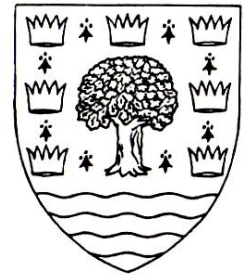


# Ilford Historical Society

## Newsletter No.130 August 2019



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

### Redbridge 30 years ago

The Redbridge Official Guide issued in 1989-90 shows our borough before the financial crisis and government cut-backs. It depicts a vibrant borough, full of optimism. "The most exciting project in the history of Redbridge was well underway." The new relief road (Winston Way) had opened in March 1985 and Ilford High Road had been transformed into a pedestrian precinct. Work was progressing on the new shopping mall, due to open in 1991. The borough had very good road and rail links and hoped to benefit from the expansion of Stansted airport which was expected to generate some 10,000 jobs. Among the major companies in the borough were the Plessey Co.Ltd, Kelvin Hughes and Wiggins Teape Ltd.

The borough had a population of 227,000 and between 1971 and 1981 the housing stock had grown to 86,536. Nearly a third of the land was protected by the Green Belt policy which the Council strongly supported, saying it would only allow development in very exceptional circumstances. There were twenty six parks and recreation grounds, sports centres and many other facilities while nearly half the population had library membership. The Kenneth More Theatre was one of the most successful in the country with performances viewed by 100,000 patrons each year. The Council was protecting the Borough's heritage with the designation of Conservation Areas and Residential Precincts. Sadly, times have changed. There isn't the same optimism and other concerns have to occupy the Council's attention, often to the detriment of our history and heritage. We therefore need to highlight our history and ensure the protection of our heritage as best we can. Thankfully the Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre is still able to provide an excellent service!



*Enjoying the facilities at the open air pool in Valentines Park.*

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## Seven Kings: Its Derivation Lost in Time

Seven Kings name, like Ilford, and Newbury Park (what park?), fascinates everyone and we are continually asked about its derivation and meaning: did seven kings really meet here?

*This article is based on one written in the 1980s by the late Peter Wright, President of IHS.*

The name Seven Kings doesn't appear in county histories, nor maps compiled by Chapman and Andre, published in 1777. However, a strong tradition exists that seven kings met in this part of Ilford and Essex during the Saxon Heptarchy, c.450-800AD: Alba, Cornwall, East Anglia (which included Essex and London. Depending on the date, some maps show Essex separately c.800), Mercia, Northumberland, Sussex and Wessex etc. All powerful, rival, tribal kingdoms vying for power. They made shifting alliances when it suited them especially to ward off and fight the Danes and Vikings till eventually creating England (Englaland- the original Anglo-Saxon name ie 'the home of the Angles'): a unified, one-king state. No records exist of any such meeting taking place so far as is known so we are forced to rely on oral tradition and theories advanced by various authorities.

T Forster of Walthamstow suggested in *The East London Advertiser*, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1899, that the kings met at Barking Abbey <sup>1</sup> to attend a function and visit various relatives and friends who had entered the Abbey or who lived nearby. While there the kings went hunting, starting from a brook, or watering their horses at a stream, forever afterwards known as Seven Kings Water or Watering.

Seven Kings Water or stream appears on the Godfrey map 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1897, based on the Ordnance Survey map of the area, travels south from around Fairlop Waters up where Downshall and Seven Kings Farm were, crosses the Eastern Avenue near King George Hospital on through Seven Kings Park and the Westwood Recreation Park, alongside Westwood Road, crossing Ilford High Road and Green Lane onto Water Lane.

Excellent Ilford Historian George Tasker (1868-1925) summarised his researches for the origin of the name in the *Essex Review*, vol IX no.34 (April 1900). He said that the first mention of the name was in Daniel Lyson's *Environs of London* (1796), vol IV, page 55 where it's mentioned in connection with the proposed division of Barking parish in 1650. Tasker stated that tradition indicated the seven kings meeting place was beside an oak tree, a few yards back from the pavement where the brook crosses the road. Philip Morant (1700-70) referred to the place as 'King's Watering', but on his map the place is marked as 'Kings Watering'. The two versions are confusing as the first implies only one king or a succession of kings, whilst the second 'Kings' could imply several kings together.

Tasker mentions an area of old Hainault Forest known as "King's Wood" <sup>2</sup> through which flowed a stream known as Seven Kings Brook and asks whether the two names are connected. The meeting of seven kings even during the heptarchy is doubted by some historians especially at such an insignificant stream distant from London but he goes on to state that princes were often known as kings. He mentioned that Edgar the Peaceable (d.975) was rowed down the river Dee by no less than eight tributary kings or princes, so - "Why should not a king of the East Saxons whose capital was London, and whose favourite hunting lodge was at Havering-atte-Bower, having entertained other princes or earls at his palace in their honour organised a hunt in the great forest of Essex which surrounded him. Why during the chase should not his guests have watered their horses at the brook which gave rise to the legend?"

Tasker also mentions on several occasions the general meeting of the English Church which was attended by the hostile kings [to each other] of Essex, Wessex, Mercia and Kent. The



*'The Happy Valley, Little Heath, Goodmayes'*  
c. 1906.

© Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre

powerful Bishop of London may have arranged the meeting at his sovereign palace at Havering.

