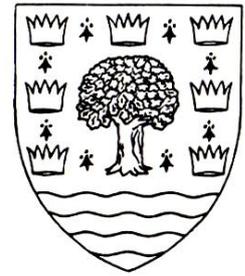


Ilford Historical Society

Newsletter No.119 December 2015



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Our website can be found at: <http://ilfordhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/>

Douglas Sweet

The sudden death of Douglas Sweet at the age of 75 while on a Cornish holiday last June, brings a chapter in Ilford's retail history to a sad end.

He was the owner and managing director of Fairheads taking over the business from his father whose own father bought the shop from Mr Fairhead. Though often described as "old fashioned" or "like Grace Brothers" it was a shop providing a unique range of goods where personal attention to the customer was not forgotten. It drew many people to Ilford.

Although run on traditional lines, Fairheads changed over the years. As the Dunhams shop in Wanstead (owned by Fairheads) proved less successful Douglas took the decision to close it. Though Fairheads once used the "Lamson tube" system with assistants sending money to a central cash point via a pneumatic tube it then became one of the first Ilford shops to adopt "chip and pin" payments. Though departments remained mostly the same, with fancy linens and gloves a strong point, other departments opened and closed.

Douglas Sweet was that rarity, a good businessman described as a gentleman by those who knew him. He described his business philosophy as selling quality goods at reasonable prices though there were also real bargains. Every year he'd travel to Northern Ireland and buy up quantities of linens including "seconds" of linen and cotton tea towels for sale in the shop.



Newsletter No.119 ~ CONTENTS

In Memoriam : Douglas Sweet

Listed Buildings in Redbridge: Preservation and Practicality

Listed Buildings in Redbridge: CAP and RCF

Book review: *Sir Charles Raymond* . . .

Mystery photo – Ladies Floral Band c.1895

From the Museum: The Uphall Area

Ice Age Ilford

Uphall Camp

Howards of Ilford

Sources for Local History: Contemporary Depictions

Historic sites in Metropolitan Essex

Our Programme Spring & Summer 2016

Our thanks to Glyn Hopkin Ltd for awarding a grant towards the printing of this newsletter

As a businessman Douglas Sweet enjoyed retailing and serving the public. He was never a remote manager but was often to be found serving customers. Assistants referred requests for refunds to him which were usually agreed, sometimes to staff horror! He liked satisfied customers. Fairheads was a quality shopping experience and Douglas helped to make it so.

Outside Fairheads Douglas Sweet was a resident of Chigwell, a former director of Chigwell Lawn Tennis Club and a keen golfer. He was a committed member of St Mary's Church, Chigwell. Fairheads never opened on Sunday.

Less well known was his role as Past Assistant Master of the Worshipful Company of Glovers of London. He was in charge of the modern gloves collection obtaining gloves of special interest dated from 1800 onwards. In February 2015 the Duchess of Cornwall presented him with a certificate commemorating over 60 years service to the Company.

It was only his wish to retire that led to Fairheads' closure late in 2008. Unfortunately his son and daughter did not wish to take on the business and it proved impossible to sell as a going concern. Even if sold it would have lost the spirit Douglas Sweet brought to Fairheads that made it so special.

Shortly before closure he was interviewed by Gerard Green (Redbridge Museum) for a short film of Fairhead's last days. Then Douglas Sweet said that Fairheads could have worked more profitably with fewer staff, but would not have provided the customer experience he wanted. Former staff have happy memories of Fairheads and some stayed there for many years. Before closure he allowed me to take photographs all around the shop (except the cash office) for the record and these pictures are now with Redbridge Local Studies Library and Museum.

Thankfully Douglas and his wife Rosemary came to the Society's "Retail Therapy" talk in July 2014. When the sound for the film proved inaudible he stepped in to give an entertaining account of Fairheads' last day.

Our sympathies are with Rosemary and his daughter Jane and son Andrew. Douglas Sweet was a good man who ran a unique shop. Ilford and Chigwell are poorer without him.

© *Roger Backhouse, 12 October 2015*

Listed Buildings in Redbridge: Preservation and Practicality

Planning applications 0375/15 and 0374/15 for the Dr Johnson pub at 175 Longwood Gardens, Barking, came before the council's Regulatory Committee on 21 September and it was an interesting discussion. The applicant, Landstart Ltd, were asking to change the use from a pub to retail (Tesco local supermarket), converting the upper floor into three flats, and building three new houses on part of the car park.



Dr Johnson pub photographed in 2011

The pub was built in the late 1930s to serve the new housing estate and, as shown in our April 2015 newsletter (pages 15-16), in 2003 was listed Grade II by Historic England as 'a model pub of the era'. It is also one of 285 entries in CAMRA's 'National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors'.

The building ceased operating as a pub in 2003 and was subsequently damaged by squatters. It was later taken over by Chef & Brewer but sub-let twice in attempts to run a viable pub. It finally closed in 2010 and has since been vandalised. The owners have been unable to find a buyer for the property.

