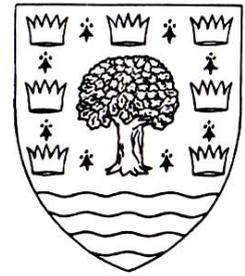


# Ilford Historical Society

Newsletter No.108 April 2012

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Dear Reader

## Visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Valentines Mansion



As most of you will know, Her Majesty the Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited Redbridge on 29<sup>th</sup> March as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Valentines Mansion was selected as a showcase where Her Majesty could meet local residents and view the “London Pride, 60 years of bright ideas” festival of art and design which had been organised as a celebration for the borough. She also formally opened the newly created Diamond Jubilee Dry Garden near the Gardener’s Cafe.

After the Royal Party had moved on to Waltham Forest a reception was held in the Mansion where several pictures on loan from the Tate Gallery were exhibited. This included work by Lucien Freud and David Hockney among several famous names. Other items illustrating different aspects of design were on display in specially erected marquees near the Mansion. It was particularly good to find a range of work by local school children.

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## Other Anniversaries

### Valentine Mansion in public ownership

The Queen's visit is particularly appropriate as it was a hundred years ago that the council purchased Valentines Mansion from Holcombe Ingleby. His great-uncle and godfather, Charles Holcombe, had left in his will that Mrs Sarah Ingleby, his niece, should live at Valentines until her death (which happened on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1906) when Holcombe Ingleby would inherit the property. By this time he was well established in rural Norfolk and decided to sell the house and estate. He gave 10 acres of the park to the Council, but it was clear they could not afford to purchase all the remaining land and the house. In 1909 a local branch of the Garden City movement initiated a not-for-profit company which eventually resulted in the houses in Emerson and adjacent roads being built on land which had been part of the park. The money from the sale of these houses, along with local donations, enabled the Council to acquire the house and park as we know it today in December 1912.

### Queen Victoria's visit to Epping Forest

It was on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1882 that Queen Victoria came by train to Chingford and drove up to High Beach to declare the Forest an open space for the use and enjoyment of all her people. Maybe Dr & Mrs Ingleby were among the many thousands who went to witness the event.

### Sinking of the *Titanic*

This newsletter will be available at our meeting almost exactly a century after that terrible night of 14/15<sup>th</sup> April 1912 when the *Titanic* hit an iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage. I dare say we will all have heard a great deal about it by then, but I felt I must mention our own link to the tragedy. Benjamin and Esther Hart were on board, travelling to start a new life in Canada, with their young daughter Eva who had been born in Ilford on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1905. Sadly Mr Hart drowned when the ship went down, but eventually Eva and her mother returned to Chadwell Heath where Eva lived until her death aged 91 years. In 1994 Eva wrote an autobiography, *Shadow of the Titanic - A Survivor's Story*, in which she described her experiences aboard the ship and the lasting implications of its sinking. A pub at Chadwell Heath is named in her honour.



## **Iford Historical Society, Walk Report**

Back in November IHS organised a walk from Woolwich to Eltham in conjunction with Redbridge Ramblers. It's fair to say Ramblers far outnumbered historians, perhaps the promise of a five mile walk with hills was just too much to think about.

With the Docklands Railway closed completely for the weekend getting to Woolwich was more problematic than usual. However 19 turned out, after a delayed start enabling some to look at the historic Arsenal buildings.

Woolwich was a fishing village in Medieval times. It is unusual in London as one of the few places where hills almost reach the river, giving firm banks. It is also a town in its own right, not merely a suburb. Shipbuilding began in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century when the naval dockyard began. Here the shipwright Phineas Pett built the "Sovereign of the Seas" for Charles II. The dockyard closed in 1869 but the Record Office and other buildings survive.

The authorities realised the value of the nearby marshland for weapons storage in Elizabethan times, but gun making began here after a catastrophic explosion casting cannon at Moorfields. Woolwich became officially recognised as THE arsenal from 1716, making, testing and storing arms and munitions. Scientists including Michael Faraday worked here and architects like Sir John Vanbrugh designed buildings around Dial Square which remains an attractive grouping. It claimed to be the place where "Quality Control" was invented. Nearby Woolwich housed major barracks particularly for the Royal Artillery.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the Arsenal was the biggest manufacturing plant in the country, with its own railways, generating plant, furnaces and massive steam hammers. However, it was completely closed to the public until quite recently.

After our first stop in Beresford Square the party looked at Woolwich Town Hall, one of the finest examples of Edwardian Baroque in London. Newly created boroughs wanted a symbol of their civic pride. The architect, Sir A Brumwell Thomas, also designed the even larger Belfast Town Hall. Oddly it has relatively few offices, much is empty space and, to modern eyes, is wasteful. Yet when I worked there in 1986-1990 it was a building that gave going to work a sense of occasion, the only building ever giving me that experience.

We walked up the hill to the Royal Artillery Barracks. One of our party had stayed in Woolwich as an unwilling conscript in the Royal Engineers, sent to break the 1948 dock strike. He wasn't too pleased especially as his father and brother were both dockers. He described nearby barracks as the worst he ever stayed in.

The old barracks have recently been refurbished, this time housing Guards regiments instead of artillery who moved to Salisbury Plain. Architectural historian Nicholas Pevsner described them as "worthy of St Petersburg" – they are claimed to be the longest brick frontage in Europe, over 1,000 ft long – though that has also been claimed for the nearby Woolwich Common council estate. The east section was built in 1775-82, the rest completed 1802. A statue of "Victory" in front commemorates the Crimean War. Across Woolwich Common Road are remains of the garrison chapel of St George, built as a Romanesque basilica but destroyed by a flying bomb in 1944.

