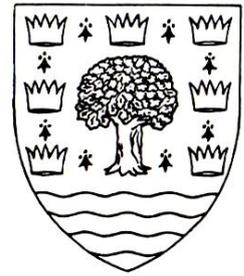


Ilford Historical Society

Newsletter No.110 December 2012



Editor: Georgina Green 020 8500 6045, georgina.green@btconnect.com

Dear Reader

Website success

In our last newsletter Jef explained that Ilford HS has gone live with its own website.

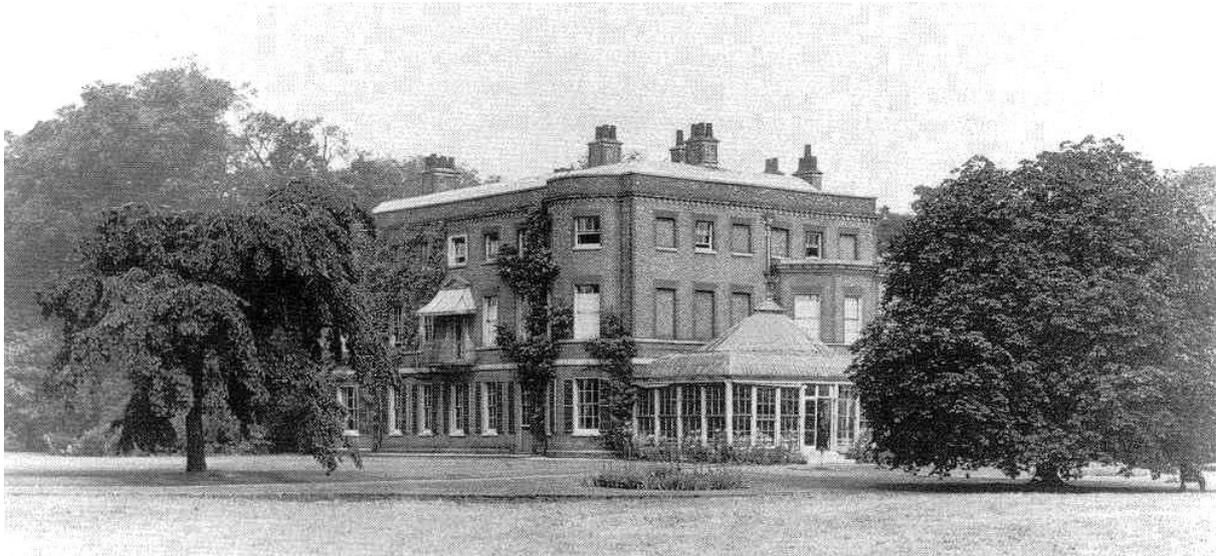
<http://ilfordhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/>

“It has now been indexed and can be brought up on Google. Worldwide international fame and renown beckons! Well perhaps not quite, but it will help attract interest and publicity.” Well it certainly has attracted interest, with comment from Canada as you will see below. Congratulations to Christine Black for creating such a successful website for us.

Joseph Southworth, Butler at Valentines Mansion

Further to my article about *The Servants at Valentine Mansion* in our April 2012 newsletter (No.108, pages 11-14) I was delighted to receive another e-mail on 25 October from Kelly Southworth who lives in Canada, extracts of which are below:

“I recently came across the article you wrote about The Servants at Valentines Mansion for the Ilford Historical Society Newsletter. I was delighted to see your mention of my great-grandfather, Joseph Southworth. I very much enjoyed the article.”



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Last autumn, I travelled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to use the abundant resources of the genealogical library there. It is a dream destination for any genealogist. While there, I located the will of Sarah Ingleby, wondering if she had perhaps mentioned Joseph Southworth in her will as a long-time staff member. My hunch paid off as he was named. I thought you might be interested in having a copy of the will for your records. I've attached the images of 3 pages, as well as my own transcription of the will. There was almost no punctuation, so I have transcribed it exactly.

From the will, it is evident that Mrs. Ingleby valued loyalty in her servants, and rewarded it. Joseph received a legacy of 100 pounds. I believe he must have used that to re-establish himself, after losing his place when Mrs. Ingleby died. Joseph moved his family from Ilford to Romford, where he opened dining rooms at 19 Market Place, according to the 1914 Kelly's Directory. In the 1911 census, Joseph identified his business as a "Coffee and Dining House". Joseph died on December 13, 1916 and his estate was valued at £304 2s 9d. So, the £100 legacy must have provided quite a start for him. After Joseph's death, and following the war, his wife and four remaining adult children emigrated to Canada to join his eldest son, my grandfather, who had emigrated in 1905."

I felt somewhat ashamed as I already had a copy of Mrs Ingleby's will (dated 7 October 1903) and hadn't thought to check that when I replied to Kelly's original e-mails in 2010.

Georgina Green, October 2012

Gone for a ride: the Griffiths-Bedell tramway system

Buckhurst Hill wasn't the only part of our area to see an unusual tramway system demonstrated. (*More Redbridge Rails* Ilford Historical Society Newsletter No 109)

Technically very different from the steam tramway for Lisbon trialled at Lords Bushes, a back garden at 49 Wanstead Park Road Ilford was used to demonstrate an unusual tramway power supply system.

In Edwardian Britain every town of note aspired to an electric tramway. Ilford was no exception, opening lines from Ilford to Chadwell Heath, Barkingside and Loxford Bridge in March 1903. In 1905 an extension to the Roding bridge was opened to link with East Ham tramways. Like most trams power came from an overhead wire supported by posts, with electrical return through the rails.