The meeting started with an examination of the proposal with questions asked by the nine councillors present. The main features of the pub would be preserved in the new plan but the use as a supermarket was discussed. Then three objectors were heard, followed by the applicant. The main issues were the disruption to the local community, increased traffic and parking issues, heavy delivery lorries and the fact that the community is already well served by the parade of shops opposite as well as Sainsburys and Tescos at Barkingside and Tescos at Charlie Brown's. It was pointed out that an application cannot be refused on the grounds that it would compete with existing shops. However there were serious issues about traffic etc. Nobody seemed against the proposed three new houses. They did feel that the 'public consultation' was insufficient, as only the 33 closest properties had been officially informed. The other issue which I found most interesting was the debate as to whether it was better to accept the plan on the basis that it would preserve the building and make it viable again OR whether this would be rewarding the owners for leaving it to deteriorate to the point where it is on the 'Buildings at Risk' Register. If the application was rejected would further neglect follow, or could it be used as a gastro-pub or in some other way in keeping with the reasons for its listing. In the event the application was rejected. (4 against, 3 in favour, 2 abstentions)

Speaking for myself, I can see both sides of the argument. How do you balance the need to preserve our built heritage with the demands of economic necessity? I recently went to see a **locally listed shop at 2 Twyford Road, Ilford**. The specification says "1905, corner shop, two storeys, one window wide. Entrance on splayed corner. Red and yellow stocks, slate roof. Entrance flanked by Ionic pilasters and striped brick and stonework. Also elliptical arch beneath broken curved pediment. Original shop windows with green glazed brick stallrisers. Oriel window at first floor level with crenalated parapet. Almost original condition."

When I photographed it in 1988 it looked charming but not so now.



No 2 Twyford Road, photographed 6 April 1988 and 11 June 2015, by Georgina Green

I remember a shop on the corner of Smeaton Road in the 1970s when I lived at Woodford Bridge (but technically in EFDC). This was a traditional corner shop like the one above with sides of bacon ready to be put on the slicer to cut rashers to the customer's requirements. This became a 'junk shop' and is now some kind of office furniture outlet.

"F Harris" the Victorian butcher's shop at 449 High Road, Woodford Green, is also locally listed as it contained all the original features. The listing called it "a rare survivor and a veritable museum piece". This remained locked up but carefully preserved to delight passing

shoppers for many years after Mr Harris died. Although still locally listed as a Victorian butcher's shop, it has been a modern estate agent for some time. But as I said, how do you balance the need to preserve our built heritage with the demands of economic necessity?

This leads me back to the 'convenience store' at 831 High Road, Goodmayes which is listed Grade II and was featured in our Newsletter no.107 Dec 2011 on page 6. As I said in our last newsletter (page 18) it has been undergoing refurbishment for some months and it is still closed up with a fruit & veg. stall on the pavement outside.

One more building I would like to mention is not listed (though in my opinion, it should have been) and is Little Monkams, also in Woodford. Although the date of the house is uncertain, the late 13th century has been suggested. We do know that in c.1527 the Abbot of Stratford Langthorne (which had owned the manor of Buckhurst *alias* Monkams since 1135) leased to Rauffe Johnson of Woodford, husbandman, for sixty years, one grove, Monkon Grove, enclosed with ditches and hedges, and a sufficient dwelling house builded thereon, suitable for a husbandman to dwell in, at 40s, yearly rent.

The site of Little Monkams is enclosed by a ditch and the core of the house had massive timbers. I say 'had' as when the long-term owner died the house was bought by a developer. His proposals were rejected and, very sadly, there was a fire at the site early in 2007. For a while it was possible to see the charred timbers but now the whole site has a solid fence which encloses what is fast becoming a woodland. (It is a statistical fact that buildings refused planning permission have a tendency to catch fire in the night, something the scientists can't explain!)



Little Monkams, 22 May 2012, Georgina Green

Listed Buildings in Redbridge: Conservation Advisory Panel

In the Stop Press item on page 18 of the last newsletter I explained that this panel (known as CAP) was 'temporarily' disbanded in the Spring but will not now be reinstated. Redbridge has also lost our Buildings Conservation Officer and our Tree Preservation Officer. A meeting of the council's Overview Committee on 11 August reconsidered the position of CAP, with representations from the public and had an interesting debate, but at the end the vote went along party lines and the panel was not reinstated.

However, a number of people feel that CAP is even more important now the planning team has been cut back. CAP is made up of volunteers, some particularly interested in their own 'patch' and some more knowledgeable than others, but all anxious to preserve important aspects of our local built heritage. Those of you who were at our September meeting will remember Cllr Chris Cummins and I asked you to sign a petition and as a result of this the future of CAP was discussed by the full council on 19 November. I was not able to attend unfortunately, but I understand the petition was to no avail. The meeting agreed to endorse the previous decision to disestablish CAP.

Listed Buildings in Redbridge: Redbridge Conservation Forum

On Monday 9 November the inaugural meeting of the Redbridge Conservation Forum was held. Our chairman was invited but as this was the night of Roger Backhouse's talk and the Mayor was coming he was unable to attend. As the invitation was addressed to him by name he did not pass it on to anyone else to represent the society.

The meeting was attended by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, a senior Planning Officer and 14 others representing organisations within the borough which it was thought might have an interest in 'Conservation'. One of them was our Treasurer, John Sharrock, who was invited to represent the Barkingside 21 group.

