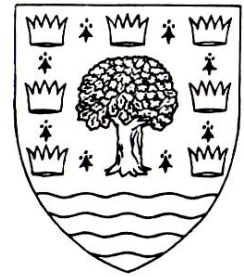


Ilford Historical Society

Newsletter No.106 August 2011



Dear Reader

Doreen Weller – Great thanks

We wish to say thank you to Doreen (and David) for putting the Newsletter together. Doreen brings a bubbly sense of fun and enthusiasm to all situations and took over from Nigel Roche in September 2005, editing 21 issues, nos.85-105, until March 2011.

From just a two-sided leaflet she increased the number of pages, added relevant colour pictures to some articles so Peter Foley and myself could develop our theories. Doreen wrote the Introductions and occasional pieces on the Chapel, brought in Bill Green to write articles on religion, peace, and reconciliation themes, whilst welcoming a variety of contributions from Georgina Green, Pat Heron and Norman Gunby.

We want to keep the Newsletter going to let members know what's going on and publish articles of interest to everyone.

Doreen hands over to new Vice President and editor Georgina Green and we welcome her.

We all wish Doreen well in her fight to stay healthy. We'd like articles on any subject, members news and anecdotes, more writers to add variety, and good local and family history.

Jef Page, Chairman, July 2011.

Our New Logo is taken from the arms granted on October 17, 1926, when Ilford became a Municipal Borough.

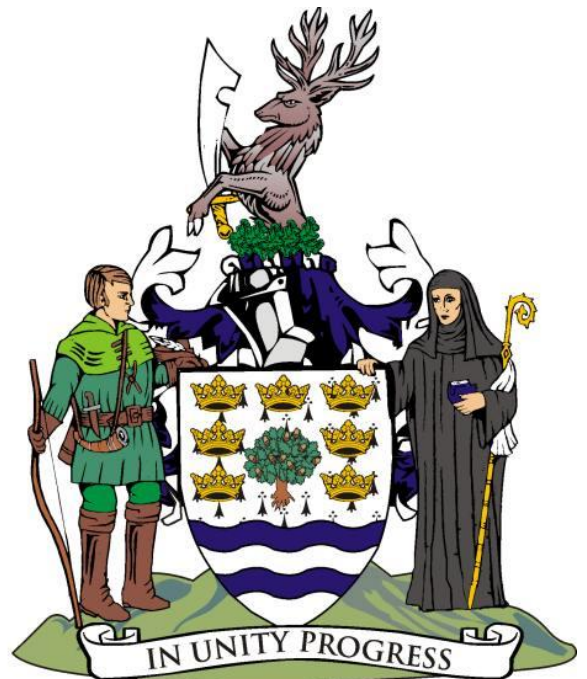
The water at the base refers to the town's name Ilford. This means ford across the Hyle, the local name for the River Roding. The main charge is an oak tree, representing the Fairlop Oak in Hainault Forest. The seven crowns refers to the district of Seven Kings. This was reputed to be the meeting place for the Kings of the Heptarchy or seven kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England.

The forests that anciently covered much of the area are represented in the crest by the buck and oak leaves. The buck supports a seaxe from the arms of Essex County Council, to show that Ilford is in Essex.

The left hand supporter is a forester, the right hand a Benedictine Abbess. The latter represents Adeliza, Abbess of Barking, who founded a chapel in Ilford in 1145.

Information from

<http://www.ngw.nl/int/gbr/i/ilford.htm>



Introducing the new editor...

I was both surprised and delighted when I was invited to stand as a Vice-President of the Society and feel honoured to have been elected. I am very happy that I can assist the Society by producing the Newsletter, but I'm afraid I really don't know Ilford very well. This is a situation I have started to remedy already.

I was born and brought up in Chingford by parents who came from Edmonton, so my only knowledge of Redbridge was as a pupil at Woodford County High School. When I married I moved to Leytonstone but my husband was an active member of Wanstead Cricket Club and before long I became very interested in the story of Wanstead House. This became the subject of one of the first articles I had published, in 1984. We bought a house at Woodford Bridge, but technically this was in Chigwell, so I still did not live in Redbridge. My parents had brought me up to be interested in natural history and Epping Forest and when I gave up work to have a family I became the Secretary of the Friends of Epping Forest. My curiosity about the history of the forest led to me writing *Epping Forest through the Ages* in 1982 and from this it was a small step to lecturing and adult education.

Knowing my interest in the Forest, Ernest Fulcher invited me to attend a lecture on Epping Forest by Bill Liddel at the Woodford Historical Society. Before long I was on their committee and when I became Secretary I started a crash course on the history of Woodford. Although no longer a member of the society I am still involved in the history of Woodford as a member of St.Mary's, the parish church, where I am regarded as the archivist and answer any questions received which are history related.

It was as Secretary of the Woodford Historical Society that I took an interest in the future of Valentines Mansion, writing to the Council on behalf of the society from the early 1990s. I was asked to become a Trustee of Valentines Mansion in 1999 and my role since then has been to research the history of the house and its owners and to spread the word as far and wide as possible by writing articles and giving talks. I instigated the foundation of the Friends of Valentines Mansion, started so that the Trust could show we had public support for the Mansion. Now that the building has been restored I am happy to help there as a tour guide, or in other ways, and have just finished a booklet about the Ingleby family which will be produced by the Council for sale at the Mansion.

When I got divorced I moved to Hainault, so I have been living in Ilford for about 15 years. It's about time I found out more about the parish and I hope to write about the things I discover which interest me. I apologise if I feature some very basic things which locals have know for ages – but I hope that seeing it through new eyes may add more colour and help you to see it different.

I hope to produce three issues of the newsletter each year and will welcome contributions from members (preferably typed and sent by e-mail) if they are about our local history or are likely to interest our members. If you attend a Society outing and enjoyed it, why not put pen to paper and tell other members what they missed? This newsletter is being posted out but I hope the next will be available at the December and January meetings. If you miss a meeting and find you have not received a newsletter (they are numbered) please feel free to contact me and I will send a copy by post or by e-mail.