Much of Woolwich Common will be used for Olympic events but we walked through to see London's oddest building, the Rotunda. When allied sovereigns planned to meet in London at the supposed end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1814, John Nash put up a mighty tent in St James Park. It was re-erected here in Woolwich in 1819 and given a Chinese style lead roof and

central support. Once housing a museum of artillery now it lies empty and rather off the beaten track.

Woolwich's other major military building is the old Royal Military Academy, built 1808, designed by James Wyatt in a faintly gothic style. After use for storing archives it is now converted to flats (sorry, luxury apartments). We bypassed it, and the Red Lion pub, to cross Shooters Hill Road and into the woods.

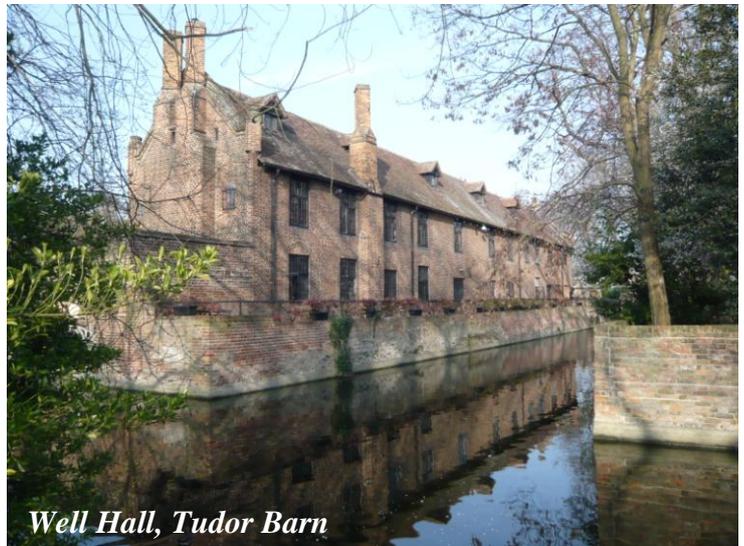
Shooters Hill is one of the highest places in London. The water tower is visible from Ilford's railway viaduct. At one time notorious for highwaymen, a gibbet stood near to the later police station.

Our walk took us to Severndroog Castle, one of London's great follies, built in 1784. It commemorates the capture of the castle of Severndroog on the Malabar Coast of India by Sir William James in efforts to rid the coast of pirates. The view from the top must be superb but the castle needs major restoration and isn't open to the public.

We walked on through Jackleas wood and through the grounds of the former Jackleas House, once home of the Earl of Radnor, to Oxleas Woods café where there is another superb view across south east London. Refreshed we set off back to drop down to the Progress Estate.

This is one of London's gems – built in just 8 months for munitions workers in 1914-15 it is of Arts and Crafts style, creating a remarkable village atmosphere. It's said no two houses are alike.

Next stop was Well Hall Pleasaunce, a pleasant Italian style garden laid out in the 1920s by Woolwich Borough Council. Here Margaret Roper, daughter of Sir Thomas More, had a house, Well Hall, which was demolished in the 1920s. This was later the home of Edith Nesbit, author of the *Railway Children*.



Only the Tudor Barn, a distinguished brick building now used as a restaurant, survives.

Finally most of us made it to Eltham Orangery, recently restored, conveniently at the rear of Eltham's Marks and Spencer store.

Unfortunately our party did not get chance to visit the Eltham Park Estate which could be twinned with Ilford. Cameron Corbett, who developed much of Ilford, created this Estate as an up-market suburb. Houses are almost identical to other Corbett homes in Ilford. As at Seven Kings, Corbett paid the railway company to build a lavish new station. Following practice in Ilford, he wouldn't allow licensed premises so for years the only local off licence was in property on the railway bridge owned by the railway company.

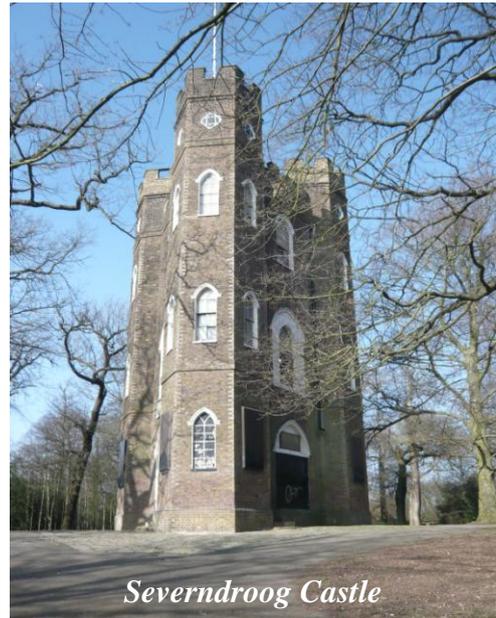
Woolwich and Eltham have many more interesting historical features plus good views from Shooter's Hill. The two towns are quite different in character but well worth a visit. And walks on Shooters Hill are superb.

© **Roger Backhouse** , 30 December 2011.

## Listed Buildings in Ilford – if only it hadn't been demolished!

As mentioned by Roger in his walk report (page 4), Severndroog Castle commemorates the daring capture of Suvarnadrug fort on the coast of India (to the south of Bombay) by William James in 1755. He was a professional sailor, commanding a small fleet of four war ships acting on behalf of the East India Company. When he retired from the sea in 1759 he purchased an estate at Eltham, and was elected a Director of the East India Company and later the Chairman. He must have known several of our local residents, including Sir Charles Raymond. He was awarded a baronetcy, and died in 1783. The “castle” was erected by his wife, the following year. It is a 60-foot high triangular, brick-built tower designed in the gothic style by architect Richard Jupp. It is listed Grade II\* but is presently on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk register.

