



# Woodford Times

Woodford Historical Society  
Founded 1932

## Newsletter Spring 2018

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### Editorial

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The Spring Newsletter provides me with the opportunity to send belated good wishes to you all for the new year. It has been good to meet so many of you again since my return to our monthly meetings. I hope you have been enjoying the talks, but, of course, if you have ideas for speakers for our 2018/19 programme, please do let me know. I know many of you attend meetings of other clubs etc. and you may well have heard excellent speakers, who might be willing to speak to the Society.

A coloured copy of the Newsletter will be distributed by e-mail to all who have requested to receive it in this way, with black-and-white printed copies included in the envelopes for those who prefer this method of presentation. However, all members will receive printed copies of:

Summer Visits Programme  
Summer Visits Booking Forms  
Minutes of the 2017 AGM  
Notice of the 2018 AGM

In addition a printed supplement by Georgina Green will be included. She has undertaken significant research into the Woodford Bridge area and, as well as preparing this very informative addition to our Spring Newsletter, will be leading a walk in the area for the Society on Monday 13 August 2018 (see *Summer Visits Programme and Booking Forms*). We are very grateful to her for her support.

Mention of the AGM papers leads me, of course, to my usual but now very urgent request for more members to join our committee. The Society will be unable to move forward into the future without additional assistance. Fresh ideas are always welcome but please be assured that we work as a team. You would just need a very general interest in the history of the area and the willingness to help with organisation. I would emphasise, of course, that we have logged your responses to the questionnaire which was previously distributed and thank all who have offered to help with providing tea/coffee, folding and enveloping papers for distribution etc. We also have an urgent need for assistance with the upkeep of our website. If you would like further information on roles within the Society please speak to me (tel: 020 8505 3640) or to any member of the committee.

I hope you will find the programme of summer visits interesting. Please note that, in the event of outings being over-subscribed, a ballot for places will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, so please forward your applications as soon as possible. The organiser of each trip will be happy to provide further details if required.

Enjoy the Newsletter and please remember that I welcome articles from members for future issues.

John Lovell

### Can you add to our records?

The shop 'Grains and Greens' has now replaced the stationers/post office in Woodford Broadway, but during the renovations the sign for 'Baggotts Book Shop' was exposed. Do you have any knowledge of the bookshop which you could share with the Society?



We understand that the bookshop was in business during wartime.

Please do forward any memories or information which you may have to the me:

e-mail:  
woodfordhistoricalsociety@  
hotmail.co.uk

or  
'phone:  
020 8505 3640

It is fascinating to catch a glimpse of the past as businesses change in our area. Thank you to the members of the Society who took the trouble to let me know of the uncovering of the shop sign.

**Editor**

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### The Garden Secret of Henrys Avenue by Henry Whaymand

The first bombs to fall in Walthamstow at the beginning of World War II were on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1940. So what, you may ask? Well, at approximately 3.25am eight high explosive bombs (HEs) fell in the grounds of the White House and adjoining forest. This is, of course, our area, Woodford Green, Essex, not the City of London, nor the docks, or the East End, but Woodford Green, Essex. There were two casualties, scouts sleeping out in the grounds of the White House, who suffered from minor shock.

Woodford Green was again a first for the borough of Walthamstow, when about 6.00pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> September (some reports say the opening day of the London 'blitz') the first properties to be demolished were numbers 1 and 3 Marion Grove – fortunately no casualties, also at the same time, one hundred yards away, numbers 4 and 6 Masons Road were hit but not destroyed, all by HE bombs – again no casualties.

Prior to the outbreak of war on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, Civil Defence preparations had begun, nationally in 1935 and locally in 1936-7. The 'secret' of Henrys Avenue was in all probability conceived (if not achieved) sometime between 1938/9 after all it was a secret! and no information was available. In 1937 the Government passed its first Air Raid Precaution Act and local

authorities were empowered to establish ARP. services from A-Z – ambulances to wardens and WVS. As a result a local authority department was set up with responsibility for shelters, trench shelters, public shelters (sandbag, bricks and reinforced concrete) also domestic shelters (Anderson Shelters in gardens and later, after 1942, indoor Morrison Table Shelters).

Just prior to the outbreak of war, Walthamstow Borough Council had installed some 18,000 Anderson Shelters in back gardens and Henrys Avenue on the Highams Estate was included in this programme. This, of course, was no secret, after all 'dig for victory' started not with cultivating vegetables but with great big holes in prized lawns for preparation of the delivery of Anderson Shelters. A myriad of committees, sub-committees and sub-sub-committees was established to cover every possibly eventuality – ambulance stations, first aid posts, gas masks, communications, wardens, the list was endless.

In Walthamstow, the Borough was divided into 10 districts and within these districts were 58 wardens' posts and each had a telephone exchange line and therefore communication with Civil Defence Headquarters based at the newly built town hall. It would seem that the resident of number 11 Henrys Avenue was probably a warden or perhaps a member of one (or more) of the many committees because, within the Anderson Shelter there was a telephone installed. I do not think the GPO (as it was then) would install a private line and would, I am sure, require some kind of permit or official authorisation. You may remember that both pre-war and immediately post-war, we had shared telephone lines with neighbours and sometimes had to wait until they ended their call. Again, you may well ask, where is the secret because everything I have written so far is public knowledge, available to all?

