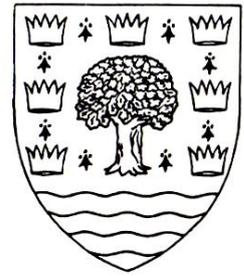


Iford Historical Society

Newsletter No.132 April 2020



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

Dear All

In view of government advice about large gatherings, I consider that there is no alternative but to postpone the AGM planned for Monday 20 April and the meeting on 11 May.

I am very sorry that it has come to this but the health and welfare of members is more important than going ahead with the programme.

We will update you when we have news. Thank you for your support this year. Keep safe and I hope that we can all get together again before too long.

Jef Page, President & Chairman, 19 March 2020

2020 – the start of a new Era

A great deal has happened since our last newsletter four months ago. Nationally, after years of heated debate culminating in considerable acrimony, a general election was held on 12th December. Boris Johnson became our new Prime Minister with a mantra to ‘Get Brexit Done’ so that when we did finally leave the EU on 31st January there was little to mark the event.

Across the world there have been signs of Global Warming which are hard to ignore. Australia was ravaged by terrible forest fires over December – January, wiping out vast areas and killing much of its unique wildlife. Thankfully, long awaited rain brought it to a halt before a major city was seriously threatened but communities were wiped out and people lost their lives. In the UK we have had a mild winter but the wettest February since records began. With very bad storms, heavy rains and hurricane force winds, many areas in the north of England have faced serious flooding for days, if not weeks.



Wanstead Park, close to the Rover Roding,
23 Dec 2019 (Photo Eleanor Toms)

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2020 also seems to be a tipping point in our ideas. Supermarkets are exploring new types of packaging without the use of plastics and encouraging new ways to shop. More of us are eating less meat and experimenting with vegetarian options. Fears for our grandchildren's future world were voiced by the middle class 'Extinction Rebellion' movement, while Greta Thunberg from Sweden has led the way for school children to think about this for themselves and stage their own forms of protest. Let's hope the things will look less gloomy by 2030.

Georgina Green, 28 February 2020

People and Trees in Valentines Park from the 1930s and in 2019

(This item has been edited from an email sent to Jef Page who asked me to include it in the newsletter)

Trees for Cities plant 15,000 trees in Goodmayes park

To mark the beginning of National Tree Week in November 2019, Trees For Cities organised a Tree planting initiative which planted 15,000 trees at Goodmayes Park in Ilford with the help of over 400 volunteers, as part of the Mayor of London's [#PlantATree](#) programme. In partnership with the London Borough of Redbridge, they planted new young trees across both Goodmayes Park and Goodmayes Park Recreational Ground. The trees help extend a previous woodland planting to increase the biodiversity value of the area, providing habitat for wildlife and improving the park for the local community - with thanks to the Mayor of London, The Charlotte Heber-Percy Charitable Trust, The Daniell Trust, The SMB Charitable Trust and All Aboard Charity Shops. <https://www.treesforcities.org/>.

In this election year of 2019, when all political parties have pledged to plant millions of trees in the climate emergency it is good when any effort however small takes place.

But below I mention an international tree planting mission, founded nearly 100 years ago, which also came to Ilford.



The Men of the Trees and Valentines Park

Trees planted in Valentines Park by 'The Men of the Trees' have now grown into a mature avenue leading into the park from the Bethel Avenue gate.

"An avenue of trees was planted to commemorate the coronation of King George VI earlier in the year. [12 May 1937.] The idea came from a local woman, a Miss Wynne-Jones, and was taken up by the Men of the Trees, an early environmental organisation set up by Richard St Barbe Baker to promote reforestation (one of his more ambitious ideas was to reclaim the Sahara desert by strategic planting of forests). St Barbe Baker turned up in person to make a speech at the December planting of the avenue."

The rock in the foreground originally housed a plaque to 'The Men of the Trees' at the time they were planted. Valentines Park Manager, Simon Litt, adds 'As far as I know the plaque was stolen over 12 years ago and I do not think there are any photos of it. The trees themselves are now in decline through age and disease and most years we lose one or two.'

Wikipedia explains “*Men of the Trees is an international, non-profit, non-political, conservation organisation. It was founded in Kenya in 1922 by Richard St. Barbe Baker and is involved in planting, maintenance and protection of trees.*”

Nature Conservancy tree planting in Valentine Park 2019

Today, the International Tree Foundation’s aspiration is to plant 20 million trees in Kenya before Christmas. Here in Ilford our efforts are on a smaller scale but are, nevertheless, significant. Organised by the LBR Nature Conservation Team, about 300 small tree slips were planted by a team of a dozen volunteers in the former ‘pitch and putt’ part of Valentines Park on 1st December 2019 and are now part of an emerging nature reserve.



Bare rooted slips are easily planted into the parkland in the winter season and have time for the roots to be established before periods of drought could kill them off. Note the houses of Perth Road in the background.



As I write, severe forest fires threaten large part of New South Wales in Australia. Thankfully stories from around the world (and especially in Africa) tell of action by ordinary people to plant trees, sometimes at great cost to their own lives.

© *Peter Musgrave, 21 December 2019*

<https://petermusgrave.wordpress.com/2020/02/28/people-and-trees-in-valentines-park-from-the-1920s-and-in-2020/>

Agricultural practice at Claybury and a Stud Farm at Hainault

In 1700 people cared for the land, working with nature to feed their community but by 1800 the old ideas of husbandry had changed. In 1500 80% of the population had worked on the land, by 1800 it was only 30%, but they provided enough food for others who worked in factories, in mines, and other industries. The industrial revolution would not have been possible without the agricultural revolution. Similarly, the use of machinery brought about by the industrial revolution, new innovations and a better understanding of crop rotation and fertilisers, increased farming yields.

By 1790 the war with France brought a blockade which made it necessary for England to be self-sufficient in food production. It became patriotic to be a farmer and discuss ideas with other members of the landed gentry.

In 1793 Arthur Young (1741 – 1820) was appointed Secretary to the newly formed Board of Agriculture. He had travelled extensively and written about the places he visited. The board

commissioned a series of agricultural reports on various counties which give us a valuable insight into farming practices at that time. The report for Essex was written by Young himself and published in 1807.

Young's *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Essex* tells us that "The soil about Woodford it is dry on gravel, and around Claybury-hall, chiefly clay. The forest of Hainault chiefly wet and heavy, but the part I saw of it excellent sandy loam. There is a great deal of land in it, that wants only enclosure to be very productive.

