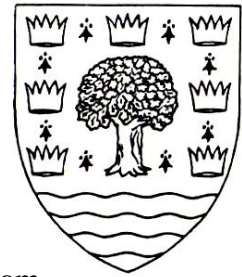


Ilford Historical Society

Newsletter No.139 August 2022



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

God Save our Gracious Queen!

As we enjoyed the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the reign of our Queen, the people of Ukraine suffered the 100th day of the Russian invasion. As we feasted and rejoiced, they were hungry and afraid. I would like to copy below a few extracts from the Queen's Christmas speech in 1957, the first time it was televised. Her sentiment is just as true today as it was then.

"That it is possible for some of you to see me today is just another example of the speed at which things are changing all around us. . . . But it is not the new inventions which are the difficulty. The trouble is caused by unthinking people who carelessly throw away ageless ideals as if they were old and outworn machinery.

They would have religion thrown aside, morality in personal and public life made meaningless, honesty counted as foolishness and self-interest set up in place of self-restraint.



At this critical moment in our history we will certainly lose the trust and respect of the world if we just abandon those fundamental principles which guided the men and women who built the greatness of this country and Commonwealth.

Today we need a special kind of courage, not the kind needed in battle but a kind which makes us stand up for everything that we know is right, everything that is true and honest. We need the kind of courage that can withstand the subtle corruption of the cynics so that we can show the world that we are not afraid of the future.

It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.

In each country [visited during the year] I was welcomed as your representative. These nations are our friends largely because we have always tried to do our best to be honest and kindly and because we have tried to stand up for what we believe to be right.

In the old days the monarch led his soldiers on the battlefield and his leadership at all times was close and personal. Today things are very different. I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else, I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.

I believe in our qualities and in our strength, I believe that together we can set an example to the world which will encourage upright people everywhere." <http://www.royal.gov.uk/imagesandbroadcast>.

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Iford Historical Society, AGM, 11 April 2022

The society's AGM was held on Monday 11 April in Studio 2 at the Central Library.

In his president's report, Jef Page spoke about the effect that Covid has had on us over the past two years. He stressed that we are not clear of it yet but, protected by vaccines, we felt confident enough to hold our first open meeting in September. We have tried to continue zooming our 'live talks' to members who cannot attend our meetings. This is a complicated procedure and has had limited success but we are determined to get it right.

Jef paid tribute to members who we have lost this year, including John Sharrock, our former treasurer and, more recently, our vice chairman and Jean Potter.

Jef detailed the positives that we have. Our bank balance is a healthy £3000 plus. Dr Colin Runeckles now manages our website as well as our Twitter account and Martin Fairhurst manages our Facebook page. Georgina Green edits our excellent newsletter and the printing is expertly carried out by Vincent Goodman of Speedprint. We currently have 57 members. Because we are in funds, it was proposed by our treasurer, Sylvia Frydland, and agreed by members at the AGM, that the subscription should stay at £10 (£3 for visitors).

Jef outlined the programme of talks and walks for 2022-23. He also mentioned some changes happening this year. Sylvia and Sinclair Frydland are moving away which means we are not only losing our treasurer but also the hospitality provided by Sinclair both at the meetings and at their home during committee meetings. In another change, we have extended the room hire on meeting nights from 6.30pm until 9.30pm. Doors will open at 7.00pm and the talk will still start at 7.30 as usual. This gives us more time to set-up and enables time for discussion afterwards.

Although most of the committee has remained the same, (that is, Jef Page president and chairman, Janet Seward, secretary and Martin Fairhurst and Alan Simpson as committee members), Carol Franklin is not seeking re-election. Lynn Jones and Kay Waheed will join the committee. Colin Runeckles is now our treasurer. All our vice presidents were re-elected and Peter Haseldine was accepted as the examiner of our accounts.

Jef's full report can be found on the IHS website at [Chairman/President's Reports - Iford Historical Society \(weebly.com\)](http://www.ifordhistoricalsociety.com/Chairman/President's%20Reports%20-%20Iford%20Historical%20Society%20(weebly.com))

© *Janet Seward, Secretary, Iford Historical Society, 27 June 2022.*

Our Star Attraction! Iford's Super Cinema 1922-45

A brand new 'super cinema' arrived in Iford 100 years ago, in fact that was its name. Iford grew from a Victorian village of 11,000 (1891), by 1922 its population had gone ballistic to over 85,000 and this thriving suburb enticed families to new houses and amenities. Iford went from 'all sky and turnips' to the '3 Ps': 'Pride, Poverty and Pianos'. Part of Iford's pride was its attractive new entertainment facilities as cinemas sprung up after 1900. The Hippodrome music hall attracted the best artistes opened in 1909. The Biograph cinema opened on Iford Hill in 1911, the Cinema de Luxe was on the High Road, the Empire and Kinema were on Iford Lane and the Astoria was in Seven Kings.

Between the 1920s-30s cinema became the most popular form of entertainment whilst the radio and piano were for families at home. Pubs drew crowds supporting Iford's football and cricket teams but films offered dreams, romance, glamour and comedy and after the horrors of World War I (Iford's WWI Memorial was unveiled in 1922) Hollywood's silent films and 'talkies'

opened up new worlds. Charlie Chaplin, Rudolph Valentino and Clara Bow became international stars drawing huge audiences whilst Al Jolson's "*The Jazz Singer*" (1927) brought words and songs to the screen.

Built by Premier Super Cinemas Ltd, in 1929 Gaumont Cinemas took it over. By the 1930s the elegant Super, Ilford's most popular cinema, offered a sumptuous restaurant, music from a grand organ, was used as a variety theatre and could hold a full orchestra. It seated Ilford's largest audience: 2,336 (the Hippodrome seated 1,874) and was on The Broadway between Ley Street and Balfour Road opposite Ilford station: a deluxe improvement on the usual flea-pits. Its end was sad: the building was hit by a V2 on 8 February 1945, two usherettes were killed*, many more were injured and it was left a forlorn, badly damaged sight until pulled down in 1958 in favour of a new C&A clothes store. The Super made going to the 'flics' fun for many couples and in its day did a great job- as going to the movies still does today- especially with popcorn!

The Super Cinema is on Google, Pinterest, Cinema Theatres and in "*The Cinemas of Essex*" by Bob Grimwood, 1995.

*The usherettes were Mrs H Gray and Mrs N Walsh. The foreman of the Cinema was Private S Walker who was killed in action (1945?). From "*Kinematograph Weekly* 26 December 1945.

© *Jef Page, President, Ilford Historical Society. 20 June 2022.*



"*Turn to the Right*" was an American silent film, released there in February 1922 so maybe the first film shown in the Super.

Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre, Update

Royal Redbridge. To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, the Museum opened a display of Royal memorabilia and local history objects associated with the visits of the Queen to Redbridge in 1945, 1949, 2002, and 2012. This is on display on the ground floor of Redbridge Central Library. We also made a new film about the Royal visits and this can be seen on the Museum's YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5TUTcc_rpk

Design plans for the new permanent local history exhibition are now being finalised and construction works will start very soon. I've been busily writing text panels and object captions, and choosing images, which seems a never-ending task, especially when everything has to be so succinct! I hope to share text with several IHS members to comment and fact-check. At the moment, it feels like the calm before the storm and I'm sure the months will fly by before we open, probably in late October / early November.

Finally, some of you may know that Dawn Galer, the Heritage Collections Officer, left to take up a new job in April. Dawn transformed the management of the archives since she started in 2008. Her professionalism, management skills, and attention to detail was matched by her warm, engaging manner and she will be very much missed. We are fortunate that Paula Wade, the Library Reference & Information Manager, will be based in the Heritage Centre to cover her duties.

© *Gerard Greene, Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre Manager, 1 July 2022*

A lodge by any other name: Claybury Lodge, Tomswood Lodge, or Forest Lodge?