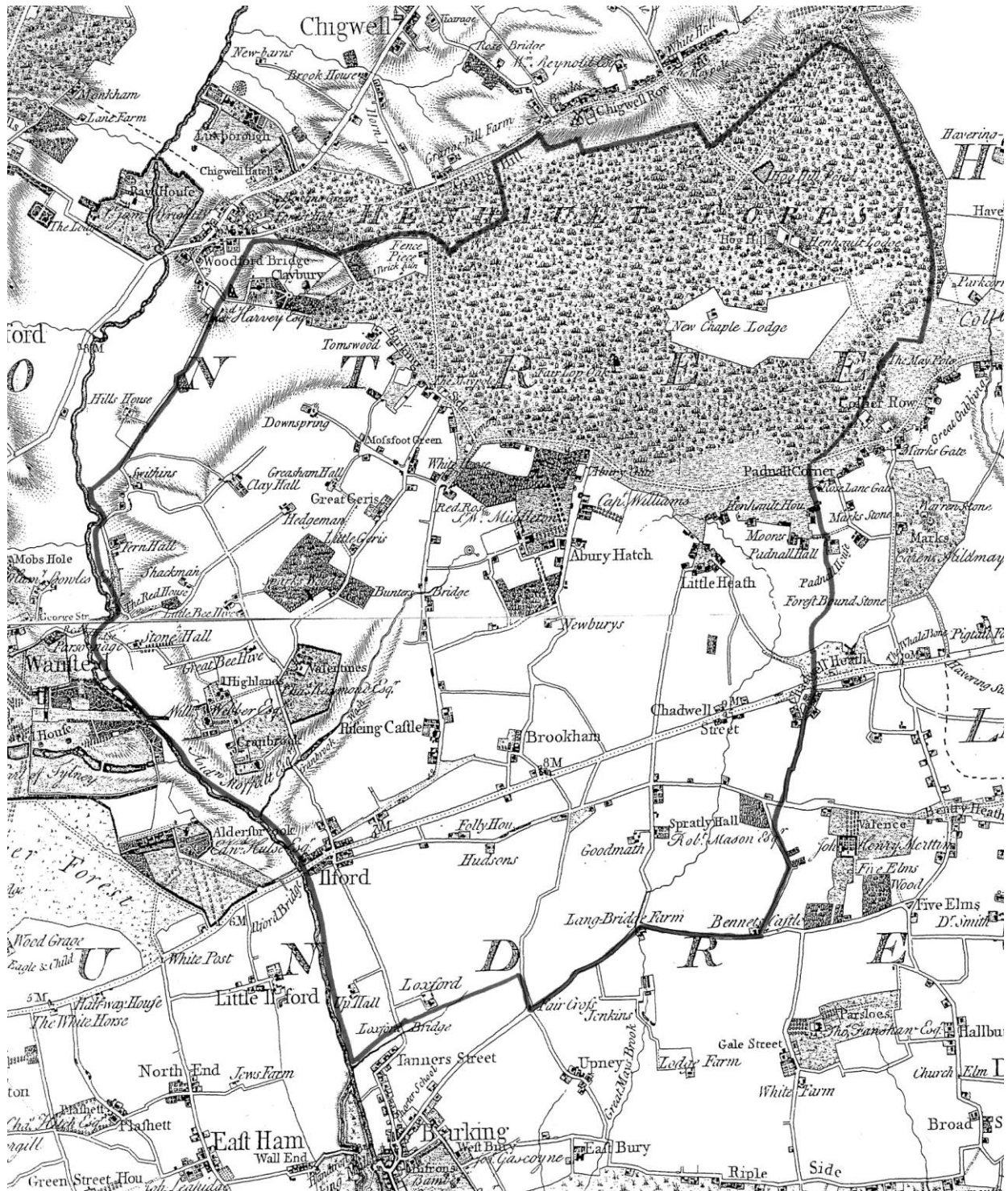
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One thing which I realised long ago was that until the 1850s Ilford was dominated by Hainault Forest, so it is appropriate that I will be speaking about that at the October meeting. The map here was published in 1777. I have tried to draw on it the Ilford boundary as it is today and you can easily see how rural the area was, and that a significant part was covered by the trees of Hainault Forest until their destruction in 1851-3.

Georgina Green



Map by John Chapman & Peter André, published in 1777

George Rumble and His Family - Watercress Growing in 19th Century Little Ilford

An article by Miss Catherine Emslie (2010)

My grandfather Leonard Rumble was the greengrocer in Seven Kings c.1919 to the mid 1950s at 396 Green Lane (originally 14 South Park Parade), and at 297 High Road. I knew little of the family history beyond that my mother told me her grandmother Lizzie was a dragon (not in a nice way) and that her grandfather had watercress beds on the River Roding. All else is assembled from documentary evidence. Leonard came from Little Ilford where his father Walter and grandfather George were involved in watercress growing beside the Roding for several decades. The family had been in the area from much earlier times.

Henry Rumble married Martha Fritter in St Margaret's church Barking, 12th October 1788. Their eldest son Edward (so far I have found) was born 16th July 1792 and baptised in the same church in August, marrying Elizabeth Oakes there in 1818. Several other children were baptised there including Martha (1807) who married Thomas English on 2nd September 1832 and lived in Barkingside and then Little Heath. James, born 9th November 1809, became a maltster and there are census entries for him in Bethnal Green, Surrey, and Chigwell (listed as retired). None of these records gives an abode and it's solely my speculation that the family were already living and working around the Roding in the Ilford area of Barking parish. Possibly Henry came from Mountnessing.

In the 1841 census the only entries I can find with the surname Rumble in the local area are Edward, his wife Elizabeth, and sons George, Thomas, William and Joseph living in Curtis Cottage, Little Ilford parish. He can be presumed to be living on the western side of the river for some time as his children from Henry (baptised 1822) onwards were baptised in St Mary the Virgin, Little Ilford. This Henry was probably out on a fishing boat at the time of the census but living in Barking. The 1851 census shows Edward (a Roadsman) with three sons living in Little Ilford (between the Toll Gate and 'Rabbitts Farm') while his wife Elizabeth from Fryerning was visiting the aging Mary Oakes in the Almshouse at Ingatestone.

The surname spelling varies: from Rumbell, Rumball, Rumbold to Rumble.

1850. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Mary's Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u> of <u>Poplar</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Residence.	Rank or Profession of Father.
29	October 5 th	George Rumble	f age	AB	Market-Gardener	14 Poplar	Edward Rumble	Farmer
		Mary Ann Pagan	f age	Sp		14 Poplar	William Pagan	Labourer
Married in the <u>Ch.</u> by <u>W. B. Bums</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>or after</u> <u>by vic.</u> <u>by vic.</u> <u>by vic.</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us <u>George Rumble his Father</u> <u>George Rumble</u> in the Presence of us <u>Wm. Rumbell</u>								
1850. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Mary's Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u> of <u>Poplar</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>								

George Rumble (baptised in St Mary's Little Ilford, 1822) and his new wife Mary Ann were living in Barking next to Henry's wife Anne. On his 5th October 1850 marriage record we're told he was a market gardener resident in Poplar and his father Edward described as a farmer. In the 1841 census Edward and the four sons then living with him are recorded as agricultural labourers. This maybe a more accurate picture but it could well have been that he was a kind of tenant farmer renting meadows to take a profit or loss on what he produced himself.