Mr Hatch of Claybury-hall began his husbandry from books, but found that practice was a better guide and, this has led him to the system of an extended culture of potatoes, by way of improving his land. He has much strong land, and has banished fallows by means of this root: this year he had sixty acres: he manures for them with ten or twelve loads of rotten dung per acre, the more rotten the better; three loads of common dung are thus reduced to one: he has given as high as a guinea a load for dung. At Plaistow he has been informed that ten tons are a common crop, but he gets here seven on an average: 4*l* or 5*l* a ton a good price, but has had 10*l* and 11*l*. He always gets good wheat after them. He stated also that 14 years was the minimum lease that he would grant because tenants could not 'make the necessary exertions in draining and manuring under a shorter term'.

In the parish of Barking, and immediately adjoining Hainault Forest, the East India Company has an establishment that does them no small credit: it is that of a stud for breeding stallions, &c. to send to their Settlements in the East. Mr Yell, their manager, showed me Worthy, bought of Sir Ferdinand Poole, and many colts and fillies. The farm consists of only one hundred and eight acres, and the stock at present upon it consists of

- 2 Covering stallions
- 25 Mares
- 23 Colts and fillies
- 18 Last year's ditto
- 12 Two year olds
- 5 Three year olds

- 85 in all.



Arthur Young, 1794, by John Russell

with one cow and one sow for the manager. Last winter the stallions and colts were kept chiefly on carrots, and it was not possible for any thing to do better. There were only two barren mares last year nor this. – The establishment is an experiment, which if it succeed, will probably be increased. It appears to be well managed, and no expense incurred but for real utility.”¹

I was very interested in this item of information and have discovered more about the Stud Farm from the archives of the East India Company. By 1800 the East India Company, although still primarily a trading organisation, was increasingly reliant on its army. After the

¹ *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Essex* drawn up for the Board of Agriculture by the Secretary to the Board (1813) 2 vols. (Vol. II p.355-356 - Chapter XII Livestock)

Mysore campaigns it was clear they needed more suitable horses for the cavalry and horse artillery. On 2nd January 1801 the Court paid £400 for a stallion which was sent out to their stud in India.² They paid for a groom to accompany the horse to Bengal, suitable clothes were provided for him and the captain of the ship was paid £45 for his accommodation. Further sums of £42 and £43 were also authorised for the purchase of two mares a few weeks later and it was agreed to send three or four thoroughbred stallions and seven strong hunting mares to improve the breeding stock in India.

On 16th March 1801 the Court of Directors set up a Stud Committee to look into the quality of horses available for the Company in India.³ They recognised that while Asiatic horses were suitable for the native soldiers, they were not ideal for the heavier European men. After consideration it was decided to set up a stud farm in England to breed the ideal blood lines to send to the stud farms in India.

The Court initially considered part of the estate of Cannons, formerly belonging to the Duke of Chandos, and David Scott, Chairman of the Committee, offered to present the new venture with a very fine grey Arabian stallion from his estate in Scotland. However, on 28th July 1802 it was reported to the committee that Cannons had not proved suitable for the stud farm but that agreement had been reached with John Towgood Esq for the remainder of a lease of 14 years from Michaelmas of a farm of 130 acres at Padnals near Romford in Essex.⁴ £780 was paid for the remainder of the lease, with £650 for the crops and stock on the farm, at an annual rent of £250. About half the farm was meadowland while most of the remainder was in corn – this would be laid down for pasture. A small amount would remain in tillage to reduce the expenses. The “Dwelling House” with 5 acres of land was to be let (to Mr Charles Watkins) for £45 per annum. Mr John H Manley was put in charge of the farm. In January 1803, it was decided to dispense with the services of John Manley and Mr Samuel Yull was appointed in his place to manage the establishment as resident groom. Their equine shipping agent, William Moorcroft, a respected veterinary expert, was appointed superintendent of the stud a few months later.

Worthy a thoroughbred stallion belonging to the East India Company at its stud farm at Padnals near Romford, Essex, attributed to J Hardman

© *British Library Foster 239.*
Worthy's brother Waxy won the Derby in 1793.



The minutes books show much expenditure, but it is also clear that some income was obtained from their two stallions. The accounts at 25th March 1806 show nearly £440 was made from the stallions performing their duty for mares brought in to them in that season.

² The horse was purchased from William Moorcroft *Beyond Bokhara. The Life of William Moorcroft, Asian Explorer and Pioneer Veterinary Surgeon 1767 – 1825* by Garry Alder p.50

³ Papers of the Stud Committee 1801-09, IOR/L/MIL/5/459

⁴ Padnall Hall was to the east of Little Heath, south of Hainault House in Billet Road. Padnall House was closer to Rose Lane

The Stud Committee Minutes record details of horses shipped to Madras, payments made and other relevant matters showing that the stud farm was a success.

The Stud Committee Minute book ends with a detailed list of all the horses sent to India from 1801, at 25th March 1809 =
7 Stallions, 6 Mares, 26 Colts, 7 Fillies.

There were concerns about inadequate management of the stud farm at Pusa in Bengal, so William Moorcroft sailed to India late in 1807 to superintend affairs. It appears that Padnals was maintained by the Company until 1817 when Samuel Yull was given a pension of £80 per annum, and William Holmes, who had care of the colts, £40 per annum.. After Yull's death in 1824, his widow Olivia continued to receive half his pension.

With thanks for permission to use the illustrations from the British Library Collection

© **Georgina Green, 19 March 2020**



Elizabeth and colt, thoroughbreds to the East India Company at its stud farm at Padnals near Romford, Essex, attributed to J Hardman
© *British Library Foster 240*

The Society's new Research Group

Ilford Historical Society has several expert member-researchers so we have set up a Research Group to share and exchange ideas about what we are each researching so that we can help and inform each other. The meeting in February took place in Redbridge Central Library foyer café and was attended by Martin Fairhurst, Dr Colin Runeckles, Janet Seward, Alan Simpson and myself of Ilford HS, and Gerard Greene and Dawn Galer of the Museum and Heritage Section. Ilford HS is lucky that its members provide talks and guided walks to our members and the general public on local and national topics which saves us a lot of money.