### THE SECRET

If you go to the Henrys Avenue entrance to The Highams Park – part of Humphry Repton's landscaped garden to Highams manor house (Woodford County High School for Girls) and look into the garden of number 11, you will see the entrance to the Anderson Shelter. It is shielded from view from the house by a small decorative wall and cleverly covered by a rockery and attractive shrubs. The majority of residents wanted their lawns back as soon as possible after the war, but clever Mr Number 11, with forward planning, retained his lawn in front of the small attractive wall and kept his hidden shelter. In today's parlance it would be called a 'feature' or an 'installation'.

#### References:

The War over Walthamstow – by Ross Wyld (1945 revised 1989)

Highams – by Margery M Smith 1966

Courtney Warner & Warner Estate – by Philip Plummer and Walter Bowyer 2000

Highams – by Philip Plummer 2005

#### Acknowledgement:

The co-operation and assistance of Mr Chris and Mrs Anna Twinn – the present owners of no. 11 Henrys Avenue, Woodford Green.

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### **Humphry Repton (1752 – 1818) Landscape Gardener – by Georgina Green**

When I resigned as Hon. Secretary of the Society in 2000 I was generously given a book *Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardening and the Geography of Georgian England* by Stephen Daniels which had been published the previous year. This was of considerable interest to me as I had been helping Fiona Cowell and the Essex Gardens Trust compile *Repton in Essex, a Gazetteer of Sites in Essex associated with Humphry Repton* which was published later in 2000. (We are currently working on revising this for possible reissue next year.)

Humphry Repton was born at Bury St. Edmunds in 1752, son of a customs official and a mother of a 'county' family. His education, begun at Bury, was continued at Norwich, and then in Holland, as his father wished him to go into commerce. While in Holland he stayed with the fabulously rich



Hope family which gave him a taste of high society living.<sup>1</sup> He married Mary Clarke in 1773 (aged 21) and set up a textile business in Norwich with money from his father. He was better at spending money than making it, and on the death of his parents he sold up the business and fulfilled his ambition to become a 'gentleman of leisure'. They lived at Old Hall, Sustead, in Norfolk, where he spent his time as a gentleman farmer, gardening, sketching and reading. He built up a knowledge of trees and gardens, both from books and in practice, and mixed with wealthy intellectual company. He was a neighbour and close friend of William Windham of Felbrigg on whose behalf he did some political work, and he contributed both text and sketches for M J Armstrong's history of Norfolk (1781).

However, these freelance activities did little to help him support a growing family (of sixteen children only seven survived infancy) and in 1786 he moved from Sustead to a cottage at Hare Street, Gidea Park. The site is now Lloyds Bank on the corner of Balgores Lane and Main Road, between Romford and Gallows Corner. He embarked on some free-lance writing and then in 1788, aged 36, he

realised that nobody had stepped in to replace Capability Brown (who had died five years earlier) and so he decided to set up in business as a landscape gardener. He was already a talented artist, he had done some writing and, above all, his travelling and his friendships had given him a wide experience of gardens and garden planning and also a number of valuable contacts.

His procedure was to visit his client, walking over the park. Then either Repton or a surveyor spent two or three days surveying the grounds following which Repton discussed his ideas with the owner. He then produced a 'Red Book' - bound in red morocco (though actually many were bound in brown calf) which were slim landscape volumes, approx. A4 landscape. They contained a text with his ideas illustrated with delicate watercolours with an overlay or slide to show his transformations. He preferred to use illustrations rather than detailed maps for his designs, as he argued that the pictures could be worked out on the ground. Left lying around the house by his clients, they were good advertisements for his work. His work for more prestigious clients might be to a larger format. Unlike Brown, Repton was a consultant with ideas rather than a contractor who would carry out the work.

He very quickly became established (by 1792 he had prepared over 100 Red Books) and worked for all sorts of people from the nouveaux riches to the aristocracy. Repton claimed that by the end of his career he had written more than four hundred reports although Stephen Daniels lists only 339 known sites where Repton was consulted. The 'Red Book' has survived for 110 of these, 84 are supported by documentary evidence and 48 are mentioned in Repton's published works. The remainder are illustrated in *Peacock's Polite Repository*, a little pocket diary for which Repton provided illustrations. It is generally accepted that this indicates he had been invited to advise on the property.

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<sup>1</sup> It is probably a coincidence that while in Holland (c.1765) Repton lived for two years with Zachary Hope of Rotterdam, a member of an influential family of merchant bankers, and that the sister of Henry Hope (1736-1811), banker of Amsterdam, married John Goddard (c.1736-1798) of Woodford Hall. When Henry Hope was buried at Woodford in 1811 his estate totalled £1,160,000. (See WHS newsletter Spring 1999 p.2-3)

Only six 'Red Books' survive for Essex and these includes Claybury Hall for James Hatch (1791), Higham Hill (now Woodford County High School) for John Harman (1793/4) and Woodford Hall<sup>2</sup> for John Maitland (1801). Accounts survive for Repton's visit to Mr. Puller's house at Woodford in 1790 and we have identified this as being approximately the site of the house which was later rebuilt and known as Monkams. The documentation for an estate map of 1815/6 by John Doyley<sup>3</sup> confirms that some of John Hall's copyhold property had previously been owned by Christopher Puller. It is worth noting that part of Puller's land here was leased for a time to Sir Robert Preston who wasted no time in inviting Repton to improve the Valleyfield estate over-looking the Firth of Forth when he inherited the property in 1800. This was Repton's only commission in Scotland. (A photographed copy of John Doyley's later parish maps hangs in the foyer of St. Mary's church.) The Rookery in George Lane, home of G Smith Esq, is shown in *Peacock's Polite Repository* for January 1806, so this shows the original house built by the Godfrey family (c.1670-80?).