It's possible that the family were trading produce into London to take George to Poplar but Henry married in the same Poplar church two years earlier to Ann Patrick who appears to have been from Poplar and whose father was put as a shipwright so the fishing business may have been a connection.

1842. Marriage solemnised at <u>St. Andrew's</u> in the <u>Parish of Poplar</u> in the County of <u>Middle</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
204	Dec. 12	Henry Rumble	f. age	4 th	Mariner	Poplar	Edward Rumble	Tanner
		Ann Patrick	f. age	3 rd	-	Poplar	John Patrick	Shipwright

Married in the City of London according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church.

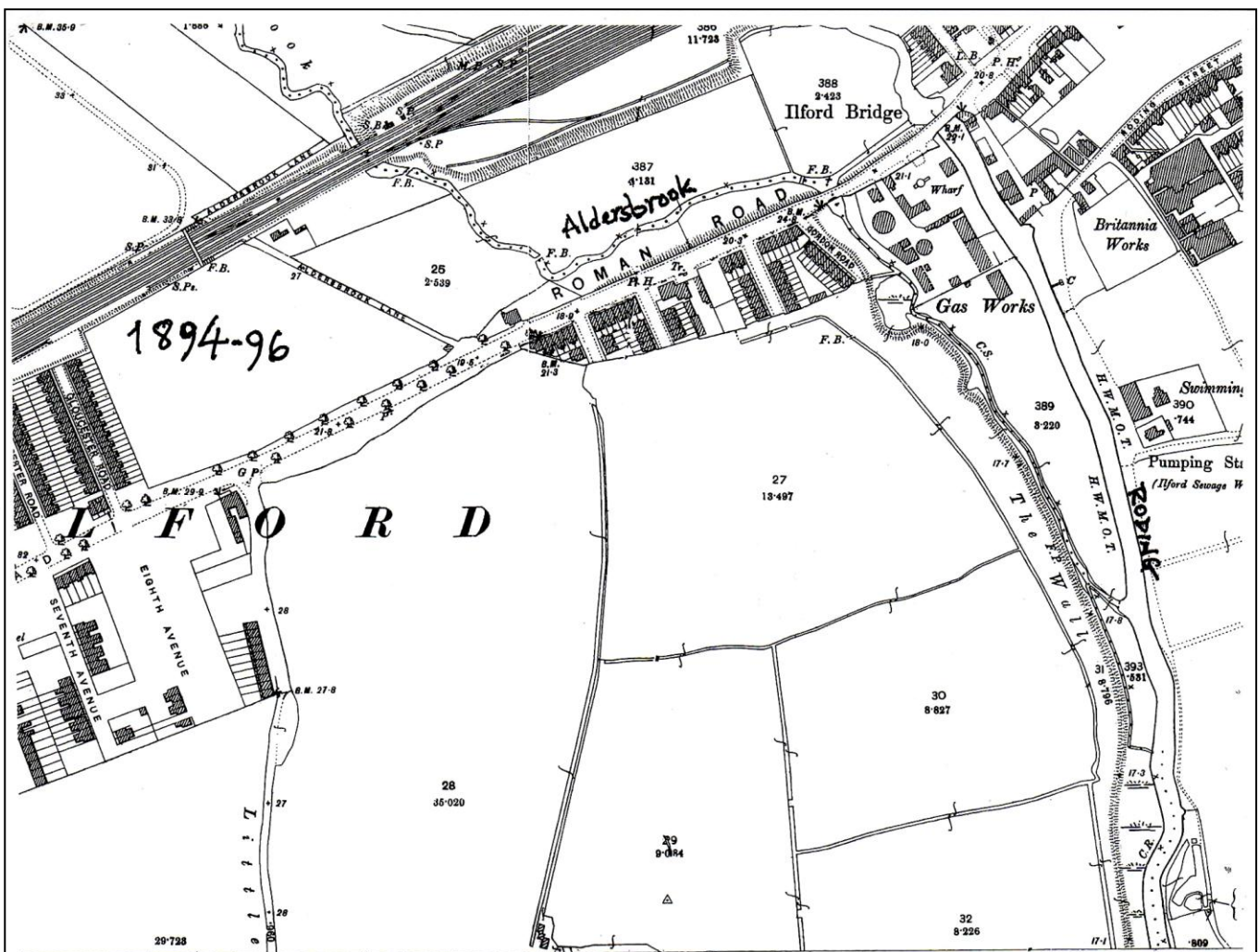
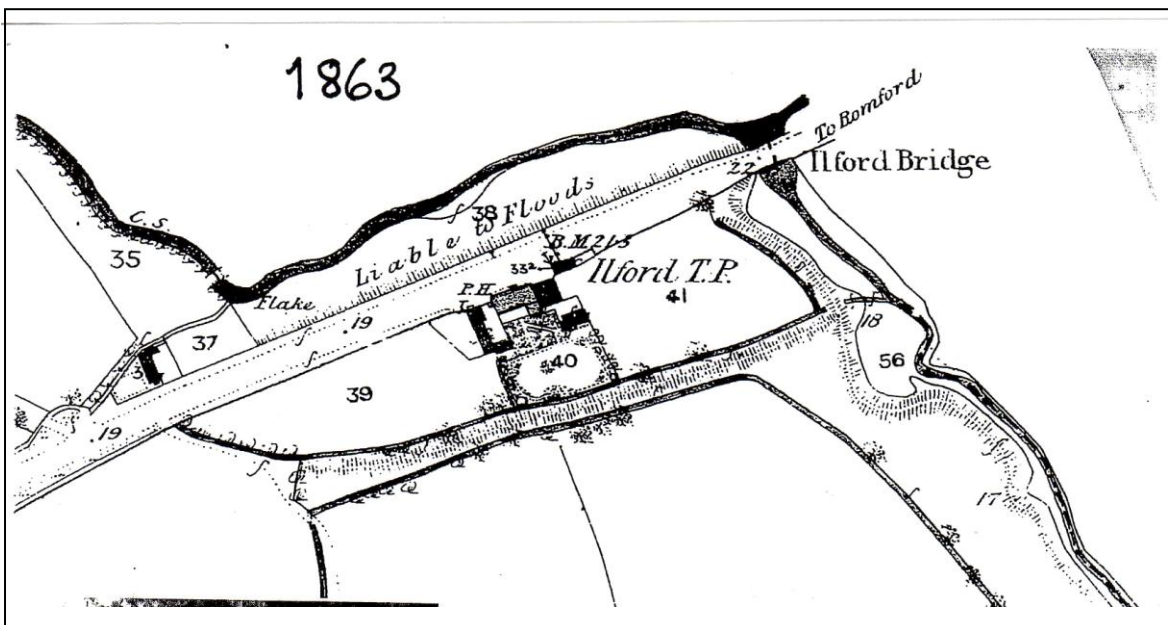
This Marriage was solemnised between us, Henry Rumble Minister in the Presence of us, William Rumble Deputy Minister

Ann Patrick and her mother Martha can both be found in the Barking census of 1841, Ann as a servant in a small school house which is where, I presume, she learned to write. I presume that John Patrick had already died. Henry and Ann's first daughter was baptised in Barking, but c.1854 they moved to Yarmouth where later children were baptised. Ann, her mother Martha, and the children were there in 1861 while Henry is in the North Sea, Master of the Reliant. He appears to have died in 1864, Ann remarrying in 1868.