<http://www.severndroogcastle.org.uk/>



*Severndroog Castle*

Another mausoleum, listed Grade I, was built at Cobham on the Downs south of Gravesend and Rochester between 1783 and 1786. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Darnley had laid down in his will in 1767 that after his death his wife should build a mausoleum to a specified design for the Darnley family dynasty, in the grounds of Cobham Hall. He died in 1781 and she commissioned James Wyatt, but after it was completed the Bishop of Rochester refused to consecrate the building. The tower featured in the “Restoration” TV programme in 2006 as it is also badly in need of serious repair.

<http://www.cobhampark.org.uk/> *Darnley Mausoleum*

The reason I have included this in the newsletter is to highlight the mausoleum erected by Charles Raymond on the Highlands estate twenty years earlier, in 1765.

Raymond's was a castle similar in appearance to that erected later for Sir William James. Apparently it had catacombs with fourteen compartments in the underground vault. Above this was a chapel, and above that a room where refreshments could be served. But no-one was ever buried there, instead Sir Charles Raymond and his wife Sarah were buried at St. Margaret's at Barking. According to George Tasker (*Ilford Past and Present*, 1901) a descendent of Sir Charles Raymond came across some documents relating to the mausoleum which stated that Raymond and the Bishop could not agree over certain points connected with the consecration, so the ceremony was not performed. [Like the Darnley Mausoleum] The documents also show that the building cost £420 and Tasker comments that the quality of the brickwork was very fine even after 130 years.

What a shame the “castle” was demolished in 1923 or this might have been our second Grade I listed building! The PLA built a pavilion on the site and this has recently been converted into the administrative block of the new Cranbrook Primary School in The Drive.

© *Georgina Green, 15 March 2012*



*“Raymond's Castle”*

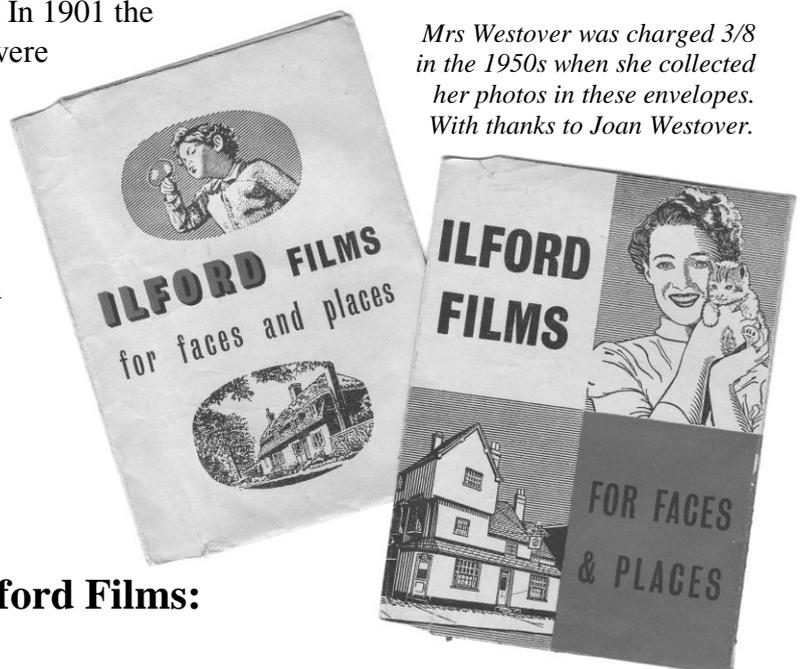
## Ilford Films

Last Autumn I was at a social gathering and found myself chatting to a man, John Cavill, who had worked at Ilford Limited in the 1970s. What I found even more interesting was that 40 years ago he was working with computers, so I asked if he would write an article for the newsletter. Not only did he agree, but I thank him sincerely for the trouble he has taken over the article below.

In case, like me, you know very little about the company I give some basic background which is taken from *Silver by the Ton: A History of Ilford Limited, 1879-1979* by Robert J Hercock and George A Jones (McGraw-Hill 1979, ISBN 0 07 084525 5).

The Ilford company was founded by Alfred Hugh Harman who started his career in the industry in 1863, at the age of 22, in Peckham. He learned about the processes, had some innovative ideas, and in 1879 he decided to give up his photographic business and concentrate on the manufacture of photographic plates. He wanted a site close to London but with a clean dust-free atmosphere, and he bought a house called 'Elmhurst' at the corner of Park Avenue and Cranbrook Road. Here, in the cellar and on the ground floor he made dry photographic plates, employing two men and three boys. He soon needed to expand so purchased property south of the High Road and before long he set up the Britannia Works on land west of, and including that, now occupied by Sainsburys. In 1901 the name 'Ilford, Limited' was adopted. There were other company sites around London, but Ilford remained the headquarters until the 1970s. A new head office was built at Basildon (opened in 1977) with research laboratories at Warley and a plant at Mobberley for the production of nuclear and scientific plates. The association with Ilford town lasted nearly a hundred years.

*Georgina Green*



*Mrs Westover was charged 3/8 in the 1950s when she collected her photos in these envelopes. With thanks to Joan Westover.*

## A Recollection of Working at Ilford Films: Computer technology 1972 - 2012

I recall joining Ilford Films (Ilford Limited to give its correct name) in June 1972 at the age of 22. If I remember rightly, I sent in my c.v. just before the Company published an advertisement for the computer programmer position I was eligible for. Len Graves gave me a job, thank you Len. His name led inevitably to jokes among my family and friends about there being no future for me there! How wrong they were!