Introduction

In January 2022, Georgina Green gave an online presentation to Loughton & District Historical Society about her research based on tithe maps covering much of what is now the London Borough of Redbridge. In a follow-up e-mail, Marilyn Smee asked if Georgina's research had uncovered anything about 'Tomswood Lodge' on the Ilford/Chigwell border where her relatives had lived. With input from Georgina, Chris Pond, Lynn Haseldine-Jones, Marilyn, and Derek and Christine Flack (Marilyn's cousin), I subsequently set about trying to find out what could be discovered about this property.

Throughout my research, I came across this building under several names: Claybury Lodge, Tomswood Lodge, Forest Lodge, and Claybury Forest Lodge. For consistency, except where quoting an original source, I will call it Claybury Lodge here.

1800s

Located close to where the parishes of Chigwell, Barking, and Woodford met, but lying just inside the Chigwell boundary, Claybury Lodge was built at the start of the nineteenth century for James Hatch, owner of the neighbouring Claybury estate¹. Hatch and his descendants greatly extended their holdings through extensive purchase of adjoining lands in the first decades of the nineteenth century. In 1800, he bought the manor of Chigwell and West Hatch, paying more than £30,000 for 1,430 acres and had a new driveway constructed to the north of Claybury Hall. This left the main road from London to Ongar² and ran south through Hainault Forest on the line of modern-day Forest Lane and New Forest Lane³. It crossed the forest tracks which were to become Manor Road⁴ and Tomswood Road⁵ to emerge into the great clearing known as Golders⁶ and curve across to the belt of trees behind Claybury Hall. Its course is clearly shown on the first edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey map published in 1805. Within a year of constructing the new road, Hatch had built a picturesque lodge beside it.

As part of the royal Forest of Waltham, Hainault Forest was subject to forest law administered by the forest courts. One of these was the Court of Attachment, held for many years at 'The King's Head' in Chigwell. The court heard cases of trespass against the 'vert' (timber) of the forest, which was treated as a crime and punished accordingly. By the late eighteenth century, however,

¹ James Hatch (1751-1806) was a malt distiller from Bromley-by-Bow who became very wealthy as a partner in the Four Mills distillery on the river Lea. In 1786, he purchased the Claybury estate, where he demolished the old Claybury Hall and had a new one built to the designs of Jesse Gibson (1748-1828). Hatch also had the grounds of his Claybury estate landscaped by Humphry Repton (1752-1818).

² From 1763, this turnpike road was maintained by the Middlesex & Essex Highway Trust.

³ See references to New Road and Lodge of James Hatch – Court of Attachments, July 1800, June 1801 – LMA CLC/232/MS01511; ERO D/CT 78A (no 741); ERO D/CT 18 (nos 2589, 2592-94).

⁴ As late as 1817, it was stated at the Essex Assizes that Manor Road was not a public highway because it was only a 'fair weather road'.

⁵ In the early nineteenth century, what would become Tomswood Road was little more than a forest track. When Claybury Asylum was constructed in the late 1880s, Tomswood Hill was improved and extended into Tomswood Road.

⁶ Earlier forms of this name are 'Goldhurst' and 'Gouldhurst', deriving from Old English *gold*, and *hyrst*, wooded eminence. In a survey of 1617 'of that part of the Parish of Barking w'ch lyeth in ye Forrest of Waltham', John Wroth Esq., then lord of the manor of Chigwell and West Hatch, is shown as holding 'Three pasture grounds adjoining and abutting upon Tomwoods Hill called Great Goulders and Little Goulders' of 69¼ acres.

the forest rights of the Crown were beginning to lapse. The rolls of the Court of Attachment for this period show numerous enclosures of parts of the forest taking place. Such offences were treated more as encroachment and, upon payment of a rent rather than a fine, the new occupier could go on using the land at an annual fee.



Image 1. Claybury Hall, built for James Hatch and painted in 1800 by Abraham Pether (1756-1812).

The Court of Attachment held on 21 July 1800 recorded that it had no objection to James Hatch’s proposal ‘to inclose Gravel Pit, at New Road, leading to Haynault Point and adjoining his Field’. Much of the land around Claybury is heavy London clay, but the geological map identifies an area of glacial gravel beneath what is now New Forest Lane. It seems likely that the gravel pits enclosed by Hatch were here.



Image 2. Ordnance Survey map, originally at 1 inch to the mile, Old Series, Sheet 1, surveyed 1799-1800, published 1805. James Hatch’s new driveway can be seen in the centre, heading south through the forest and then snaking across fields before ending at the rear of Claybury Hall. Claybury Lodge is not yet shown, but its location is at the southern edge of the forest where the driveway leaves the trees.

A year later, at the Court of 29 June 1801, James Hatch was presented ‘for enclosing another piece of Land which he has built a Lodge on containing about 40 rods in Chigwell’; and ‘for inclosing 2 other pieces of Forest which he has made a Shrubbery of at the end of his new Road, near Lady Hughes Gate in W[est] F[orest]’.

A ‘mystery’ photograph (see page 12) shows the north elevation of Hatch’s lodge, pretty much as originally built, and in a style known as ‘cottage orné’⁷. One online definition of cottage orné states:

To be considered an authentic cottage orné, the cottage must conform to a certain set of stylistic guidelines which made it compatible with a picturesque landscape. Typically, a cottage orné was a relatively small building, often with an obviously asymmetrical plan and above all, it must be in a deliberately rustic style, which usually included a thatched roof. Those thatched cottages that had an undulating roof line were considered the most ideal exemplars of the form. There were some cottages orné without thatched roofs, but they were far less common.

The majority of these cottages, in keeping with their purported rustic style, were of only one, or sometimes two stories, but seldom higher. And, in most cases, the second storey was concealed by the depth of the thatched roof, making the cottage appear to be only a single storey from the exterior.

Other architectural features which might be incorporated into the design of a cottage orné included latticed windows with panes set on the diagonal, typically in casement-style frames, ornate bargeboards on the gable ends and elaborate, oversized chimney-stacks. Verandahs were also popular, and, in an effort to make them look especially rustic, many were supported by unfinished, bark-covered tree trunks, just as they came from the forest. These verandahs were sometimes embellished with a trellis over which flowering vines were trained to grow. Ivy was sometimes used, but woodbine and climbing roses were the preferred and fashionable climbers during the Regency. Climbing plants of various types were often encouraged to grow over other parts of the cottage.

On his death in 1806, James Hatch left three daughters: Caroline (1779-1838), wife of John Rutherford Abdy (1779-1840); Jemima (1785-1814), later wife of Christopher James Mills (1782-1855); and Louisa (1792-1876), later wife of the Hon William Rufus Rous (1797-1875). As eldest daughter, Caroline and her husband, who changed his name to Hatch-Abdy, acted as joint lords of the manor of Chigwell until her death without issue in 1838. John Rutherford Hatch-Abdy died in 1840.

1820s

In 1825, a newspaper notice advertised catalogues available from Claybury Lodge for the sale of timber from the Claybury estate:

The Morning Advertiser, 9 February 1825

⁷ Cottage orné, translated as ‘decorated cottage’, dates back to a movement of ‘rustic’ stylised cottages of the late 18th and early 19th century during the Romantic Movement. English Heritage defines the term as ‘A rustic building of picturesque design’. The cottage orné style had become a fully-defined and very fashionable architectural style by the time the Regency began. It remained popular throughout Britain right through the Regency and the reign of King George IV.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This cottage may have been built at the suggestion of Humphry Repton who was commissioned by James Hatch. See his Red Book dated 1791.