Martin led off and described his main interests being Ilford Hospital Chapel (he is an expert guide) and Methodist churches. Janet mentioned that St John's at Seven Kings has a large photographic archive and that her main long-term research was to find two eccentric sisters who lived in Aldborough Road and whose names we still can't find. They had a shop in Goodmayes (High Road?) 1920-30s, refused to pay their rates and kept getting taken to court.

Alan then produced a massive list of interests: 19th/20th century Barkingside from village to suburb, mansions and farms- he listed 31 farms including the major ones i.e. Clay Hall, Gaysham, Dunsprings etc, to little known, small or short lived farms that don't appear in the local history books: i.e. Foxburrows Farm, Kempens or Lawn Farm; private house builders and developers- i.e. Ben Bailey, Percy Brand, New Ideal Homesteads; Barkingside's 1930s 'cigarette estate' (what is it's correct name?) and the Fairlop Loop Line. Hainault Forest and Fairlop Plain are also of interest to him and Alan's skill as a researcher extends to his skill at collecting old postcard views of Ilford and Barkingside and photography. He has just produced a wonderful metre-long enlarged photo of Gaysham and Longwood Gardens before the farmland around it was fully developed c.1930s.

Next up was Colin whose list of interests is almost as great being essentially streets, and buildings and he is the expert on local house building and road plans which are held in

Redbridge Heritage's Archive. He is researching Ilford Lane, and Clements for a talk for us next year, Ilford's Burial Board, and annual Medical Officer of Health Reports, the Rookery at Seven Kings, and a curious case of someone wanting to park an omnibus in Silver Street near Beehive Lane. He's also looking at Wanstead and Woodford building plans, the 1949 building survey which looks at World War II damage and he is transferring the information from paper to an Excel spread sheet. He also wants to continue and extend his research project concerning Ilford's streets using Kelly's directories 1900-1909 to correct inaccuracies and extend our knowledge of streets not originally recorded.

My interests are pretty wide: Ilford's James Bacon's murdered his wife in 1867 and was sentenced to death. I would like to find the Petition of Clemency signed by locals that saved his life, now missing from the National Archive file, Kew; Gaysham Farm- I was sent a trove of photos to research from Australia; Dorothy Hobbs, a Goodmayes science teacher who wrote the words for the Ilford Charter Day song 1926, was a local historian extraordinaire 1920-60 whose massive archive is in Redbridge local studies. Dorothy deserves a biography. I also want to get a painting back from the Essex Records Office which shows the building of Woodford Avenue c.1922; how, when and to whom the telephone system came to Ilford c.1900, and more about 'medical care in Ilford 1800 to the NHS' to add to a future talk.

Gerard told the meeting about plans for the new refurbished Museum. He has a long term projects of digitising a large tithe map of the area and creating an interactive website to bring up the local farms as school groups often want to know what the land was used for years ago. Few children realise that Ilford was mainly farmland when visiting Redbridge's archive and museum. As the meeting came to a close Dawn mentioned the cataloguing of objects, 6,500 of them, 20,000 photos and 10,000 other items/pamphlets i.e. ephemera- a massive work in progress concentrating firstly on schools, pubs and churches. Gerard also posed the query- where were bodies buried before Ilford's St



Part of the current Museum display

Mary's church was built? Barking? And what did locals think of the new Ilford immigrant homeowners as farmland was gobbled up around them? It must have been very unsettling.

Georgina Green couldn't make the meeting but her main preoccupation at the moment are the tithe maps of Redbridge. She has created an excel spreadsheet of the awards for Woodford, Wanstead and Barking & Ilford - a total of around 3,500 entries. She is now analysing the data to identify the various estates and farms and show the ownership, extent and acreage of each and how the land was used, and is passing her findings to Gerard for his project. She is also interested in the East India Company, their sea captains and their connections to Redbridge; and Valentines Mansion for which she has extensively researched its history (Georgina has just been awarded the very deserved Freedom of Valentines Mansion). She is also researching people commemorated by memorials at St Mary's church, Woodford.

Another of our members involved in research is Carol Franklin who is a volunteer with Redbridge Heritage. Having catalogued their many Ilford building plans Carol is now looking at old photographs and checking their captions to see if what is described, i.e. it's name/location, is correct.

There is no limit to the Research Group, anyone can join us. Simply carry on with your work and let us know. We'll probably hold 1 or 2 meeting a year to see how we are getting along, the rest of the time using emails. The great thing about local history is that you can research whatever you want- whether it's your family history, old documents, places and people, for as long as you want. The field is wide open. Lots more history and lost secrets to be discovered down the back of a sofa.

Jef Page, 18 March 2020.

A New Redbridge Museum in 2021 – Have your Say!

As IHS members know from the very short item in the last newsletter, Redbridge Museum is planning to redevelop its permanent exhibition which first opened in 2000. This is based around a successful application last summer to the Heritage Fund for just under £100,000 and further project-funding generated by the Museum and Vision RCL which manages the Museum on behalf of Redbridge Council.

So far, the Museum has undertaken lots of consultation with local families and nurseries to find out how best to attract this audience, much of which will focus on low-tech interactives and learning about local history through play. The Museum has strong links with local schools through its popular programme of taught sessions which attracts 4,500 pupils annually and the new Museum displays will better support this and respond to recent changes in the national curriculum. A funding application has been recently submitted to Arts Council England to pay for these exciting plans for families and schools and a decision is expected in May.

Over the last few months, Gerard Greene, Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre Manager, has been working with the specialist museum design company Objectives to create outline plans for the new displays. One of the main challenges has been to squeeze everything into a tight space but the ideas are beginning to take shape and we hope to share these initial plans in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, we want to hear from all Ilford Historical Society members about what should be in the new displays. If you have not already completed a questionnaire please see our online survey here www.redbridge.gov.uk/museum

Gerard Greene, Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre Manager

gerard.greene@visionrcl.org.uk / 020 8708 2317

Over the garden fence: a family photo album rediscovered

Researching local history can sometimes take one down paths not originally anticipated; this happened to me in the middle of 2019.

The album

I am particularly interested in the history of Barkingside and I regularly search the eBay auction website for old images of the area. I was therefore pleased when I saw some photographs of Barkingside in what was listed as a 'Vintage Photograph Collection in Family Album Pre-war 1930 to 1936'. All the seller of the album knew was that it was part of a job-lot of old books her uncle had bought at an auction-house in the Carlisle area. She had

scanned a few of the photographs and amongst them I could see images of Mossford Green, Gaysham Hall and some around Barkingside station – it was these local scenes that attracted me. As the auction drew to a close, several other people were also interested in the album and starting to bid the price up. I delayed my bid until only five seconds remained and I was especially relieved when the auction ended and I had won.