Barking's W W Glenny wrote in the *Essex Review*, vol IX, no.36 (October 1900) "In the manuscript of the title of the Vicar of Barking, better known later as Thomas Cartwright Bishop of Chester, may be seen the description 'Seven Kings watering', this was in 1681..." Frederick J Brand (1857-1939), another excellent Ilford and Essex antiquarian collector and historian, also in the *Essex Review* 1923, wrote that the name 'Sevyn Kynges' was in use in 1456 in the Barking Abbey Rental.

In *Essex Place-Names Places, Streets and People*, by James Kemble (2007) a far earlier derivation of Seven Kings is given. 'Sevekyngg', 1285 is mentioned in the Assize Rolls, meaning a settlement of Seofeca's people or a meeting place of seven Saxon kings.

Whatever its derivation, the regal name of Seven Kings stuck and seven crowns still adorn the badge for that part of the boroughs of both Ilford and now Redbridge. Or could it refer to majestic

trees, as in Seven Oaks, Kent? As Henry Ford said, in a case of printing facts or a legend – print the legend. Poet Denise Levertov mentioned Seven Kings in her nostalgic poem of local memories, whilst Peter Foley, as you may expect, put it more bluntly in his lyrical verse: 'Seven Kings Water':

It gave the place a name, this piddling rill,  
A watering-hole of sorts of some obscure  
Septet of royal kings, (the story goes)  
Swigging their fill of it, though whence they came  
And in what cause, the good Lord only knows.

© **Jef Page, President Ilford HS, October 2018.**

<sup>1</sup> Barking Abbey- founded in 666AD, was one the most powerful and important abbeys in England, one of the largest landowners in Essex and elsewhere. It had continual royal support and favour, William the Conqueror stayed there in 1066 and its abbess was ranked as a Baroness. It survived until 1539 when, like all other abbeys, it was closed down on Henry VIII's orders during the Reformation. Everything was taken away including the stone walls.

<sup>2</sup> Georgina Green explains - The 'King's Wood' in Hainault Forest was land owned by the Crown.



## Looking Back at Roden Street

The area around Roden Street today is vastly different from what it was before Sainsburys took over the site upon which Ilford Limited once stood, and the revised road plan through Ilford town centre had taken effect.

Two articles on aspects of the old Roden Street follow – on page 8 Janet Seward writes about Adelaide Terrace which was located just off Ilford Lane, while the cottages off Roden Street are the subject of the article which follows by Colin Runeckles.

To remind ourselves what Roden Street looked like and to place the many terraces, Colin has annotated the Ordnance Survey map of the area from 1914. Even by then, a significant group of houses has disappeared – these were the seven known as Grove Terrace which faced the River Roding located on what was, by then, Uphall Road.



*Ilford Ltd site 1914 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)*

## Living inside Ilford Limited

Sitting in the Heritage Centre armed with a Kelly's Directory one day, I found I had a problem. And the problem was that there seemed to be too many houses listed on the south side of Roden Street to fit into the road that can be seen on the old Ordnance Survey maps. In the Kelly's listing, there were four groups of cottages – Salisbury, Grove, Magdala, and Napier – that did not appear to fit in the usual street numbering. Then my eye was drawn to a

lane leading south off Roden Street itself towards some groups of cottages. When I counted up these appeared to be the same as in the Kelly's – the listing went down this lane and then back and continued down Roden Street.

These were not the only cottages in this area – there were also very narrow lanes leading off Ilford Lane and, of course, there were those in Roden Street itself as can be seen on the annotated map in the introduction above.

Given that pictures of ordinary houses tend to happen by accident rather than by design, the chances of finding photographs of these long-demolished houses were slim but then I remembered that the Heritage Centre held the archive for the company Ilford Ltd.

As luck would have it, there were some small photos of these very cottages. But there appeared to be a problem with the names that someone had allocated to them probably many years ago.



The first photo is correctly labelled as Salisbury Cottages but the second cannot possibly be right as it has Salisbury Cottages next door to Magdala Cottages. The explanation for this error was fairly clear – with the photos there was a hand-drawn diagram of the cottage location but with only two groups in this line – Salisbury and Magdala. The annotator had not realised that there were not two groups but three - Grove was missing. Looking at the

right-hand end of the Salisbury cottages and what was assumed to be Salisbury, you can see that they are fairly obviously different. This second photograph, therefore, shows Grove Cottages and Magdala Cottages.



At the end of Magdala Cottages the lane turns south and this is where Napier Cottages were situated as can be seen in the third photograph.

Hercock and Jones' book *Silver By The Ton* gives a detailed account of the growth of Ilford Ltd in Roden Street from the beginnings in one of the Clyde Cottages, and then in Grove Terrace; to when it covered almost the entire block. The cottages above and others make appearances at various points in the book but at times you have to read through the lines to see the impact that a change made by the company had on housing in the area. For example, on page 67 the authors state that "*A new central engineering department building at Ilford was completed in 1937*" but it is only by inspection of the various departments on a site map that it is clear that this necessitated the removal of the five houses known as Victoria Cottages. By the mid-1950s the authors note on page 81 that "*the extension of manufacturing and laboratory facilities continued at the Brentwood and Ilford sites*" but don't mention that the cottages known previously as 1-8 Roden Street (41-55 later) had to be demolished for the new laboratory facility to be built in their place.

But the primary focus of this article is on the four groups of cottages that found themselves eventually within the Ilford Limited site and I intend to ask two questions – who lived there, and what happened to the cottages and when.