Claybury Park, Woodford Bridge. – By R. PEAKE, on the Premises, on FRIDAY, Feb. 11, at Eleven, without reserve, in several Lots,

EIGHT Hundred large Ash, Fir, and Chestnut Poles, 1 Ash, 1 Walnut, and 1 Chestnut Tree, lying in Claybury Park, near Woodford Bridge, and adapted for Wheelwrights, Millwrights, and others. To be viewed on the morning of Sale. Catalogues may be had at Claybury Lodge; also at the Jolly Wheelers, Woodford Bridge; King's Head, Chigwell; White Hart, Romford; King's Head, Stratford; and of R. Peake, 68, Mark-lane, and Waltham Abbey.

1830s

In 1834, more Claybury estate timber was for sale, with catalogues again available from Claybury Lodge, where a Mr Webb was recorded as living:

The Morning Advertiser, 31 March 1834

One Hundred and Ten fine Oak Trees, Chigwell.

MR. R. PEAKE has received instructions to announce for Sale by Public Auction, at the Jolly Wheelers, Chigwell, on TUESDAY, April 8, at Two, without the least reservation, ONE HUNDRED and TEN excellent OAK TREES, with the Top and Bark, now standing, (numbered with white paint) in Hainhault Forest, near Chigwell-row, well worthy the notice of Builders, Carpenters, and Purchasers in general, and whose attention is respectfully solicited. The timber is surrounded by capital hard roads, only four miles from Romford, and nine from London. May be viewed three days previous to the Sale on application to Mr. Webb at Claybury Lodge, near the forest, of whom Catalogues may be had; also at the usual Inns in the neighbourhood; place of Sale; and at the Offices of Mr. R. Peake, No. 24 (opposite the new Corn-market), Mark-lane, and Waltham Abbey.

This timber would have had a value as building material; and when the trees were felled, the oak bark was stripped for use in the tanning process.

In 1838, the lordship of the manor of Chigwell passed to James Mills (1811-1883), nephew of Caroline Hatch-Abdy. Searching the Chigwell tithe award of 1839, shows W Webb living at plot



741, 1 rod and 30 perches, being a 'Lodge House, gdn' owned by James Mills, successor to James Hatch and the Hatch-Abdys as lord of the manor of Chigwell.

Image 3. An extract from the Chigwell tithe map of 1839. Claybury Lodge is the isolated plot (no 741) in the north-east corner.

1840s

Marilyn Smee's family were told the property was originally the gamekeeper's lodge. In 1840, William Webb was living at the lodge and had obtained a game certificate. He was recorded in the press as having a general game certificate, not specifically a gamekeeper – gamekeepers were in List 3 as 'assessed servants'.

The Chelmsford Chronicle, 18 September 1840

GAME LISTS. COUNTY OF ESSEX.

ARRANGED AND PUBLISHED BY R. TALBOT, SURVEYOR, CHELMSFORD.

(FIRST PUBLICATION.)

Persons who have obtained Game Certificates FOR THE YEAR 1840.

List 1. – GENERAL CERTIFICATES, at £3. 12s. 6d.

Webb, William, Hatfield Broad Oak

Webb, William, Claybury Lodge, Chigwell

Webb, Henry, Nazing

In 1842, James Mills bought the Golders fields (complete with tithes) from John Wight Wight, the owner of Gaysham Hall at Barkingside. By 1847, Golders was entirely arable except for a 'shaw' (fringe of trees) on the south, and it was this large and comparatively level open space which 40 years later would provide the site for the huge Claybury Asylum.

1850s



Image 4. Ordnance Survey map, originally at 1 inch to the mile, Old Series, Sheet 1 (revised to mid-1850s). Claybury Lodge is now clearly identified – 'Lodge' in the centre of the map; its approach road still extended to the north-east across Manor Road all the way to Chigwell Road.

In 1855, William D'Oyley⁸ was commissioned to make a survey of the manor of Chigwell for James Mills. D'Oyley produced 16 carefully drawn, coloured maps of estates in the manor, including Claybury Hall. The maps were bound into a volume with a general plan of the manor and a summary of areas and owners for each estate at the front. The volume was accompanied by a terrier, i.e. written records related to the map.

⁸ William D'Oyley (1812-1890) came from a family of land surveyors, who were all well known for the detailed maps and plans of south-west Essex that they compiled. In 1855 he was living in Loughton.

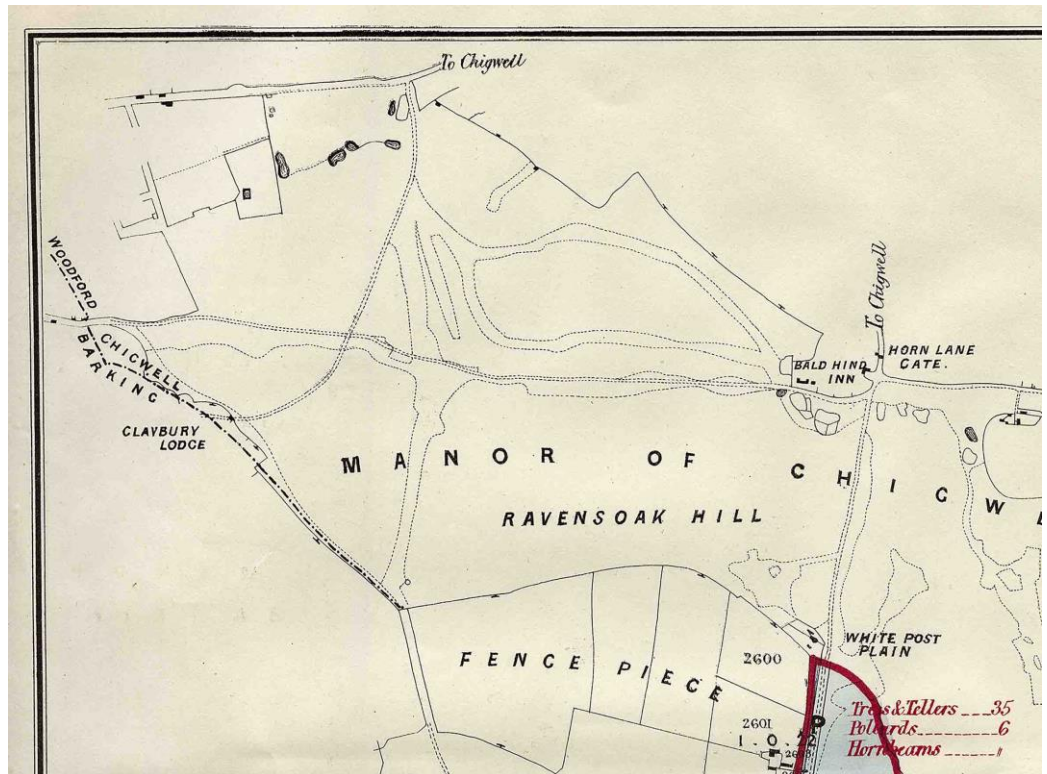


Image 5. Detail from William D'Oyley's survey of the manor of Chigwell in 1855. (London Metropolitan Archive: ref CLC/232/MS01367)

A large clearance of woodland before the disafforestation of Hainault Forest in 1851 saw the creation of Fencepiece Farm.

Comprising nearly 60 acres, this lay to the east of Golders in the parish of Barking but against the boundary with Chigwell and between the forest tracks which would become Tomswood Hill, Tomswood Road, and Fencepiece Road⁹. Dubbed by some 'the finest part of the forest', hereabouts were Strawberry Hill and Ravensoake Hill – names long since lost.

Image 6. Map referred to in the 32nd Report of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests and Land Revenues (1853-54) (based on the 'master' map published in 1851 by Thomas Thurston as part of the disafforestation process for Hainault Forest). Claybury Lodge is identified on the Chigwell/Barking border; its approach road still extended to the north-east across Manor Road all the way to Chigwell Road.



⁹ Fencepiece Road was improved from track to road by public subscription in 1833. This was perhaps the most frequently used route across the forest as it joined Fullwell Hatch on the south with Horn Lane Gate on the north leading into Chigwell.