I have seen some of the papers and I think it is intended the Forum will meet just twice a year and will include the Leader, the Cabinet Member and the Chief Planning Officer, so it should have a high-priority. The Council has decided to look at conservation within Redbridge in a new way, taking a more strategic approach to conservation matters. From what I have heard it seems likely they will also be concerned with policy and how the council will cope with building the 16,000+ new homes expected by central government in the next 15 years.

CAP met every six weeks and was concerned about individual buildings and conservation areas. Although it was agreed that the Forum should take account of both the built and the natural environment, it cannot replace CAP and will not have a similar brief.

Possible terms of reference were discussed, including "to promote the inclusion and maintenance of a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets at risk through neglect, decay or other threats ..."

Speaking personally, I was thrilled to be among the estimated 1,400 visitors to Valentines Mansion on Sunday 22 November for a very successful Christmas Fayre. This did give a nod to the heritage aspects of the house with a couple of people in Victorian costume. It is a shame though that their present brief seems to be more about showing a profit than showing visitors the history of the building and hosting heritage based events.

Apparently LBR are trying to recruit a Heritage and Strategy Officer but the first advert did not attract the interest of suitable applicants and the post will be re-advertised. Although he or she will not replace the Buildings Conservation Officer who was made redundant on 31 March, let's hope they engage someone who has an interest in our built heritage.

© *Georgina Green, 27 November 2015*

Sir Charles Raymond of Valentines and the East India Company

Georgina Green's long-awaited biography of Sir Charles Raymond, owner of Valentine House (as it was then known) from 1754 to 1788, was published in August. Scholarly, referenced with enough footnotes, statistics and appendices to satisfy the historian, the book provides an engaging narrative for the general reader.

Charles Raymond's career as an East India Company ship's captain was relatively uneventful, but after his retirement from the sea his subsequent role as an investor in ships and cargoes exchanged danger to his person for risk to his wealth. In the days of sail, and with the commercial rivalries and frequent wars between the major European powers, voyages to India and China were perilous, and there are exciting accounts of the swashbuckling adventures of the ships managed by Raymond.

As well as Raymond's maritime interests and his later venture into banking, Georgina describes social life in Ilford and nearby of Woodford and Wanstead in the community of the many East India Company personnel who made their homes there. Their stories are just as interesting as Raymond's. Georgina's research has revealed much new evidence of Ilford's importance in the Georgian era.

As well as the research and the writing, in this self-published book Georgina did the type-setting and design, which is first-rate. Priced £15, *Sir Charles Raymond of Valentines and the East India Company* is on sale at the Mansion and is available from Georgina. This is one to put on your Christmas wish-list!

Georgina has also added another new book to her portfolio. *New Paths to Public Histories*, edited by Margot Finn and Kate Smith, is intended more as a university text-book. Georgina co-wrote a chapter in which she describes her experiences in carrying out her research into Raymond's life. Her fellow author, Margaret Makepeace, Lead Curator of the East India Company Archives at the British Library, comments on some of Georgina's points and adds her own experiences in seeking out her family tree. It is good to know that information about Sir Charles Raymond and Valentines is being spread to the academic world.

Madeline Seviour, Friends of Valentines Mansion

Mystery Photo



“This photo was sent to me by Bill George, President of Barking HS and our speaker in January 2016, to see if we can shed any light on who the ladies are.

We see 8 genteel gentlewomen of The Ladies Floral band holding instruments such as violins, cellos etc who are available for hire for special events. Madame Nellie Baker is the organiser (front row, left?) and can be contacted at Woodlands Rd, Ilford. The fashion looks to be around 1890-1900 and the woman in the centre, back row, looks like a young Ethel Haslam? Can anyone provide information/identification on any of the ladies?”

Jef Page, August 2015

From the Museum: The Uphall Area

The Museum has used the Uphall area to give a time-line from pre-history until today.

Objects on display include some of the fossil remains from 200,000 years as well as bones some from more recent pre-history.

There is a Roman Flagon found at Uphall. They were commonly used for storing wine or oil but it is thought that this example contained a cremation and was deliberately buried intact.

The recent past features items from Howard & Sons chemical works.

Redbridge Museum is open
Tuesday – Friday, 10am until 5pm and on
Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

It is closed Sunday and Monday.



Ice Age Ilford An exhibition 180,000 years in the making

27 October 2015 - 4 June 2016

Times as above, Admission Free

Our Museum is hosting this exhibition of fossils and on the ground floor as you enter the Library is the fantastic 1980s Natural History Museum's (NHM) magnificent plaster cast of the gigantic mammoth skull and tusks found in Ilford about 150 years ago.

(See an illustration of this at the NHM on page 9 of our newsletter no.115, August 2014)

As some of you may know from previous items in the newsletter, Wilson Chowdhry, Chairman of the East Ilford Betterment Partnership, has been working with the Redbridge Museum to include the skull in their permanent display for a considerable time. He was motivated by the enthusiasm of his daughter, Hannah, who saw the skull at NHM five years ago when she was aged seven.

