspondent (says the *Daily Mail*) sends us a copy of the current *Loughton Advertiser*. The newspaper reproduces *Praise the Lord, ye Heavens adore Him*, one of the best-known hymns in the language, associated as it is with Haydn's majestic *Austria* and describes the hymn as being 'composed by a lad named Walter Mountford, who is a scholar in Standard VII at the Staples-road Schools, Loughton'. The explanation of the blunder is ludicrously simple. As the hymn is not in the children's book the master set all the scholars to copy it, so that it could be sung at the distribution. After the manner of Dora Copperfield each scholar put his name to his production. By some means one of these slips reached the newspaper office, with the result that the Loughton schoolboy is crowned with the laurel wreath of genius.

Evening Express, 6 January 1898

Woman's hat on engine

Upon the arrival at Epping of a light engine from Loughton, the driver discovered a woman's hat attached to the front of the engine. Meanwhile, a woman had been picked up on the line at Chigwell-lane by a porter, who saw her run out of the long grass at the end of the station. She was attended by a doctor, and sent on by train to the London Hospital, suffering from injuries to head and foot. A flat-iron and a length of rope were found in her pocket. The woman is unknown. She is small and slim in figure, and wears a wedding ring.

Evening Express, 11 June 1910

Forged characters

A domestic servant named Alice Cordell, of Loughton, was summoned at Epping yesterday for having offered herself as a servant with forged certificates of character. In two cases the girl intercepted letters from ladies to her former employers inquiring as to her character, and replied, in neatly written business-like letters, she giving herself in each case an exemplary character and forging her previous employers' names. The husband of one of the ladies who had been deceived (Mr S R Hobday, clerk to the Lea Conservancy Board) said proceedings had been taken against the girl in the public interest. The defendant was severely cautioned and fined 40s.

Evening Express, 20 November 1909

A despondent barmaid

'I was so despondent, caused through being away from my husband who is not in business now, and I decided to drown myself. I went into the water, but could not keep my head down. I came out and went in a second time, and then I gave it up.' This statement was made on Saturday by a barmaid named Jennie Palmer, of High Beech, who was charged at Stratford on Saturday with having attempted to commit suicide by throwing herself into the Connaught Waters at Loughton last Thursday. She was allowed to go home with her husband.

Evening Express, 20 April 1908

Railway clerk in trouble

At the Guildhall Police-court on Monday Julius Stern, 37, of Glen Villa, Meadow-road, Loughton, clerk, in the service of the Great Eastern Railway Company, was charged with embezzling and stealing, on or about August 3, 1900, a cheque for £44 8s, the property of the company. Detective-sergeant Lyon said about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon

he was with Detective Gamble, of the Great Eastern Railway, and saw the prisoner at Loughton Station. He told him he had a warrant for his arrest for embezzling a cheque for £44 8s on the 3rd of August, 1900, received for the Great Eastern Railway, his masters. He replied, 'It is quite right. I am pleased to see you. It has been hanging over me for some time.' He then asked to be allowed to see his wife and children before he was taken to London. He was allowed to do this, when he said, 'I have had ample opportunity of getting away, but I want to clear the matter up. I will help the company in every way.' He was taken to the city and charged. E Wickham, clerk in the assistants' department of Messrs Donald Currie and Co, ship-owners, of Fenchurch-street, said on the 22nd of August, 1900, they owed the Great Eastern Railway Company for passengers the sum of £44 8s as shown on the account. The amount was paid by cheque (produced). The Alderman: Any questions. Stern? Prisoner: I received that cheque. Arthur Jeffries, clerk in the Continental Manager's Office, Liverpool-street Station, deposed that Stern had been a clerk in the office for about eleven years. It was his duty to receive money in respect of tickets, and to pay it over to witness, who would give a receipt. Prisoner would enter it in a book to show what it was for. There was no entry in respect of the cheque in question. The prisoner had never accounted for that cheque as received from Messrs Donald Currie and Co. The prisoner wrote to Mr C Busk, the Continental manager, saying he was sorry to confess that he had been deceiving and robbing the company for ten years of large sums, and in trying to hide it had been signing letters to the audit office to deceive the clerks. He could not expect to be forgiven, but asked to be dealt with quickly on account of his innocent wife and children. At this stage Alderman Smallman granted a remand, and declined to accept bail.

Weekly Mail, 31 August 1901

Poaching affray in Epping Forest

Two labourers, Charles Wheeler and William Polson, were summoned before the Epping bench on Tuesday for poaching in Epping Forest, and Wheeler was further charged with assaulting William Hughes, one of the forest keepers. The latter deposed to catching the defendants ferreting in the forest. Wheeler first used threats, and when witness tried to search him, struck him over the arm with a large stone, forcing him to release his hold. The defendants then walked towards the Wake Arms, and witness followed. When near the high road witness blew his whistle, and George Perkins, another forest keeper, came to his assistance. Wheeler then became very violent, and a desperate fight took place, in which he was so injured that he would probably have to be off duty for some time. The prisoner bit, fought, and kicked the keepers, and they had to drag him along the road the whole of the way to Loughton Police-station. On being searched a live ferret and six nets were found in his possession. Polson was very quiet, and did not attempt to strike anyone. Superintendent Wornack said there were 33 previous convictions against Wheeler for assault, etc, but nothing was known against the other man. Polson was discharged, and Wheeler was fined £5 and costs for poaching, and £5 and costs for the assault, or two months' imprisonment in each case with hard labour in default. Wheeler said he had no money, and was removed to the cells.