Meanwhile George's first son William was baptised in the new church of St Mary's Ilford with Great Ilford given as his abode but later children appear to have been born in Little Ilford. No-one with the surname Rumble appears on the 1861 census in the Ilford area - they may have been in a shack that was overlooked by the authorities. George's census address of 'The Watercress Beds' for 1871, '81 and '91 suggests something of the sort. It's the 1881 census that first describes him as a "Watercress Grower", the 1871 census just records "agricultural labourer", leaving it uncertain whether earlier entries covered the same produce.

In the 1871 census 'the watercress beds' came between Manor Cottages and the Coach and Horses; in 1881 "Church Lane W.C. Beds" came between "By Manor Farm" and "North End" while in 1891 "Church Rd. Watercress Beds" came between Parkhurst Road and Manor Farm. George was listed as a cress grower at Manor Fields in Kelly's Directory through the 1880s and 90s. By 1901 however he was in Forest House Workhouse, Leyton listed as a Market Gardener. He died on 17th April 1906, his death recorded on the family gravestone in St Mary the Virgin churchyard, Little Ilford, along with his wife Mary Ann (Pegram), his parents Edward and Elizabeth (Oakes) and three of his children: William, Eliza (under her married name of Rogers) and Walter.





Watercress requires a steady supply of pure water which probably came from the Aldersbrook rather than the Roding. There should be an area where the water is allowed to settle so that any silt drops to the bottom before the clear water seeps into the water-meadow where the cress is grown. The meadow must be level so that nowhere is either flooded or left dry, and covered in gravel so that the water and the cress stay clean. The gravel is kept damp rather than flooded.

Cress growing would have been hard work with all the constant bending down to ground level. It would generally have been done barefoot which might have been pleasant on gravel warmed by summer sun but pretty miserable in cold weather, but work that could pay the field rent and provide for the family was better than many people had at the time. It's likely that George would have let the field flood and freeze in winter so that he could sell the ice to the Barking fishing fleet to get extra money in the difficult winter months. He would most likely have grown some root crops as well that could be harvested outside the watercress season. There was a big demand as London grew through the 19th century for a regular, reliable, supply of fresh green leaf vegetables. Cress has a long season starting in May and ending in October so he had a good market for several months.

Meanwhile though it was George who had advertised in Kelly's Directory, it was his son Walter, b.1856, whose trade was given as greengrocer in the 1891 census. He may have continued to help out in the cress business but with the rapidly increasing population it was a good time to have a shop in the Romford Road. He married Lizzie Chalk (daughter of Barking born Chadwell Heath blacksmith Henry Chalk) at St Mary's church Walthamstow, July 1886 and by 1891 he was living at 42 Gloucester Road. This wasn't a very large terrace house but was likely to have been a huge improvement on the watercress beds. He had the same trade and address in 1901. Walter died 19th February 1926.

His son Leonard signed up for war service in 1915 (discharged soon after when the army found that he had a deformed right foot and couldn't march) describing himself as a fruit salesman and living at the larger family home - 168 Sixth Avenue. He married Constance Duggan (born Co.Cork, Ireland) in Ilford, 6th December 1916. They lived first at 4 Princess Parade in New Road, Seven Kings and then took over the dining rooms at 14 South Park Parade (later to be 396 Green Lane) to trade as a greengrocer. Seven Kings was rapidly growing at that time: when they moved in the hills of Kent could easily be seen from the window. If there was heavy rain Leonard would put out fruit boxes across Green Lane so that the flooding of the Seven Kings Water wouldn't keep his customers away.

The business was successful and he took on 297 High Road as a greengrocer's shop. His wife and then his children helped him run the business. In about 1940 he bought the house at 6 Parkway. However, the elder children left home to serve in the war.

Denis joined the RAF becoming a pilot and in 1941 was sent to America to train USAF pilots, later emigrating to New Zealand and then Australia where he died though a large number of descendants are still there.

Sheila had started teacher training and helped evacuate children out of London but joined the WRAF to do admin work in airbases around the country including Coventry and Shrewsbury. After the war she answered a government plea for teachers so went back to primary school teaching. Her career included many years at SS Peter & Paul Primary School Ilford, and some years at Barley Lane and finally at South Park Primary School. Meanwhile her sister Patricia, despite only having primary education, talked her way into the WRNS on the basis of Irish ancestors who held senior rank in the Royal Navy, while John managed to enter the army by giving an inaccurate account of his age, was enlisted in the US Army and was with the unit that was the first to break into Hitler's bunker (a Rumble descendant in NZ apparently has a souvenir of this). John later lived in Seattle, Washington before retiring to Hawkes Bay New Zealand.

Peter was the only one of the elder children left to help his father with the shops. He once told me that one afternoon his father had a letter from the younger children. They'd been evacuated to Wales but were very unhappy with the strange people and strange way of talking. Peter who had not then travelled as far as London was given 10/- (50p) to go and bring them home. He walked to the station, got a train to London and found one to Wales, had to get the night train that had the newspapers for morning delivery, then managed onward travel including a milk truck to arrive in the village in the early hours of the morning and caught up his sleep on a doorway until people were stirring.

The years of rationing were difficult for all shopkeepers. Leonard strived to ensure his customers had some sort of choice. He would get in a load of potatoes and sort out the misshapen ones from the better looking ones so that he could sell one lot at ½d per lb and the others at ¾d per lb. After the war a couple of the younger children went to New Zealand. Leonard retired from business c.1955 and at the end of 1958 he and his wife went out to Hawkes Bay in New Zealand to live first in Puketitiri by the Kaweka Range, and then in Haumoana on the coast near Cape Kidnappers. They are buried in Park Island Cemetery in Napier.

The modern method is to grow green watercress which is cut 30 days after planting, a different area is planted each day so that there's always planting and cutting to be done, and it's only cut once before being taken up and the area replanted. In earlier times brown cress was grown and cut more than once.