1860s

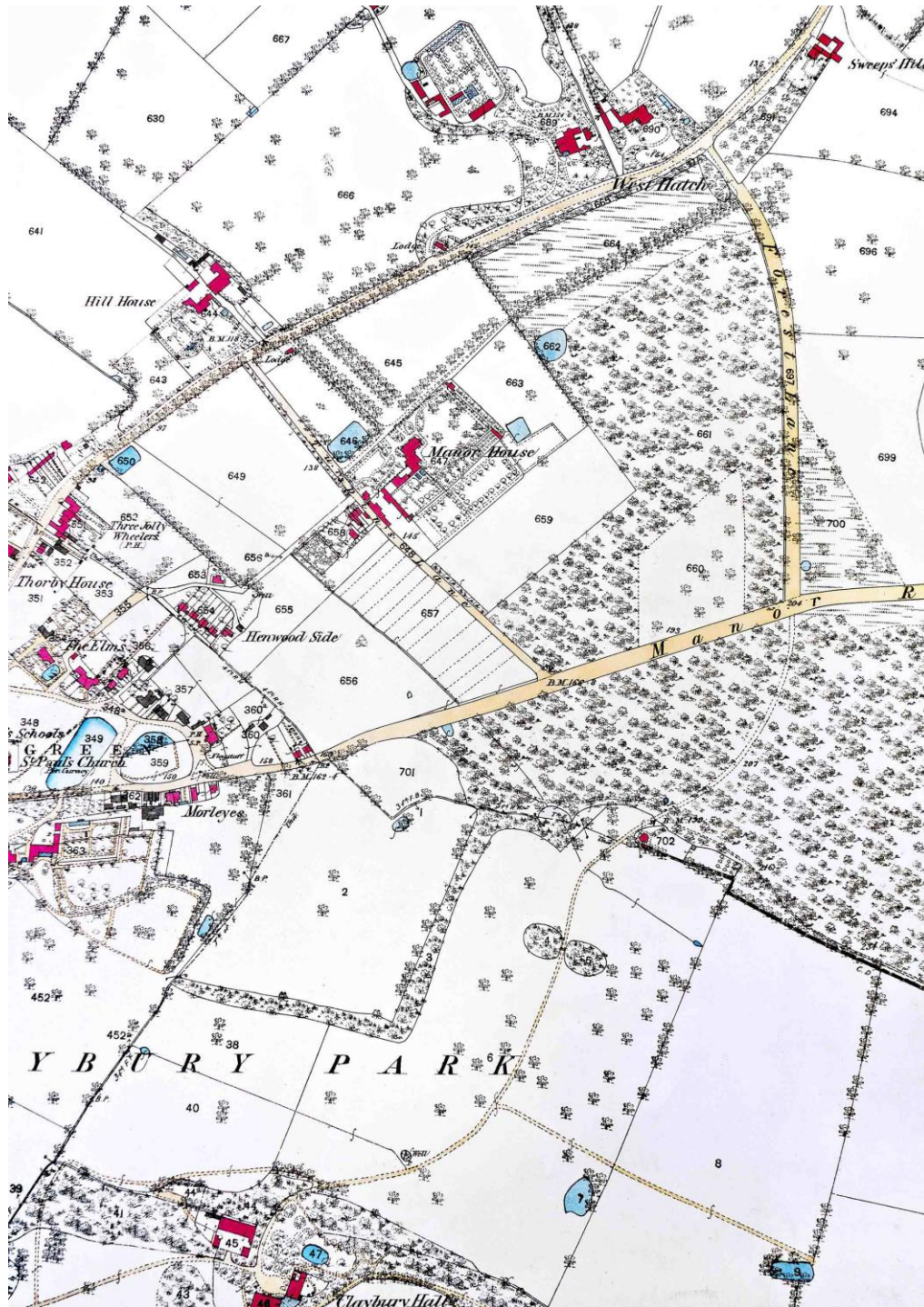


Image 7. Ordnance Survey map, originally at 25" to the mile, 1st edition, Essex sheet LXV.8, surveyed 1862-1871, published c1880. By the time of this survey, the northern part of the driveway to Claybury Lodge (in red, next to field 702) had been improved and named Forest Lane.

The 25" Ordnance Survey map of the 1860s shows the administrative boundaries clearly, and it can be seen that unnamed Claybury Lodge was literally only a few feet inside the Chigwell boundary and just a few hundred yards from the Woodford boundary. Forest Lane had been laid along the northern part of the access drive by 1867.

Although the wood beside the lower part of Tomswood Hill was much cleared by the mid-1860s, the track through it was still called 'the forest road', and more than 20 years later the area was still described as 'Hainault Forest (part of)'.

1870s

In 1873, a newspaper advertisement recorded 24-year-old 'F.E.' living at Claybury Lodge and looking for employment:

The Hour, 18 November 1873

WANTED, a SITUATION as Young Ladies' Maid, or Second. Age 24, 5½ years' good character. – Address F.E., Claybury Lodge, Woodford Bridge, Essex.

1880s

In the early 1880s, Ravensoake Hill between the Barking/Chigwell parish boundary and Manor Road retained most of its woodland. It was divided into two sections when Tomswood Hill and Tomswood Road were improved in the late 1880s. The narrower western strip flanked the north-eastern boundary of the Claybury estate and was the location of Claybury Lodge.

The census of 1881 identified the Ridgewell family at the property. Recorded as Claybury Lodge, the census enumerator noted 60-year-old general labourer William Ridgewell living there with his 59-year-old wife Elizabeth M, and the couple's 16-year-old daughter, also Elizabeth. Nineteen-year-old unmarried blacksmith Albert J Hempstead was lodging with the family. William, his daughter, and Albert had been born in Witham, Essex; Elizabeth M had been born in Heybridge, Essex.

James Mills died without issue in 1883. He was succeeded as lord of the manor of Chigwell by Lt-Col William John Rous (1833-1914), son of William Rufus Rous and Louisa Hatch (and a grandson of John Rous, 1st Earl of Stradbroke).