The exhibition shows how the Thames, 200,000 years ago, flowed much further north than it does now and covered what is now Ilford. Animals like steppe mammoths, rhinos, deer, bears and horses probably came down to the water's edge to drink and never got away. As the Ice Age ended and glaciers receded so the climate warmed and the Thames course shifted southwards, their bones were left here.

There were three brick earth pits that were being dug to provide material for new houses: at Clements and the Cauliflower along the High Road and one at Uphall alongside Barking Lane. Sir Antonio Brady (1811-81) was a fossil collector and he paid workmen to dig up the bones some 5 metres down and give him what they'd found and in 1862 they unearthed the mammoth- the only complete skull and tusks found in England. The bones of at least 30 adults and 20 juveniles have been found and Brady donated at least 900 bones to the NHM.

There is a display of an auroch's (similar to a large cow- now extinct) skull, large horns, lower jaw bone and teeth, biographies and photos of fossil hunters John Gibson (who worked at Howards), Dr Richard Cotton and Brady, a large map of Victorian Ilford and a video recreating a Victorian 1879 "A Day's Elephant Hunting in Ilford" that was carried out by the Essex Field Club.

Why steppe mammoths died out isn't known but at his lecture given to a packed audience at Redbridge Museum, NHM Professor Adrian Lister made it clear that it was climate change (the next Ice Age isn't expected for 20,000 years) that caused the extinction of woolly mammoths (which are a different species).

Historian Bill George (President of Barking Historical Society) has written excellent booklets on the three fossil hunters.

Congratulations to Gerard Greene and his staff and thanks to Wilson Chowdhry for arranging to display the mammoth skull.

The exhibition is small, a good taster of geology and prehistory, easy to grasp, and with the mammoth skull, well worth a look.

Jef Page, November 2015.

Uphall Camp

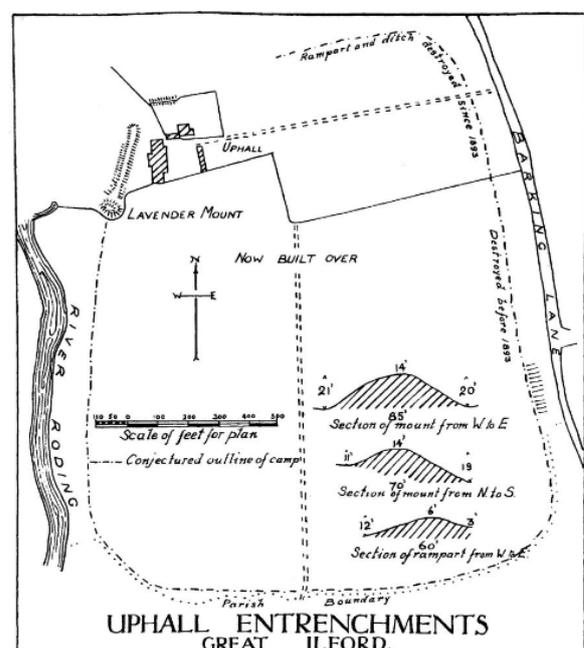
Finds indicate that this large site dates from the later Middle Iron Age, perhaps the 3rd or 2nd century BC. A single bank and ditch appear to have formed the ramparts of a very large enclosure (48 acres/19.4 hectares) which covered a roughly rectangular area from Victoria Road at the south to Baxter Road and St Luke's Avenue in the north, and from the Roding to Ilford Lane. The location beside the river would have allowed easy access by water when access on land would probably have been through heathland and birch woods.

The site was first recorded in 1735 by John Noble. More recently, *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex, Volume 2, Central and South west*, originally published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1921 describes the site as:

"**Uphall Camp** (Plan p. 98), situated on low-lying ground close to the river Roding. The remaining earthworks consist of a short length of rampart with an irregularly shaped mound at the north end, which is known locally as Lavender Mount, and another short length north of the farmhouse; there are also traces of the east side of the camp running parallel with Barking Lane. An early plan shows part of the north and east sides of the earthwork and suggests that it was roughly rectangular in outline. In 1750 the north, east and south sides are said to have had a single trench, and the west side a double trench and bank.

The mound is 21 ft. high and 85 ft. in diameter at the base. The date of the earthwork is doubtful, but it does not appear to be pre-Roman.

Condition—Bad; in some danger of destruction."



The site was examined by archaeologists from the Passmore Edwards Museum in 1960 and again in the 1980s when they uncovered two round houses with indications of two more, a circular agricultural or domestic building and a rectangular structure. There were also traces of smithying, all dating to the Middle Iron Age. They found other structures which they thought were (four?) raised granaries. Soil conditions would have prevented the preservation of any bones but large quantities of charcoal and burnt grain were found with other seeds which could help identify the crops grown by this Iron Age farming community. Pottery found was probably from the late 2nd or early 1st century BC.

Another discovery was thought to date to the Roman period, 3rd and 4th century AD. Evidence uncovered suggested it was a watch tower and from this location it would have been possible to look across a large area of what is now Barking, Ilford and East Ham. Other excavations were identified as late Medieval when it is thought this was an agricultural site.