Humphry Repton lived through the early years of the industrial revolution, the spread of turnpike roads, changes in agriculture and the enclosure of much common land, and the rapid expansion of London and other towns. He published several books and his writings explain many of his theories and make fascinating reading. Whereas Capability Brown had swept away many formal gardens to create more natural parkland landscapes, Repton introduced a less rigid style often modifying rather than replacing the existing features. He said "A Garden is a work of art, using the materials of nature." He commented on the change from the time when he started out and gentlemen wanted to improve their estates for their own pleasure. After the Napoleonic War he felt that land owners were more like businessmen and his commissions were more to increase the value of the estate than for their own enjoyment

Repton always craved a royal commission and in 1797-1802 he was consulted about the groundwork around the Prince's pavilion at Brighton. This was followed in 1803 by a commission for drawings of suggested improvements to Carlton House and then in 1805 the Prince of Wales again consulted Repton about his pavilion at Brighton. He implied that he may well live at Brighton one day, thus suggesting to Repton that it would become a royal palace! With the expansion of the East India Company there was increasing interest in Indian influences in architecture and Repton used these in the designs he presented to the Prince and Mrs Fitzherbert. The Prince was delighted with the plans and wanted them acted upon immediately, but he evaded attempts by Repton to meet for further discussions until it became apparent there were no funds for the work. Repton's hopes were dashed and eventually he published the plans for which he had not been paid. It was John Nash who later undertook the work and got most of the credit for the extravagant building.

At New Year 1811, as the result of a coach accident, Repton was confined to a wheel-chair, but continued working assisted by his son John Adey Repton.<sup>4</sup> He must have been very pleased when he was invited to prepare plans for Wanstead House by William Long Wellesley in 1813. This was a very prestigious building, situated close to London, and a centre of high society! Much of the suggested work was carried out and Repton included some of his ideas in his book *Fragments on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* published in 1816. However, Wellesley did not have the pages bound and when the contents of Wanstead House were sold this work was lost.

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<sup>2</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>3</sup> ERO D/DCy P2B 1815-6 Copyholder listed in book

<sup>4</sup> Humphry's sister Dorothy had married John Adey, a respected solicitor in Aylsham, Norfolk (near Blickling Hall) where their parents were buried.

**Wanstead Sale Catalogue, 10 July 1822, p.298, 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the Sale, Lot 447**

Repton's Drawings of Plans for improving the Grounds at Wanstead House (15)  
plus portfolios of drawings for clocks and stands.

This lot was purchased for £9 9s 0d. by solicitor Thomas Lightfoot who was one of the trustees appointed to manage William Long-Wellesley's affairs.

These items came up for sale again in the second sale on 9 September 1822 (page 36) Lot 139, but it is not known who purchased them on this occasion.

The pages produced about Wanstead were bound together in brown covers after Repton died and came to light in 2002 for the first time in something like 100 years. They were auctioned in January by John Bellman of Wisborough Green, West Sussex, purchased by Brian Maggs on behalf of the late Paul Getty and taken to his library at Wormsley. I was very excited when I was told by our member Anne Stacey that 'Repton's Red Book for Wanstead' had been sold at auction, and soon realised that this was not generally known. So almost exactly 250 years after Repton's birth I went to see the book, accompanied by Fiona Cowell and Sally Jeffery who are greatly respected garden historians. We were given permission to photograph the entire work and our transcript resulted in a typed copy of the original including all the illustrations. This was then studied in association with a series of maps and on the ground. Sally eventually wrote up our findings as an article for *Country Life*, 14 April 2005, pp.98-101, 'How Repton saw Wanstead'.

Humphry Repton died 200 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1818, aged 65, and was buried in the village of Aylsham, Norfolk, where his grave is marked by a stone inscribed with the epitaph he had written for himself, and by a bed of roses.

Although he undertook several commissions in this area, much of his work has been covered by the spread of London. However if you walk in Wanstead Park and admire the scenery you will be appreciating many of the trees planted on Repton's instructions 200 years ago. We also have to thank Humphry Repton for the creation of the lake in the park of the house called Highams. In 1891 this was bought and added into Epping Forest and now the whole district has become known as Highams Park. Indeed, Repton's work for the Gurney family at Northrepps in Norfolk had a great impact on the following generation including Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton who married Hannah Gurney and continued Repton's suggestion of extensive tree planting in the area. Their descendants have played leading roles in the saving and management of Epping Forest influenced, indirectly, by Humphry Repton.

© Georgina Green, 19 November 2017.

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**Note from the Editor:**

**Rethinking Repton – Looking to the Past to Design for the Future**

As part of the Repton 200 festival, marking his death 200 years ago, an unusual exhibition is to be held from 3 May to 22 June at the Royal Horticultural Society Lindley Library (80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE – nearest stations Victoria or St James's Park). The RHS Libraries have collaborated with students from Writtle University College to take a fresh look at Repton's gardening principles. The students, in their third year of study on Writtle's Landscape Architecture and Landscape and Garden Design courses, have had the opportunity to learn about Repton's ideas and respond within their own public landscape design projects. The exhibition will display their final project designs, each presented through the student's own take on Repton's famous 'before and after'.

Additional events and tours will be confirmed nearer the time on the library website at [www.rhs.org.uk/libraryevents](http://www.rhs.org.uk/libraryevents).