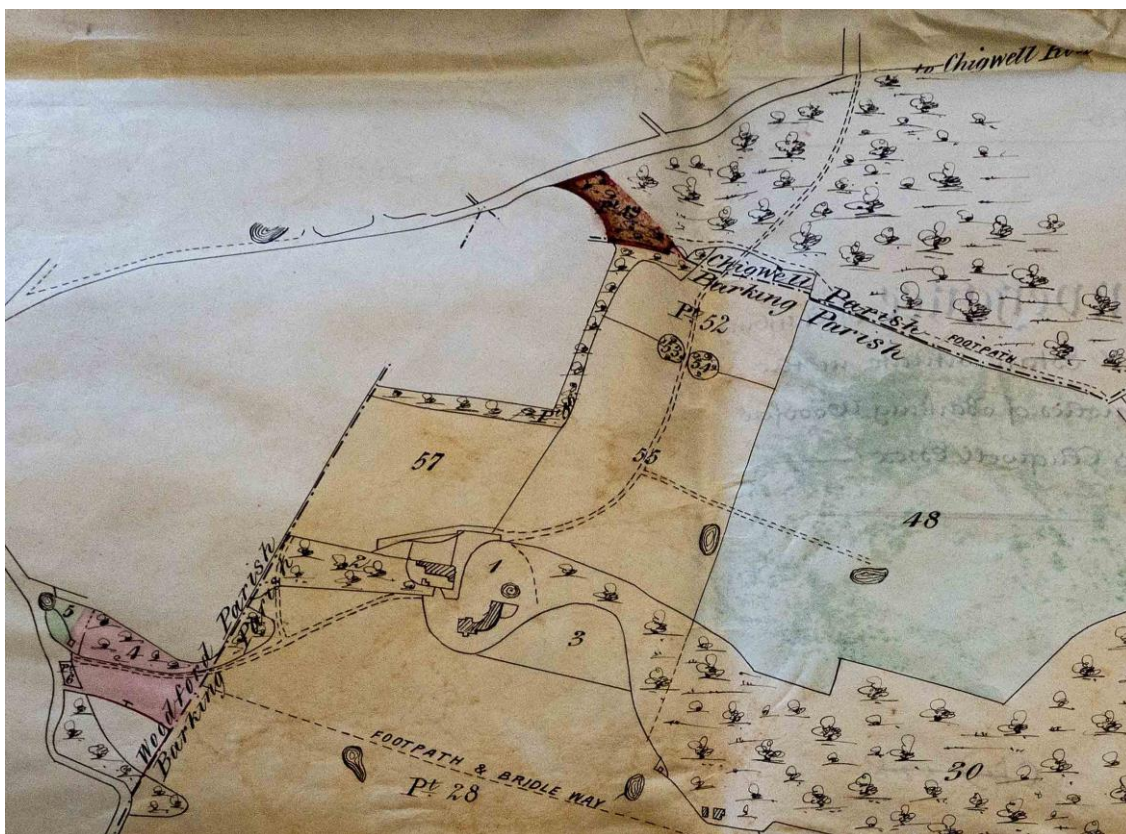


Image 8. Detail from plan of the Claybury estate in 1886. This forms part of the conveyance of the land from William John Rous to the Clerk of the Peace for Middlesex for the construction of Claybury Asylum. The driveway of 1800 still extended from the end of Forest Lane, past Claybury Lodge to the rear of Claybury Hall. Plot nos 52 and 55 were known as Lodge Field. Note the footpath on the course of what would become Tomswood Road. (London Metropolitan Archive: ref MA/D/A/04/001)

1890s

The census of 1891 recorded Claybury Lodge with four rooms occupied by seven members of the Fuller family, including 40-year-old postman George and his 30-year-old wife Elizabeth L. With them were five children: Lilly G, aged 10; Bessie K, 9; Norah, 7; George P, 6; and Stanley H, 1. The four older children were all recorded as ‘scholar’. Apart from Elizabeth, all the family had been born in Woodford; Elizabeth came from London.



Image 9. The north elevation of Claybury Lodge, with part of the recently constructed Claybury Asylum in the background. This photograph probably dates from the 1890s. (Redbridge Heritage Centre: ref P7038)

The mystery photograph turns out to be a view of Claybury Lodge, which I would date to the 1890s, shortly after Claybury Asylum opened – the prominent water tower and chimney can be seen in the background.

1900s

The 1901 census does not mention Claybury Lodge by name, and the Fuller family were recorded as living in Henwood Side. However, this is not a road name, but an old name for an area near the Woodford Bridge/Chigwell boundary. The Fullers are the last entry for this location, which is followed in the census by the two gate lodges for the new Claybury Asylum. As the family was at Claybury Lodge in 1891 and would also be there in 1911, I expect they were there in 1901 too. By this time there were eight children living with George and Elizabeth: Josephine, aged 9, Winifred, 7; and Marjorie, 5, were the new arrivals. Of the older children, Lily was now a dress/blouse machinist, Norah was a school-teacher, and George was a lightering clerk. Bessie was now recorded under her second name, Kathleen. This time, all the family were noted as having been born in Woodford Bridge, except Marjorie who was born in Chigwell.

In the early twentieth century, the imminent opening of the Ilford to Woodford railway line was increasing land values in expectation of the spread of houses. ‘Marvellously pretty is that beautiful stretch of sylvan country covering seventy acres’ enthused an Ilford journalist in May 1902¹⁰ supporting a proposal to preserve Grange Hill Forest, as it was then called, as a detached portion of Hainault Forest. An article on the ‘Reconstruction of Hainault Forest’ in *Nineteenth Century and After*¹¹ also supported efforts to include this ‘extremely beautiful piece of natural woodland’ in this larger scheme. Ilford and Woodford councils together with London County Council were ready to contribute to the purchase. Nevertheless, prolonged negotiations fell through and this woodland was not part of the final Bill which saved the remnant of Hainault Forest for the public in 1903. George Tasker, the Ilford historian, suggested a few years afterwards that the failure was partly due to LCC having insisted ‘upon the right to allow the patients of Claybury to walk in the forest’¹².

1910s

In the census of 1911, the Fuller family was still at what was then recorded as Claybury Forest Lodge. The census enumerator noted a less crowded house than ten years earlier. Now the occupants numbered seven, including retired Post Office pensioner George and his wife Elizabeth Louisa. The couple had been married for 31 years and had nine children, all living at the time of the census. Five of the unmarried offspring lived with their parents: Bessie Kathleen, 29, a dressmaker working at home; Stanley Howard, 21, an engine fitter for an engineering firm; Josephine, 19; Winnifred, 17; and Marjorie, 15. This time the census showed that all the family had been born in Woodford, apart from Elizabeth (at King’s Cross) and Marjorie (Chigwell).

During the First World War, Stanley Fuller enlisted in the Army Ordnance Corps¹³. From military records available online¹⁴, we know that he joined at Woolwich and served as an Armament Staff Sergeant (regimental no T/630) in the 5th Heavy Ordnance Mobile Workshop. He arrived in France on 14 July 1915 and in the summer of 1916 was awarded the Military Medal for an act ‘of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire’¹⁵. On 19 January 1917, Stanley was admitted to No 3 Casualty Clearing Station at Puchevillers with multiple gunshot wounds, possibly received other than in action. He died there on 23 January and was buried in Puchevillers British Military Cemetery. When probate was awarded on 9 May 1917, Stanley’s address was given as Forest Lodge, Woodford Bridge, and he left effects to the value of £213 6s 8d to his father. Stanley’s dependants who received his war pension were his mother Elizabeth

¹⁰ *Ilford Recorder*, 23 May 1902.

¹¹ Robert Hunter, *Nineteenth Century and After*, August 1902, 239-244.

¹² George Tasker, *Country Rambles around Ilford*, 1910, 40.

¹³ The Army Ordnance Corps (AOC) was concerned with the repair of weapons and the vehicles associated with weapons, as well as with the provision of technical services related to ammunition and the repair of tents, harness and similar items. Most of the men were either storemen (who dealt with ammunition and spare parts) or tradesmen (such smiths, fitters, wheelers, carpenters, saddlers, electricians, welders and tent-menders). There were also quite a few clerks to handle the paperwork related to the ordering and issue of ammunition, and a small number of armourers and armament artificers who dealt with the most demanding aspects of weapons repair. Most of the tradesmen had learned their trade in civilian life.

¹⁴ See the Ancestry, Fold3, Great War Forum, and Western Front Association websites, for example.

¹⁵ *The London Gazette*, 1 September 1916, supplement 29731, page 8655. The Military Medal was a decoration awarded to personnel of the British army below commissioned rank for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914 – as many as 115,000 Military Medals were awarded during the war. It ranked below the Distinguished Conduct Medal and was discontinued in 1993, when it was replaced by the Military Cross, which was extended to all ranks.

and sister Josephine, both living at Forest Lodge in 1919. In 1919, his family received Stanley's war gratuity of £16 0s 9d¹⁶; they also received his British War Medal and Victory Medal, but the records show that these were returned to the War Office.

Stanley's name is recorded in St Paul's church, Woodford Bridge. Here a large marble tablet lists the names of 45 men of the church who died during the First World War. The buff-coloured marble tablet, in Pre-Raphaelite style, is divided into three sections set within a dark marble frame. The inner border is decorated with ornate carving, gilt, and the names of places where soldiers fought and died. In the central section of the tablet is a figure of St George carrying a sword in one hand and standard in the other as he stands over a slain dragon. The names of those who died (set out in order of year) are presented in a list on the panels each side of St George.