Despite decorative cast iron tramway posts, overhead wires were considered an eyesore. Eastbourne Council refused tramways for this reason, running some of the earliest petrol engined buses instead. The London County Council adopted a "plough" collection system for inner London with power collected from a cable in a conduit between the rails. Trams entering central London had a "plough" collector slid underneath whilst the overhead pole was lowered.

Benjamin Harry Bedell was an engineer and inventor of an alternative system. His patents were one-half assigned to William Griffiths, a stone merchant, who may have put up the money for patents and development. According to one source William Griffiths and Co of Ilford laid the Lincoln tramway which helps explain his interest in this system. Further research will show if his firm was responsible for other tram-tracks.

The Ilford Recorder of 16th March 1906 described a demonstration of this alternative the “GB Surface Contact System”. This took place on an elliptical track behind 49 Wanstead Park Road, home of Mr Edmund Izod, described by the Recorder as the “genial manager” of the system.

A group of Ilford councillors and members of the Ilford Ratepayers Association, led by Council Chairman W. P. Griggs, and the tramway manager, Mr G. R. Spurr, were present to see the demonstration. According to the paper the track had been there for “the past three or four years” and that “a full sized car performs experimental journeys upon it”.

The system had similarities to the “stud contact” system once used for model railways. It is best described in the Recorder’s words. After describing the



49 Wanstead Park Road (right), the home of Mr Izod, manager of the Griffiths-Bedell demonstration tram track.

granite tram track, traversed by ordinary rails it mentioned the tramcar. “There was nothing to give any sign of the latent force that was presently to impel the vehicle along with its human freight. The only peculiarity about the track was the presence of oblong iron plates, each about the size of a large sandal, at intervals of some ten or twelve feet, imbedded firmly in the granite setting and level with it.” Between the rails was a hidden earthenware conduit carrying the electric cable; this conduit was interrupted for each metal plate.

According to the Recorder, Mr Griffiths Bedel (sic) then explained the function of the plates described by the Recorder as “the top of an instrument shaped like a Capital T. The stem of the letter goes down into the solid concrete... Inside the stem is a spring, at the bottom end of which is attached what looks like a section of a steel pipe. It is only about three inches in length, and the hollow or convex side faces downwards. ... it is designed to go down like a miniature arch upon the [electric] cable.” The powerful springs kept it well up and away from contact with the cable.

Beneath each tram was a powerful magnet which repelled each spring, making contact with the cable and providing power to the oblong iron plate picked up by a skate under the tramcar to power the motors and presumably the electro magnetic skate. The power supplied was enough to keep the car going over several other plates, maintaining momentum.

Despite slight rain the councillors’ party then entered the tramcar and the Recorder reported that they were soon “careering along the track, negotiating the necessarily sharp curves at very high speed indeed”. The Recorder’s reporter was impressed and predicted that whatever extensions to the tramway system there might be in Ilford there would be “no more poles and wires equipment”.

It seems councillors were also impressed. They were treated to tea, “stronger forms of liquid refreshment, light eatables and choice smokes” so a good time was had by all.

The Recorder goes on to say that the promoter “generates his own supply of electricity on the spot, his dynamos ... being driven by electricity from the Council’s works in Ley Street”. If this sounds improbable the Council’s supply would be direct current which cannot be stepped up or down. Wanstead Park Road’s supply is likely to have been lower voltage for lighting and not the 500 volts DC used for trams so using mains power to drive a dynamo generating 500 volts is possible.

Sadly, the Griffiths - Bedell system did not live up to the inventor’s dreams. It was tested in 1908 on a short stretch of the LCC tramways between Whitechapel and Bow but the trial found no improvement on existing practice.

Although the Recorder said it was being successfully used in Lincoln this was not strictly correct. Lincoln was the only user from 1905 until 1919 when it was converted to overhead wires. In that time it proved problematic. Gas leaked into the conduit and exploded blowing off cast iron covers on inspection boxes so air had to be blown through the system every morning. The magnetic contacts beneath the trams picked up steel rubbish, actuating circuit breakers.



Lincoln was the only tramway system to use the GB Surface Contact system. It ran from 1905 to 1919 when it was converted to overhead wires because of numerous problems. This photo shows an early trial of the system. Note the absence of a trolley pole and wires. Photo © copyright Lincolnshire County Council Archives, reproduced with thanks.

Leslie Oppitz describes other problems suggesting that sometimes the plunger could stick in the down position after a car had left, leaving it live. It wasn’t possible to insert studs at points, cross-overs and level crossings so power was lost and cars had to coast.

The Ilford Recorder’s prediction of “no more wires” were proved correct, but only because there were no extensions to Ilford’s tramways. Instead, motor buses became more reliable, extending public transport with greater flexibility and less capital investment.

At 49 Wanstead Park Road nothing is visible of this unusual tramway system, though a large area of motor workshops behind shows where it once ran. Whether it links to previous use

remains unknown but there is a transformer sub station in the back garden of 49. Perhaps excavations one day may reveal traces of this fascinating but flawed tramway.

Thanks to Richard Harvey and to Allen Berman and Ashley Best (Members of the Society of Model and Experimental Engineers) for their help with this article.

References:

Iford Recorder 16th March 1906

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Oppitz, Leslie *Tramways remembered: East Anglia, East Midlands and Lincolnshire*. Countryside Books. 1992

Thomson, L. A. *Trams and trolleybuses in Ilford*.