I went to work at the Company's then premises in Roden Street, Ilford for the princely salary of £2,000p.a. where I joined a small team led by Marc Perry – "Sherpa Perry" on account of the big anorak he wore in winter! Ilford's also had operations at Basildon, Brentwood, Mobberley in Cheshire, Lyon in France and Fribourg in Switzerland and during my time with the Company I managed to visit each of them. The two distribution centres, at Basildon and Mobberley, were particularly heavy users of our computer systems, for stock control and

distribution. The principle product lines were black and white photographic film and paper, and the customer base included various professional photographers and especially hospitals which used the X-ray film for which the Company was justly famous.

The following year the computers were upgraded from 64k to 96k memory. The PC I am using today has a memory of 3gb which is of the order of 30,000 times the size of the machine the Company ran its business on, and for which I wrote software in COBOL, a programming language much used for business applications back in the 1970s.

There were no screens on staff desks back then and the poor user never saw his data except on forms he had to complete himself, or on printed reports. All the processing was run by the computer operators. Magnetic tape was still the principle storage medium, not only for data back-ups but also for system master and transaction files, disk technology still being in its infancy.

The Ilford computer set up did include disks but since their capacity was limited, they were exchangeable, allowing the operator to swap sets of data depending on which application was running. Disk technology developed quickly but for years were prone to head crashes when data would be lost and systems had to be restored from tape back-up, and processing repeated. As a result of all the back-up and recovery planning I had to do then, I still back up my PC files to DVD regularly today although hard drive failures are now thankfully infrequent.

Many computers in those days only ran one application at a time, in contrast to the number of open tabs readers of this newsletter probably have on their PCs. Strangely, the very first computers I worked on in 1967, the Leo (Lyons Electric Office) 326 series machines, did run multiple applications in separate memory partitions and in this respect, proved to be quite advanced for their day. They were installed in large rooms of softly humming floor to ceiling boxes with expensive air conditioning. The only easily recognisable elements were the ubiquitous magnetic tape drives and the operator's console. There were not even any card readers at first, all input being on punched paper tape produced by the Data Preparation Department. I understand that Ilford's also once had a Leo which was scrapped before I joined the Company.

Printing in the 1970s was a bit different too. There were no inkjet or laser printers and all the printing was done on large mechanical and noisy impact printers using fanfold paper. This was a whole boxful of sheets attached to one another by perforated joins and in a single stream with holes down either side so that the stationery could be fitted over the printer's sprocket wheels. Once clamped into place and set running, the stationery would flow through the printer at a great rate of knots and fold itself neatly on the floor behind the printer. Now and again though, the stationery would become dislodged from the printer's sprockets and jam the machine in a spectacular pile of creased paper known as a 'wreck'. And of course, if a form such as account statements, were to be used, the operator had to load a box of pre-printed stationery. How times have changed!

Prior to joining Ilford Films I had begun studying for an ACMA cost accounting qualification by correspondence and the Company generously paid my fees for me while I completed them, and gave me study leave when I was revising for my exams. This was much appreciated by a then young man with a lady on his arm and a wedding in prospect.

My career developed well at Ilford's. I was given a programming team leader position in 1973 and led the development of a stock control system with excellent assistance from Sue Hawkrigde, Linda Larkman and Bernie Stedman; where are they now I wonder?

One of my most enduring memories of the Roden Street office is of working by gas light during the three day week in the 1973/1974 winter. Another was joining the celebrations of a gentleman whose name I confess I do not recall, who retired aged 65 having worked at Ilford Films for 50 years; what an achievement! I was able to indulge my passion for playing chess when the Company entered a team in the Essex League under the leadership of Don Tyrrell, then Head of Computer Operations.

I moved into the systems department in 1974, something I had aspired to for a few years and I found myself in the company of capable and friendly colleagues from whom I could learn new skills. Particularly influential in my early years as a systems analyst were Peter Thurgood, Malcolm Morris, and Martin McPherson who taught me to analyse thoroughly and to spot assumptions, skills that have stayed with me. My first task was to assist with the development of a new Sales Accounting system, my accounting studies paying off right away.

Sheri and I were married in October 1974. I held my celebrations with my colleagues one Friday lunchtime in the bar at Roden Street and, you will be pleased to know, we are still very happy together today. In another act of kindness Len agreed that I might rewrite a large program that had become too complex to maintain and pay me a fixed price for the job. We spent the proceeds on white goods for our marital home.

It was around that time that Ilford Films decided to move their head office from Roden Street to their premises in Christopher Martin Road in Basildon, where they built a new office and computer centre. The space, the large L-shaped desks and the several pot plants made this office the most comfortable one I ever worked in. The layout was described as “deep plan” if I remember correctly. The Company introduced flexitime working which allowed me to be on the Pippis Hill golf course by 4.15pm on summer afternoons! The Company created a scheme to give financial help to those of their staff who moved house so as to stay with them and they were again generous to me, including me in the scheme when Sheri and I moved to Wickford after our wedding. I have fond memories of commuting from Wickford to Ilford in the period 1974-1976 with Peter Thurgood and Bob Magee in Peter’s Mark III Cortina.

In 1976 the Company needed to determine the profitability of its various film and paper products and a project called Cost Plus was initiated to make the necessary calculations. Feike Venker was brought in from Ciba-Geigy, our Swiss parent company, to manage the project, Ron Kent, one of the Company’s senior accountants, led the UK business effort and I looked after the IT component. A keen football fan, I remember Ron as referee, controlling a large meeting at Ilford Films with yellow and red cards! November 1976 saw me undertaking the system implementation with Mike McGuire and Yvonne over a weekend. This went well and by 1978 I had made Senior Analyst and received my first company car.

1978/1979 was the time that the long standing Stock Control Orders on Production Environment (SCOPE) system, was replaced with new software and then new IDS-1 database technology. The IT side of this large and critical project was run jointly by Ian Peters for the main application and myself for the central database. I was ably assisted by Ruth Jarrett, Tony Martin, Mike Clarke, Steve Churchman, Lee Hall and Mike Lopez a consultant database specialist.