Cress is normally grown on chalk as it needs a large amount of calcium. I imagine that George would have bought in bonemeal and such types of fertilizer to keep his crop thriving. Recent research has led to claims of cress being a "superfood". The cress website says: "Watercress is brimming with over 15 vitamins and minerals, gram for gram containing more vitamin C than oranges, more calcium than milk, more iron than spinach, and research also highlights its role in fighting cancer. The results of a new study conducted by the University of Southampton into watercress's potential ability to suppress breast cancer cell development, are due to be announced on 15th September 2010". Watercress has long had a reputation of being 'good for you'.

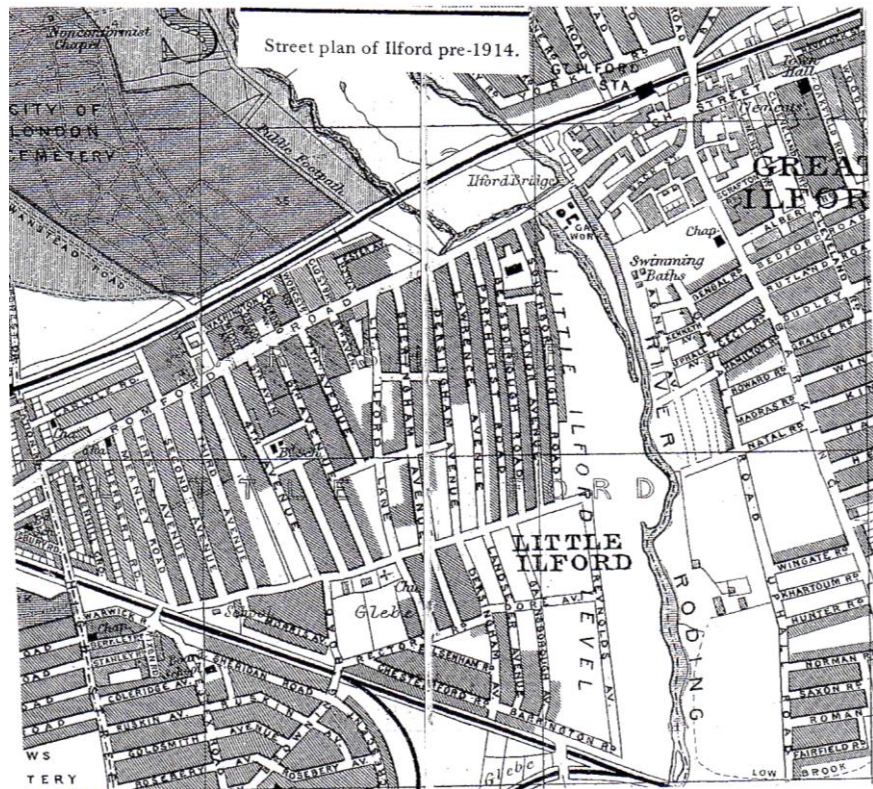
With great thanks to Catherine Emslie for generously providing her article which I have edited, and added maps etc. © Jef Page

Watercress Growing in 19th Century Little Ilford by Jef Page

Until a few years ago I knew little of the area (though I had drunk in the Three Rabbits as a student - purely for research and study purposes!) but in April 2009 Ilford HS published my Newsletter article on the Romford Road Little Ilford tollgate at the Coach and Horses public house. A coincidence that Rumble's watercress beds were just south of the Romford Road and the watercress beds which Catherine has written about, above.

Prior to my piece I knew nothing about the tollgate which doesn't appear in any of Ilford's history books, but then of course neither do the watercress beds in any detail. The galling thing about my essay was that the 1861 Census tells us that there was a tollgate keeper aged 25 born in Cheshunt and his wife born in Cambridge living there. But his name is missing as that part of the page was torn out and lost! All tollgates were closed down or taken away soon afterwards.

In the 1860s very few people lived in the area, either along the Romford Road or south of it. Yet from the 1890s to pre-1914 you can see how street development was massive, open fields and meadows became densely populated terrace houses and homes. Parkhurst Road runs down from the Romford Road to (the then unnamed) Church Road.



The only photograph we have of local cress beds is in Ian Dowling and Nick Harris's first book of *Old Ilford Photographs* (p.64). Butler's watercress beds were at Uphall near Khartoum Road and Mount Road beside the Roding, across the river from where Rumble's watercress beds were.

Rumble's crop seems to have been west of the Aldersbrook and Roding, and south of the Romford Road, in the area of Parkhurst Road.

David Hood 1821-1899

There were other watercress growers in Ilford, i.e. Percy Wright mentioned watercress beds.

In his booklet describing growing up in 1920s Barkingside, Richard King wrote of an ancestor, David Hood, who grew the crop which ran alongside the railway line and bridge near Barkingside station. Mr Kelly owned and managed the land and presumably Hood rented the beds or just worked on them.

David Hood was described throughout his life in the Census as an agricultural/farm labourer and jobber. As described in the 1841 Census, the family were living in White's Cottages, Barking with his family. In 1851 he is described as living with his wife Mary in "Lay Street, Morsd (Mossford Green?) Barking" (meaning Barkingside?). Horns Road probably didn't exist at this time and Ley Street runs from Ilford up to Barkingside. By 1861 his home was at a "Cottage by the Maypole, Barking Side" (where Fullwell Cross Health Centre is now) with Mary who was a dressmaker.

In 1871 they were at "Fence Piece Farm Barking" but by 1881 David was a widower but still working. However in 1891 he was listed as living in Romford Union Workhouse- a typical end for many who worked on the land all their lives.

Great thanks to Madeleine Janes for all the Census information.

© **Jef Page, May 2011.**

Major General Sir Henry Havelock & The General Havelock Pub



Engraving, c. 1865, after a portrait by Frederick Goodall, ARA

On a recent visit to London I happened to go round Trafalgar Square on the top of a bus and, stuck in the traffic, my eye was caught by the statue of Major General Sir Henry Havelock, KCB (1795 – 1857) by William Behnes. The Havelock pub is one place in Ilford I do know (externally) as it is on route from the multi-story car park to the shops so often visited by my daughters in their teens. So I wondered who he was?

The following is from his lengthy entry in the Dictionary of National Biography, which says “Havelock was one of the best British generals of his time, a clever tactician with a good eye for ground. Cool in action, he won the confidence of his troops, who admired his courage.”

Born on Easter Sunday, and with a strict religious upbringing, Henry was set to study law but following a loss of family fortune he became a foot soldier. Encouraged by a senior officer to study his profession, he also studied Hindustani and Persian before trying his fortune with the army in India, and later Burma, where his intelligence, bravery and his philanthropic activities among the troops singled him out. Without the means to purchase advancement, he eventually rose through the ranks on merit during the Afghan war. His military career cannot be easily condensed but he was particularly noted for his recapture of Cawnpore from rebels during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. His faith led him to form a regimental temperance society and he took the pledge, so I don’t know what he would think about a pub being named after him!