Turner, K. *Directory of British Tramways* Vol. 3 Northern England, Scotland and the Isle of Man. History Press. 2010.

Iford & District Historical Society. Transaction No 2. 1979

Roger Backhouse, October 2012

Sources for local history : Rate Books

Rate Books at Valence Archives

One unique and most valuable source of information about 18th century Ilford is a set of Rate Books which are held at the Barking & Dagenham Archives at Valence House.

There are two sets of records: one is small notebooks which were probably kept by the parish clerk as he walked around the streets, and the other is large bound books which are probably the official record. Not everything in one set is duplicated in the other, but the information is almost the same if both include the same date.

Iford Ward Poor Rate Books are held for 1728, 1732, 1737, 1744, 1745/6, 1747, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1753, 1756, 1757, 1761 (some more than one account in a year) ~ break until 1786, 1788, 1789, 1796, 1798, 1807, 1810, 1815, 1819, 1829.

The book for 1834 covers Barking but not Ilford, as it was a separate parish from 1830.

The larger ledgers (All Ref. 2/3/1, Barking Poor Rate) seems to record quarterly assessments, and cover the periods:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 1759 – 1765 | recently rebound and the pages repaired by conservator |
| 1770 – 1774 | recently rebound |
| 1775 – 1783 | recently rebound |
| 1784 – 1790 | Original covers and binding |
| 1802 – 1806 | Original (hide?) cover with lock |
| 1806 – 1817 | Original covers with lock. This must be opened by two people |
| 1830 – 1832 | Original leather cover and binding with ornate stitching |

It is necessary to make prior arrangements (see below) to see the Rate Books as they must be fetched from store, and the larger books are heavy. They must all be handled with great care.

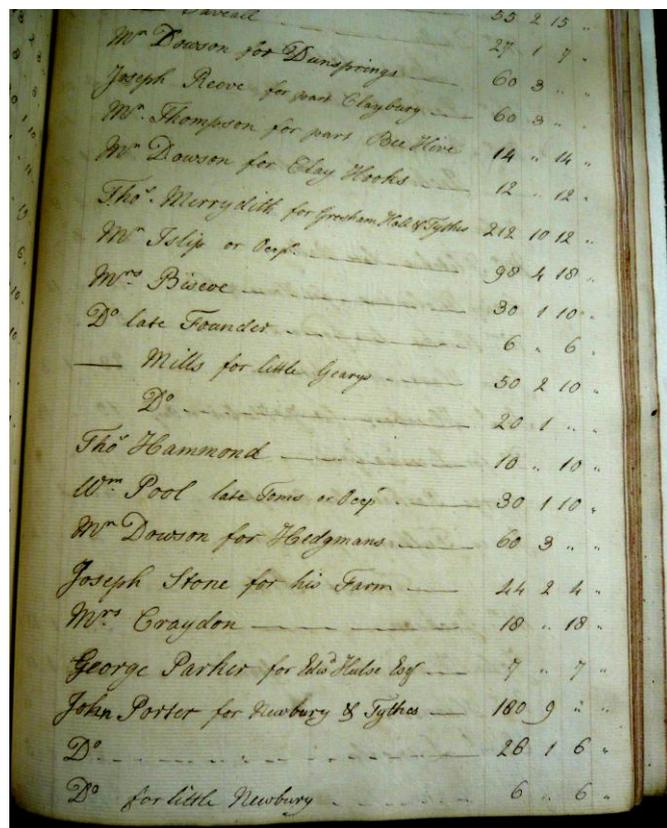
Looking through, it is soon clear that each time an assessment was made the clerk walked a similar route around each ward, so that even though properties are seldom named, you can see the same person in the same place in the sequence each time. When the name changes, then it is clear that property has a new occupant. Of course, the person who pays the rates may not be the owner. The next article is about Richard Benyon who owned the Newbury estates, although John Porter is listed as paying the rates. (see page 8, and illustration below)

The value given is a rateable value, but it gives an indication of the size and prestige of the building. The example given below is from 5 May 1774, in the larger books.

The first page starts “A Taxation, or Assessment of one Shilling in the Pound made on the several and respective Inhabitants, and Occupiers of Houses, Lands, Tythes Improprate, Propriations of Tythes, and Saleable Underwoods, in the said Parish of Barking, in the County of Essex, for and towards the necessary Relief and Maintenance of the Poor of the said Parish.

Iford Ward ~ 5 May 1774

| | Abbreviated amount |
|--|--------------------|
| Mr Dowson for Dunspring | 60 |
| Joseph Reeve for part Claybury | 60 |
| Mr Thompson for part Beehive | 14 |
| Mr Dowson for Clay Hooks | 12 |
| Thos Merrydith for Gresham Hall & Tythes | 212 |
| Mr Islip or Occ. | 98 |
| Mrs Biscoe | 30 |
| Do late Founder | 6 |
| ----- Mills for Little Gearys | 50 |
| Do | 20 |
| Thos Hammond | 10 |
| Wm Pool late Toms or occup. | 30 |
| Mr Dowson for Hedgemans | 60 |
| Joseph Stone for his farm | 44 |
| Mrs Craydon | 18 |
| George Parker for Edward Hulse Esq | 7 |
| John Porter for Newbury & Tythes | 180 |
| Do | 28 |
| Do for Little Newbury | 6 |



The information from these volumes allows us to trace, for example, that the first entry for The Horns in Ley Street Ward was at the of end December 1760, when John Ellis paid the rates. The pub survived for 250 years, but sadly has been boarded up for quite a while.