## Dorothy Lockwood – one of the Society’s Vice-Presidents

Dorothy Lockwood was born in 1927 and adopted at birth, she had a happy though solitary childhood. Aged 12 she was evacuated to Ipswich on the outbreak of WW2 and subsequently Finnamore Wood Camp, Marlow. Returning to Goodmayes her father insisted she attend Mulley’s commercial school in Ilford – this has been useful all her life. She married at 24 and with four children, her husband George Thomas (Tom) sadly died aged 42. Shortly after she began work as a school secretary and continued in this job until her retirement. Dorothy met Bert Lockwood at their local church, they married and she shared his interest in local history and athletics. They were both active members of numerous local history societies and Dorothy is proud to currently be a Vice-President of three societies, Barking, Ilford and Woodford. She has just celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends and is truly grateful for a fulfilled life.



1. **What is your favourite historical period?**  
The Victorians, they took more trouble to dress.
2. **Tell us what Essex means to you?**  
A County of changing scenes including the London Boroughs – always somewhere interesting to visit.
3. **What historical mystery would you most like to know?**  
What happened to Lord Lucan.
4. **My favourite history book is...**  
*The Journal of Beatrix Potter* from 1881 to 1897 transcribed from her code writings by Leslie Linder.
5. **What is your favourite place in Essex?**  
The RHS garden at Hyde Hall, Rettendon.
6. **How do you relax?**  
Five minutes weeding in the garden.
7. **What are you researching at the moment?**  
My researching days are over though I appreciate knowing what evidence has recently been found relating to various historical/archaeological situations.
8. **My earliest memory is...**  
Standing in the back garden at home in Goodmayes wearing a paper crown & carrying a wand to enter a Cow & Gate competition.
9. **What is your favourite song/piece of music and why?**  
'What is Life to me without thee' sung by Kathleen Ferrier CBE (1912-53) – that glorious contralto voice. Her early death was a tragedy.
10. **If you could travel back in time which event would you change?**  
I wouldn't, every generation has unacceptable events that is how the world revolves.
11. **Which four people from the past would you invite to dinner?**  
Queen Victoria, Sir Winston Churchill, Humphry Repton and Kathleen Ferrier.

12. **What is your favourite food?**  
Salmon – fresh, tinned or paste!
13. **The history book I am currently reading is...**  
*The Local Historian*, published quarterly by The British Association for Local History.
14. **What is your favourite quote from history?**  
'I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the year 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'.  
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'  
By Minnie Louise Haskins, and spoken by King George VI during his Christmas broadcast to the Empire 1939.
15. **Favourite historical film?**  
*The Dam Busters*, 1955 starring Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd.
16. **What is your favourite building in Essex?**  
The Hospital Chapel of St Mary the Virgin and St Thomas of Canterbury, Ilford founded c1145 by Adelicia, Abbess of Barking as a hospice for 13 aged and infirm men.
17. **What past event would you like to have seen?**  
The visit of Pope John Paul II to the U.K. in 1982, the first visit by a reigning Pope.
18. **How would you like to be remembered?**  
As someone capable of understanding other people's lives and problems.
19. **Who inspires you to read or write or research history?**  
My late husband Herbert Hope Lockwood.
20. **Most memorable historical date?**  
England winning the World Cup in 1966.

The Editor is indebted to both Dorothy Lockwood and the Essex Journal for allowing the reproduction of the above article from the Autumn 2017 edition.

The Essex Journal is published twice a year and reviews local history and archaeology. The Editorial Board consists of representative of the Friends of Historic Essex, the Essex Record Office (on behalf of Essex County Council), the Essex Society for Archaeology and History and the Honorary Editor. The annual subscription is £10.00. If you would like further information please contact the Editor of this Newsletter, John Lovell (tel: 020 8505 3640).

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I am very grateful to Lynn Haseldine-Jones for permitting me to publish this shortened version of her fascinating and very detailed research into the occupants of Knighton Villas. **Editor**

### **Knighton Villas** by Lynn Haseldine-Jones

There were originally 10 dwellings known as Knighton Villas in the form of 5 pairs of semi-detached buildings; now there are just 7 with a half of one of the semi-detached demolished and no doubt awaiting redevelopment. They are tall and elegant houses which are now divided into flats for the most part. Any front gardens they may have had are now used only for parking.



*Knighton Villas, a view taken in 2012*

The most famous resident of one of the villas was Francis Carruthers Gould, but the houses were of such prestige that they were occupied by a number of individuals of note in the history of Buckhurst Hill and indeed Woodford, within which they now lie. They have always been regarded as postally within Buckhurst Hill. As this was the case I have assumed that the normal practice within Buckhurst Hill applied to the numbering and that number 1 would be nearest to the centre of the town. Therefore numbers 1 to 7 are the ones that still exist, number 8 is the one that has been demolished and

numbers 9 and 10 were demolished some years ago, probably in the 1930s, on the development of the Knighton estate.

### **1 Knighton Villas**

In 1867 the occupant of this house was Charles Husband Livingstone the son of Dr Charles Patrick Livingstone; his mother's maiden name was Husband. Charles Husband was born 1<sup>st</sup> October 1837. The family lived in Barossa Place, Perth, Scotland.

Charles's first wife was Caroline; they may have lived in Barossa Place, but in the 1861 census, taken on 7 April, he and Caroline were living in Edinburgh with their baby daughter. Charles was described as a 'Licentiate R C S Edinr Retired Assistant Surgeon E G S'. He was involved in the Edinburgh Artillery Militia in 1861.

His first wife died and he remarried, to Agnes, probably in Scotland. At some point he moved to Buckhurst Hill by 1866 or before; he is shown as living at 1 Knighton Villas in a directory of 1867. He is known to have attended a road accident in Woodford in 1869. The 1871 census shows that there was a son born in 1867 in Buckhurst Hill.