The time-critical implementation in March 1979 stalled when a database link failed. The team worked the whole weekend to fix the problem and to re-process the data load. Avril Nelson, our chief technician, played a pivotal role with Mike Lopez in fixing the problem and getting us out of trouble, and I shall always be grateful to her.

During 1980 I grew tired of the pressure and began to consider that the time had come to move on. In the April I decided to complete the project I was working on and leave the Company but in June I was overtaken by events. The price of silver nitrate, a chemical critical in the production of photographic film and paper, rose sharply and the Company suffered a heavy financial loss; this event was associated with speculation in silver market by Nelson Bunker Hunt. The closure of the Basildon office was announced and my project was cancelled. I sought an alternative position and moved to the City of London in the October. I joined Centre-file, part of the then NatWest Group and found that their mainframe computers were so large that they occupied three entire floors of their seven storey Edwardian office block at 75 Leaman Street, E1, now prestigious Berkeley Group housing. These were the days before the microchip revolutionised data processing, or Information Technology to give it its more recent name. Word processors had begun to appear and to replace the typing pool but the days of a PC on each desk were still some years away.

I moved to County Bank, Centre-file's sister company within the NatWest group and contributed to their preparations for the deregulation of the City in 1986, popularly referred to as "Big Bang". By this time computers were linked to staff desks but the screens were 'dumb' terminals. PCs running Windows were around by then but they were expensive and although we in the I.T. department had access to them, we had to share them. Imagine that!

Finally I moved to Phillips & Drew in 1988 and remained there until my retirement in 2008. I recall the excitement in the mid 1990s about something called the "world wide web" which was to be followed by the dot-com boom and bust in 2001. There was also of course the well known Year 2000 date change project when elderly systems that stored year data in just two digits had to be upgraded as a matter of urgency to keep them running in the new millennium. Ten years on and we "Google" as a matter of routine, we bank, shop, email, "tweet" and talk on line. We take our web and email connections with us wherever we go accessing by laptop, mobile phone, blackberry or ipad and some of us struggle to get away from our screens at home even when we are supposedly retired! My younger friends keep their screens in their pockets and would no more leave home without them than they would their front door keys! IT has been a fascinating discipline in which to spend my career and I imagine that the high rate of change in technology will continue for some time yet. Ilford Films seems to have changed dramatically too. Their website indicates that the company now has no UK presence and is entirely based in Fribourg, Switzerland, rejoicing in the name "ILFORD Imaging Switzerland GmbH".

When I reflect now on my time at Ilford Films I see a period in my life when I worked hard, was treated exceptionally well and where I made the best progress in my career. My colleagues were a pleasure to work with and good at their jobs. The sense of being a player in a fine team is something I took with me when I left Ilford Films and which has stayed with me since. Today I help run Blackmore Baptist Church and this sense of team is as important to me now as it was then.

Although it has been many years since I left Ilford Films, I would be very pleased to hear from any of my past colleagues who share similar memories and would care to reminisce over a glass or two.

© **John Cavill** (*Ingatestone*) e-mail: [jandscavill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jandscavill@yahoo.co.uk)

January 2012.

## Sources for Local History ~ The Census

The first national census to be carried out in this country was in 1801 (excluding those carried out by the church) and this collected together information about the numbers of males, females and children in a parish, with a simple breakdown of occupations, the number of families and the number of houses, both inhabited and empty. This numerical information was again collected in 1811, 1821 and 1831 and although it provides a guide to the growth of the population, it is little help in building up a detailed social picture.

However in 1841 much more detail was collected. On this occasion the head of each household was asked to fill in a questionnaire (with the help of the enumerator, if he was illiterate) and it is the basis of the means by which the census is carried out today. The questionnaire was refined in 1851 and was then virtually unchanged in the next fifty years.

These later census returns provide a wealth of valuable information about the community and its individual members. For each household it is possible to see the number of families in the house, the relationship between the various members of the family and others such as visitors, lodgers and servants etc. The age of each person is given which may enable a complete family structure to be drawn up. However, it does not give any indication of members of the family absent from home on the night of the census. They might be shown as visitors or employees at another house, or just be missing entirely (e.g. if abroad). By checking from census to census it can sometimes be seen how older children moved away, or had wives/husbands move into the family home. The number of servants might help to indicate the wealth of the family and the size of their home. Similarly a number of lodgers might indicate a poorer household and the relative social background in various streets can be gauged.

The rank, occupation or profession is also listed e.g. annuitant / civil servant / police constable / farmer / shopkeeper / agricultural labourer / apprentice / servant / scholar / infant etc. which adds to the picture of the social structure of the streets. However it is not always obvious from the census returns exactly where each family lived. Although streets are usually named and some buildings may be identified, for instance inns or large residences named, the enumerator called from house to house, crossing the street and diverting down side turnings, and there is nothing to indicate his path. His numbers refer to the number of homes he visited, and must not be confused with street numbers. Similarly if no reply was received at a house it would be added to the list later, out of sequence. It may be possible to identify where some residents shown on the 1841 or 1851 census lived by using the tithe awards and referring to the maps.

Another column on the census questionnaire requested information as to the place of birth of each person and this provides a lot of potential for the local historian. Analysis of a group of residents may show little movement in some communities while in others there may be quite a different pattern. Poorer agricultural labourers might move from farm to farm doing seasonal work and each child may have been born in a different village. An industrial area may attract people from the surrounding countryside to work in the factories. Parents may have been born some distance away, but the ages of the children shown born in the factory town will indicate how long the parents worked there.