© Georgina Green, 20 November 2012

For full details of the Archives and Local Studies Centre for Barking & Dagenham see www.lbbd.gov.uk/archives and their e-mail address is: localstudies@lbbd.gov.uk

The Benyon family of Newbury Park

I was looking through Edward Tuck's book on Ilford (1899) when I noticed (p.45) that the "Manor Farm of Newbury ... in 1747 was alienated to Richard Benyon Esq., governor of Fort George in the East Indies." Well, I couldn't resist a new link to Charles Raymond and the East India Company, so I checked the Victoria County History, Vol V, p. 208 which confirms the information, the reference being Lysons *Environs of London* (1796) Vol.IV p.80-1.

Lysons's source was 'communication with Mr Benyon' "Thomas Webster of the Middle Temple, Gent. (afterwards created a baronet) in 1747, aliened it to the late Richard Benyon, Esq. Governor of Fort St. George, in the East Indies: it is now the property of his son Richard Benyon, Esq, M.P."

So from all these sources we can tell that:

Richard Benyon (of Madras) who died in 1774, was succeeded by his son Richard (d.1796) who was succeeded by his son Richard Benyon, who in 1814 assumed the surname of Powlett-Wrighte and later (in 1822) that of Benyon de Beauvoir.

On the death of Richard Benyon de Beauvoir, in 1854, Newbury passed to his sister's son Richard Fellowes (d.1897), who then assumed the name of Benyon.

In 1891 Newbury, then comprising 170 acres was put up for sale. (see later)

The Benyon family also purchased other property in Essex: The Manor of Gidea Hall was sold in 1745 to Richard Benyon and descended like Newbury until 1802 when Richard Benyon, grandson of the purchaser, sold it to Alexander Black. The lease of the manorial rights of the Manor of Havering was sold in 1746 to Charles Benyon (who died before 1751) from whom it passed to his brother Richard Benyon of Gidea Hall and it descended with the family until 1819. The family also owned property in Ockenden, indeed South Ockendon Hall, bought in 1849 by Richard Benyon de Beauvoir, remained in the family until 1937 when it was sold along with the family's other Essex properties.

Richard Benyon originally went to India c.1712 as a writer (clerk) for the East India Company. Providing a wealthy guarantor could be found, this was a common route for young gentlemen of relative lowly origins who hoped for a better life. If he survived the climate and diseases, and worked hard, and had a lucky break, he could return home very wealthy.

In 1718 Richard Benyon was nominated to the council of Fort St. George and served until 1725, when he resigned and returned to England. He was nominated again in 1732 as the second member (Deputy to the President) of the council of Fort St. George so he returned to Madras, and was appointed Governor of the council from 23 January 1735. During his nine years as President of Madras the city expanded rapidly. In 1740 and 1741 the Marathas invaded South India and Benyon managed to pacify things by sending their generals presents. He strengthened the fortifications of Madras and conscripted an army. Benyon is regarded as one of the best governors of the earlier history of Madras. He returned to England in January 1744 with a fortune estimated as £75,000. That would be about £7,500,000 today.

Charles Raymond would have reported to Benyon and the Council of Fort St George when he arrived at Madras on his first three voyages as captain of the *Wager* on 18 July 1735, 12 July 1738 and 16 Sept 1741 and they would probably have met socially while he was there.

Benyon had left Madras before the *Wager* arrived on 3 May 1745 when Raymond made his final voyage. When Raymond purchased Valentines in 1754 his property shared a boundary with Benyon's Newbury estate, along Ley Street, although it is unlikely they would have met in Ilford as Benyon leased out the property

Very soon after returning to England Richard Benyon married for the third time. Presumably his earlier brides had died in India. His new bride had also been married before and was a wealthy widow.

Mary was the daughter of Francis Tyssen Esq and his wife, Rachel de Beauvoir. In 1737 she had married Powlett Wrighte Esq of Englefield House in Berkshire, to the east of Reading. He was the grandson of Sir Nathan Wrighte, Knt, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England and his wife Anne, the daughter and heiress of Lord Francis Powlett. This should explain the rather complicated series of name changes in later generations of the Benyon family.

Mary and Powlett Wrighte had one son (also called Powlett Wrighte) before he died in 1740. They lived at Englefield House and it seems that Richard Benyon came to live there with his wife and her son when they married, letting out the Essex properties. Parish rate books held by Barking & Dagenham at the Local Studies & Archives, Valence House, show John Porter paying rates for Newbury in 1759, 1765 and 1774 (later dates have not been checked).

Englefield House still stands and it is a beautiful building. The website says “Englefield is a late Elizabethan E-plan house which has undergone remodelling and refacing in the 18th and 19th centuries without ever suffering a particularly drastic alteration to its basic plan or the style of its external appearance. It still stands within one of the last surviving deer parks in Berkshire.” I can vouch for the tranquil acres of unspoilt countryside.