The research

The album duly arrived and, in addition to the photos mentioned, it contained a few others that I recognised as also being of Barkingside. Perhaps more intriguing, however, were the many photographs of a family and new suburban house and garden that featured throughout the album's 270 images. From the photos, the family appeared to be relatively affluent, owning a car and taking holidays in France, Norfolk and elsewhere. I wondered if the family home could be in Barkingside too, so I started to look closely at the images for any clues. There was little in the building itself to distinguish it from the millions of similar houses in similar streets laid out in Britain between the world wars. However, two of the photographs were taken from an upstairs window at the back of the house and it was what they revealed over the garden fence that enabled me to pin down the location. In the mid-distance were several rows of single-storey brick buildings, like very long bungalows, and one photograph also showed pairs of older, more ornate, two-storey houses beyond. The 'bungalows' reminded me of something I'd seen on a postcard in my collection. I dug out the card and checked; yes, these were the very same buildings – the Australasian Hospital at Dr Barnardo's – and the older buildings in the background were some of the Barnardo's cottages. This mystery house backed onto Dr Barnardo's Village Homes for Girls at Barkingside.



LEFT: Looking over the garden fence at 45 Hatley Avenue, towards the Australasian Hospital at Dr Barnardo's in 1936. Stanley, Paddy and Nancy Apling, Chatterton and Kathleen Brown, and an unidentified woman (left) are in the photo. The Aplings kept a variety of pets through the 1930s – a monkey named Mickey, dogs, a cat, and a guinea pig here seen heading across the lawn towards the bird bath.



ABOVE: The front of the Aplings' brand-new house at 45 Hatley Avenue in 1932. Also numbered as part of Bel Royal Gardens, close examination of the photograph reveals the figure 6 on the gatepost.

With the location identified, I turned to some old large-scale Ordnance Survey plans to work out the address. This had to be on the north side of the road directly south of the Barnardo's site. The angle at which the photographs were taken confirmed the house was slightly east of the hospital's mid-point, and those of the house exterior showed it to be the western end of a block. The only address that matched all these criteria was 45 Hatley Avenue. However, when I looked at that address on Google Streetview, a seed of doubt was sown – the house standing there today is quite different from that in the photographs. It was only when I noticed that the houses directly opposite were also different from their neighbours that the penny dropped – perhaps the original houses in these two groups had suffered bomb damage in the Second World War and had since been rebuilt. A little more research confirmed this was in fact the case: on 26 February 1945, a V2 rocket had fallen at this precise spot in Hatley Avenue, destroying houses at 45-51 (odd) on the north side and 52-58 (even) on the south. Now that I had established the address, I wondered if it would be possible to identify the people in the photographs. I am a user of the Ancestry website, but have always approached family history from the other direction: I start with a name and the records then lead me to an address. In this case, I had no idea of the family name so I turned to my local history 'gurus' – Jef Page, Colin Runeckles and Georgina Green – for suggestions as to how to proceed; Jef also passed my plea on to Sue Page and Paris Sydes in the Redbridge archives. Between us, we soon established the following:

- In February 1932, Fred Russell, a local builder from Ley Street, submitted a plan to Ilford Borough Council for what would become 45-51 Hatley Avenue; the council approved the plan (11057) in March 1932.
- Some of the houses in Hatley Avenue were originally part of at least two named terraces comprising eight properties or more: Bel Royal Gardens. What is now simply 45 Hatley Avenue was once 6 Bel Royal Gardens, Hatley Avenue.
- The property is not listed in local directories or registers before 1933. *Kelly's Directory* for that year is the first to show any occupants of Hatley Avenue, when Stanley Apling was living at no 45; this was confirmed by the 1933 Electoral Register. Stanley and his family continued to live in the property until 1939 (with Chatterton and Kathleen Brown from 1936 – they were Stanley's parents-in-law). In the 1939 Register, Stanley Apling, Anne Apling and Chatterton Brown were recorded at 45 Hatley Avenue, plus three other people for whom the records are still officially closed.
- The Aplings returned to the property after it was rebuilt and next appear in the 1949 Electoral Register. Stanley and Anne continued to live at 45 Hatley Avenue until 1958.

With the family's name confirmed, I was able to start building an Apling family tree on Ancestry, and to search the internet and other sources constructively. In so doing, much more information emerged.

Stanley Herbert Apling (1899-1997)

Stanley Herbert Apling was born on 4 May 1899 at 11 Ruskin Avenue, Manor Park. His parents were Florence (née Wainwright) and Henry, a solicitor's managing clerk and Freeman of the City of London. Stanley was the eldest of six siblings. In 1904, the family moved to 212 Thorold Road, Ilford, from where Stanley attended Christchurch Road Elementary School, and then Ilford County High School in Melbourne Road. In 1916, at the age of 17, Stanley began a life-long career in insurance, starting at the Royal Insurance Company.

In 1917, with the First World War raging, Stanley volunteered for the Royal Flying Corps, but was initially conscripted into the army. A transfer soon came to the RFC Cadet Unit where Stanley's commission as a 2nd Lieutenant was confirmed in August 1918. In September, he joined the newly formed RAF's 64 Squadron at Izel-lès-Hameau in France, but returned to England for further training after only a few weeks. (Stanley's First World War experiences are related in John Barfoot's book, *Over Here and Over There: Ilford's Aerodromes and Airmen in the Great War* (Ian Henry Publications, 1998). While I was writing this article, I learnt that the original photographs of Stanley that were used in John's book, plus others of Stanley's childhood in Ilford, had been sold on eBay in late 2018/early 2019 – unfortunately not to me.) During the war, Stanley met Anne Brown, known as Nancy, and after marrying in April 1924, the couple lived at 33 Bengal Road, Ilford. By now, Stanley was the manager of a department in the Eagle Star Insurance Company.

Anne Adron 'Nancy' Brown had been born on 13 January 1901 at 8 Cambridge Road, Seven Kings. Her parents were Kathleen (née Wicks) and Chatterton, a farmer's manager originally from Lincolnshire. The small family were wealthy enough to employ a housemaid in the years before the First World War.