From Kelly’s Directories it appears the pub opened c.1863-5 as by 1866 it is listed with Robert Burnell as the Manager. An early photograph shows a magnificent building with first floor balcony and apparently the vast cellar was used as a bottling plant as well as a place to store alcohol. No doubt the pub underwent many changes, now unrecorded, but in August 1978 there was a grand reopening following extensive work. The first floor had a large hall for hire, suitable for weddings, parties, meetings, lectures and private functions of all kinds.

By 1990 the pub was licensed to show films with a maximum seating capacity of 200 people. Their applications for weekday and Sunday music and dancing licences until 2am caused local uproar and a compromise was agreed, until 12.30. And now, in June 2011, the pub has again been granted a similar licence after the building has been empty for several weeks.

Although the locals understandably opposed the late opening, it would be a shame to lose the pub after very nearly 150 years.

© *Georgina Green, July 2011*

Castle Rising Farm

I have been asked several times about Castle Rising Farm, which is shown on the 1st edition OS Map 6 inch, (Sheet 74) engraved and published 1870-5, and on the 2nd edition (c.1898). The site appears to have been built over around 1900, but the farmhouse was on the west side of Ley Street, just north of Dunedin Road, almost opposite Benton Road.

The property is not named on the 1847 Tithe Award, it is just a house, garden, farm yard and buildings, all owned by the Executors of R W Hall Dare and occupied by William Breavington. He also “occupied” about 160 acres of mostly arable farmland which extended to the west as far as Ilford Lodge and the north as far as the Valentines estate.

Extent of the farm in 1847 shown here on the 2nd edition OS Map 6inch (c.1898)

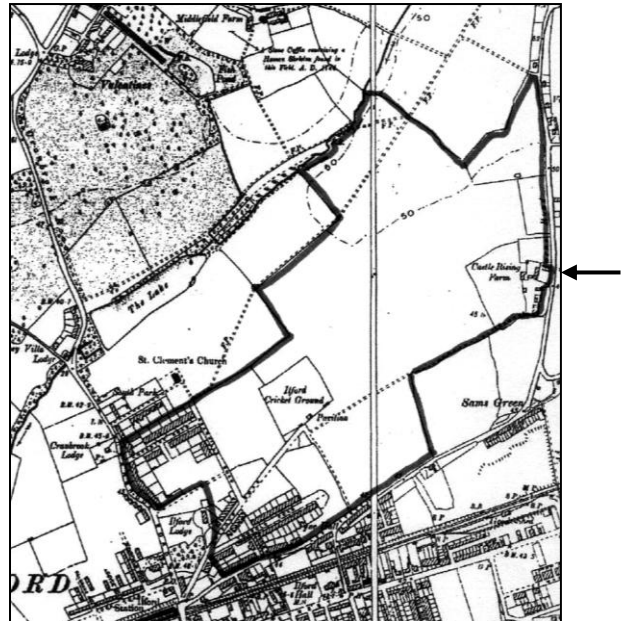
According to Edward Tuck in his *Sketch of Ancient Barking, its Abbey and Ilford...* (1899) p.64 “Castle Rising was another old relic of Ilford, and in its prosperity was a charming spot, hedged in on each side with shady trees, with a well-kept lawn in front, and guarded by a good wide moat. The house had been very much neglected for a number of years, and is now numbered with the past. This building, and the farm attached, formed part of the Ilford Lodge estate, and was disposed of by Captain F M Hall Dare to the Liberator Society.”

Although we can assume Tuck wrote this from his own observations, there is no indication of a moat on the tithe map, nor on the very detailed 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map. For pictures of the farm house, see page 65 of *The Archive Series Ilford: A Second Selection* compiled by Ian Dowling and Nick Harris (1995).

Castle Rising is the name of a Norfolk village, with a Norman castle, to the north of King’s Lynn. In 2010 the Castle Rising History Group published a book of 96 pages, *The Ancient Borough of Castle Rising*, giving a wealth of information about all aspects of the village. As it happens, my cousin lives in the vicinity and he lent me a copy to read but I can’t find any connection with Ilford. There are some interesting coincidences though.

Rising is recorded as having a leper hospital and it seems likely the early castle church (which had Saxon origins) was donated to serve a leper colony around 1130. Soon after this the castle was rebuilt by William D’Albini who had married Adeliza, the widow of Henry I. She was French and twice spent part of her life in abbeys but there is no apparent connection with Adelia, Abbess of Barking, who founded the Chapel at Ilford in c.1140, but I wish Peter Foley was here to help me with this!

Another coincidence is that the Upper Mill on the Babingley River (at the west end of Castle Rising parish) was a fulling mill until 1691 when it was converted into a paper mill, the first one recorded in Norfolk. Apparently, this use lasted until about 1847. Paper making was carried out by the Roding near Ilford Station at the Ilford Paper Mills from c.1862 – c.1923.



Castle Rising Castle is one of the most famous 12th Century castles in England. The stone keep, built in around 1140AD, is amongst the finest surviving examples of its kind anywhere in the country and, together with the massive surrounding earthworks, ensures that Rising is a castle of national importance



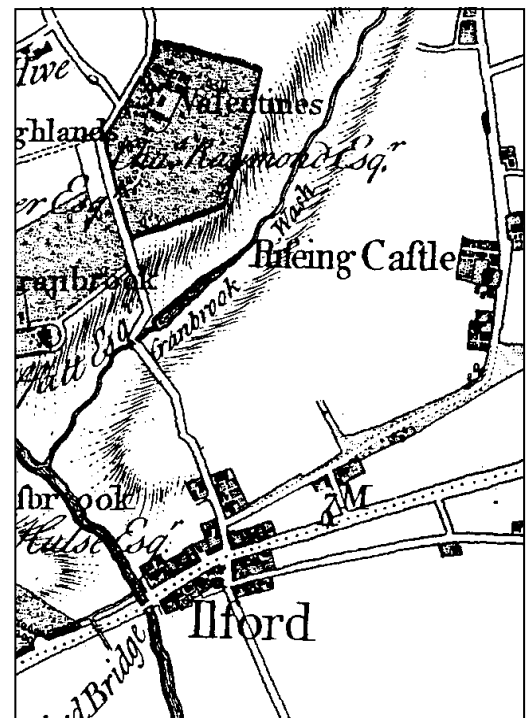
<http://www.castlerising.co.uk/about.ht>

From 1544 Castle Rising, both the village and the castle, were owned by the Howard family and Lord Howard still lives in the village. From 1558 until 1832 Castle Rising sent two MPs to parliament. During the 18th century the Walpole family of nearby Houghton became interested in the influence they could obtain from the Castle Rising seats and they and the Howards each nominated a candidate. In 1747 one of the MPs was Robert Knight, cousin of the owner of Valentines, Robert Surman, but I can't see that this is more than a coincidence.