Stanley's name also appears on the Woodford Bridge Roll of Honour. This commemorates 297 men of the 'Parish of Woodford Bridge and District' who served in the First World War. The memorial takes the form of a large marble tablet set within a wooden frame and is located outside on the wall of the now closed Village Rest café. The symbol of a cross appears next to the names of those who died, including Stanley. The memorial was originally erected in September 1918, but subsequently replaced in 1993.

Lord of the manor of Chigwell, William Rous, died in 1914 and he had appointed trustees to ensure that land he owned at 'Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton, Claybury, Hog Hill, Grange Hill and elsewhere in the county of Essex including the Manor of Chigwell and West Hatch' would be held on trust for the benefit of the Earl of Stradbroke; in 1914, that was George Edward John Mowbray Rous, the 3rd Earl.

1920s and 1930s

Between 1931 and 1939 there was much new building in Chigwell, including in Manor Road and Forest Lane.



Image 10. Forest Lane in the 1930s, originally laid out on the northern part of James Hatch's driveway to Claybury Hall. Most of these houses have been rebuilt in recent years on a much grander scale.

¹⁶ The war gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas.

Image 11.
*Forest Lane in
2022.*



Marilyn's grandparents (John Thomas Barber and Emmeline Mary (née Dale)) are recorded in the 1939 Register ¹⁷ living at what had then become Forest Lodge. They were there with four daughters: Margaret, Beryl, Adrienne and Brenda, and the couple ran a grocery shop at 118 Snakes Lane, Woodford ¹⁸. The family rented the three-bedroom lodge; they had no electricity or gas, no flushing toilet, used oil lamps for lighting and an Aga for cooking. The lodge could be accessed via Manor Road going through the entrance to Claybury Hospital, and also via the last part of the original driveway from Tomswood Road; this was an unmade road, very muddy when it rained. The property comprised about one and three-quarter acres at this time.

1940s

In 1944, the lodge remained in the ownership of the lord of the manor of Chigwell (the Earl of Stradbroke). Although John and Emmeline Barber were still at the lodge during the Second World War, a war damage card shows the occupier as a Mr Whittaker and the rateable value of the house was the lowest in the vicinity at £12 per annum. War damage was severe: on 14 March 1944 'high explosive; roof and ceilings'; moderate damage on 26 November 1944 'long-range rocket; windows, ceiling', also a comment on contents 'D slight food', might mean flood or water damage to contents.

In 1947/1948, Marilyn's grandparents moved from the lodge to live on a houseboat at Benfleet. Her uncle and aunt, Henry Dale and Margaret (née Barber), were living at the lodge when their daughters Christine and Linda were born. Henry and Margaret both worked at Claybury Hospital.

¹⁷ The 1939 Register (taken on 29 September) was used to produce wartime identity cards and ration books. When the Register was taken, it was with the understanding that the records would remain closed for the lifetime of the individuals listed. In the case of censuses, this same understanding is enshrined in law, meaning that all of the individuals listed are unavailable to view for 100 years and one day after the census being taken. In the case of the 1939 Register, however, techniques of redaction have meant that rather than a blanket blackout on all the records, those of people born 100 years ago or more can be seen. A system (run by the Find my Past website) scans the Register at regular intervals, opening the records of each individual as his/her date of birth becomes longer than 100 years ago. The entire 1939 Register will become available in 2040.

¹⁸ The author has a photograph of this shop. When enlarged, advertisements for Christmas 1923 can be seen. Perhaps the Barber family was already living at Claybury Lodge by that year.



Image 12. An aerial view of Claybury on 10 May 1946. Claybury Lodge can be seen amongst the trees to the north of Claybury Hospital.

1950s

A reference to the lodge in the minutes of Chigwell Urban District Council of 18 May 1950 noted:

Relocations to the new Roding Valley council estate. K S Pink, Forest Lodge, Tomswood Rd, to be relocated from Forest Lodge, unhealthy conditions.

‘K S Pink’ was Kenneth Pink, who married Adrienne Barber and, in 1951, emigrated to Australia. In February 1953, Henry and Margaret Dale purchased the lodge for £650 with the aid of a loan from Chigwell Urban District Council. At the same time, they redeemed the tithes on the lodge – an annuity of 3s 8d – paying a sum of £3 11s 3d.

The 1950s, 1960s and 1970s saw a succession of planning applications for the site of the lodge and nearby houses and bungalows along the south side of Tomswood Road:

25/06/1953	CHI/0099/53	O/A for res dev (see file PF533)	Refuse
20/05/1954	CHI/0062/54	O/A for res dev	Grant (conditions)
18/01/1956	CHI/0011/56	Prop res caravan site at Forest Lodge	Refuse
28/04/1956	ILF/0030/56	Res caravan site (Forest Lodge)	Refuse
29/08/1958	CHI/0186/58	Use site at Forest Lodge for 1 caravan	Refuse
02/09/1958	CHI/0191/58	Use site at Forest Lodge for 1 caravan	Appeal allowed (conditions)



Image 13. Claybury Lodge in the 1950s. By this time, the thatched roof had been replaced with tiles and the first-floor balcony filled in. Just beyond the building can be seen a wartime Anderson air-raid shelter.

In 1958, residential development along Tomswood Road was proceeding, and this required the diversion of the access road to the lodge. At the same time, electricity was installed, the power coming from a small sub-station constructed nearby in 1959.

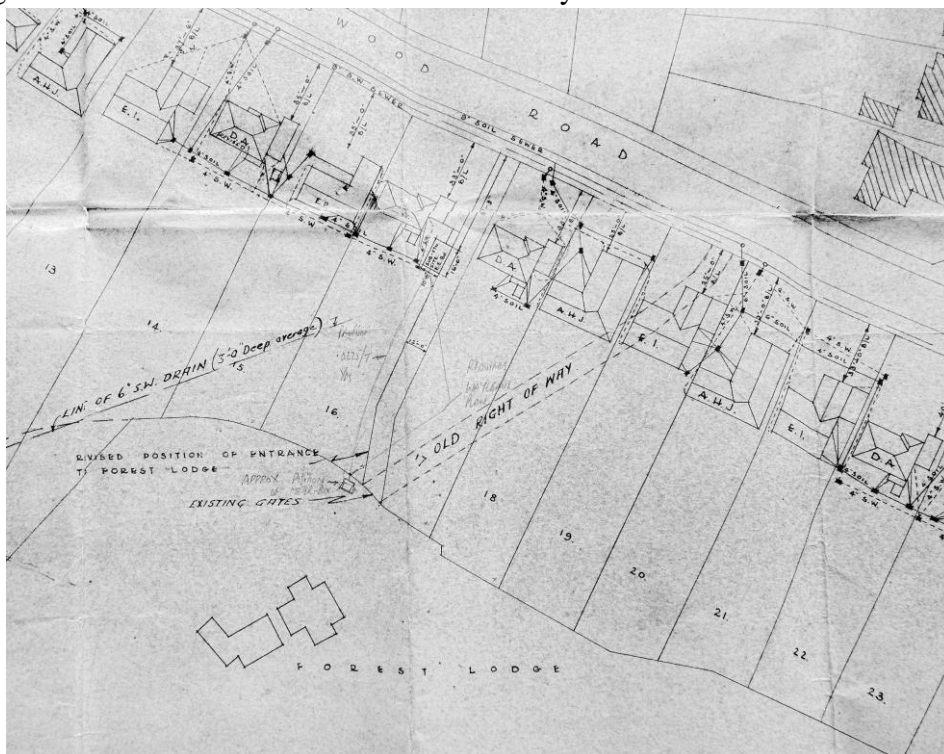


Image 14. This plan dates from 1958 and includes the new bungalows in Tomswood Road to the north of Forest Lodge. It also shows how the last part of the original driveway would be realigned to create a new entrance between nos 16 and 17 Tomswood Road; the course of the old right of way went through no 19.