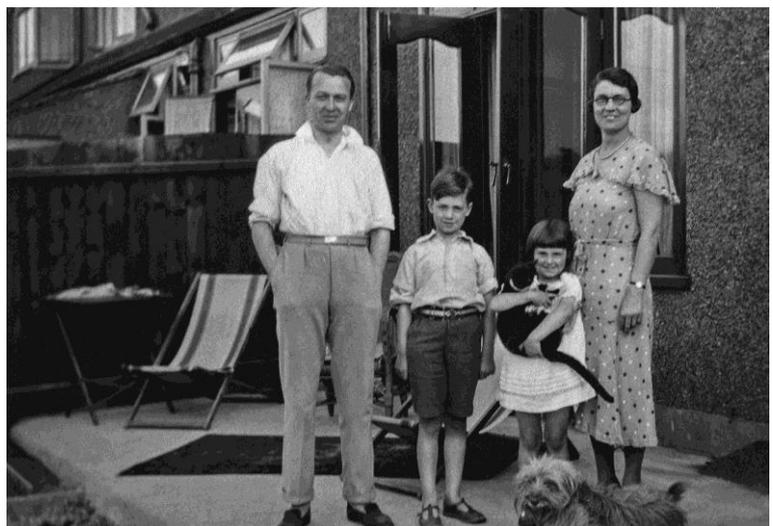
After their marriage, Stanley and Nancy had two children: a son, Edward Chatterton (born in 1925); and a daughter, Margaret Anne (born in 1927). In 1932, the family moved into newly built 45 Hatley Avenue, Barkingside, which they named 'Tal-y-bont' after the small Welsh town where Stanley and Nancy had spent their honeymoon. Hatley Avenue was on the burgeoning Hamilton Estate, which stretched from Cranbrook Road in the west to Horns Road in the east and from Loudon Avenue in the south to the Barnardo's boundary in the north. In July 1926, 300 plots of undeveloped land on the estate had been put up for auction, with more plots made available later. It is likely that the builder, Frederick Russell, bought this plot and others on the estate around this time.

In 1936, Nancy's parents joined the family at 45 Hatley Avenue, but within a year, her mother had died (on 27 September 1937). Chatterton remained with the family until near the end of his life too.

After the Second World War, Stanley's mother, Florence, came to live at the rebuilt 45 Hatley Avenue following her husband's death (in September 1952); Florence died on 15 January 1956. Stanley and Nancy left Hatley Avenue in 1958, moving to

Chilworth, Surrey (to a house also named 'Tal-y-bont'), where Nancy died on 12 April 1986. Stanley later moved to Norfolk, living in Mundford and Swanton Morley; he died there on 24 November 1997.

(Stanley's life-story, entitled *Memoirs of a Slipper'd Pantaloon*, was published privately in 2000 by his grand-daughter. I have a copy of this, and it is a fine source of information about life in Ilford during the first half of the 20th century.)



Stanley, Paddy, Margaret and Nancy Apling, with pets, outside the French windows into the back garden at 45 Hatley Avenue in 1933.

Edward Chatterton ‘Paddy’ Apling (1925-2018)

Edward Chatterton Apling, better known as Paddy, was born on 11 April 1925 at 33 Bengal Road, Ilford. His parents were Anne (née Brown) and Stanley. From 1932, he lived at 45 Hatley Avenue, with his parents and sister, Margaret; in 1936, Paddy’s maternal grandparents joined the family. Paddy attended Hainault High School in Richmond Road (a private school run by his great aunts), and then Cranbrook College in Mansfield Road from 1936 until 1941. On 28 October 1944, he married Marjorie Dalby at All Saints church, Goodmayes. Marjorie Olive Dalby had been born on 3 March 1924 in Gibraltar. The 1939 Register recorded Marjorie as a factory hand, living at 57 Mayesbrook Road, Goodmayes, with her mother Amy, younger brother Cyril, and two other people for whom the records are still officially closed.

Towards the end of the Second World War, Paddy was called up, and in 1944, he was sent to the Officer Cadet Training Unit at Sandhurst. He continued in the army after the war, serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Armoured Corps in Italy. On leaving the army, Paddy completed his education at the South-West Essex Technical College, leaving in 1950. Paddy and Marjorie lived in Ilford and, by 1951, had two sons and a daughter. In 1959, the family moved to Chesham, and later to Reading where Paddy was a lecturer at the university, retiring in 1986. Paddy and Marjorie’s last home was in Woodrising, Norfolk, where Marjorie died on 16 December 2007 and Paddy died on 4 October 2018.

In later life, Paddy described himself as a retired food scientist interested in genealogy, Norfolk local history, politics, and philately. His ‘interest’ in politics was rather an understatement, for despite, or maybe because of, what he once referred to as his ‘undoubtedly petit bourgeois’ upbringing, Paddy became an important member of the Communist Party of Great Britain. There is a significant amount of information online about this aspect of his life, particularly on these websites:

- <https://grahamstevenson.me.uk/2008/09/19/paddy-apling/>
- <https://louisproyect.org/2009/01/27/ec-paddy-apling/>
- <http://robabbott.blogspot.com/2019/01/an-appreciation-of-paddy-apling.html>

Chatterton Brown (1860-1945)

Chatterton Brown was born on 12 December 1860 in West Butterwick, Lincolnshire. He was one of 10 brothers and sisters, nine of whom had Chatterton as their second name – by the time Chatterton himself was born his parents had run out of alternative first names! Following the death of his father in 1887, Chatterton came to Ilford to be farm bailiff for his cousin (and brother-in-law), Robert George Brown, at Goodmayes Farm. Chatterton’s sister, Katherine (Kate), had married



Chatterton and Kathleen Brown outside 45 Hatley Avenue in 1936.

their cousin Robert in 1879; she was subsequently the mother of Rupert Brown, the last farmer at Gaysham Hall Farm.

On 30 August 1899, Chatterton married Kathleen Wicks (born on 31 August 1870) at St Mary the Virgin church, Ilford. The couple lived at 8 Cambridge Road, Seven Kings, with their daughter Anne (born in 1901). In 1936, Chatterton and Kathleen joined their daughter and son-in-law's family at 45 Hatley Avenue, Barkingside. Within a year, Kathleen had died (on 27 September 1937, buried at Holy Trinity, Barkingside, on 1 October), but Chatterton remained with the family until almost the end of his life. Probate records show that Chatterton died on 20 August 1945 at 'Sunnyside', Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge, Hampshire; I believe this was the home of Kathleen Coleman, one of Chatterton's nieces.