Firstly, the people who lived in the cottages. It might be expected that more than a few of them worked at the factory so close by but a review of the Census returns from 1891, 1901, and 1911 shows surprisingly few had occupations that can be shown to be *directly* related to Ilford Ltd e.g. Alfred Fry of 1 Salisbury Cottages in 1891 was a photo glass packer, while Clifford Matt of 1 Magdala Cottages in 1901 and 1911 was a dry plate worker. It is entirely possible that some of the general labourers, bricklayers etc worked at the site as well but this would be difficult to prove conclusively. However, there are quite a number of occupants in all three years where it is clear that they worked elsewhere e.g. occupations as paper maker, house decorator, laundress, police constable are listed in 1891; while in 1911 a postal porter, cowman, farrier, council dust collector, and a labourer at the gas works are amongst those living there. An interesting comparison can be made to the occupations of those listed as living along Grove Terrace in 1871 which included a banker's clerk, a tea dealer, two articled clerks, and an assistant at Kings College London. These houses, however, were far more substantial and overlooked fields towards the River Roding.

Now to the buildings themselves. Their building dates prove difficult to assess accurately as they would appear to have been built by the time that the collection of building plans held by the Heritage Section begins in 1886. The tithe maps of 1847 indicate that one set of cottages was already built and from the position I would assume this to have been Grove Cottages. Napier Cottages are said to date from 1868.<sup>1</sup> The Census returns earlier than 1891 are really no help here since most of the entries have no address against them apart from a generic Roden Street or Grove. Given their similarity to Napier and their positioning in relation to them, it is possible that Magdala Cottages were built at the same time. At the time of the tithe maps, the land was owned by Henry Monk but at some point later, ownership transferred to the Ashmole family who sold the land on which the four groups of cottages stood to Ilford Ltd in 1911.<sup>2</sup>

The annotated map of the area from 1914 in the introduction shows that although they now owned the land, as yet no alterations have taken place. But in July 1918 approval was granted to Ilford Ltd to convert 4 and 5 Magdala Cottages into workshops.<sup>3</sup> Whether the occupiers

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<sup>1</sup> Hercock and Jones 1979, 39

<sup>2</sup> Hercock and Jones 1979, 50

<sup>3</sup> Ilford Plan 5012 held by Redbridge Heritage Centre

had left voluntarily or been forced to move isn't known as both had been living there since 1910 (and before in one case).<sup>4</sup> As these were now used by Ilford Ltd. they would no longer appear in the Kelly's Directories listing. The next cottage to be taken out of habitation was 4 Napier Cottages around 1930 where William Porter had been living since 1917. However, he is not listed in the 1929 Kelly's so it is possible that he either moved or had died. The approved plan was for a wash-house at the rear of the house which on the block plan is marked as being a Girls canteen.<sup>5</sup>

But from *Silver By The Ton* we find the most substantial change in that period impacted on Salisbury and Grove Cottages.

*"The idea of a new sales office was abandoned in 1931 and the new despatch building was converted to offices fronted by a lawn and gardens. No bonus was paid to the staff in that year and this garden was always referred to as 'Bonus Garden' on the assumption that the money spent on it might have provided a bonus payment."*<sup>6</sup>

This involved the demolition of both Salisbury and Grove Cottages and meant that anyone coming from Roden Street would have seen the lawn and garden rather than houses. Although Magdala Cottages were spared demolition at this time, according to the 1931 Kelly's they were unoccupied and they did not last very long afterwards.<sup>7</sup> In January 1933 plans were approved for a packing room on the site of the cottages.<sup>8</sup> The packing room can be seen in the third photograph above beyond Napier Cottages.

As for Napier Cottages, although they were all unoccupied by 1937 – Chas Pritchard being the last to leave – the buildings themselves survived until the closure of the factory in 1975.<sup>9</sup>

### **Final thoughts**

Although the focus has been on the four groups of cottages in the middle of the Ilford Ltd. site, the same fate of having been replaced by factory buildings also befell Clyde Cottages and Grove Steps. Over the years then, a significant number of what we might think of as working-class houses were demolished due to the company's expansion. This might have made finding somewhere to live extremely difficult were it not for the growth of the town itself and particularly south of the High Road on the old Uphall Estate.

So, when you're next driving into Sainsbury's car park, take a minute to think about the history here – from fields to small houses, to the expansion over time of the factory site, and then finally to a supermarket.

*Photos reproduced by kind permission of the Redbridge Heritage Centre.*

**© Dr Colin Runeckles, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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<sup>4</sup> Note that in 1895 when new offices were required on Roden Street, the existing tenants of some very old cottages were paid £1 each to leave their homes (Hercock and Jones 1979, 39)

<sup>5</sup> Ilford Plan 9856 held by Redbridge Heritage Centre

<sup>6</sup> Hercock and Jones 1979, 62

<sup>7</sup> The Ilford Ltd archive has an undated aerial photograph which shows the 'Bonus Garden with Magdala Cottages to one side.

<sup>8</sup> Ilford plan 11485 held by Redbridge heritage Centre. The plan shows which buildings will have to be demolished.

<sup>9</sup> Hercock and Jones 1979, 39



## **Adelaide Terrace**

Whenever we represent the society at a local history fair, we take along a large photograph of Ilford Broadway in the 1920s and in the distance at the beginning of Ilford Lane is a row of Regency or early Victorian houses which has always intrigued me because they are so out of keeping with the rest of the surrounding late Victorian or Edwardian architecture. These houses comprise Adelaide Terrace, now demolished. There is much more to learn about Adelaide Terrace but, with the help of Colin Runeckles and Jef Page, I have been able to piece together a few facts about it. The terrace gives a fascinating snapshot of life in Ilford before the mass building of the early twentieth century.