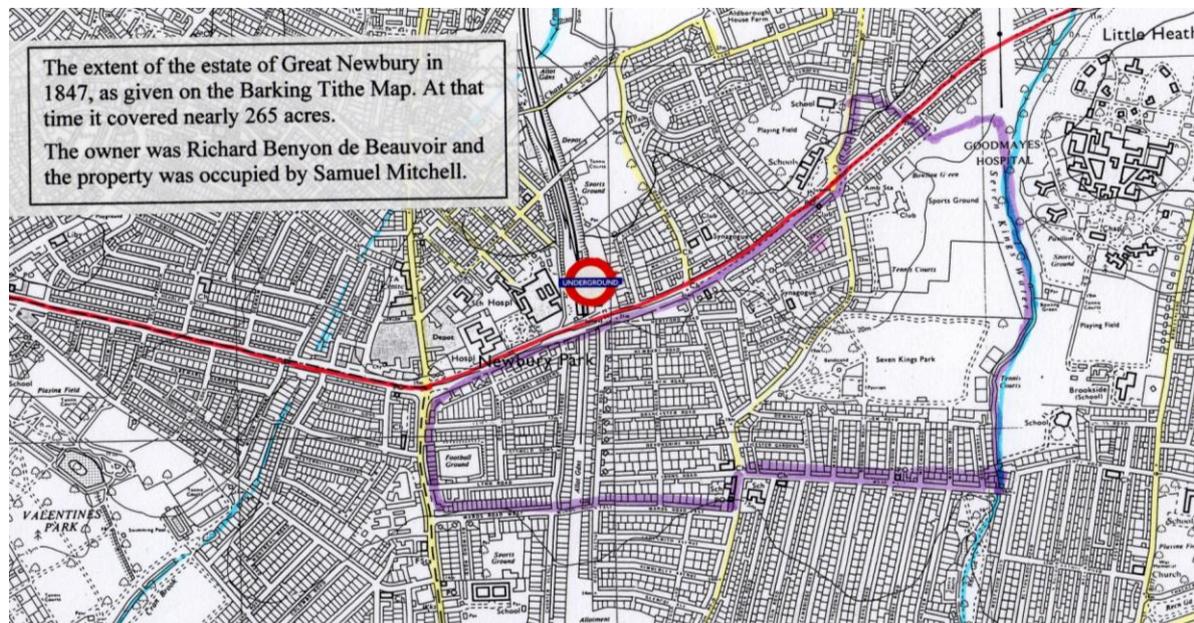


The website also mentions that “No doubt much of the furniture, cabinets, chests and porcelain which grace the house today were brought back from the East by the Governor, Richard Benyon.” See http://www.berkshirehistory.com/castles/englefield_house.html

Richard and Mary had a son, also called Richard, who was christened at St. George’s, Bloomsbury, in 1746. Englefield was to pass through the descendents of Powlett Wrighte but

the Essex properties would be inherited by Richard Benyon junior who married Hannah Hulse in 1767. Richard Benyon (senior) died in 1774 and Mary died in 1777. Powlett Wrighte junior married in 1777 but died childless two years later so Englefield passed to his uncle. On his death in 1789 it was inherited by Richard Benyon (junior) of Gidea Hall who must therefore have been a very wealthy man. Englefield is still owned by distant relatives who have taken the Benyon name.

Great Newbury Farm



From the Barking Tithe Map (1847) it is possible to identify the extent of the Great Newbury property as nearly 265 acres, as shown above, from work by the author.

The VCH tells us that in 1891 Newbury, then comprising 170 acres, was put up for sale and the reference for this is the Sage Collection at the Essex Record Office.

Newbury Sale Catalogue : ERO Sage Collection, Sale Cats. Vol.viii No.7

This is not an actual sale catalogue, but a sheet giving details of several different properties to be sold by Auction on Wednesday September 23rd, 1891, including:

The valuable freehold estate known as “Great Newburys”
 containing about 170 acres, 0 roads, 8 poles
 of Market Garden or Nursery Ground eligible for building purposes
 Excellent Residence with two cottages and ample Farm buildings

The Residence is brick-built and slated and contains on the
 UPPER FLOORS : Six Bed-Rooms and a Box Room
 GROUND FLOOR: Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Breakfast Room
 Kitchen, Larder and Capital Wine & Beer Cellars
 Adjoining are a Capital Brewhouse large garden and green house.

Unfortunately, there are no photographs or illustrations, but the map shows the estate as smaller, without the fields nearest to Ley Street.

© *Georgina Green, 29 October 2012*

Ingatestone Hall

On one of those days in October when southern England was wrapped in a grey mist, eight of us travelled to Ingatestone Hall for a private tour of the house (it was in fact very private because the house was closed to the general public). The building is more a manor house than a stately home and the rooms are on a modest human scale but very interesting. The rooms bear testimony to all of their four centuries. In the study, for example, a 1950s radiogram stands opposite one of the two priest holes in the house. In the gallery are the slightly blood-spattered suit, hat and boots that the 3rd Earl Derwentwater wore to the scaffold in 1716 when he was executed for his part in the Jacobite uprising of the year before. The earl's daughter was married to a member of the Petre family.



Photo Janet Seward

The story of Ingatestone Hall and its family is closely linked to us in Ilford. William Petre, the first of the family to live in the house, dissolved Barking Abbey. Dorothy Barley, the Abbess at the time of the Dissolution was the godmother of his daughter, also Dorothy. The lands on which the house stands originally belonged to Barking Abbey. After the lands had been surrendered to the Crown in 1539, William Petre bought them for £849 12s 6d. William was a man who kept his head (literally). Although he was a Catholic, he was an assistant of Thomas Cromwell throughout the dissolution of the monasteries. Even more remarkable by being 'the man who said nothing' he survived to serve each of Henry's three children, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth.