The Castle Rising History Group book states the name is derived from the Saxon 'Risinga', meaning 'People of the Gorse' and possibly our farm was named because it was cleared from an area of heathland. Or is it just that the land here rises slightly – no longer perceptible now the area is built over, but more obvious when it was all open farmland?

However, Ian Dowling, Redbridge Local Studies Librarian, has the origin of the name in his book and I was delighted to see the documents he showed me to explain this. In 1965 the library received a letter from a Mr Thomas James who was working on some papers written 1768 - 73 by Crisp Molineux, an ancestor of his wife. He had been born in St Kitts, West Indies, in 1732 but educated in Hackney and called to the bar in the 1740s. He married the daughter and heiress of a George Montgomerie of Chippenham, near Newmarket, in 1756 and bought Garboldisham Hall in Norfolk (between Thetford and Diss). He became a friend of Lord Orford (son of Sir Robert Walpole) and was elected an MP for Castle Rising in 1771.

At about this time Crisp Molineux built a house at Ilford on land belonging to the Turner family, relatives of his wife, who were merchants in Kings Lynn. He named his new house Rising Castle to commemorate his newly won seat in Parliament. It is shown with this name on the *Chapman & Andre map published in 1777*. (see right)



Thomas James was working on a possible book about Crisp Molineux who he said was a “colourful character” but it does not appear that this was published. Mr James had a portrait of Molineux who was said to resemble Claude Rains, the film star. His letters to the library in 1965 are the only evidence for the origin of the name, and the connection with Molineux, and thank goodness we are still able to visit the Local Studies and Archives library and ask Ian Dowling for help!

© *Georgina Green, 15 June 2011*

Kathy Kirby : 20th October 1938 ~ 19th May 2011



Kathy was brought up in Ilford bursting onto the national stage in 1954 aged just 16. Her three most famous songs: “My Secret Love”, “Love Me or Leave Me”, and “All Of Me” in the 1960s turned her into a famous international star. Her blonde hair, voluptuous figure, bright red lipstick, and pitch-perfect voice got her compared to Marilyn Monroe. She wasn’t averse to a little white lie either by knocking two years off her age telling one journalist she was born in 1940.

Her childhood upbringing is a problem. Her mother was Eileen O’Rourke and Kathy had at least one sister, Pat. They lived at 131 Balfour Road, Ilford, and on Tomswood Hill, and Kathy went to Ursuline School. She had singing and piano lessons but she never enjoyed the piano, and worked for a short time on the *Ilford Recorder* as a proof reader. Her big break came in 1954 when, learning that the famous band leader Bert Ambrose and his band were to play the Ilford Palais de Danse, Kathy famously and boldly walked up and asked him if she could sing with him! He gave Kathy her chance and she never looked back, living with him as his wife- despite the massive 40 years age difference- and he managed her successful career. She sang with the band for three years.

She took her father's name- James Kirby- as her stage name, but I haven't been able to find out when James left as he's never mentioned in any of the reviews and interviews Kathy gave. Kathy's mother didn't use the married name Kirby, if they ever married, so why did Kathy use Kirby? Respectability, decorum, hope?

It was Doris Day's film "Calamity Jane" and Kathy's cover version of the song "My Secret Love" in 1963 that made no.4 in the Top 10 pop charts which turned her into a star. In 1965 she finished second in the Eurovision Song Contest with "I Belong" and other song hits included: "Let Me Go", and "Lover". She had two Top 10 hits, made three BBC TV series, topped the bill at the London Palladium, took part in a Royal Command Variety Performance, and was possibly the highest paid female star at the time. Kathy lived with Ambrose until his death in 1971 aged 74. There was talk of affairs and probably Ambrose was always fearful that she might leave him. But as styles and music fashions changed Kathy got left behind. She ended up living alone in a flat in Paddington suffering at one stage a nervous breakdown, bankruptcy and even schizophrenia. Her 2005 biography was entitled *Secrets, Lies, and Lip Gloss* and even though her later years were a disappointment, the songs and memories linger on. Kathy Kirby died on 19th May, aged 72.

© *Jef Page, July 2011*

Listed Buildings in England

In England there are approximately 374,081 listed building entries noted by English Heritage.

Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, sometimes considered to be internationally important; only 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I.

Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; 5.5% of listed buildings are Grade II*.

Grade II buildings are nationally important and of special interest; 92% of all listed buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a home owner.

All buildings built before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition are listed, as are most of those built between 1700 and 1840. The criteria become tighter with time, so that post-1945 buildings have to be exceptionally important to be listed. A building has normally to be over 30 years old to be eligible for listing.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings/>

Listed Buildings in Redbridge

Redbridge has 129 listed buildings – just one at Grade I (St.Mary's church at Wanstead), 12 at Grade II* and 116 at Grade II. Valentines Park, Wanstead Park and the City of London cemetery are also listed on the Park and Garden Register.

Listed Buildings in Ilford

Only four of the Grade II* buildings are in Ilford : Dr Barnardo's Memorial at Barkingside; the Chapel, Ilford Hospital of St Mary & St Thomas of Canterbury; Valentines Mansion; and the Railings, gates and gatepiers to Valentines Park are also included as one entry.

<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/>

There are 41 buildings in Ilford which are listed as Grade II.

Six of them are churches

Five are connected with Dr Barnardo's: cottages, the fountain, children's church etc

Seven are buildings in Valentines Park: the dovecote, grottos, sundial etc

The remaining buildings cover a wide range from the Barn at Aldborough House Farm, to Newbury Park bus shelter. I hope to feature some of these in the newsletter, so to start with I have selected the weather-boarded cottages at the most northerly point of the borough, at Grange Hill. The Chapman & André map on page 3 shows this site as open land (where the word "Hill" appears). They are clearly a relic of our rural past.



Location : Nos 195 to 209 (odd), MANOR ROAD Chigwell

Grade: II

Date first listed: 22-Feb-1979

Probably early/mid C19. Terrace of cottages. Two-storeys. White-painted weather-boarding on brick plinth. Hipped roof in plain tiles. Double hung sash windows. Four panel doors with diagonal planked panels

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

No 195 is on the corner of Long Green and shows that although they appear to be rather narrow in width, this one at least goes some way back.

There can't be many other weather-boarded cottages in Ilford!

© *Georgina Green, May 2011*



NB There is an additional list of Locally Listed buildings which is controlled by Redbridge Council rather than English Heritage.