It is unclear exactly when the terrace was built but the properties comprising the terrace are shown on the 1847 tithe map. The name 'Adelaide' is almost certainly after Queen Adelaide (1792-1849), wife of William IV. She is not one of our famous Queen Consorts but she was greatly respected for her charitable works and there are many examples of places being named after her, the most famous being the Australian city of Adelaide.

There is a possibility that the terrace pre-dates the 1841 census as two families that appear as neighbours in the 1851 census are also living in close proximity in the 1841 census.

Unfortunately, the 1841 census lists the addresses only as 'Great Ilford' indicating the lack of a proper road pattern for the enumerator to follow.

### **1851 census**

The houses are not numbered in this return and some are listed as Adelaide Place and some as Adelaide Terrace. The civil administrative area is Barking. The terrace is home to either families running their own businesses or senior employees. There is a brick maker employing 27 men and boys. The family also employ a female servant. We know that there were brick-making works along Ilford Lane at this time as Antonio Brady, fossil collector, would ask the owners to inform him if their workers uncovered any bones. One residence within the same area, in fact, has the address 'Brick Field'. The brick maker's next door neighbour is a coal merchant and his eldest son is a baker's apprentice. He also has a curate lodging with him. Other residents are a corn-factor, a trader in grains, and a surveyor. As well as an assistant living with him and his family, the surveyor has a visitor who is a plumber, perhaps working with him on a job and a lodger who is an excise officer.

### **1861 census**

The residents of the terrace have changed completely. There is a commercial clerk, a widow, living on her own means with her sister and two daughters, a retired miller of 72 years old and an agent (I think probably a land agent). There is also a school run by a female head teacher and an assistant with three female boarders, a teenager and girls of eight and four, a housekeeper is in residence as well as a female servant. Three of the other houses also employ a female servant.

### **1871 census**

All seven houses are occupied. The widow living on her own means is still there. Another house is occupied by a 'sergeant instructor volunteer' and his family. A salesman of the Corn Exchange London and his family also live in the terrace. His neighbour is a master tailor employing six men and his mother works as his assistant. He states that he was born in St James Piccadilly and one can almost feel his pride in his birthplace and his desolation at having to ply his trade in such a backwater. There is also a 'coach ironmonger' and the manager of refreshment rooms. In another house, a 75 year old woman is the head of a household but works as an assistant to a 66 year old laundress. Five of the houses employ female servants.