The grounds looked very melancholy but we saw the stew pond which in earlier days served as a repository for 'night soil' and a home for the household's fish supply! We even saw the Honourable Dominic Petre, the heir, who walked through the Summer Parlour as we were having tea. He must have heard that we were coming.

A very interesting afternoon and, if you are thinking of getting married, you can hold the ceremony and reception there.

Ingatestone Hall, Hall Lane, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9NR Tel: 01277 353010,



In 2012 the house and grounds were open from noon to 5 p.m. (last entry 4 p.m.) on Wednesday, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday afternoons from Easter until the end of September. It is also open for special events - the next one is on Sunday 31st March, 2013.

Check their website www.ingatestonehall.com

© *Janet Seward, October 2012*

War Heros

In September I visited Bletchley Park (near Milton Keynes), and what a fascinating place that is! I thoroughly recommend a visit, though make sure you get there fairly early as you can spend a good five hours and still not see everything. It is open almost every day see <http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk/> or phone 01908 640404 for more details of opening times.

One part of their display focussed on “Pigeons in War” as apparently some 250,000 pigeons were used in World War II, the National Pigeon Service having been set up in 1937 after the success of their use as message carriers in the Great War. Pigeons were carried by RAF bomber and reconnaissance crews, by agents leaving Bletchley Park, and they were also dropped by parachute to resistance workers on the continent. The pigeons were a vital means of communications but had to face the dangers of enemy fire and attacks by trained hawks.

32 pigeons were honoured after the war with the Dickin Medal, known as the animal VC. There were several stories of extreme bravery, but I mention here “**Mary of Exeter**”. She was owned by Exeter cobbler Cecil Brewer. Despite being wounded three times Mary made her way home. She had part of her wing shot off, was badly injured by a German hawk and had three fragments removed from her body. I was surprised to read that she is buried in Ilford’s PDSA animal cemetery in plot 351 so I decided to go and see the grave.



The cemetery, which dates from the 1920s, is in Woodford Bridge Road behind the PDSA building, through a gateway off the car park. It has the graves of 12 animals awarded the Dickin Medal. This includes three dogs and a cat whose stories are told on their website, see below.

In 2006-7, thanks to a grant from The People’s Millions project, the cemetery and the headstones of the animal war heroes underwent a sympathetic restoration.

<http://www.pdsa.org.uk/about-us/pdsa-history/ilford-animal-cemetery>

“Search and Rescue dog, Peter, came with a bad reputation for fighting other dogs and destroying his owner’s belongings. However, his service during World War II was outstanding and he became a reformed character. His PDSA Dickin Medal citation reads: For locating victims trapped under blitzed buildings while serving with MAP (Ministry of Aircraft Production) attached to the Civil Defence of London. The information he gave to his handler resulted in the saving of many lives and he was singled out for special attention at the Civil Defence Stand-Down parade in Hyde Park before the King and Queen and Princess Elizabeth in 1946.”



I would also like to acknowledge using information from a leaflet issued by the Royal Pigeon Racing Association on “Pigeons in War”.

© **Georgina Green 9 October 2012**

Listed Building

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

HOMES OF REST, CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY,
GOLFE ROAD, ILFORD



Grade: II

Date first listed: 20-Sep-1993

Plans dated 1910, to designs by Arthur C. Russell of 13 Basinghall Street for the Sons of Temperance Friendly Society, Pension Almshouse Fund, Blackfriars.

Red brick in Flemish bond with brick and glazed brick dressings; painted render to first-floor of centre section; roofs of tile with tile crestring and ornament; metal-roofed, wood-framed cupola ridge of centre section. Fire-resistant, reinforced concrete construction to upper-floor units. Three-part composition with two-storey, projecting centre section terminating in a facing gable with dentil cornice and swept eaves; 3-window range with oriel in centre set in round-arched recess; two units on each floor. To either side a single-storey recessed wing of two windows flanking a recessed entrance porch; half hipped to returns which are pierced by a roundel; broad swept eaves on wood brackets shelter concrete walkways to side units.

Segmental-arched windows and round diaphragm arches to recessed entrance porches, that to centre with curved parapet having a 'Moorish' effect. Moulded stacks to short returns of centre range and a pair to rear roof slope of each wing.

All units consisted of a bedroom, living room, scullery and WC, those to first floor with fire escapes at the rear.

Features of note include: Rubbed brick plaque with mosaic decoration and inscriptions to peak of facing gable; mosaic paving to vestibules of entrance porches; classically styled stone memorial plaque to right return of central entrance porch; six inscribed foundation stones to plinth. According to original plans a two-storey extension to centre of rear with WCs and fire escape; WC's in outshut lean-to to each pair of units in lower wings. The design of the main elevation is distinguished by subtle proportions and the use of slightly mannered details such as the swept eaves, all of which combine to good and elegant effect.

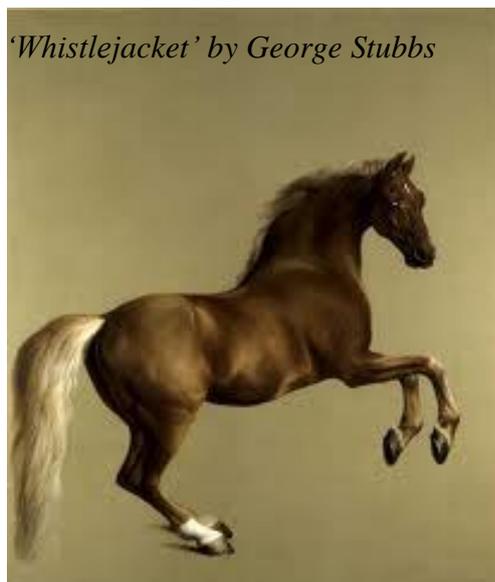


From the Museum: The Rearing Toy Horse

War horse, race horse, wooden horse, rocking horse, Trojan horse, toy horse.