Health care as we know it began with Buckhurst Hill Village Hospital, which opened in November 1866, situated in what was then called Hospital Lane (later Knighton Lane). The building still exists as a private house. Its purpose was 'for the accommodation of persons not suffering from contagious or incurable disorders, residing in Buckhurst Hill and the adjacent parishes'. The hospital was started by Dr Charles Livingstone FRCS. Charles Husband Livingstone died, aged only 33, in 1870.

A directory of 1874 shows the occupant as a Mrs King.

In 1881/2 the occupants of this house were Cyrus Hallett, a 39 year old merchant from Rotherhithe, with his wife and daughter. His business until 1875 was known as Hallett, Manning and Prentis, of 150 Leadenhall Street, merchants and insurance brokers. They had one servant.

By 1899 - 1902 the occupant was a Mrs Hudson. This was Catherine, widow of provision merchant Francis M Hudson, formerly of Marsh Street, Walthamstow. She was living here with her sister-in-law, a companion and a servant.

The directory of 1914 and the electoral register of 1918 shows only one occupant, Caroline Drummond.

By 1929 William Everden Marshall lived at the house, along with Mary Ann Marshall. William Everden Marshall was born in Poplar in 1891. According to the *London Gazette* of 1946 this man was a rubber merchant, in partnership until that year with Saul Woolf, trading as Marshall and Woolf and Co.

No occupant was listed in 1935.

### **References**

Information on Dr Charles Husband Livingstone by kind permission of researcher Brenda Bryant. [www.london-gazette.co.uk](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk) for 26 October 1875 regarding Hallett, Manning and Prentis.

### **2 Knighton Villas**

In 1867 Miss Lucy Delf ran a ladies' school here.

Lucy Delf was born in Bungay, Suffolk, around 1831. She set up the school and was listed as being the head of the school in the 1867 directory and the 1871 census.

In a directory of 1874 and in the census of 1881 and in local directories of 1899 and 1906 the occupant was the Rev William Dorling.

William Dorling was minister of Bethnal Green Road Independent Chapel, before being invited to come to Buckhurst Hill on 6 April 1868 as the minister for the newly established Congregational Church and for a salary of £300pa. He promoted the concept of the 'larger hope' which view was not shared by the majority of the congregation. He left to found the Independent chapel at the junction of King's Place and Westbury Road, later to be the Baptist church in August 1871.

William Dorling was born in Framlingham in 1831 and lived for many years at Knighton Villas, with his wife Elizabeth Anne. They had six children. The Rev William Dorling died at Knighton Villas aged 80 in 1912. His wife had pre-deceased him, she died in 1884 aged only 47.

By 1918 and still there in 1929 and 1935, the occupant of the house was the son of William, Arthur Whayman Dorling. Arthur Whayman Dorling 1867-1948, and his wife for 49 years, Jane Elizabeth (nee Pasfield) 1873-1959, are buried in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Buckhurst Hill. They had at least four children including Arthur William born in 1903. For many years Chairman and later President of the Woodford Historical Society, he died on Christmas Day, 1984. An obituary states 'Arthur had lived all his life in the district, and although he would have been the last to call himself an historian, not only was the Society very close to his heart, but among his very wide interests was the collecting of book-plates, about which, and about the families which had them printed, he, too, could speak with knowledge and authority.'

### **References**

Fulcher, Ernest A (editor) *A Century of Woodford Memories* Woodford and District Historical Society 1986

### **3 Knighton Villas**

In 1881/2 the occupant was James Peniston, a 38 year old draper from Stepney. He was married to Elizabeth, 34, from Devon. They had seven children and from their birth registrations, we can perhaps assume that the family moved in to the property in or around 1876. Also living with them was James's mother Jemima Peniston, a 70 year old widow from Poplar. The family had one general servant.

By 1899 the occupant was William Sandford Poole with his family.

Directories of 1902 and 1906 give the occupant as a Mrs Muir. In a directory of 1914 and in 1918 the electoral register listed Walter and Harriet Rosa Wilson. He was still there in 1922. By 1929 the listing was Charles William and Ethel Mary Esmond, Henrietta Frances Jowett, Florence Amelia Scott, Ethel Alice Taylor and Richard Lawrence Taylor. RL Taylor was listed in 1935.

### **4 Knighton Villas**

A directory of 1874 shows the occupant as a Mrs Nicoll. This may have been Sarah Kate Nicoll, wife of commercial clerk William Nicoll. She died aged 35 in early 1881; in the census of that year he is shown as a widower, lodging with the Chinnery family in Derby Road Woodford.

In 1881/2 the occupant of the house was William Gourley, a 51 year old ship owner from Sunderland. He was married (in Poplar in 1861) to 44 year old Harriett Caroline and they had several children. The family employed a nurse, nursemaid and cook. The family in due course moved to Christchurch.

In the *Kelly's Medical Directory* of 1897 there is this reference -

**Smith, Thomas MRCS** 4 Knighton Villas (London Hospital). MRCS England, LRCP London 1894. Formerly Surgeon Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Preliminary Science Examiner, London University.

In 1899 – 1902 the occupant was Captain Adam Smith.

Captain Adam Smith was born in Scotland in 1837. Living with him here in 1901 (when he was a retired master mariner) were his son, Charles (a manufacturer of tarpaulin) and daughter Sarah.

At the time of the First World War the occupant was Laura Hill. Her son Albert Henry Rix Hill, born 1880, enlisted in 1914. He was promoted to Corporal in 1915 and to Cookery Sergeant Instructor in 1916. He left the army in 1919 with the rank of Staff Sergeant Instructor.

By 1918 the house was occupied by William Galletly with his wife Jane Reekie and his daughter Margaret Grace. This was the original building of Daiglen School, later based at Westfield, Palmerston Road.