The 'Lavender Mount' is a 16th or 17th century mound, possibly a windmill base or beacon mound which was cut into the ramparts approximately behind Uphall Primary School. The school and the roads leading off Ilford Lane to the west were built on that side of Uphall Camp over 100 years ago.

Later part of the site between Uphall Road and River Roding was covered by the Howard Chemical Works (see pages 10-12). When the factory had closed and the site was required for housing it needed to be decontaminated and it was at this time that further excavations were carried out by staff from the Passmore Edwards Museum, in 1987-8, thanks to funding from English Heritage, LB of Newham and Whithorn Ltd. I remember going to look at the site and seeing men dressed as if ready for a moon-walk because of possible chemical spillages.

Now there is little evidence of the ancient earthworks and the western side of the site is covered by Daffodil Gardens, Lavender Place, Bluebell Way and their adjacent turnings.



Site photographed by Georgina Green on 12 April 1988 after archaeological research had been completed.

This article was largely based on two accounts (published in the Spring of 1988) by Dr Pamela Greenwood who directed the excavations for the Passmore Edwards Museum and my own notes made at that time.

© **Georgina Green, 17 November 2015**

Howards of Ilford

Howards was essentially a family firm in which five generations founded, built up and continued the business of manufacturing pharmaceutical products and chemicals over a period of more than 150 years. Luke Howard formed a partnership with William Allen in about 1797, and set up business at Plough Court in Fleet Street, where they had a pharmacy, but he soon moved to Plaistow to supervise the manufacturing branch already established there. The partnership lasted until 1807, by which time Luke had moved the factory to Stratford (East London) and continued work as the sole partner.

The next 90 years saw the development of the business with many new products, with Howards establishing an outstanding position throughout the world as Quinine manufacturers. Very soon after the firm's centenary in 1897 it was decided to find a new site for the factory. There was little room for expansion at Stratford, which had not only become a smoke-laden district, but had municipal rates which, at that time, seemed prohibitive for the economical running of a chemical works.

A freehold area of between thirty and forty acres was, therefore, bought at Ilford, very conveniently situated for river and railway communications and set on a solid bed of gravel, which had formed the site of an ancient British and later a Roman camp. The site lay on the western side of the southern half of Uphall Road, with the River Roding forming the western boundary.

In 1903 the business was incorporated as a limited company: Howards & Sons Ltd, the existing partners at that time forming the Board. However, the daily meeting of the partners at 11.00am continued, including Saturdays. The 'Board Basket' contained all important letters received each morning and all abnormal enquiries, particularly those which required special attention before a quotation was issued were discussed. Any costing question was referred to the technical directors who had all their costing data readily available.

When the Board meeting was over a procession consisting of the chairman and the warehouse and works directors was formed and proceeded round the works, visiting every Department and instructing the foremen in charge how to cope with 'immediate requirements'. The whole Board gathered again at lunch, which became an adjourned Board meeting, when most outstanding points could be settled.



Drawing of the Ilford works in 1914 (Courtesy of Redbridge Information & Heritage, 25 August 2015)

The process of moving was a slow one and was not finally completed by the outbreak of war in 1914, though the office and warehouses were by that time installed at Ilford (it was 1923 before all the various subsidiary companies had moved to Ilford). The Tablet Department was established, which was originally used to produce Quinine tablets of accurate dosage. With this exception, little progress was made from the beginning of the century until the 1914 war. The reasons for this were various. In part it was a legacy from the days when the partners of the firm were the only chemists, which necessarily restricted the amount of pioneer research work. However, the move from Stratford to Ilford proved to be costly and prolonged and for the whole of the period in question the company had to exercise the very strictest economy in all forms of expenditure.

The company had always encouraged voluntary service and in 1914, all three junior directors were mobilised into the same Territorial regiment, The Artists' Rifles, and more than 100 key men throughout the factory were also called up as reservists or joined the army as volunteers. The number of employees killed in action during the First World War was 22, with many others wounded.

Howards paid their own tribute to the fallen from their workforce with a memorial in the chapel of Ilford Cemetery at Buckingham Road. Sadly this chapel has now been demolished due to dereliction and vandalism, but the memorial has been saved and moved to Barkingside Cemetery. The memorial is dedicated 'In Memory of the Employees of Howards & Sons Ltd who gave their Lives for King and Country 1914-1919'. (A tablet in memory of the six members of Howards' staff lost in the Second World War has been added). The names of the fallen are recorded on the Memorial – *see illustration below from the author's collection.*



Howards & Sons Ltd, War Memorial, Barkingside Cemetery

During 1915 the vital importance of the Chemical Industry to the conduct of the war became apparent, as also the fact that a large proportion of the technically trained Rig men had left their jobs for the Armed Services. Early in the following year a great many of them, including Bernard Howard, a director, were recalled and seconded to the newly formed Ministry of Munitions. On reporting to the Ministry, Howard was immediately sent back to his old job at Ilford, to boost the factory output,

particularly of Quinine, which was urgently needed in ever increasing quantities as the area of the war spread to malaria-ridden countries, and of which Howards' was practically the only potential source of supply for the British Empire.