Walking around Redbridge's Museum I'm always drawn to the model of the rearing toy horse amongst the agricultural implements, part of the Victorian display. (*see picture p.15*) A rich, dark brown chestnut colour (bay horses are often reddish-brown with black manes), I had thought it was a Suffolk Punch working horse but it doesn't have any 'feathers' hanging down its legs, and expert opinion rates it as a riding horse, a stallion rearing high up on its hind legs, mane flying out from its head and back, four white socks painted on above his black hooves. Horses aren't usually seen rearing straight up except perhaps to fight other horses, displaying for audiences in circuses, and of course to cover mares. The label says it was carved by a farm worker in the Barkingside area. It's an emotive figure, evocative of an age when new toys were expensive - only for the rich - and hardly mass manufactured, but handmade at home by working class parents for their children. But I began to wonder if it wasn't only based on a real horse but on a painting and, of course, one artist immediately comes to mind (Constable "The Leaping Horse" 1825) for the model horse looks more like a statuette which should be up on a plinth. An American belief (very questionable) was that statues showing horses with both front legs rearing up meant that the rider on his back had died in battle - one leg up implied wounded.

Horses in paintings were meant to be seen under the rider's control. Kings liked to be portrayed sitting on them, the horse representing the state under their firm command, the horse calm and still, under control of the king or queen, doing his or her bidding. Philip II of Spain portrayed by Titian, sat regally on his horse whilst Charles I of England was painted by van Dyck; both royals sitting on their horses - they loved it even if, of course, in reality the horse was just a studio prop. But they were great artists. Emperor Marcus Aurelius bronze statue in Rome has him victorious astride his horse, front legs rearing up. For artist George Stubbs (1724-86) however it was racehorses and British owners queued up to have their favourite thoroughbreds portrayed. Horses and dogs always held a fascination for the upper and middle classes that they wanted them preserved in paint on canvas. The famous 'Gimcrack' and 'Hambletonian' were pictured on Newmarket Heath. Artist James Pollard painted coaches and horses pulling up at various inns, i.e. at the Coach and Horses Ilford, or storming past The Eagle, Wanstead. Both Stubbs and Pollard also painted terrified horses being attacked by a lion.



'Whistlejacket' by George Stubbs

A rearing horse that springs to mind is the portrait of the majestic chestnut stallion 'Whistlejacket' by George Stubbs, the greatest painter of horses in England. He portrayed him in 1762 setting the horse against a neutral background. 'Whistlejacket' was a famous race horse bought for just 60 guineas, matched in a 1759 two-horse race against 'Brutus' before there were multiple horserace meetings, winning his owner, the 2nd Marquess of Rockingham, a massive 2,000 guinea bet though Stubbs only got an 80 guinea fee. Having done his job 'Whistlejacket' then went to stud. Although many people think that Stubbs planned to put a rider on the horse's back, it's likely that he

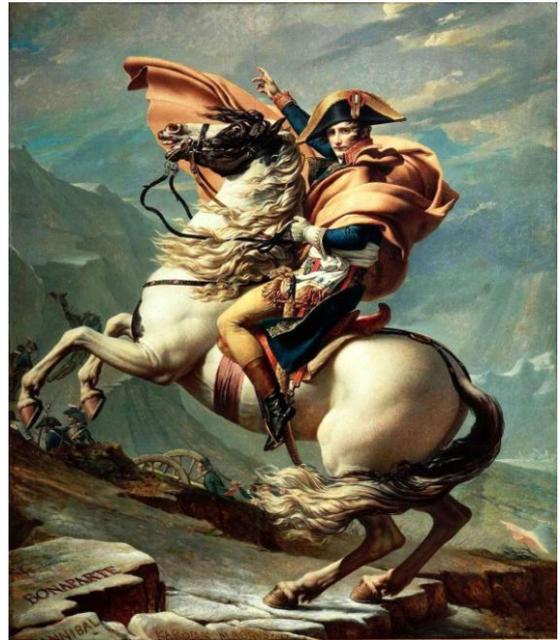
always intended the horse to be portrayed riderless. ‘Whistlejacket’ could be touchy and he rears up to the right on his hind legs, his head turned threateningly towards us daring us to approach, staring out with his wild sparkling eye, a small white flash on his forehead, at least one white sock just above his rear right hind leg.

A stallion that rears up to the left is ‘Marengo’ (c.1793-1831) who was portrayed with a young Napoleon on his back as they ascended the Alps into Italy. Like his illustrious master and just as famous, they were both captured at the Battle of Waterloo. Never mind that Bonaparte actually made the journey mounted on a mule, there was no way he was having the great artist Jacques-Louis David portray him like that. He wanted to be recognised as Hannibal or Charlemagne: a myth, a legend, even if not sat on an elephant.

The movement of rearing up has a name: a levade. The Spanish Riding School of Vienna own majestic military show horses which are taught complex and seemingly gravity-defying classical dressage movements, and once up on their hind legs, the horses are taught to jump forward. Suffolk Punches or Suffolk Sorrels, always chesnut in colour

(traditionally the official spelling- no ‘t’ in chesnut), 16.1 - 17.2 hands high, have a docile temperament, and are heavy draught horses popular in East Anglia and don’t rear up. Or do they? First recorded in 1586, they are massively built with short legs but have an energetic gait, and are different from Clydesdale and Shire horses. John Constable painted a barge horse - dark in colour - and leaping a stile alongside the river Stour as they were trained to do.