In 1929 the house was occupied by the Rose family, Philip William and Ada Emma, and the Jones family, Emily and Arthur Edward. In 1935 the occupant was listed as George William Evans.

### **References**

[www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

Bill Oliver *The Path of Duty unpublished supplement* Buckhurst Hill British Legion 2009

### **5 Knighton Villas**

In 1874 the occupant was listed as Walter Masters.

In 1881 the house was occupied by the Shadbolt family, but at the time of the census the adults were away and only the child, one year old John F Shadbolt, was in residence, looked after by a professional nurse, 46 year old Mary Ann Massey. There was also a general servant, 20 year old Katherine Plummer from Norwich. The adult occupant was Frederick Toulmin Shadbolt, who was born in 1848 in Stamford Hill. He was a merchant in spirits. His wife was Ann. They had at least three children The Shadbolts later moved to King's Avenue, at number 24, known as Crafnant.

In 1899 – 1902 the occupant was William Ernest Gregory. By 1914 - 1918 and in 1922 it was Harriet Marion Tweddle. No occupants were listed in the electoral register for 1929, or a directory of 1935.

### **6 Knighton Villas**

The occupant of this house in 1871 (census) and 1874 (directory) was grocer George Payne Ashby; by 1881 it was his 79 year old widow Harriett Ashby from Hampstead. Also living with her were her two unmarried daughters. The three ladies were provided for by Frank Ashby, a 39 year old quantity surveyor. They employed a cook and a housemaid.

By 1899 Frank Ashby is shown as the head of the house, and by 1906 Miss Ashby. She was still there in 1922. The 1918 electoral register listed the occupant as Frank Robotham Ashby. He died on 26 July 1928 and the executrixes of his will were Miss Fanny Ashby and Miss Harriett Ashby. No occupants were listed in the electoral register for 1929 or in a directory of 1935.

### **References**

[www.london-gazette.co.uk](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk) for 9 October 1928 for the death of FR Ashby

### **7 Knighton Villas**

In 1867 the occupant was Robert Rendell.

For the period approximately 1871 to 1877 the occupant was John Conquest, a much respected member of the community in Buckhurst Hill where he later lived for many years at Granville Lodge, Palmerston Road.

In 1881 numbers 7 and 8 were schools, mostly boys in number 7 and girls in number 8. There were brothers and sisters studying there, which is I think an indication that the schools were under the same ownership. A directory for 1882 advertises this as a 'preparatory and boarding school for young gentlemen'.

The staff at number 7 were:

Head teacher Laura A Cunningham, aged 28, born in India, and her mother, widow Susan Buckley, aged 59, from Ireland. They were assisted by 17 year old housemaid Emily Hubble and 17 year old general servant Mary Saville.

The students were:

12 year old Flora McKenzie and her sister 10 year old Alice, both born in Lucknow

8 year old Florrie Williams from Limehouse

7 year old Sarah Symonds from Abridge

11 year old Erwin J Pain, from Frimley, Surrey

Presumably the children shared a bedroom, one for boys and one for the girls, as there was also the space for 2 visitors, 50 year old Janet Lloyd, a widow from Woolwich, and her son, 22 year old William J Lloyd, a clerk in a chancery office.

In 1899 William Cole occupied the house.

William Cole was born in Islington in 1844. William was interested in natural history and one day in 1869 he met in Epping Forest Raphael Meldola and WJ Argent. They were all looking for Lepidoptera and soon became good friends. Their friendship led to the formation of the Essex Field Club, which met for the first time on 10 January 1880 at 3 St John's Terrace Buckhurst Hill. Within two months they had 140 members and the organisation attracted the great and the good of the locality. Early members included Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Edward North Buxton, Miller Christy, Nathanael Powell and Sir Antonio Brady. Both William's brothers were active members. HRH the Duke of Connaught consented to be Patron. The club organised lectures and field meetings (accompanied in the early days by a substantial lunch and high tea!) and published books on subscription. It was involved in the setting up of a museum at the Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge and William Cole became the first curator of the Stratford Museum. The first President was Raphael Meldola and the first Lady President was Gulielma Lister in 1916.

In 1902 - 1906 the occupant was James Keeves.

James Keeves was born in Bethnal Green in 1861. He married Jeannie (Jane) in 1886 and they had four children. By 1914 they had moved to Hillcrest, Buckhurst Hill High Road.

In 1918 and 1922 the occupants listed were Francis Alfred Gill and Catherine Julia Gill. He was born in Barnet in 1868 and was a clerk in the GPO. He married Catherine Julia Groom in Islington in 1896 and by 1911 they had three children. They lived in Princes Road Buckhurst Hill before moving to this address.

By 1929 and in 1935 the occupant was Albert Mortimer Kelland Bowden. All that can be said of this man is that he was born in Lambeth in 1881 and married for the first time in 1905, and for the second time in 1913, to Emily White. Their son Reginald Albert Kelland Bowden was born in 1914. Reginald was in the merchant navy; perhaps Albert Mortimer was too, which explains why he is not shown in the censuses of 1901 or 1911.

## **References**

A Short History of the Essex Field Club 1880-1930 by Percy Thompson, quoted on [www.essexfieldclub.org.uk](http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk)

## **8 Knighton Villas**

As mentioned above, in 1881 this was a school.