The 1914 war provided the incentive to work on more progressive lines with the objective of freeing the chemical industry of the country from the stranglehold of German competition and protection patents from which it had suffered during the previous decades, and in 1916 Howards, simultaneously with several other British pharmaceutical houses, began to manufacture Aspirin, which had previously been the monopoly of the Germans. Within a short time Howards' Aspirin tablets established an excellent reputation, and became a household word; with annual sales of between 250 and 300 million tablets in the 1940s.

After the Armistice in 1918, the rapid return of the skilled workforce from the Forces enabled the company to go ahead with their plans for post-war developments. Until this time the products of the firm had been almost entirely pharmaceutical and were nearly all inorganic chemicals, but it became clear, despite the success of Howards' Aspirin, that the company no longer led the market in chemicals for pharmacy, and a research laboratory was set up in 1919 to explore new fields. This resulted in the development of Howards' Solvents, Plasticisers and Technical Chemicals for use in industry, which became the mainstay of the company's production.

The 1930s saw the building of a new self-contained power house which provided all the electric power and steam for normal factory requirements, as well as the electric power needed for hydrogen production. These expansions and developments enabled the firm to carry through the ordeals and demands of the Second World War with ever increasing output, and to play a major part in the economy of the country.

In the Second World War the Ilford office was destroyed in a bombing attack, and James Howard, the senior of the younger generation of Directors was killed, with many others injured, and in July 1944, a V.1 did more general damage. The factory was protected from the outset of war by voluntary squads of the Works own Fire Brigade and ambulance men who lived in the warehouse basement. During 1940 the War Office expressed anxiety about possible sabotage of the Works by outside Fifth Columnists or by enemy parachutists and a series of loop-holed strong points were built in various strategic positions. These were manned at night by volunteers who formed the nucleus of what later became a strong detachment of the Home Guard.

By the end of the war most of the overworked plant and equipment in the factory was in urgent need of repair and replacement. The early post war years were devoted to not only making up leeway in long overdue renewals and extensions, but also the entire reorganisation of the Company from top to bottom from which emerged a successful high production company.

In 1960 approaches were received from two major chemical companies with offers to buy Howards and in March 1961 the Company was taken over by Laporte Industries Ltd. The factory continued in production for another twenty years but was closed by Laporte in 1980, and the buildings demolished. The waste on the site included 150,000 tons of cinchona bark (from which quinine was extracted) and a radioactive thorium dump, and this was cleared at a cost for decontamination of £8million. When the site was fully cleared and made safe in 1990, the Uphall housing estate was built.

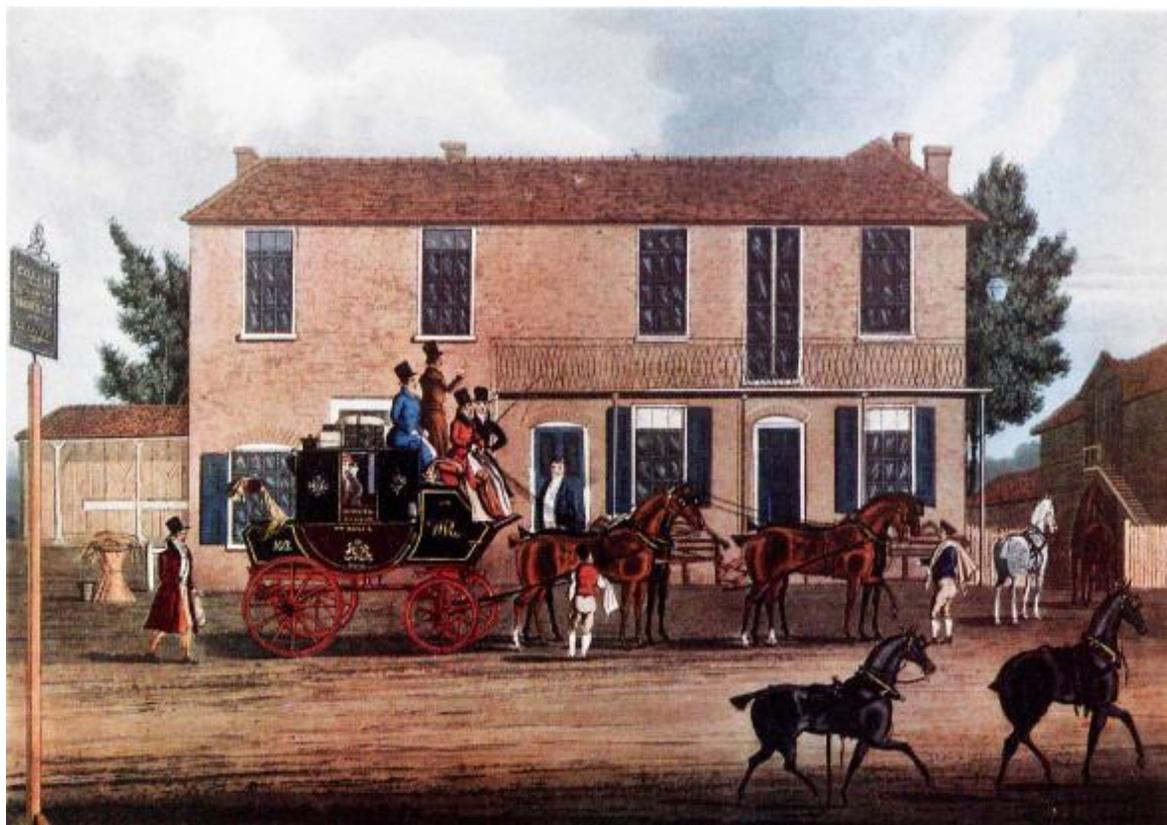
The principal source for this article is a short book, published by the Company in 1947: '*Howards 1797-1947*'. Major archives of the Company are held at the London Metropolitan Archives, and the LB of Redbridge Archives. Redbridge Museum has a display about Howards in its permanent gallery.