So did our Barkingside sculptor of the toy horse see any of these paintings or statues? It seems unlikely, although he may have seen a picture of one of them in a book. Did the farmer own a character who reared up like this, who of course would have left a big impression on the mind? Half a ton of snorting muscle. Or was there a circus or fairground show horse, or even a race meeting, that came by regularly enough to inspire the toy’s creator? Were there other toy animals for the children to play with? I’m unsure what wood it’s made from. The toy horse is actually quite large, more like a statuette: too big for a mantelpiece or a ‘Wendy-house’. The horse’s tail and mane are made of horsehair but we don’t know where it came from. It was spotted inside Fullwell Cross Library, c.1975-79, on a charity stall being manned by “a delightful little old lady manning the bric-a-brac stall” wrote Sarah D Carolan who saw it and thought it looked “lively and interesting”. The old lady, who said she was 95 years old (so was born in the early 1880s), explained “my father made the horse for me when I was a little girl. I wondered whether to allow him in the sale at all, so I want to be sure he goes to a good home”. She said they lived in a farm cottage along Forest Road, Barkingside (opposite Fairlop Waters?). Sarah said “I’ll give the horse a good home” so after hugging it for one last time the lady gave it to Sarah who donated it to Redbridge Local Studies in 1992 through Librarian Nigel Maxwell, onto Ian Dowling’s desk, then it into the Museum’s collection. This is from a letter that Sarah wrote providing background to the donation.



“Napoleon Crossing the Alps” by Jacques-Louis David

The toy horse could hardly be played with because it's very large, near 10 inches high, and it can't be stood up unaided as on its two back legs. Perhaps it was laid down in a 'stall' or bedroom at night? It should be up on a plinth as a statuette, and in the museum it's displayed inside a case, well-supported to stand rearing straight up, high on its hind legs front knees bent. It has a thinly printed mouth with almost a smile on its face, a white flash running down his forehead to his nose - almost a zebra stripe. The stallion's ears are back - not pricked up - though he is missing one, and he's a deep brown colour looking heavily varnished with four white socks. What his name was we'll never know. Was it ever taken into a school and used as a model for children to paint and portray? Next time you're in the Museum give the toy horse a look.



Toy Horse, Picture © Redbridge Museum

Thanks to Sandra Haynes for providing this information, Gerard Greene, Manager of Redbridge Museum, for his help providing me with a copy of Sarah Carolan's letter, and Anne Merryweather in the Central Library for expert help as to the horse.

Redbridge Museum uses a picture of the horse in a Victorian Teacher's pack illustrating animals, toys and horses.

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A revised Constitution

Although we are a history society and should have respect for ancient documents, your Committee thought that the rules of the society dated 1985 should be up-dated! We intend to present the revised constitution to you at the AGM. The biggest change is in the widening of our objects from purely historical research to raising the profile of local history:

Objects

The objects of Ilford Historical Society shall be:

- a) the advancement of education in history and heritage, particularly the local history of Ilford and surrounding areas;
- b) developing knowledge and enjoyment of history and heritage;
- c) securing the preservation and interpretation of local heritage.

Our Aims support these objects:

To further the above objects the society shall encourage work towards:

- a. preserving and promoting community history through the publication of a newsletter and other local history material;

- b. sponsoring historical lectures primarily but not exclusively for paid-up members of the society;
- c. promoting public interest, education and understanding about local history;
- d. encouraging research into local history through education and training in research methods and sources
- e. supporting the collection, conservation and interpretation of local history and heritage, working with other agencies and societies as appropriate.

The rest of the work was really a tidying-up exercise. We have deleted the post of vice chairman and programme secretary and made the chairman a unisex 'chair'. The latter change was not unanimously agreed by the Committee! We have also deleted the item regarding half-yearly subscriptions for members who join half way through the year.

A copy of the draft will be posted on our web page or you can obtain a copy by telephoning, emailing or writing to me. Please let me have any comments by 8th February.

Janet Seward

Iford Historical Society Hon. Secretary
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Forthcoming Events

Our season at the Ilford Hospital Chapel continues with Monday meetings at 7.30pm:

14th January 2013 *Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'*
The classic novel was first published almost exactly 200 years ago.
 Maureen Stiller, Secretary of the Jane Austen Society, talks about Austen's life, her writing and Regency society.

11th February 2013 *Seven Kings & Goodmayes: the new Klondyke*
 By Ian Dowling, Redbridge Local Studies Librarian

11th March 2013 *Before the lamps went out - the way we were on the eve of the First World War* by Janet Seward, IHS Secretary

8th April 2013 7pm AGM, followed by
Quiz and Members Evening ... bring along a memory to talk about

13th May 2013 *Barking Abbey, founded c.666 by St Ethelburga, destroyed 1541 by Henry VIII* IHS Chairman, Jef Page, tells the story.



Wednesday 5th June, 7.30pm **1953: The Coronation and Ilford**
 with talks by Janet Seward: *The 1953 Coronation* and Jef Page: *Ilford in 1953 at Valentines Mansion*. Tickets £3. Further details nearer the time.

The next newsletter will be available at our AGM on 8 April 2013.