The census enumerators' returns provide a wealth of detail which can be used nationally, by community or by the family historian. Home computers and the introduction of websites such as "ancestry.co.uk", "findmypast.co.uk" and "genesreunited.co.uk" allow many people to trace their own family tree back many generations without leaving home. It is possible to track members of a family from census to census and by using the place of birth details to find earlier generations. Seeing the family changes every ten years makes it easier to ensure correct groupings are obtained so that the exact details given in the births, deaths and marriages can be discovered for the correct family members.

© *Georgina Green, 25 February 2012*

## The Servants at Valentines Mansion

(This is an extended version of an article which appeared the Friends of Valentines Mansion Newsletter, July 2011)

It has been quite an interesting experience trying to work out the household staff from census returns for Valentines Mansion. The name which crops up most often across the years is that of Findley. In 1861 the Scottish Alexander Findley was the butler and his wife, Martha (born in Sussex), was the housekeeper. By 1871 Mrs Findley was a widow, but she continued on the staff at least until the 1891 census, by which time she was aged 59. Mrs Ingleby's grandson, Clement (son of Holcombe Ingleby), remembered "*Mrs. Findlay in her lovely room on the ground floor, surrounded by all the best tea and dinner services arranged in glass-fronted, mahogany presses, and only to be handled and washed up by the head housemaid, supervised by the severe housekeeper. I can see Grandmama now in that room with her basket of keys, interviewing Mrs. Findlay, who stood primly at attention awaiting her orders.*"



Martha M Findley, who I feel sure was her daughter, also worked at Valentines in 1871 and 1881 as a kitchen maid, though I fancy she may have served as the cook, under her mother's direction. I was interested to find that a housemaid shown on the 1871 census, Cornelia Weserin, aged 24, was born in Ohio, America. I wonder if she came to England as a result of the Civil War?

In 1871 the butler was Francis Cox who was shown as "Butler in charge" as the Ingleby family were all away on the night the census was taken\*. His family were living in Beehive Lane. In 1881 there is no butler shown in the census and although I've looked through some of the nearby houses I haven't been able to find anyone shown with an occupation of "Butler" who might have worked at Valentines. As well as the Findleys, there were six other servants shown living at Valentines in 1881. Charlotte Gunner is the only name which also appears in 1891 when she was listed as the Lady's Maid.

In 1891 Mrs Findley was still the Housekeeper and Maria Mitchell is shown as the Cook. There were also three housemaids, a kitchen maid and a footman, but again no butler is listed. However, I received an e-mail from Kelly Southworth of Winnipeg in Canada asking about her great grandfather, Joseph Southworth, who she felt may have been the butler at Valentines Mansion in the late 1880s and perhaps beyond. After an exchange of e-mails I was pleased to confirm that in 1901 a butler named Joseph Southworth was shown on the census living at No.2 Lime Cottages, Beehive Lane. In the 1891 census he was a visitor at Tunbridge Wells, where he had been born. He is remembered by Mrs Ingleby's grandson as "*the inestimable butler, the energetic and red-bearded Southworth, who had a deep bass voice*". Kelly was delighted with the information I was able to send on about life at Valentines around 1900.

## The duties and wages of each person

Given that Mrs Ingleby came back to Valentines c.1861 with 4 children under 10 and died 45 years later, it is not surprising that the nurse\governess for the children in 1861 was replaced by a nurse\companion for herself by 1901. The wages paid to each servant must have changed over that time, so the amount given below is as suggested for wages by Mrs Beeton in 1861. This would vary according to age and experience.

The indoor servants had accommodation and food, indeed they were relatively well nourished. Servants might also have received a small tea allowance or beer money, and money for laundry. The butler, footman and coachman would have had uniforms while the maids may not have done. There were some perks, for example the cook could sell old bones, and the butler could sell old candle ends

There was a fair turnover of staff, but given that many were young and single this isn't surprising. Girls often went into service at age 13/14 and left when they got married about ten years later.

Below is what I suggest may have been the position at Valentines in 1881.

Francis Cox, Butler (paid £40 - £70 p.a.)

The butler would be paid half to a third more than the housekeeper.

He has the major responsibility for security, looks after the silver etc, and is in charge when the family are away from the house, responsible for the wine cellar, but also serves at table. He lives in when there is no male member of the Ingleby family at home.

Mrs Martha Findlay, Housekeeper (£20 – £45 p.a.)

Mrs Ingleby would pay the bills I imagine, but Mrs Findley would order supplies, supervise the female servants, and be responsible for the china and glass. She would take orders from Mrs Ingleby and pass them on to other female staff.

Martha M Findlay, Cook (£20 – £40 p.a.) (a male cook would have expected almost double)

She was responsible for all food served at Valentine House. As Mrs. Findlay's daughter, they make a good team especially as she was promoted from housemaid.

Charlotte Gunner, Lady's Maid (£12 – £25 p.a.)

The Ladies Maid looks after Mrs Ingleby's clothes and jewellery and does her hair. She also acts as a companion and helps with routine correspondence etc.

Susannah Smith & Margaret Robinson, Housemaids (£12 – £20 p.a.)

They are up very early to light fires, and clean and tidy the rooms before the family get up. Margaret (the younger) also helps as the dairy maid, making butter. Cheese is bought from the grocer.

Helen George, Kitchen Maid (£9 – £14 p.a.)

She prepares all the vegetables, guts fish, plucks chickens, and helps the cook by washing up etc. (Laundry work is probably carried out by a lady who lives in Beehive Lane)

John Scott, Footman (£9 – £14 p.a. – height and muscle increased the pay!)

He cleans all the boots and shoes, answers the bell, does heavy fetching and carrying, and accompanies the carriage when any of the Inglebys go out.