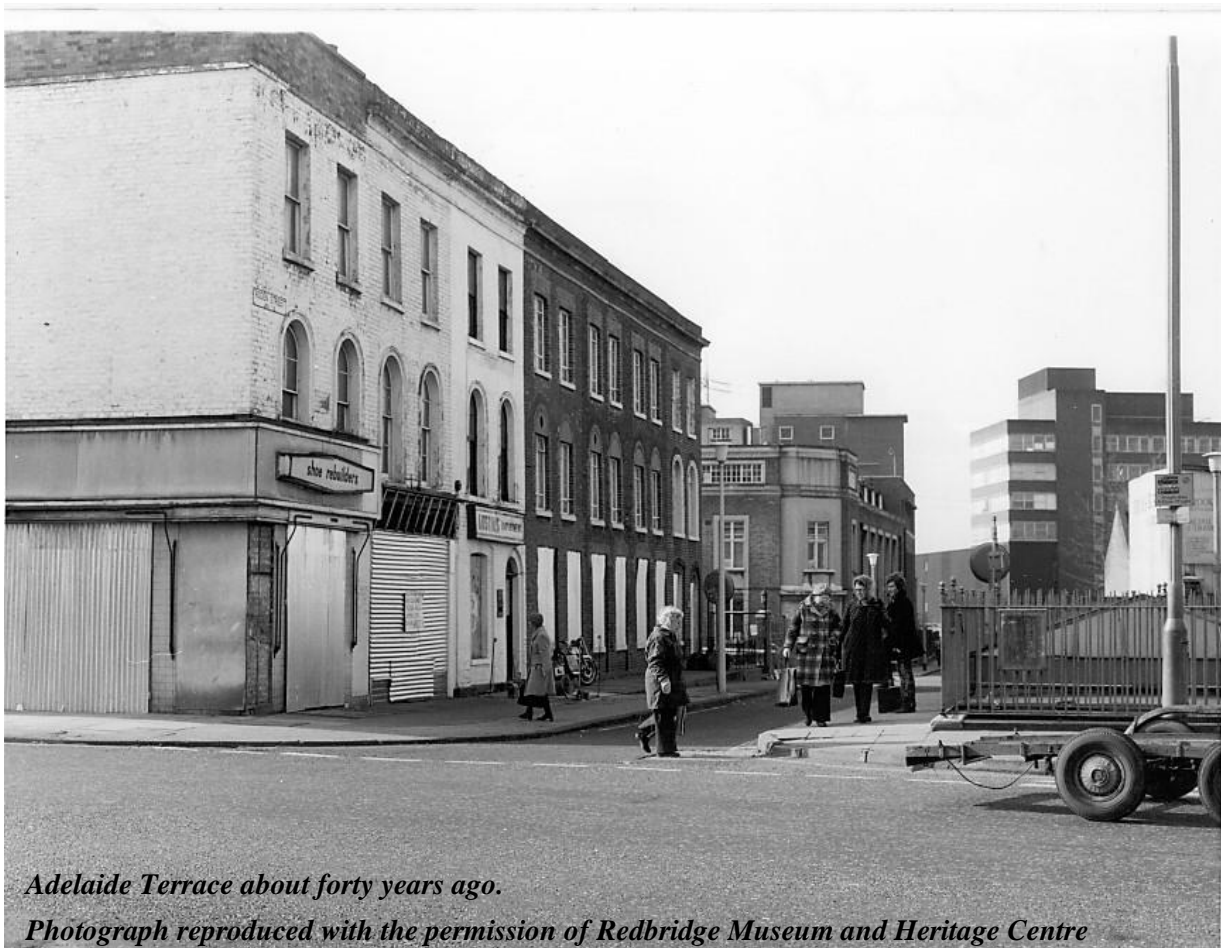


### 1881 census

One house is still occupied by a military family, a Sergeant Major of the Essex Regiment. The corn salesman and the master tailor are still there. They have been joined by a watchmaker and a merchant. Unusually, the merchant's 17 year old daughter is listed as a teacher of music. Their neighbours are a 35 year old widow living on independent means with her son. It seems that the school has started up again and is occupied by a 26 year old school master with his unmarried sister and two boy boarders of 10 and nine. Three of the families employ female servants.

### 1891

Adelaide Terrace is now part of Ilford not Barking. The returns are more organised and the houses are actually numbered. 1 Adelaide Terrace is described as an armoury and is occupied by a Sergeant Major in the infantry and his family. His eldest daughter is a 'paper folder', perhaps a necessary if boring job, before automation. Surprisingly, given the security that the Sergeant Major would have had to employ, a 25 year old woman visitor was also there on census night. The house next to him is empty. The watchmaker is still there but without a servant, perhaps his daughters were considered old enough to help his wife. They have been joined by an 'under beadle', a minor civic official; his eldest daughter is a waitress while his adult sons represent the old world and the new in the shape of an apprentice groom and engineer fitter apprentice. His neighbour is a baker and a draper and butcher live in the terrace.



### 1901

Adelaide Terrace is now listed in Roden Street. 1 Adelaide Terrace is still occupied by the military, 'a soldier instructor of volunteers'. The empty house at 2 Adelaide Terrace is now

occupied by a painter journeyman, a skilled worker, and described as offices and a house. His neighbour is a laundry proprietor working on the premises. Next door to him is a retired engine fitter and his wife who appear to be supplementing their income with boarders or paying guests. The watch maker is still there as well as a tailor working at home and a baker. Two other families, as well as the retired engineer, have boarders. The male boarders are either labourers, bricklayers or glass cutters which are in great demand as Ilford is now in the middle of a building boom.

### 1911

As well as Adelaide Terrace, other addresses include Ilford Lane and Adelaide Chambers and only four houses have 'Adelaide' in their address, other houses having been subsumed into Ilford Lane.

The watchmaker is still there. One house is occupied by a brick layer and his neighbour is a widow caretaker of offices working at home, which illustrates that perhaps, families were leaving these older houses and moving elsewhere. Her daughter is listed as a theatre clerk and it would be interesting to know if she worked at the Ilford Hippodrome which was opened in 1909. Perhaps, the last word should go to the boot repairer in 6 Adelaide Terrace of whom the census enumerator states:

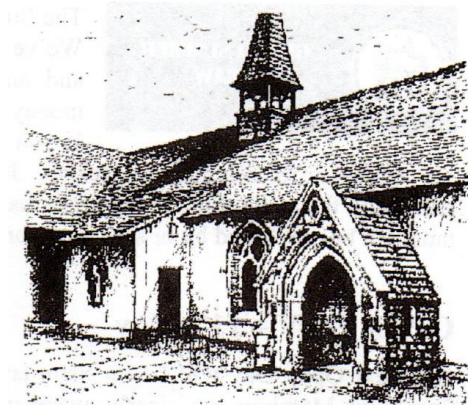
'This person, William Robert Wheeler, absolutely refused to fill this form up with ink stating that he had neither pen or ink in the house and was not going to buy some purposely for this'.

They may no longer be living in the most fashionable part of Ilford but it seems the occupants of Adelaide Terrace were not going to be bossed around by any official!

© Janet Seward, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## The Ilford Hospital Chapel

Most of our members are familiar with the Hospital Chapel as we held our meetings there until fairly recently but for those of you who don't know it, this really is wonderful historical gem. It was founded as a hospice and chapel by Adeliza, Abbess of Barking, around 1145AD to care for the needs of aged and infirm men. The official title is the Chapel of the Ilford Hospital of St Mary and St Thomas of Canterbury and it has been Listed by English Heritage as Grade II\* which means it is of national importance.



The chapel building dates from the earlier part of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, possibly with an earlier core. It was repaired in 1719, renovated in 1781, extended and reordered in 1889-90 with the addition of a south aisle, Lady chapel and vestry, and with further improvements in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The latest project is to replace the entire heating system inside the chapel – no easy task for a building of such historical significance. It is quite beautiful inside and will be open on Saturday & Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September as part of the London Open House weekend and maybe on other Open Days. The Bazaar is currently planned for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November but please check the website <http://www.ilfordhospitalchapel.com/>

The Ilford Hospital Chapel is on The Broadway, Ilford Hill, Ilford, IG1 2AT, with wheelchair access via the rear entrance. The Friends of the Hospital Chapel are always happy to arrange visits by clubs and organisations, or to talk about this important building at their meetings.