Conservation Areas in Redbridge

Since 2009 Redbridge has had 16 Conservation Areas:

Aldersbrook	Valentines Mansion
Barnardo's Village Homes	Wanstead Park
Claybury	Wanstead Grove
George Lane	Wanstead Village
Little Heath	Woodford Bridge
Mayfield	Woodford Broadway
Snaresbrook	Woodford Green
South Woodford	Woodford Wells

http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/planning_land_and_buildings/land/conservation_areas.aspx

Mayfield Conservation Area

The article below is taken from the Ilford and District Historical Society Transaction No.4 *Ilford Conservation Areas* by P. Jackson, H. H. Lockwood & P. J. Wright (1992)

Historically the use of the name 'Mayfields' for this Conservation Area is misleading. Originally this name was coined by Cameron Corbett at the end of the 19th century for the housing estate which he developed further north nearer the railway line before the first World War. He may have derived it from the Mayesbrook. It was perpetuated by the Mayfield Tennis Club along the Green Lane whence it was borrowed by the LCC for an adjacent new road on its Becontree Estate in the early 1920s; but the name passed out of general use for the Goodmayes area. In contrast, the 'Bungalow Estate' as many called it, was built between the two World Wars on the lands of Goodmayes Farm to the south of Breamore Road. The farm



itself was not demolished until the death in 1932 of Robert George Brown who had farmed there since 1873.

Low density development of bungalows and chalet-bungalows with gables and bays, and tree-lined streets produced a distinctive character. This contrasted particularly with the older Cameron-Corbett suburban housing and roads, the inhabitants of which provided

the slightly disparaging epithet 'Bungalow Town'. Nevertheless these features made this one of the most desirable residential areas in the Borough. Although built by local builders, the land was bought by Sir Hamilton Westrow Hulse of Breamore (who happened also to be Lord of the Manor) from which Breamore Road and Breamore Court derived their names. Whilst under the control of the Hulse Estates this high standard of amenities was maintained by the enforcement of restrictive covenants on the house-owners controlling new buildings and extensions which might alter the character of the area.

The estate is a well-defined area south of Breamore Road and because of the fact that the vast majority of the dwellings are bungalows with most of them retaining the original exterior features such as gables, bays and finials it presents the cohesive attractiveness usually

associated with a garden suburb. The whole development presents a unified outlook. The desire to preserve these characteristics and amenities under changing circumstances led the Borough planning authorities to declare it a 'Residential Precinct' in 1974, to extend controls in 1985-87, and finally to designate a Conservation Area in 1991. The revived name 'Mayfield' seems to have been applied (or, mis-applied!) in 1974.

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Our Visit to the Fan Museum

I hadn't even heard of the Fan Museum until we had a talk on Greenwich a few months ago but, ever on the look-out for new places to visit, I decided to investigate. The Fan Museum is the only museum in the world devoted in its entirety to all aspects of the ancient art and craft of the fan. After about six years as visits organiser, I know that the criteria for any outing are a cup of tea on arrival and toilets of high quality. On enquiry, the Fan Museum agreed to the former and promised the latter.

A group of eight of us visited in early June. The museum has been described as "an architectural and artistic gem", and as "an oasis of tranquillity". It is a private museum opened in 1991 and managed by its founder. It is housed in two fine early Georgian townhouses. The houses are linked by an Orangery, where we had tea and some excellent biscuits while overlooking a Japanese inspired garden with pond and stream.

We were then given a tour of the museum. On the ground floor is the shop where you can buy many fan shaped articles from notebooks to jewellery. In the adjacent room is the first display of luxury quality fans made in Europe in the 18th century, including one made for the court of Louis XIV to celebrate the Dauphin's twenty- first birthday. The second room deals with the fabrics used to make a fan; CONSERVATIONISTS SHOULD LOOK AWAY NOW! The favoured materials for the frame of the fan or the MONTURE were ivory and tortoise shell. The material on which the picture was painted or the LEAF was referred to as chicken skin but was, in fact, made from calf embryo.

So that visitors can see as many of the museum's 3,400 fans as possible, there is a temporary exhibition on the first floor which changes three times each year. When we visited, it was 'Everyday Life on the Leaf of Fan'. The details painted on the fans were very interesting. I was particularly struck by one painting of 18th century builders working on wooden scaffolding. The 18th and early 19th centuries were the fan's heyday but there were also displays of Japanese and Chinese fans and a recent acquisition of a fan painted by Walter Sickert (1860 – 1942).

The tour took about an hour and is in complete contrast to the other places of interest in Greenwich which although wonderful require a lot of time and commitment - and the loos were fantastic!

The Fan Museum is at 12 Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ER Telephone: 020 8305 1441

Opening times ~ Tuesday - Saturday: 11am - 5pm; Sunday: 12 noon - 5pm

Admission ~ Adults: £4.00. *Concessions: £3.00,

Children (under 7) Free, Over 7 and under 16: £3

Travel via Docklands Light Railway to Maritime Greenwich.

© *Janet Seward, July 2011*

Ilford Historical Society 2011 – 2012 Programme of Events

12th September 2011

Wanstead House and its Fall from Grace *The Conversation Piece, 1740, by J F Nollekens*

Peter Brown, Director of Fairfax House, York, examines the portrait of Lord Tylney and his family playing cards in their Wanstead House saloon. Recreating the lost world of Tylney and his friends, 1720-1824.

10th October 2011

The History of Hainault Forest

Georgina Green explains the story of the forest originally owned by Barking Abbey but seized by Henry VIII. An Act of Parliament in 1851 brought about the destruction of much of the woodland which had covered the north of Ilford. In 1906 some of the land was opened as a public park.

14th November 2011

Epping Forest

Peter Adams, one of the Verderers of Epping Forest, will talk about this ancient woodland and its management and use today.

12th December 2011

Christmas Social Evening with wine and mince pies for all!

Jef Page, IHS Chairman, will give a talk on *Great nativity Paintings*, and Janet Seward, IHS Secretary, will set a *Royal Quiz of the Year*.

9th January 2012

Edwardian Ilford: Work, rest and play

Roger Backhouse talks about family, home and recreation.

13th February 2012

Charles Dickens 1812 – 1870

By Jef Page, IHS Chairman.

Oliver Twist, Dodger, Sikes, Fagin, Nancy, David Copperfield, Micawber, Tiny Tim, Scrooge, all came from one mind: England's greatest author.

12th March 2012

Redbridge's Railways: Linking London to Essex

by Martin Fairhurst, Committee member

16th April 2012

7pm AGM, followed by

Food Glorious Food!

Lesley Acton, author and researcher in culinary and social history, explains how to read old cookbooks and follow old recipes: Take and pluck 6 woodcock, draw out the train, skewer their bills through their thighs...

14th May 2012

Hatfield: Royal Hunting Forest

By Stephen Pewsey, author and Chairman of the Essex Historical & Archaeological Congress.