## The Estate Staff

The 1881 census shows William Sheppard, steward and bailiff, and William Burn, the head gardener, living with their families in cottages on the estate. The estate lodge was occupied by William Lewis, the groom, who was also the coachman, and his family. Lewis was the only one of the three still there when the 1891 census was made. Incidentally, the coachman in 1861 was John Smith and you may (or may not!) be surprised that this is a name I've been asked about after people have spent the night at the Mansion trying to find ghosts.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										1881 Census	
Page 6	Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of				
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In-cluded U. or (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birth-day of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic		
20	Valentine Cottage Barkingside	1	Samuel Such Mary do Richard Cole	Head Wife Sister	Mar Do Do	57 54 54	Carpenter Coachman	Waltham Abbey Waltham Abbey Barkingside Essex			
21	do do	1	Charlotte Warren Mary Atkinson	Head Sister	Mar Do	54 51		do do do do			
22	Valentine House Barkingside	1	Elizabeth Dring Sarah do	Head Wife	Mar Do	57 57	Butler Servant	Waltham Abbey Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Holcombe do	Son	Unm	24	Employing 12 labourers and 1 boy 170 Acres	Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Elizabeth do	Servant	Do	23		do do			
	do do		Martha Gundry	Servant	Unm	19	Servant	Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Charlotte Gundry	do	Unm	17		Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Martha M. Gundry	do	Do	18		Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Jessie Cox	do	Do	17		Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Margaret Robinson	do	Do	15		Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Robert Gundry	do	Do	15		Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Valentine G. Fiddler	Servant	Do	14		Waltham Abbey			
	do do		John George	Servant	Do	14		Waltham Abbey			
	do do		William Dring	do	Do	14		Waltham Abbey			
23	do do		William Lewis	Head	Mar	25	Groom	Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Ann do	Wife	Do	24		Waltham Abbey			
24	Cottage ex Barkingside	1	William Burn Elizabeth do	Head Wife	Do Do	40 41	Gardener	Waltham Abbey			
	do do		Robert do	Servant	Do	10	Scholar	Waltham Abbey			
Total of Houses...		44	Total of Males and Females...		171						

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Charles Thomas Holcombe had died on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1870, leaving Valentines to his niece, Mrs. Ingleby, for her life and then to his great-nephew and godson, Holcombe Ingleby. In the 1881 census Dr Ingleby was described as “Doctor of Law and Author” and head of the



household. His wife, Sarah Ingleby was “tenant for life of 170 acres, employing 12 labourers and 1 boy”. I suspect that as Dr Ingleby did not have good health and was occupied with his writing, his wife was happy to manage the property which she had inherited.

I haven't done a proper analysis of the 1881 census, but for 1871 I recorded the details for 25 properties in the Beehive Lane area. There were 114 individuals listed, 57 male and 57 female, and 58 (about half) had been born in Barkingside (including Beehive Lane) or Ilford. Of the 32 males aged 16 – 67, 21 of them were shown as agricultural or farm labourers. Two lads aged 13 were also shown as agricultural/farm labourers although all the other boys aged 5 - 15 were scholars. All the girls aged 5 – 15 were scholars except Emily Cox, daughter of the Valentines' butler, who was shown as a Teacher,

aged 14. Of the women aged 16 or over, for most who were shown with an occupation it was as “Labourer’s wife” etc. Only one lady, aged 23, was an agricultural labourer and she worked alongside her husband. I was surprised to see that Jeremiah Radley, shown as a blacksmith, was aged 75. There was also a farrier, John Wale, who was 49. There was a tobacconist and a house painter among the group listed.

*Photographs taken at Audley End, and I’d like to acknowledge the article “Audley End c.1881” by Andrew Hann in the Essex Journal, Autumn 2008, as a source of some information.*

\*In 1871 Mrs Ingleby was at Southampton with her daughter Clementina, a lady’s maid and a governess; the oldest son Arthur was staying with the Vicar of Ridgewell, Essex; and his two younger brothers were at Malvern College. I have not been able to trace Dr Clement Ingleby in the 1871 census, perhaps because the name has been incorrectly transcribed. In 1881 the family were indexed as Jugleby!

© *Georgina Green, 25 February 2012*

## **Visit to the Jewish Museum, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Thirteen of us went on the visit. It began with a short talk on the origins of the museum which started in Bloomsbury in 1932 with an aim to tell the story of Jewish people in London. Since its massive refurbishment two years ago, the museum covers religious and social aspects of Jewish life.

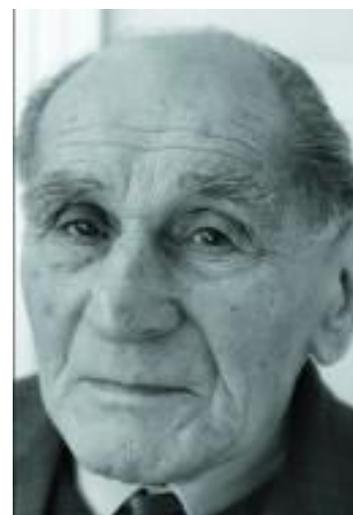
The museum houses a major international collection of Jewish ceremonial art. It also has exhibitions recounting the history of Jewish life in England, supported by a diverse collection of objects. There is always a temporary exhibition and currently, it is ‘No Place like Home’, by Judah Passow which comprises a number of well-observed photographs of Jewish people from all walks of life.

Of particular interest to anyone with an East End background, is the gallery depicting the Jewish story in Britain which culminates in the large 19<sup>th</sup> century settlements around Brick Lane and Whitechapel. There is a Jewish kitchen of that time and talking heads discussing working conditions in the ‘rag’ trade.