## The Separation of Ilford Parish from Barking

As mentioned on page 2, Daniel Lyson's *Environs of London* (1796), vol IV, page 55 explains how a proposal that the parish of Barking should be divided was made in 1650. Barking itself would be one parish, Great Ilford and Little Ilford another, and a third would have a church near Little Gearies. However, it would be another 180 years before this happened and it took the people of Ilford five years of debate and action to reach the final conclusion.

When the census was taken in 1821 the parish of St Margaret, Barking, had a population of 6,967 people who could worship at the parish church in Barking town or one of two chapels in the parish. These were the Hospital Chapel in Ilford and that at Aldborough Hatch. Altogether they could accommodate 976 people but burials could only take place at St.Margaret's. The building of a new church at Ilford came under discussion again in 1823.

Aside from the need to provide additional places for worship in the northern part of the parish, the biggest bone of contention was the fact that the people of Barking Town, by the fact that they lived so close to the location of the church and the various parochial meetings, had a much greater say in how rates were spent. However, because of their numbers, the people in the Ilford wards of the parish paid a higher proportion of the church rates. The Vestry Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1825 was attended by over 200 people to consider the proposal to divide the parish and build a new parish church at or near Ilford. It was claimed that by now the population was nearly 8,000 inhabitants in the parish which covered 11,775 acres. 106 more houses had been built in Great Ilford and Chadwell since 1821.

Robert Westley Hall Dare of Cranbrook and John Scrafton Thompson of Cricklewood House (Clements) were the leaders of the move to divide the parish, while George Glenney and others spoke against it. After a lengthy debate a vote was taken with 139 for the division and 163 against. It was agreed a second ballot should be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November when there were 368 votes in favour and 360 against. Feeling ran very high over the matter with claims that some who voted did not have the right to do so.

(I can't help feeling Brexit is a bit like this!)

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 1826 the Ilford Committee sent out a letter explaining it had abandoned its plan to divide the parish, partly because the support of Parliament which was necessary and "upon which they had been taught to calculate, had been withdrawn." (See page 13 about a petition to Parliament). Others like the patrons of the living, All Souls College, and the Lord of the Manor, Sir Charles Hulse, had also turned from support to opposition.

Then a year later, the Vicar received a letter from the Commissioners for Building and Promoting the Building of Additional Churches offering to pay half the expense of a new church if the parish would pay the other half and provide a site. A meeting was held to discuss this on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1827. The Vicar proposed accepting the offer, estimating the cost of the new church would be around £8,000. The Churchwardens had the legal power to borrow £3,500 and they might also expect voluntary contributions. After much discussion the resolution was carried by 75 votes to 59.

This was not accepted by all so another ballot with printed papers was called for a meeting which started at 10am on 14<sup>th</sup> June, to finally determine the matter. This was delayed by what we know as filibustering with discussion as to whether the building proposed was a church or a chapel in legal terms and various other matters. The ballot was finally closed at 6pm with 296 votes in favour of building the new church at Ilford. Those against refused to accept the legality of the vote.

A fortnight later, on 28<sup>th</sup> June, the Vestry meeting appointed a committee to investigate the best means of carrying out a proposal to enlarge the Ilford (Hospital) Chapel for which permission had been granted by the Marquis of Salisbury. Again there were objections and underhand tactics mentioned in the Vestry Minutes. At a later meeting a motion to rescind the resolution to build a new church was carried unanimously, probably because nobody in favour had attended the meeting.

At the end of that year Hall Dare and Mitchell again raised the matter, proposing that in view of the increasing population and the distance many lived from the church, five-twelfths of the cost should be raised from the church rates for building a new church. Charles Woodward, who had been behind the filibustering to protest against the new church in June, again tried to delay things saying the proposed rate was too high and that St Margaret's had spare capacity for a larger congregation. He proposed the Commissioners for Building New Churches be asked to contribute to the cost of enlarging the Ilford Chapel and his amendment was carried by 364 votes to 358. Again there was a suggestion that some who voted did not have the right to do so but the Churchwardens set things in motion with the Marquis of Salisbury and the Commissioners for Building New Churches for the enlargement of the Ilford Chapel.

However, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1828 it was reported that the Vicar had received a letter from the Commissions stating that they approved land offered at Ilford by John Scrafton Thompson as a suitable site for the new church and accepted the sum of £500 subscribed towards the cost of the building. It must have given Hall Dare and his supporters great satisfaction that they had triumphed and Woodward had been out-witted! His fellow parishioners later presented him with a magnificent gold table centre fruit bowl (epergne) as a token of their thanks.



The London Gazette of 27<sup>th</sup> April 1830 announced that the Commissioners for Building New Churches were erecting a new chapel at Ilford which could accommodate 851 people, including 485 free seats designated for the poor. An Act of Parliament specified the boundaries of the two parishes to be called St Margaret, Barking and the Parish of Great Ilford which included the whole of Ilford ward, and part of Chadwell

ward to the north of Green Lane and west of Faircross Lane. The parish church of St Mary was built in the High Road between 1829 – 1831 to designs by James Savage in the 'Decorated' style. The first vicar of Great Ilford was appointed in 1837, receiving 4/9<sup>th</sup> of the tithes of the ancient vicarage of Barking.

NOTE: It was a new ecclesiastical parish which was created in 1830 but it was not until 1888 that Ilford became a separate civil parish.