© **Richard Morris, August 2015**

Richard is a leading member of the Loughton Historical Society and author of a number of books about our locality including *From Clouds to Quinine - The Howard Family of Tottenham, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton*. The editor is very grateful to him for the writing this article which seems timely with reference to importance of the company's quinine production 100 years ago.

Sources for Local History : Contemporary depictions

The Coach and Horses, Ilford, c.1832, painting by James Pollard



Print published by T.Helme, April 1832. The engraver may be R G Reeve.

Plate 54, page 103, *The Regency Road* by N C Selway (Faber and Faber Ltd, 1957)

“The Yarmouth Mail has made its last stop in Ilford on the Romford Road before heading off for Aldgate, London and home. The old team of horses, unled, are happily prancing back to the stables for a few days well-earned rest. The new team stands quietly, awaiting their turn as the lead horse paws at the ground whilst taking a titbit from a stable boy. Extensive stabling was required for the horses, particularly if local coaches stopped at the inn and postboys took you to your final destination in a private coach. The coach line operators owned the horses – thousands of them. Up to 30 or 40 horses might be in stables. The ladies have taken their seats inside the coach whilst on top a passenger toasts Glover the innkeeper for their hospitality (his name is on the signboard – the young well-dressed young man in a blue coat and cravat standing in the doorway?). The driver holds the reins whilst the guard has walked to the back of the coach, mailbag in hand, to take up his position. The coach is in black and burgundy royal mail colours with red wheels, the WR monogram is clearly prominently on the side panels. This period – King William 1830-37, coaching had more than doubled: during 1810-14, 1,331 coaches were licensed each year; in 1835 the number had more than doubled to 3,306. The inn looks like a substantial well-appointed country house and the scene has a warm, rosy feeling to it. Presumably Pollard liked it.

The paintings are in typical Pollard style, i.e. the horses are high-stepping as usual and everyone is well-dressed to appeal to a middle-class buying public. He was a noted and reputable artist and it has to be assumed that the inns looked like this. Today his scenes are still very nostalgic and popular.”

Our Chairman, Jef Page, sent me the picture and text above after reading my article about the oldest pubs in Ilford in our last newsletter and it set me wondering. Can we rely on a painting such as this to be an accurate portrayal of the scene? The picture 'Wanstead Hall, Essex, viewed from beyond the Great Octagon Basin', attributed to Charles Catton the Elder (c.1728-1798) shows the building with a wing on each side. The wings were certainly planned but were never actually built. We must assume that Sir Richard Child asked the artist to show them as this is how he wanted his house to appear.

In this case, the book *The Regency Road* has a lengthy introduction by James Laver, Keeper of the Department of Engraving and Drawing, V & A Museum at the time of publication (1957) so Selway's work must be respected. He wrote eight lines of interpretation but the text above was written by Jef Page, using the information given in the book but with his own local and historical knowledge to add to this. Given Jef's background we have no reason to question what he has written. As Jef says, the print was intended to appeal to a middle-class buying public so may be somewhat 'idyllic' but from studying other engravings, and Pollards oil paintings from another book, it should be an accurate portrayal of the scene.

Authenticity

Taking this a stage further, one should always question the authenticity of any source. When doing my research into the wreck of Sir Charles Raymond's ship *Valentine*, I came across a reference to an eye-witness account of the shipwreck: "my grandfather was among the first to put out to the rescue of the crew and passengers. He got across to Brecqhou at risk of his life, and, from his knowledge of that ragged coast and its currents, managed to float a line down to the sinking ship by means of which every man got safe ashore."

This came from a book *Carette of Sark* by John Oxenham which also described how part of the ship was salvaged and put to use as a house on the island of Sark. You can imagine my excitement when I asked to see a copy of the book in the Priaulx Library in Guernsey. However, further investigation proved that rather than being a biography it was a novel and that John Oxenham was a pseudonym for William Arthur Dunkerley (1852-1941) an English journalist and writer. It is possible the account of how the local people rescued the crew of the ship in 1779 was genuine but I did not feel it was reliable enough to quote in my own work, particularly as the description of the house was a fantasy.

Another item, sent to me by Wanstead historian Richard Arnopp, also excited me as it appeared to be a first-hand account of the Raymond family.