Hainault High School

Two of Paddy Apling's great aunts – Anne (known as Daisy) and Dorothy Wicks, sisters of Chatterton Brown's wife, Kathleen – founded Hainault High School in Ilford. The Wicks family (four daughters and two sons) had moved to Ilford via Piggotts Farm, Abridge, and Bury St Edmunds. In 1891, the family was living at 3 Hainault Terrace, High Road, Ilford, where 22-year-old Anne's occupation was recorded as schoolmistress. Trade directories show that between at least 1894 and 1899 Anne was running her own private school at Hainault Terrace.

The 1901 census recorded three of the sisters, Anne, Dorothy and Bessie, living with their parents at 13 Richmond Road, the address of Hainault High School, where Anne and 22-year-old Dorothy were both schoolmistresses. By 1911, Anne and Dorothy were both recorded as Principals at the school; Anne was still Principal in 1930. Anne, Dorothy and Bessie remained unmarried all their lives and, a few years after Bessie had died in 1930, Anne and Dorothy retired to a cottage known as 'The Homestead' in Great Bardfield, Essex. They were living there in 1936 and it was still their home at the time of the 1939 Register.

The V2 rocket attack

During the course of the Second World War, 34 V1 flying bombs ('doodlebugs') and 35 V2 rockets fell on Ilford; more V2 rockets fell on Ilford than on any other local authority area in the London Civil Defence Region.

The Apling's home at 45 Hatley Avenue received its first war damage on Friday 30 June 1944, when a 'doodlebug' fell nearby on Dr Barnardo's Homes. The explosion blew most of the tiles from the roof of the house, which had to be covered with four large tarpaulins.

Long-range V2 rocket attacks followed from November and, at 9.00 am on Monday 26 February 1945, one of these severely damaged 45 Hatley Avenue. Stanley had already left for work and, although Nancy and Chatterton were injured, the missile caused no deaths at no 45. The Civilian War Dead Register recorded only two fatalities in the attack: across the road at no 54 (40-year-old Constance Margaret Thorpe) and no 56 (Olive Mary Milne, also 40 years of age). Nos 54 and 56 were completely destroyed in the explosion.

Stanley's memoirs recorded that at no 45, whilst the lounge, hall and garage were in ruins, the back rooms remained fairly intact except for the loss of the walls between them and the front rooms. Upstairs, the three front bedrooms had all been destroyed, leaving the back bedroom, bathroom and toilet open to public gaze. Chatterton had been sitting on his bed in the back bedroom at the time of the explosion, when suddenly he could see right through to the houses in the next road (Hastings Avenue).

Following the destruction of the home, the family was split up for a while. Stanley lived in a company house at Cobham, Surrey, where Eagle Star had been evacuated at the start of the war; and Nancy lived with Stanley's brother, Harry, in East Dereham, Norfolk. Chatterton moved in with his sisters-in-law, Anne and Dorothy Wilks in Great Bardfield, Essex, but he was in Fordingbridge, Hampshire, when he died in August 1945. In mid-1945, Stanley and Nancy were reunited, temporarily rehoused by the council in a requisitioned property elsewhere in Ilford. They returned to their rebuilt home at 45 Hatley Avenue in 1949.

Contacting the Apling family

Early in my research, I discovered that, well into his 80s, Paddy Apling was a prolific user of the internet, and had created a substantial website of Apling/Brown family genealogy and Norfolk local history; this is now archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20180718084613/http://apling.freesevers.com:80/index.htm>. I also found an e-mail and postal address for him. Not knowing then that Paddy had recently died, in June 2019 I sent off an e-mail explaining how I had acquired the album and that I would very much like to return it to the Apling family; I also put a copy of my message in the post. Shortly afterwards, I discovered that Paddy had died eight months previously and, by checking the postal address on Zoopla, I also learnt that his house – to which I had posted a copy of my e-mail – had been sold in early 2019.

With the trail now cold, my only chance of contacting the Aplings lay in the hope that my message would work its way to Paddy's descendants through the postal system. I was therefore particularly pleased when, a week later, I received an e-mail from one of Paddy's grandsons. He explained that after Paddy's death in October 2018, the family had kept some of Stanley's photo albums, but the one that had ended up with me was amongst those taken by the house clearance company and sold on. The family had no desire for the album to be returned, so I will be retaining it for the foreseeable future. (The collection of photographs of Stanley's early life in Ilford mentioned above, which was broken up and sold in late 2018/early 2019, almost certainly came from this house clearance.)

Conclusion

Stanley Apling was an inveterate recorder of family affairs and travel scenes for over 70 years. His collection of nearly 4,000 photographs was displayed in more than 20 albums, and was very much an archive of the history of the 20th century. Regrettably, much of the collection has now been broken up and dispersed; given the Apling and Brown families' strong Ilford connections, the Redbridge local studies archive would have made an appropriate home for the albums.

To make sense of the people and locations in the album that I have acquired, the images have to be considered alongside Stanley's memoirs and Paddy's website. Taken together, they give a fascinating insight into one middle-class Ilford family's life during the 1930s.

© Alan Simpson, 28 June 2019

Since Alan sent his article Redbridge Heritage Centre has acquired Nancy's diaries from 1942 onwards and has taken scans of many of the images in the album.



George Beazley and the area around The Wash

Ownership of Cranbrook Park

With regard to the latter part of Cranbrook Park's history, the Victoria County History has this to say: *Hall-Dare died in 1836, leaving Cranbrook to his second son Henry, who sold it, some time after 1847, to John Davis. It passed on Davis's death in 1863 to his son John Coope Davis, who sold it to George Beasley (sic). In 1897 Beasley sold the estate to William P. Griggs, a builder. The last occupier of Cranbrook House, A. S. Walford, gave up his tenancy in 1899, and by 1901 the house had been demolished and the estate cut up for building.*

The Essex Record Office holds an auction document relating to Cranbrook Park for the sale on 7th June 1877.⁵ The ERO also hold documents containing letters dated 16th July 1878 requesting payment from George Beazley of a total of £27,800.⁶

Tasker slightly confuses the issue when he wrote that "The manor again changed hands several times, being either owned or occupied by Mr Gray, Mr Stearn (who died here), Mr Hadley, Sheriff of London, whose brother was afterwards Lord Mayor, Mr Beasley (sic), Mr Phillips, Mr Beasley again."⁷ George Philips is listed as the occupier in the 1881 census and 1882 Kelly's Directory of Essex but in the following Directory of 1886, the occupier is shown as George Beazley. It's difficult to believe that Beazley sold the estate only then to buy it back but we cannot rule out that possibility.