© Georgina Green, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

The main source for this article was *Barking Vestry Minutes* by J.E.Oxley, pages 182-92 with the *London Gazette*, 27 April 1830 p.831.



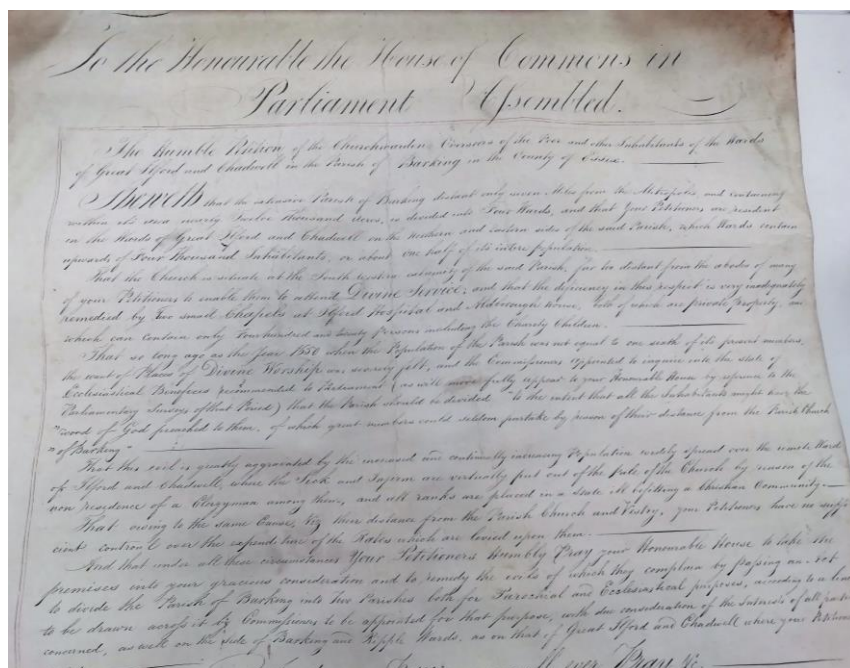
## From the Archives : The Hall-Dare Family

I took over as editor of the newsletter eight years ago and started a series featuring Listed Buildings which has appeared in fifteen issues and included pubs, churches, and arrange of buildings across the borough. I also started a series looking at various sources which could be used by those undertaking local history research. This has included the census, directories, old maps, building plans, how to research pubs, contemporary accounts and several short items about the services offered by Redbridge Heritage Centre. Neither of these is exhausted but I'd like to also feature some items in the archives at the Heritage Centre from time to time

Dawn Galer, Collections Officer, and the Heritage Team at Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre have spent the past nine months moving the archives and museum objects into brand new racking systems at the Central Library and their offsite store. This has enabled the collections to be reassessed and re-ordered so I hope she may suggest some items for us to feature from time to time.

## A Petition to Parliament

This new series has been sparked off by a deposit made in February by Stephen Smith, on behalf of Clody Norton (née Hall-Dare) who lives in Ireland, all acquired under Deed 2019 – 3. Stephen is well known to some of our members as an expert on the gardens at Valentines and he is currently working on a doctorate on 18<sup>th</sup> century gardens in East London. He is featuring Cranbrook as one of his examples and made contact with Clody and, as a result of this, some Hall Dare family material has been given to Redbridge. This includes the will of Robert Westley Hall Dare of Cranbrook (1836) hand-written on 38 pages of a book, with additional notes, some house plans and a printed book giving details from the Parish Registers of Theydon Bois, 1717 – 1837. The major donation though is a large scroll, a petition to Parliament, accompanied by a map of the Parish of Barking, c.1825.



Petition for the passing of an Act to divide the Parish of Barking into Two Parishes both for Parochial and Ecclesiastical purposes, according to a line to be drawn across it by Commissioners to be appointed for that purpose, with due consideration of the Interests of all parties concerned, as well on the side of Barking and Ripple Wards, as on that of Great Ilford and Chadwell where your Petitioners reside.

It is signed by approximately 195 people (men and women, presumably all of whom occupied property on which a church rate was levied) who signed their names in three columns. The map which accompanies the petition does not give a lot of detail of the parish, few buildings are shown, but it is useful to identify the boundaries of the four wards.

The petition has no date but the Members of Parliament for the Essex constituency were Charles Western of Felix Hall, Kelvedon, and Admiral Eliab Harvey of Rolls Park, Chigwell. It seems very likely that Hall-Dare was well acquainted with Harvey and sounded him out before the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Parliament had been in recess since July and did not resume until 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1826, so it seems likely the petition was presented to a standing committee which rejected the proposal in December 1825.

The library and museum staff have been very helpful over this but so far we have not



discovered a specific date for the petition. However, the affair did cause some controversy as illustrated by a satirical print shown to me by Gerard Greene, Museum & Heritage Centre Manager. This is from the British Museum on-line and was found by Stephen Smith. The website describes it as 'Caricature with two men slicing a round pudding labelled 'Ilford to Romford', cutting along a line marked Ripple to Clements. c.1818, Etching with hand-colouring'

The library already has a diary and an account book from the Hall Dare family which they purchased in 2002. The diary covers 1792-1804 and then 1829-1831 in a different hand. I think the writers are John Marmaduke Grafton Dare (died 1810) and his son-in-law Robert Westley Hall Dare of Cranbrook (d.1836). I hope to write more about these two books in the December newsletter.