In application CHI/0191/58, B C Coppin applied for planning permission to install a caravan on the site. This was refused for the reason that the site adjoined land which was being developed for residential purposes and the stationing of a residential caravan on the site would be prejudicial to the amenities of the locality. Ms Coppin was one of two female nurses from Claybury Hospital already living in the caravan, which had been there for some time – when Marilyn’s grandparents returned from Benfleet in the mid-1950s, they lived in it. Ms Coppin subsequently won an appeal granting permission for the caravan for a period expiring on 30 June 1960, subject to the condition that the use should be discontinued and the caravan removed from the site on or before that date. Because the caravan had no formal address, letters there were always addressed ‘c/o Forest Lodge’.

1960s

14/06/1960 CHI/0175/60 Erection of addition to house (Forest Lodge) Grant (conditions)

The lodge was still standing in 1960 when a planning application was submitted to construct an addition to the lodge (CHI/0175/60, registered 14/06/1960). This addition was when Henry and Margaret Dale carried out improvements at the property, adding a lounge, kitchen, bathroom and toilet in 1961.



Image 15. Work begins on construction of the extension at the rear of the lodge in 1961.

1970s

Eventually this forest remnant succumbed to the demands of the twentieth century for housing in a sylvan setting within easy reach of the metropolis. Henry and Margate Dale sold the lodge in late 1972/early 1973 and moved to New North Road in Hainault. A planning application to erect 36 houses on the site of the lodge and in Tomswood Road was made (CHI/0717/72); this lapsed, and a series of further applications followed, each one reducing the number of houses to be built; these were either withdrawn or refused. Planning permission was eventually granted for the construction of 23 houses in a new road, to be named Audleigh Place (CHI/0594/73, granted

17/09/1973). Claybury Lodge was demolished after September 1973 and the housing in Audleigh Place was completed by 1979.

02/11/1972	CHI/0717/72	O/A for 36 detached houses and garages	Lapsed
19/02/1973	CHI/0123/73	O/A for 32 detached houses and garages	Withdrawn
26/02/1973	RED/2195/72	O/A for 36 detached houses with garages	Refuse
24/04/1973	CHI/0307/73	O/A for 30 detached houses	Refuse
17/09/1973	CHI/0594/73	23 detached houses with double garages	Grant (conditions)
26/11/1973	RED/1795/73	O/A for estate roads and 23 detached houses	Grant (conditions)



Image 16. Claybury Lodge in the early 1970s shortly before the building was demolished.



Image 17. Here stood Claybury Lodge from 1800/1801 until 1973 when it was demolished and replaced by these houses in Audleigh Place, as seen in 2022.

© Alan Simpson, 10 May 2022

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Chigwell tithe map and award

D/P 166/27/1

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D/CT 78A (no 741)

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D/CT 18A, 18B (nos 2589, 2592-94)

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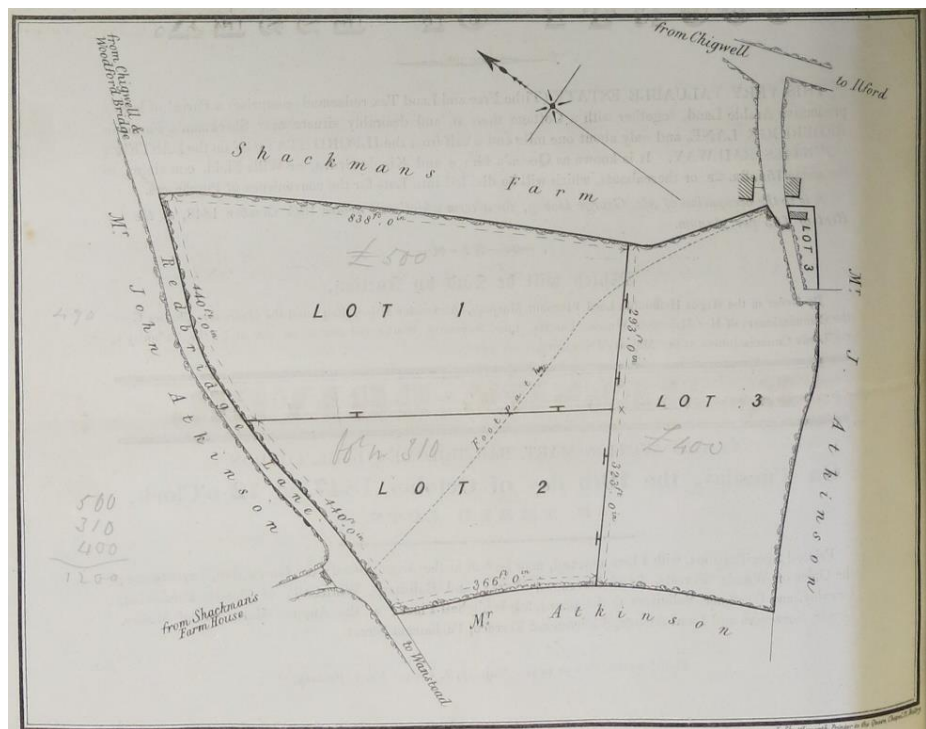
A Sale of Land in Redbridge

Sitting in the Essex Record Office one day I opened a bound volume of auction and sale catalogues and found the item relating to Goodmayes that I wanted to see, photographed the catalogue, and then idly turned the pages to see what else was in the volume. Wait. What is this? Headed Crown Land, it was for the sale at the Auction Mart on 19th October 1847, of sixteen acres situated on Redbridge Lane and a cottage to the south on a separate small plot.¹⁹ As you can see from the auction catalogue map shown below, it is land to the south of what is now Redbridge Lane East and not far from the entrance to Shackman's farm. The Tithe Index from 1847 describes its use as arable land and has its name as Wills Field with an area of 15a 2r 29p. Unfortunately, the occupant of the cottage is not named.

The Tithe Index, the catalogue and newspaper adverts for the coming auction all cite one George Davey as being the tenant of the land until 10th October 1848. Davey is listed as an Innkeeper in the Beehive district – in fact the landlord of The Beehive Public House from c.1846 until c.1851.²⁰

Crown Land auctioned on 19th October 1847. Reproduced by courtesy of the Essex Record Office

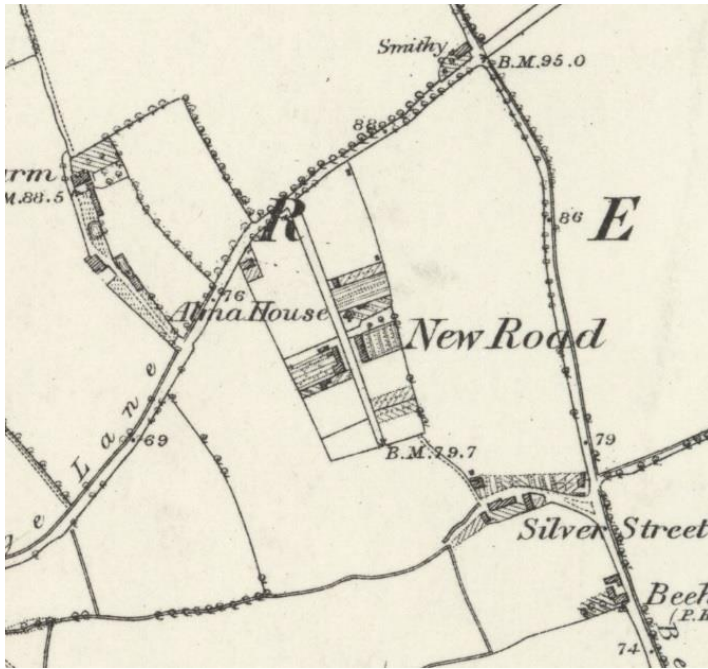
It is Lot 1 that is most of interest here as it is the same area of land later occupied by New Road, shown here on the OS map from the 1860s. From the map you can see that Lots 2 and 3 had not been built upon – they were possibly being used as farmland. Note also that there were some houses, known as 1-3 Carlton Cottages, built in Redbridge Lane as well as those in New Road itself.