Last days and after the sale

It is fairly well-known that George Beazley was the last owner of Cranbrook Park and sold the estate to Peter Griggs in 1897. But when I was looking through the list of building plans, I came across Beazley's name as a proposer of several plans around the southern end of the estate where The Drive now meets Cranbrook Road.

These plans and corresponding ones proposed by Peter Griggs are shown below:

Date	Plan No.	Proposer	Building Type	Location
Sept 1897	214	Beazley	Houses	9-10 Cranbrook Villas (later 146-148 Cranbrook Rd, and now part of the Rossmore Hotel)
Apr 1898	418	Beazley	Road plan	The Drive. Description from paper records but no plan exists
Apr 1898	420	Beazley	Houses	2-16 Mayfair Road (south side). This became Beaufort Gardens. The plan shows 10 Cranbrook Villas under construction
Apr 1898	422	Beazley	Houses	8-14 The Drive
Sept 1898	565	Griggs	Houses	8-14 The Drive
Apr 1901	1296	Beazley	Road plan	Mayfair Road (later Beaufort Gardens)
Feb 1902	1652	Griggs	Houses	2-20 Beaufort Gardens (north side) ⁸
Feb 1902	1669	Griggs	Houses	1-13 Beaufort gardens (south side)

⁵ ERO ref. D/DSa 1328/6

⁶ ERO ref. D/DU 1650/2

⁷ Tasker *Ilford Past and Present* (1901), p82. Hadley is listed as one of the tenants in the 1877 Auction catalogue.

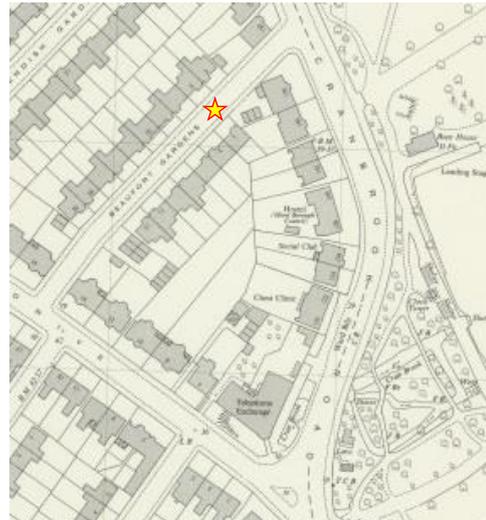
⁸ Note that odds and evens switched sides in the Griggs plans,

And what to make of this item in the Ilford Guardian from 24th April 1908?

Footpath at Cranbrook Park Villas

The Clerk reported the result of the communication he had addressed to the occupants, and Messrs Beazley Bros. and Co, the owners of Cranbrook Park Villas with reference to the widening of the footpath in front of their property to the effect that the owners would favourably consider a scheme for the improvement giving up sufficient land and using their influence with the tenants...

There is a lot to unpick here and it might help at this stage to show the area in question from two Ordnance Survey maps – firstly from 1893, the second from 1962.



Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

But the houses in the left-hand map were built while Cranbrook Park was still occupied. Construction dates for them are hard to establish since according to the sources available they were built before the earliest date for which the Heritage Section has plans. To get a rough idea, written sources will have to suffice.

The 1881 Census records an occupier living at Sidney Villa, Cranbrook Road; and four houses under construction in Cranbrook Road.⁹ The 1882 rate books of the Ilford Burial Board show Sidney Villa and six Cranbrook Villas being occupied.¹⁰ Kelly's Directory of 1886 for Essex has Sidney Villa and numbers 1 and 3-8 Cranbrook Villas occupied. Therefore, we can say with some confidence, that Sidney Villa was built in c.1879-80, and Cranbrook Villas soon afterwards. Ownership of these houses is shown in the IBB rate books as George Beazley.

As for the occupiers, these were not built to house workers on the estate. John Norton, the occupier of Sidney Villa was a drysalter, while the occupations of those living in Cranbrook Villas in 1891 included a wholesale stationer, retired auctioneer, merchant's clerk, and a Baptist minister.¹¹ In the late 1890s, number 1 was occupied by Herbert Shaw later to be Borough Engineer. By the early 1920s, numbers 1 and 2 were being used for the Ilford Council Maternity Home and then as a TB and chest clinic before being demolished and

⁹ 1881 census, Ilford D6.33.

¹⁰ Held in the Heritage Centre

¹¹ A drysalter was a dealer in salts, chemicals and dyes. 1891 Census, Ilford D5.38-9

replaced some years ago. Number 4 was, for many years and until recently the Rafa Club. By 1899 Mrs Elizabeth Hills had set up Cranbrook Park School in number 6. Renamed The Park School by 1931, it had expanded to take over number 5 by 1933. Numbers 7-8 were incorporated into the Rossmore Hotel, together with 9-10 which were built, as can be seen in the table above, in the late 1890s.

Sidney Villa is an attractive red-brick-faced house which now lies just before the Telephone Exchange at the end of The Drive. There were two distinct types of Cranbrook Villa – 1-4 and 7-8 were three-storey, while 5-6 were two storey double-fronted houses.

Sidney Villa, 6 The Drive (photograph by the author)



Cranbrook Road with Cranbrook Villas in the background (Date?)

Reproduced by kind permission of the Redbridge Heritage Centre.

Some assumptions over timing

Tasker appears to have known that Beazley retained part of the Estate when he wrote of “*the greater part of the land having been bought in 1897 by Mr W.P.Griggs...*”¹² Look again at that map from 1893 and note the straight line drawn across from the driveway of the house to Cranbrook Road. (see ★) This is very close to being down the middle of the present Beaufort Gardens and could explain why, initially, Beazley only submitted a plan for houses on the south side of that new road.

A leaflet which I sent out recently soliciting information from householders brought nothing apart from an as yet unsubstantiated claim that Griggs signed a lease for a house in Beaufort Gardens in March 1899. So, using the information that we have to hand it is possible to construct a timeline of events.