© *Georgina Green, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019*

## **Chadwell Heath Update**

We are delighted to hear from Ramanan Muraleetharan, Chairman of the Chadwell Heath South Residents' Association, that Redbridge Council have agreed to fund their project to install two new clocks on Platforms 3 and 4 of Chadwell Heath Station. The full amount of £12,000 for the clocks is being paid from the Planning Department's Local Community Infrastructure Levy. They will be installed to commemorate the opening of the Elizabeth Line which will pass through the station.

The clocks will be in the style of the 1940s Magneta Time Company designs at Gants Hill, Bethnal Green, Redbridge and Wanstead London Underground Stations. Redbridge Council have warmed to the idea so much that they wish to explore ordering a further six clocks for Goodmayes, Seven Kings and Ilford Stations respectively.

The Residents have also held meetings with representatives from Transport for London and MTR Crossrail and both organisations are willing to collaborate with CHSRA on other ideas to enhance Chadwell Heath Station. We congratulate them on all their efforts.





## Centenary of a postcard

Rummaging in an antique shop in Kington, on the border between England and Wales over the Easter period, I came across this postcard, which was posted one hundred years ago this year. Showing an idyllic view of the Central Park, Ilford,\* by the rustic bridge, it is one of a series of similar cards of Ilford by the manufacturer S Hildesheimer and Co Ltd of London and Manchester. Siegmund Hildesheimer and his brother Albert, both born in the fine town of Halberstadt in what was later East Germany, set up in business as postcard and Christmas card manufacturers in Britain, Siegmund based in the north and Albert in the south. I have other examples of their Ilford cards in my collection.

The card was addressed to Phyllis Pears at her family's new home in Kingston-upon-Thames, posted in Ilford on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1919. The message seems to concern some item of needlework – 'don't do more than four lines of green on your mat and when you have done that wait until I come home as it is very hard to do the first line of white'. The sender was Phyllis's elder sister, Winnie. We do not know why Winnie was in Ilford; she had been born there and was perhaps visiting relatives.

Winnie (Winifred Maud), born in 1908, and Phyllis, born in 1913, were two of the children of accountant Arthur Gibson Pears (1882 – 1970) and his wife Florence Maud (nee Gander, 1885 - 1958). They married in Romford in 1907 and in 1911 they were living in Ilford.

I get the impression that Phyllis was being told what to do by her elder sister; I wonder if she did as she was told? An interesting snapshot of life in 1919.

© *Lynn Haseldine Jones, April 2019*



\* Stephen Smith adds - 'Central Park' had opened twenty years earlier, on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1899, but was re-named Valentines Park on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1907 when 10 acres were given to the town by Holcombe Ingleby in memory of his parents. The gift included the American Gardens (the Ornamental Water and Rhododendrons) the Wilderness and canal. The new extension was opened by Cllr John Bodger. Then came the area around the Mansion in 1913 after a vigorous public campaign, and finally, in the 20s the pitch & putt, tennis courts and model yacht pond between Brisbane and Perth Roads.

## Society News – AGM

Further to Janet's article on the front page of the last newsletter, various issues were discussed at the AGM but it was generally agreed to leave things as they are. It was not felt necessary to increase our subscriptions for the next season. The decline in numbers has resulted in some meetings being poorly attended but it was not evident at the AGM when about 40 of our members were present. The officers and committee also remain the same for another year and thanks are due to them for keeping things running smoothly.

## IHS PROGRAMME 2019 - 2020

Our regular monthly meetings are held in the Gloucester Room, Ilford Central Library, Clements Road, Ilford IG1 1EA on the second Monday of each month, September – May. Refreshments are served from 7pm and we start our talks at 7.30pm, finishing at 9pm. Visitors welcome, £3 per meeting, with free refreshments

Membership of the society costs £15 per year which includes 3 newsletters

**9 September 2019** *Reverend Hensley Henson - a Turbulent Ilford Priest.* The life and times of an Anglican priest in the 1900s.  
by Reverend Dr John Brown of St Luke's church, Ilford.

**14 October 2019** *The Barking Fishing Fleet.*  
by Mark Watson of Valence House Museum, Dagenham.

**11 November 2019** *Snaresbrook House - a Georgian Survivor.* A look at the history of this little known mansion, some of its owners and how it survived to the present day.  
by Lynn Haseldine-Jones, Ilford HS member.

**9 December 2019** *Christmas Social, Quiz & Walter Stevens and The Santa Claus Distribution Fund.*  
by Dr Colin Runeckles, local historian and Ilford HS member.

**13 January 2020** *A Tour of Elizabethan London.* How our capital looked over 400 years ago. By Nick Dobson.

**10 February 2020** *Plants in the Past.*  
by Georgina Green, author and Ilford HS Vice President.

**9 March 2020** *The Essex River- a trip along the river Roding.*  
by Janet Seward, Ilford HS Secretary.

**20 April 2020** \* **AGM at 7.00pm**, followed by  
*East End Artists.* The 1930s East End Group of London artists portrayed a part of the capital often overlooked. By Jef Page, President, Ilford HS.

*\*Note 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday due to Easter*

**11 May 2020** *The Sale of Clements 1879.* The Beginnings of Modern Ilford?  
by Dr Colin Runeckles, local historian and Ilford HS member.

**The next newsletter** will be available from the editor (details on page 1) after 9<sup>th</sup> December.

You can follow us on Facebook too.