Weekly Mail, 14 August 1897

Vegetare or vegetate

To The Editor of the Cambrian

Sir, May I correct a printer's error which appeared in my letter in your columns, and which entirely alters my position. I do not advocate that the human race should 'vegetate'. There are too many, in all conscience, already

busily engaged in this meaningless idleness, but I 'do' advocate that the intelligently humane members of every community should adopt a dietary best fitted to increase their health and vigour and vitality, i.e., to express it in one word, that they should vegetare. Now is just the time when the heavy meat foods of the winter may wisely be cast away, and when emancipated man and woman may come close to the hem of Dame Nature's gown and take from her lap the vernal fruits and vegetables and cereals and salads as well as the leaves and the flowers. Now is the month for man to set his face again towards that Edenic paradise he lost long ago, when he forsook the orchard and the harvest field for the slaughter-house and the hunting spear. For those who wish to learn something of the physical benefits and moral comfort to be obtained from a vegetarian dietary, I would recommend your readers to send a few stamps for literature and cookery books to the Order of the Golden Age, Paignton, South Devon.

Yours, etc., JOSIAH OLDFIELD, MA (Oxon).

Loughton, Essex.

The Cambrian, 7 June 1901

Dog muzzling

Mr Hopper, an inspector under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, has reported to the Bench at Stratford two cases of rabies in dogs, one a retriever at Wanstead, and the other a fox-terrier at Woodford. He had dealt with these cases by destroying the animals, and when he had recorded the fact to the committee having charge of contagious diseases (animals) in that part of the county, he was advised to apply to the Bench for some order likely to prevent the spread of the disease. Mr H S Haynes (the clerk) said that the Bench had the power to order such restrictions in the cases of dogs as they might deem necessary, and the Bench then ordered that for two months from that date all dogs permitted to be abroad within the jurisdiction of the Court should be muzzled. This order will affect the parishes of Barking, Dagenham, East Ham, Ilford, Leyton, Walthamstow, Wanstead, Woodford, and the districts of Chigwell and Loughton. *Denbighshire Free Press*, 6 July 1889

Alleged attempted murder at Epping

Late on Saturday evening, at Epping, at that part of the town known as the Lower Forest, a woman named Mary Winks was returning to her home at Loughton, accompanied by her son, a lad of tender years, in a pony and cart, after seeing her daughter off by train at Epping Station, when a man fired several shots at her. Three took effect, one passing through her body, another entering the head behind the ear, and a third the hip. The boy raised an alarm, and Superintendent Womack and Sergeant Green, of the Essex police, were speedily on the spot, and went in search of the miscreant, whom they apprehended between Potter-street and the town of Harlow. He had on him a five-chambered revolver, all the barrels being loaded, but offered no resistance. He proved to be a man named Brace, of Sawbridgeworth. The tragic affair is said to be consequent upon the refusal of Mrs Winks to allow Brace to marry one of her daughters. The injured woman was reported to be in a precarious condition, and small hopes were entertained of her recovery. On Monday afternoon Charles Brace, described as a blacksmith, of High Wych, Sawbridgeworth, was brought up and charged at Epping with shooting with intent to murder Mrs Mary Winks. The son having given evidence, the prisoner was remanded.

Cardigan Observer, 10 December 1892

Printer's error

Under 'Vegetare or vegetate' on page 15, Dr Oldfield, in writing to the Editor of *The Cambrian* in 1901, uses the term 'printer's error', and it serves him right for using a verb ('vegetare') which is not in my dictionary.

Long before the digital world, every reputable printer, whether engaged in bookwork or general or newspaper printing, employed at least one proofreader and, in the case of my firm, about 20. Book-printing firms and newspapers had large reading departments and took great care to ensure the accuracy of the printed word – unlike today when everyone is his own typesetter and proofreader.

Type was a very slippery medium with which to work and to get the words accurately onto the page at least three operatives were employed: the typesetter, the 'stonehand' who made up the pages and inserted the corrections and the proofreader who corrected the first proof. The type went on being corrected until it was 'clean'.

Therefore, when we were asked to insert an erratum (sometimes as part of the publication or in the next issue or as a separate slip), which always started with the fateful words 'Due to a printer's error', hackles rose and an investigation always ensued. Every reader had to sign his proof at every stage of production and both the printer's proofs and the returned author's proofs were always kept and examined as part of the *post mortem*.

It quite often turned out that the 'printer's error' was a wrong correction or instruction from the editor or a young tyro on the publishing staff or that they had failed to take notice of, or understand, a query raised on the proof by the printer.

One of the most farcical investigations I remember from the 1960s was when no less a person than the publisher's deputy managing director said we had used the wrong size square brackets ([]) in a publication (he probably didn't have much in his in-tray that day). In technical parlance, he said that a 'wrong font' had been inserted: this was unlikely because all the brackets were exactly the same. Square brackets are used extensively in references in law books around the year for a law report series that is not sequentially volume-numbered. Our typesetters checked the brackets in the fonts and said that they were correct, but the deputy MD persisted.

Time for the big guns: my manager had lines of square brackets set and proofed on baryta (shiny) paper and they were examined under a glass and then sent on to the Linotype Corporation for their assessment. To give them credit, Linotype took the matter very seriously and gave us a technical report which said the apparent problem was due to the design of the font. So, we were right, he was right and everything was quite all right!

We took great pride in getting it right and usually 'Printer's error' meant 'Publisher's error' – though, as they were paying the bills, we dare not say so, but it would have been nice to do so: just once!

TED MARTIN

Great Woodcote Park

Great Woodcote Park was built on a derelict industrial site at North Farm in 1995. The photos show the 'impression' from the estate agents' blurb and what actually happened! The hill seems to have disappeared.

CHRIS POND



The painting in the Church of St John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill (see page 3)



LOUGHTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(Registered Charity 287274)

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