At some point in 1897 but certainly before August, Beazley sells the majority of the Cranbrook Park Estate to Peter Griggs but retains the triangular piece of land by the entrance to the park. In September of the same year, Beazley had a plan for two villas on Cranbrook Road approved lying to the north of the eight he had had built in the 1880s. The following April Beazley had three plans approved - a road plan for The Drive (now missing), houses on the south side of what he called Mayfair Road, and houses along The Drive to the north of

¹² Tasker *Ilford Past and Present* (1901), p82.

Sidney Villa. But between then and September he appears to have sold the land on The Drive but not including Sidney Villa itself to Griggs. At some point before February 1902 Beazley then also sold land along what is now Beaufort Gardens to Griggs. If the unconfirmed information about Griggs signing a lease in March 1899 is correct, why did Beazley then submit a road plan for Beaufort Gardens in 1901?

Beazley now owned Sidney Villa and Cranbrook Villas and presumably disposed of them at some point individually or collectively after April 1908.¹³

Conclusion

Beazley's motive for building these houses in the latter part of Cranbrook Park's history isn't known but possibly to generate income for the estate but whatever his reasons for doing so a small part of the estate has been left to us. Given that Griggs tended to build houses on a mass scale and to similar designs, the houses that Beasley had built stand out in the area as being very much from an earlier time.

© *Dr Colin Runeckles, 26 February 2020*

A “Conversation on a Park Bench”

Last year I was contacted by Anna Scott-Brown, a BBC Radio 4 producer, and asked if I wanted to be interviewed on a bench in Valentines Park about Ilford and its history. It's not the sort of invitation I receive every day but I said yes. It's a tough job meeting women in a park but someone's got to do it.

So in October I met Anna who had travelled down from Manchester with her recording gear and we sat outside Valentines Mansion on the still damp bench- (set there in memory of Levi Miller) for a long chat about Ilford's history, how it had changed, how successive waves of new immigrants had moved into Ilford and whether the locals still felt pride in the town. Fortunately the rain held off. As we were talking a young, newly married couple strolled by and Anna jumped up and quickly interviewed them as well!

I told her that Ilford had been a farming, agricultural village community and things began to change in the 1880s/1890s after the sale of farm estates like Clements and thousands of houses were built so the population increased. I mentioned that at one time Ilford had been described as “all sky and turnips” (Anna liked that), that there was even a pub called the Cauliflower, and as the village grew into an Edwardian suburb Ilford offered the cheapest mortgages around to encourage families to move here. Ilford was described in 3 words, the 3 P's: Pride, Poverty and Pianos. In the 1930s my mother once described Ilford in one word: “snooty”.

After I had opened the talk on the programme, many more passers-by who were just out enjoying a stroll in the Park (a great public amenity that was saved from the developers) and those who had made appointments to be interviewed and meet her, gave their views. Most of them I didn't know but Michael Foley took part and a local poet Hussain Manawar read a long poem and he too mentioned Ilford's snootiness. He talked about optimism, and how cosmopolitan and diverse Ilford was, that people were still on the move, in and out. It was

¹³ Beazley also probably owned The Lodge where the current telephone exchange now stands although this assumption hasn't been explored.

mentioned by others that the earlier white indigenous population had moved out into Essex or even up to Chigwell. A woman talked about catching stickleback fish in Valentines canal- similar in a way to poet Denise Levertov's memories of Ilford and the Park. Jobs, homes and good transport links brought people to live in Ilford. However, one man came to live here because of the problems and memories of partition between India and Pakistan in 1948 where his family had suffered. Ilford became a place of refuge. A gentleman talked about his memories of his bar mitzvah in the synagogue in nearby Beehive Lane- where I had my bar mitzvah. But it wasn't all history or nostalgia. On the darker side one person talked about the current problems of prostitution along Ilford Lane, and crime, gangs and drugs were mentioned. I talked about the council wanting to continually build new blocks of flats, so old familiar landmarks were disappearing. Generally the mood of the programme was upbeat but although Anna asked me if there was still pride in Ilford it was difficult to agree. I like Ilford a lot, but then I'm biased.

The programme "Conversations on a Park Bench" is one of a series, broadcast on Sunday 19 March 2020, BBC Radio 4, repeated on the following Saturday.

Jef Page, 19 March 2020.

White's Farm



White's Farm, 1 April 1988



White's Farm, 14 January 2012, now the East London Christian Fellowship Centre

Both photographs by Georgina Green

The illustration above is from The Archive Photograph series *Ilford, a Second Selection*, compiled by Ian Dowling and Nick Harris, page 71. It shows produce, including peas, from John Fountain's Whites Farm in Oaks Lane at Aldborough Hatch, outside the wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Southwark c.1901. The market workers in the foreground are accompanied by Mr Roberts, a stall holder from Barkingside (wearing a bowler hat).

IHS Programme for Summer 2020 has been cancelled.

Under normal circumstances, 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. There are often walks for members in the summer.

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.

If gatherings recommence by September our programme for the autumn is:

14 September 2020 *Domestic Service in an Essex Town, Ilford 1850-1914.*

by Rev John Brown, St Lukes church, Ilford.

12 October 2020 *The Odyssey of a Suburban Church.*

A History of the Wycliffe Church from the Minories to the Cranbrook Road, Ilford.

by Michael Potter, Ilford HS member.

9 November 2020 *The Sale of Clements 1879.* The

Beginnings of Modern Ilford.

by Dr Colin Runeckles, local historian and Ilford HS member.

14 December 2020 *Christmas Social, Quiz & “Will no one rid me of this turbulent*

priest?” Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered 29 December 1170 in Canterbury Cathedral and 2020 is the 850th anniversary.

by Jef Page President, Ilford HS.



The Society's new Twitter account.

Social media can be an excellent way of spreading the news about events and news. The Society has had a Facebook page since June 2017, and a Twitter account since September 2019. It currently has 95 followers including organisations such as Essex Archaeology, the Centre for the History of People Place and Community, the British Association for Local History, the VCH Essex Trust, and the Essex Record Office; besides a good number of individual accounts of local residents. Regular tweets include flyers for the monthly talks (and follow up photos), and anything that the account holder considers to be of interest but steers clear of anything likely to be controversial or not the views of the Society as a whole e.g. local political issues. Details of how to access the account online are made available at all of the Society's meetings.

The next newsletter will be posted out to members or will be available from the editor (details on page 1) after 15th August. This will include the full 2020-21 programme



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