Housed in a side room is the Holocaust Gallery. The central display is about Leon Greenman, one of the few British subjects to be interned in Auschwitz, who lost his wife and son in the camps. Throughout his long life, he died in 2008, he spoke about his experiences and campaigned against racism. He was also an Ilford resident in his last years. There are filmed survivor testimonies from other concentration camp inmates, told in a matter-of-fact way and all the more moving for that. An absorbing visit.

Jewish Museum London      020 7284 7384  
Raymond Burton House  
129-131 Albert Street  
London NW1 7NB

© *Janet Seward, 31 March 2012*



London-born  
Holocaust survivor  
Leon Greenman OBE,  
2006

## **BOOK REVIEW : The Life and Art of Octavius Dixie Deacon: The 19th century sketched in Loughton, London, and Essex by a talented eccentric**

By Chris Pond and Richard Morris, The Alderton Press 2010.

52 pages, flexiback, 47 colour plates and b&w illustrations, index. £7.50p.

### **ODD by name- odd by nature?**

This is another excellent booklet from the Loughton double-act of Pond and Morris (both awarded OBEs) and this time they've turned their attention to eccentric local artist Octavius Deacon. The Bookshop in Loughton has a good selection of local history books although the shelves always look over-stacked and higgledy-piggledy. But this cheap, professionally-produced booklet deserves attention and adds to the collection on local Essex artists.

Deacon (1836-1916) enjoyed being eccentric and clearly realised that signing his name with his initials O.D.D. left himself open to ridicule. His work is a mixture of the ordinary- pictures of 19<sup>th</sup> century Loughton, London and caricatures, and the front cover shows a local unidentified couple, caricatured as the 'shabby genteel' shuffling through Loughton, the old gentleman leading their dog.

In June 1998 the family sold several lots at auction, including a fine album of watercolours of Loughton 1874-1916, to a Staffordshire dealer. Epping Forest District Museum in Waltham Abbey pursued and bought the album and now it's part of their collection.



*Breakfast at the house at Goldings Hill*

Deacon as born in Bow and his father owned Samuel Deacon & Co advertising agency, though by 1851 his father was described as a coffee house dealer with the family living in Hackney. Octavius's first job was with the Eastern Counties Railway which he joined in 1850 as a clerk and amongst the colour plates in the book is one of a 'Jenny Lind' type engine from 1850. A good family man he married Louisa in 1868 and they had 10 surviving children. Moving to Loughton c.1874, they first rented the White House and then in 1883 to a large house they called Kettering (why is unknown) at Upper Park. In 1878 his new baby daughter Eleanor almost died. Octavius traced some baby powder that had been bought from a shop in Baldwins Hill, Loughton which when analysed was found to contain 50% arsenic. 13 deaths resulted but due to Octavius's diligence many more lives were saved in London and Essex.

There are many local scenes of rural, every-day agricultural farm life in the album and booklet: his family having breakfast together and their dairy, local pubs the Bacchanals (formerly Bag o'Nails), the (Plume of) Feathers and the Wake Arms, tradesmen such as Skinner the grocer driving his pony and trap, the butcher, baker, tinker, and local policeman William Bodger in High Road Loughton 1877, the old tollhouse at Buckhurst Hill, sledging (appeared in the Daily Graphic 1890) and skating in winter, Chigwell school and the King's Head.

He designed Christmas cards, got involved in local issues such as the library committee, orphan school committee, and improving Epping Forest, tried to interest the government to erect statues to great engineers Thomas Newcomen and James Watt (unsuccessful), and wrote letters to The Times. Occasionally he could be quite rude as when he complained about the noise of the hooter from Cottis Iron Foundry in Epping (four miles away!), or sent a letter to local rector J W Maitland who had called at his house as a matter of urgency offering to baptise Eleanor when she was very ill with an alarming rash in 1878. Deacon refused telling Maitland not to call at the house again, considering 'christening' "most childish, superstitious and disgraceful...an imposition upon the ignorant and foolish". Quite bl\*\*\*y cantankerous!

It's difficult to judge Deacon's style as it's quite a mixture. From almost childish, caricatures, to the simplicity of line depicting locals and buildings. Watercolour sketches of everyday Loughton and family life, with many figures turned away from the viewer, all in warm, soft colours. Well worth a look.

© *Jef Page, March 2012.*

## **Forthcoming Events**

The last meeting of the season will be at our usual venue, Ilford Hospital Chapel  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7.30m ***Hatfield: Royal Hunting Forest*** by Stephen Pewsey, author and Chairman of the Essex Historical & Archaeological Congress.

We have also arranged two special talks to celebrate the Olympics. Tickets at the door.  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm ***The 1908-1948 London Olympics*** by Janet Seward  
at the Ilford Hospital Chapel, The Broadway, Ilford Hill, Ilford, IG1 2AT Price £2

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 7.00pm ***The 1936 Berlin Olympics*** by Jef Page  
at Valentines Mansion, Emerson Road, Ilford IG1 4XA Price £2

### ***Fairlop Fair***

Our Council are re-enacting the Fairlop Fair at Fairlop Waters during the first weekend in July. It's free to visit and it will make a great family outing.

The fair lasted for approximately one hundred and fifty years until about 1900. In its heyday, two hundred thousand people attended, yet today there is no trace of this event and few know much about its history. Our society has helped with publicity and a leaflet explaining the fair's origins. So, come along and become part of the fun and tradition of Fairlop Fair.

**Friday 6th July between 3.00pm and 7.00pm**

**Saturday 7th July between 11.00am and 8.00pm**

<http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/>

The next newsletter will be sent out to you in August and will include a list of the talks planned for the new season at the Ilford Hospital Chapel. The first is:

10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7.30m ***Sir Charles Raymond and his Valentines: his wife, three daughters, his house and a ship*** by Vice-President Georgina Green