The staff were:

Annie Whiskand aged 50, who described herself as both a governess and a servant, presumably on the grounds that she was looking after other people's children as a governess rather than a schoolteacher

Fanny E Roth, also a servant/governess, aged 29 and from Switzerland

The students were:

8 year old George Fisher from Kentish Town

9 year old Willie Herbert from Chelsea

Norman McKenzie, aged 9 from Lucknow, whose sisters Flora and Alice were in the next door school

10 year old Joseph Runin, born in Messina, Sicily

6 year old Stewart Williams from Limehouse, the brother of Florrie next door

8 year old Murray Watren from Bagshot

6 year old Edward Symonds from Abridge whose sister Sarah was next door.

By 1899 Henry Cole was the occupant and the house was the headquarters of the Essex Field Club, see William Cole at number 7 above.

In 1902 the occupant was William Roberts.

In 1918 the occupants listed in the electoral register were William George and Frances Green, and also William Lucas Burke with Lily Alice Burke. By 1929 William George and Frances Green were listed with Phyllis Evelyn and Sidney Gordon Green. The occupant in 1935 was Mrs Phelp.

It is believed that this building was later the premises of the Knighton Rest Home. By 1977 the resident owner was Mrs P Neal SRN. She advertised the home in the Buckhurst Hill Silver Jubilee programme as follows – 'Our ladies recollect memories of Queen Victoria and Four Kings with the dignity and elegance of their age. They look forward to seeing many more years of our reigning Queen Elizabeth II.'

## **9 Knighton Villas**

The occupant in 1871/1874 was William Robertson. Insurance broker William was born in Aberdeenshire in 1835. His wife, 16 years younger, was Lucy Alice. They appear to have had no children; by 1881 they were in Kew, he was a ship owner – their servant came from Woodford. In 1881 the building was unoccupied.

In 1882 Mrs Hallett senior was listed as the occupant. She may have been the mother of Cyrus Hallett at number 1.

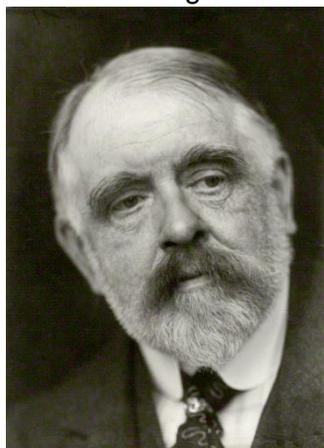
By 1899 the occupant was Mrs Barwell, and by 1906 it was Edgar Barwell, who was still there in 1922. They had previously lived at Beech View, Epping New Road. Mrs Barwell was Emma Matilda (nee Strong), the widow of William Tyler Barwell, an accountant, who had died at the age of 61 in 1888. They had nine children. Emma Matilda Barwell died in 1901.

Edgar Barwell, one of the sons of Emma and William Tyler Barwell, was born in Brooklyn, USA in 1856. He lived at this address in 1901 with two of his brothers, Eugene Tyler Barwell and Alfred Ernest Barwell. By 1911 just Edgar and Eugene were at this address.

In 1918 the only entry in the electoral register was for a woman called Ada Elizabeth Davies. Edgar Barwell died aged 67 in 1923. The 1929 electoral register entry was for Emma Barwell with Alice and James Baker, and with Fanny and Henry Perry.

### **10 Knighton Villas**

In the censuses of 1871, 1881 and 1891 this house was occupied by Francis Carruthers Gould. He was born in Barnstaple on 2 December 1844 and he was educated there. His father Richard D Gould was an architect. Francis began work at the age of 16 in a local bank, but four years later went to London to work in a stockbroker's office. He eventually became a member of the London Stock Exchange. He was married to Emily and they had at least five children, all born at Woodford.



At Knighton Villas they employed two servants.

*Francis Carruthers Gould (photograph courtesy of Wikipedia)*

As a boy it was noticed that he was very good at caricature and at the Stock Exchange he found much to catch his eye. His first journalistic work was done for the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and he later joined the *Westminster Gazette*.

*For years his pictorial commentary on the proceedings at Westminster has been brilliant in the extreme, and latterly he has done the literary commentary as well, with equal success. His 'Cartoons for the Crisis' during the general election of 1895, afterwards republished separately, put his name into all men's mouths, and firmly established his reputation as a political caricaturist.*

'For twenty-seven years he resided at 10, Knighton Villas, Woodford Wells. Although he had to travel daily to and from the City, and at home was surrounded by a young and growing family, he nevertheless found time to identify himself with local interests and activities. Chief amongst these was the Essex Field Club, and many were the outings he enjoyed with such congenial companions as Ernest Thompson Seton and the brothers Cole. Especially did he enjoy certain week-ends spent on Mersea Island, where he found many appealing subjects for his pencil.'

[www.essexfieldclub.co.uk](http://www.essexfieldclub.co.uk)

He was knighted in 1906 and retired to Porlock, Somerset in 1914.

By 1899 - 1902 the occupant was a Mrs Clements. This was Emma, widow of drug merchant/foreign agent Robert George Clements, who used to live in Victoria Park, Hackney. She was living with her daughter Florence, and had in the house at the time of the 1901 census, granddaughter Amy Knight, daughter of her daughter Eleanor, who had married John Knight, and grandsons Clement J Cox and Thomas L Cox, children of her daughter Camilla, who had married James Cox. There were two servants.

There was no entry for this house in the 1918 electoral register, but in 1929 the occupants were Frederick William and Ella Matilda Curtis, David and Alice Mildred Violet Askwith, and Thomas George and Amy Amelia Dennis.

By 1935 numbers 9 and 10 had been demolished.