Looking through the various census returns for the area over the decades, one of the issues that makes it difficult to ascertain when properties were built and occupied, is that the same properties are often not known by the same name on two consecutive returns. The census for 1861 lists fourteen names and addresses for what I think were houses in New Road or those in Redbridge Lane at that time. The names include Alma House, Alma Cottages, Cooks Buildings, and Charlotte Cottages.

¹⁹ ERO ref. D DSa 1335/17. The reason I hadn't noticed this one in the online catalogue is because it, and some of the documents before it and those after it had never been catalogued! A quick email to the ERO pointing this out and it was sorted.

²⁰ Davey was fined 20 shillings plus expenses for keeping the pub open illegally on a Sunday (*Chelmsford Chronicle* 2nd October 1846). He was not listed in the 1855 Kelly's Directory for Essex.



OS map of 1863 showing New Road in Redbridge. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

Dating these early houses is difficult although Alan Simpson suggests that Alma House and Cottages might be named in commemoration of the victory at the Battle of Alma in the Crimean War in September 1854.²¹ Therefore, these would appear to have been built c.1855 or later. The remainder are just described as cottages. In following census returns Cooks Terrace makes an appearance. These would appear to be the ones later called 1-6 Elizabeth Terrace to the west but facing south each with a small garden with a path in

between. Although the terrace was demolished after WWII and a block of flats built, the footpath remains as a cut-through to the road to the west, Danehurst Gardens.

Speaking of the census, the name of New Road does not actually appear until 1911. Until then properties were described as being of The Diggings, the derivation of which is unclear- possibly a gravel pit?²² The name was still being used into the 1890s. A newspaper report on the proposed extension of sewage works stated that pipe work would then go ‘up Beehive-lane to Silver-street, also known as Reform-place [now Radnor Crescent], and across a field to New-road, which was better known in the locality as “The Diggings.”’²³

Although the Ilford edition of Kelly’s Directory began publishing in 1899-1900, like other roads in the immediate area, New Road was not included until 1905. Prior to 1900, the county directories such as Kelly’s or the Post Office had a separate listing for Barkingside which covered a far greater area than just the modern town. The names of those listed were divided into Private Residents and Commercial. As far as Barkingside was concerned, very few of the former were named and they tended to be those occupying the major properties. The only private house listed from New Road was that of Alma House. John Hatch, said to be a chair maker in the 1871 census, was listed on three separate occasions in the 1860s and 1870s; and John Tasker in the 1890s. In 1911 Alma House was occupied by Alfred Murphy, a retired Warrant Officer of the Indian Army. A building plan from 1909 for the addition of a bay window shows Alma House to be double-fronted and therefore probably larger than most of the other properties in New Road.

By the start of WWI, more properties had been built including two terraces – one to the west known as 1-27 Beehive Cottages (now 45-71 Inglehurst Gardens) near what was then the southern end of the road; and 5-15 New Road (now 106-116 Inglehurst) near the Redbridge Lane end. Some individual houses that were built in the early 20th Century retain their name plaques – e.g. Cranley and Melford (58-60 Inglehurst).

²¹ A search of the British Newspaper Archive showed that the earliest use of Alma Terrace was October 1854, and Alma Villas or Cottages in 1855.

²² The illustration of Stonehall in Peter Foley’s *Ilford’s Countryside* has the text “Old Gravel...” to the north-east of the farm. Thanks to Jef Page for pointing this out to me.

²³ *Barking East Ham and Ilford Advertiser* 1st December 1894.

Given the area was still mostly farmland, it is not surprising that the majority of occupants at that time were agricultural labourers but in every census return there was evidence of other trades – chair making as mentioned above, silk weaving, a surgical instrument maker, and a cabinet carver are those found just in the 1861 census. One occupant of New Road, Samuel Taylor who lived at Lily Cottage in 1911, had his story written about in a previous Newsletter.²⁴ Of interest is the small picture of Samuel’s wife, Frances, standing outside their cottage which is clearly only single storey.

So what became of New Road? The laying out of the Eastern Avenue arising from the development of Gants Hill in the 1920s in both directions brought with it side roads leading off it. Plans were approved in the middle of the decade for the new roads of Inglehurst Gardens – to join up to the existing New Road – and others to the west, and the first plan for houses in Inglehurst was approved in August 1925. For some years, Inglehurst Gardens and New Road were listed separately in the Kelly’s Directories (1929-31-33) but the 1935 edition has New Road listed as “Now included with Inglehurst Gardens.” There is a letter included in Plan 7877 which states that the decision to merge the two roads together under Inglehurst Gardens led to the change being made in October 1933 and houses renumbered. New Road, therefore, officially ceased to exist.

Sadly, many of the original houses have since been demolished but 1-6 Alma Cottages still exist as 72-82 Inglehurst Gardens.



*Frances Taylor in 1911 outside 'Lily Cottage'
From IHS newsletter no.121'*

1-6 Alma Cottages, now 82-92 Inglehurst Gardens (photo by the author)

Discovering the auction catalogue for the sale of land on which one of the earliest roads in Redbridge was laid out was the impetus to write about a road which has long fascinated me. The only disappointing aspect is that I still do not know who actually bought the various Lots at the auction, and thus who began the process of laying out the road and building the houses. Maybe that information will turn up at some point and add to our knowledge of the Redbridge area in the 19th century.

Thanks to Jef Page and Alan Simpson for reading a first draft and their helpful suggestions.

© Dr Colin Runeckles, 14 June 2022

²⁴ “Local heroes of the Somme: Samuel Taylor” in IHS Newsletter 121, August 2016.

IHS Programme for 2022 - 2023

Our regular monthly meetings will be held in the Gloucester Room, Ilford Central Library, Clements Road, Ilford IG1 1EA. on the second Monday of each month, September – May. Free refreshments will be served from 7pm and our talks start at 7.30pm; we finish by 9.30pm. Visitors are welcome, £3 per meeting. There are often walks for members in the summer. Membership of the society for 2022-23 is £10 (payable from September) This includes 3 newsletters available at our meetings, or by email on request.

If there is a return of Covid restrictions our talks will be available via Zoom.

Please check our website: <http://ilfordhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/> for updates.

12 September 2022 *Redbridge Village: a Ramble Through Farms & Change.* The little known area close to Roding Lane & the Eastern & Woodford Avenues.
by Jef Page, President Ilford HS.

10 October 2022 *Alfred Hitchcock, famous Hollywood director (part 1): his Early Life & Connections to Leytonstone 1899-1907 & 1914-26.*
by Gary Lewis.

14 November 2022 *Local History in the Making:* post-WWII Settlement of South Asians in Ilford (Redbridge).
by Dr Qadir Bakhsh, MBE.

12 December 2022 Christmas Social Evening “*Wanstead House: Reconstructing East London’s Lost Palace.*”
by Dr Hannah Armstrong, author of the book with this title, published in 2022.
followed by *Mince Pies and a Quiz*

9 January 2023 *London Through Artists Eyes.*
by Rev John Brown, St Luke’s Church Ilford.

13 February 2023 *Valentines Mansion and its Owners.*
by Georgina Green, author & Vice-President, Ilford HS.

13 March 2023 *A Stroll Around Snaresbrook.*
by Lynn Jones, Ilford HS committee member.

17 April 2023 AGM 7.15pm (3rd Monday due to Easter)
followed by *In Good Health? Ilford’s Medical Health Services from 1800 to the NHS.*
by Jef Page, President Ilford HS.

8 May 2023 *19th Century Ilford: from Village to Town?*
by Dr Colin Runeckles, Treasurer Ilford HS.



The next newsletter will be available at our December meeting.



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