Lettres Angloises, ou les Epoux à la Mode by Jean de Bochart, Colonel Chevalier de Champigny. Volume 4 (1772) (as translated by Richard Arnopp)

Mr Raymond has essentially been the architect of his own fortune, which he made on the sea, through several voyages to the Indies which brought him riches. Wise enough to know when to stop; he now lives in the bosom of his family, who make up all his own happiness; while he hastens to contribute to that of a thousand other people with whom, as a good Christian, he has shared in the fruits of that which Providence gave him.

His daughters are all very agreeable. My Jenny liked best the one who speaks French. This young lady appeared to have a passion for learning, which her father spared nothing to satisfy: last summer he even suggested a trip to France, to help Miss Raymond perfect her command of the language of that country.

He told me about a certain Mr Cameron who had been one of their party and, in many ways, had helped to make the trip more enjoyable. Besides being a charming man, Mr Cameron also knew France well, and, as a result had brought them enjoyable experiences they would not have had without him.

Although Mr Raymond had not prepared for us, we had a very fine dinner. In particular, he gave us to drink an excellent Cape wine, which he told us that he bought himself while he was there. I confess that I thought it the veritable king of wines, when you can have it unblended.

At the end of dinner, one of the Miss Raymonds sang, and acquitted herself excellently. In a word, chance served us well in bringing us from Wanstead to Ilford; and to sum up the worthy Mr Raymond, I would say that he is in every particular like Squire Allworthy in Fielding's Tom Jones.

Richard Arnopp's introduction to the extracts he quoted (primarily about Wanstead) again made me feel it was not reliable enough to be quoted. Richard said "The work from which this extract is taken is a novel – a product of the French 'anglomania' phenomenon, in which English characters and situations are used to point up the differences between English and French society and institutions. The real identity of the author is unknown, but he appears to display a degree of local topographical knowledge in this episode. This is perhaps derived from maps, directories and guide books rather than personal experience, as he gets a couple of details wrong – for example, the 'Green Man' inn is not in Ilford! However, he also incorporates characters based on real people - Lord Tylney and a family named Raymond who gained their wealth from the East India trade - into his story, which makes it highly interesting."

This is almost certainly based on first-hand accounts and is actually contemporary, but how much is accurate and how much changed to suit the story line is just guesswork. I can vouch that Donald Cameron was brought up in France (his father was the last Jacobite to be executed in London), though by 1772 he had been Charles Raymond's brother-in-law for nine years. A newspaper account in 1787 says of Raymond that "his manners are so humble, placid, and unaffected, that the ladies call him Sir Charles Grandison".

The History of Sir Charles Grandison by Samuel Richardson was first published in February 1753 as a response to Henry Fielding's Tom Jones.

Perhaps the best example of fiction being taken as fact is the book *Rookwood* by William Harrison Ainsworth. This includes a character based on Dick Turpin and it was published in 1834, 100 years after the time when Turpin was active as a thug. *Rookwood* depicts him as a charming highwayman who flatters the ladies with his dashing ways. This was a far cry from the truth and was never intended to be anything more than a fantasy. However it was used as the basis of accounts of Dick Turpin's life for 150 years and many still believe he was a Robin Hood character rather than a dour thief.



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Historic sites in Metropolitan Essex

A new website has been set up to encourage the visiting of historic sites in Metropolitan Essex. The 14 featured sites are in the Boroughs of Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Thurrock, and range from our own Hospital Chapel, through Havering Museum, Upminster Old Chapel, and Rainham Hall to Coalhouse Fort. The site is www.discoverme.london - do take a look at it and use it to plan trips into the Heritage of



Metropolitan Essex.

In addition the Ilford Hospital Chapel now has a presence on Facebook, where you can find out about its current events.

Martin Fairhurst

Rainham Hall, gardens and Stable block café were closed for a major conservation project but reopened on 7 October 2015 from 10am to 5pm **Friday to Sunday**.

Adult admission is £5, Child £2.50 and families £10.

Everything is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and the garden and café **only** are open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Entry to the café and garden is free.

IHS PROGRAMME Spring and Summer 2016

Our regular monthly meetings are held at Ilford Hospital Chapel, The Broadway, Ilford Hill, Ilford, IG1 2AT from 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Visitors welcome, £2 per meeting, with free refreshments. Limited parking is available at the rear of the chapel and many buses stop nearby at Ilford Station. (Wheelchair access via the rear entrance)

11 January 2016 *A Year in the Life of William Ashmole: Ilford in the 1860s* by Bill George, President of Barking Historical Society.

8 February 2016 *Picture this: A Tour of Leytonstone in Old Postcards* by Alan Simpson.

14 March 2016 International Women's Day: *'A Place of Origin': Ilford & the Poetry of Denise Levertov* by Steve Palmer.

11 April 2016 7pm AGM followed by *Keepers, Cockneys & Kitchen Maids* by Georgina Green, Vice President, IHS.

9 May 2016 Local History Month: *Valentines Mansion & Estate: Dilapidation, Trepidation & Restoration* by Nigel Burch.

Additional talks and walks are held during summer months but are not included in the membership and may be charged.

July (tbc) The First Day of the Somme: 1st July 1916 by Jef Page, Chairman, Ilford HS

Membership of the society costs £12 per year which includes 3 newsletters

The next newsletter will be available at our April meeting, or from the editor (details on page 1) after 12th April.