## References

*Hazell's Annual* 1896

1918 and 1929 electoral registers for Epping, online courtesy of the Essex Record Office

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

[www.efdc.gov.uk](http://www.efdc.gov.uk)

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**Charlie Brown (c.1859-1932)** By Rosemary Taylor, from the *Guide to Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park* (1995) (article provided by Georgina Green)

Charlie Brown, the 'uncrowned king of Poplar' was a publican who owned the 'Railway Tavern' by West India Dock Gates from around 1900. He became renowned the world over because of his weird and wonderful collection of antiques and curiosities, some bought off sailors arriving back in Poplar after years in strange lands and some acquired from antique dealers. He was a favourite with children, as he used to give them rides in his Italian Bianchi car, at a time when very few people owned cars. Charlie Brown also rode daily around the West India Docks on his horse, Snowball. He said it helped his digestion. Besides priceless Ming vases and statues, he had stuffed animals and pickled human remains in jars. One of his curiosities was the clay pipe Billie Carleton, a young and beautiful West End actress, had used the night she died after smoking opium in Limehouse. There have been suggestions that he was somehow connected with this, and one can only speculate as to how he acquired the pipe.



Although newspaper articles of the 1920s and 30s portray him as a local folk hero, many Poplar residents have less happier memories of Charlie Brown, and can remember his plush back parlour, visited by gentlemen from the West End. He died in June 1932 and his funeral was one of the biggest Poplar had ever seen. The 'Railway Tavern', or 'Charlie Brown's' as it was more recently known, was demolished to make way for the new roads into Docklands. The imposing monument in Tower Hamlets Cemetery is to his wife Esther, but note the broken stone book, with the name of Charlie Brown, date June 1932 and his age, 73.

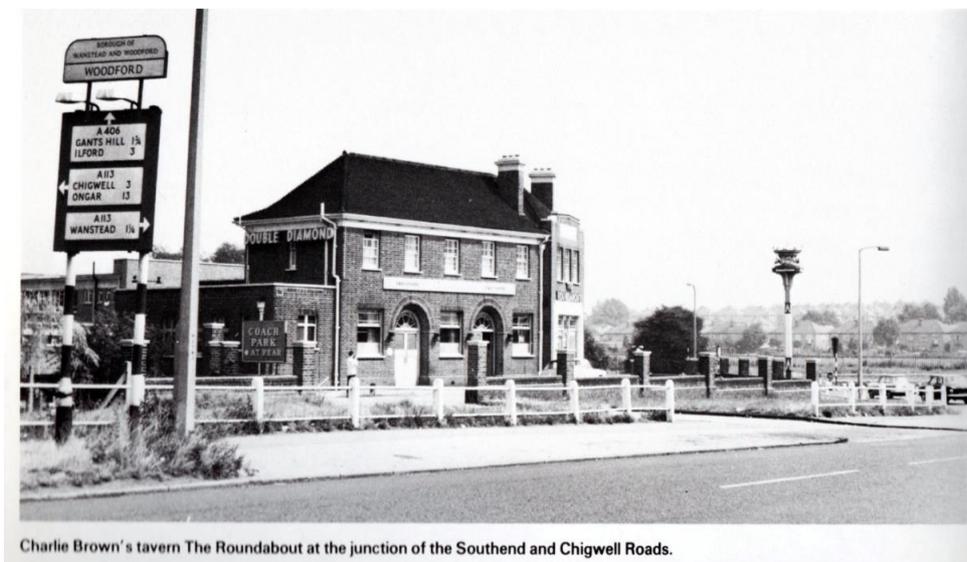
Coloured photo was taken in August 1995 by Georgina Green. Note Charlie Brown's son of the same name is also recorded on the stone (see also below)

The pub built when the roundabout was created at the junction of the new Southend Road and Chigwell Road called 'The Roundabout', had the sign of a miniature model of a carousel. When Charlie Brown, son of a well-known East End publican of the same name, became landlord, it came to be known as 'Charlie Brown's Roundabout', and though the pub has now been demolished with the development of the spaghetti junction, the enlarged roundabout is now named after the extinct pub.

By Ernest Fulcher, *WHS Newsletter*, Spring 1996.

## Note from the Editor:

Members may remember the article 'My Childhood in South Woodford 1940-1957' written by Doreen Sims, which was published in the Autumn 2016 edition of our Newsletter. Mrs Sims has told me that Florence, the mother of her late husband Ernie, cleaned at The Roundabout in the mornings and worked as a barmaid at night from 1940-1945. During this time a bomb which landed on the road now known as Raven Road had narrowly missed the pub. Ernie's brother Bob also worked at the pub as a cellarman. Although on one occasion he went to the wrong garage and started to chop up the landlord's antiques, having been asked to get some firewood, he did not lose his job!



Charlie Brown's tavern The Roundabout at the junction of the Southend and Chigwell Roads.

picture from  
*Woodford then and  
now*  
Compiled by  
Reginald L Fowkes  
p.182

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## The development of Redbridge – by Janet Lovell

May I draw your attention to the exhibition at Redbridge Central Library, which will continue until 9 June 2018. Entitled 'Building Ilford', it records 150 years of building the town centre. Developments are coming 'thick and fast' to the area, with iconic stores such as Harrison Gibsons, Fairheads and now Bodgers closing and I am sure you will remember when the High Road was not pedestrianised and the shopping centre did not bridge the railway line. New developments are planned – watch this space!

Also relating to the Central Library and following on from the articles relating to Humphry Repton, members may be interested in a talk which Georgina Green is presenting for Vision at Ilford Central Library Heritage Centre entitled 'Humphry Repton in Redbridge'. This will take place at 2.00pm on Friday 23 March 2018. There will be no charge for the talk but booking is essential. Please contact the Library for more information or book on computer at Eventbrite..