



# Woodford Times

Woodford Historical Society  
Founded 1932

## Newsletter Autumn 2017

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### Editorial

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Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter 2017 after what has been, I hope, an enjoyable summer for you. We have booked a range of talks for the 2017/18 season, which I hope will be of interest. More details appear later in the newsletter. Please remember that we welcome suggestions for future speakers, so if you are impressed by a speaker you hear at the meeting of another organisation, please forward details to me (tel: 020 8505 3640 or e-mail [woodfordhistoricalsociety@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:woodfordhistoricalsociety@hotmail.co.uk)) so that we can make contact.

The 14<sup>th</sup> October this year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford. Accounts of the day make fascinating reading and graphically illustrate how life has changed since that time. I know that many of you will remember Arthur Askey. I must admit that I am unsure if his humour would transfer successfully to 2017!

My thanks to all who have contributed articles to this Newsletter. Contributions are always welcome. It is certainly true that the Society cannot function without the help of its members and all help is much appreciated.

John Lovell

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**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Wanstead and Woodford gains the status of a Borough on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1937 – by Janet Lovell**



The Duke of Gloucester, the third son of King George V, came to Wanstead and Woodford to present the Charter of Incorporation on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1937, with the ceremonial, including fanfares played by Trumpeters of the Life Guards, taking place outside the (then) Council Offices next to St Mary's Church. The Charter Mayor was James Hawkey and the MP was Winston Churchill, who

was knighted many years later in 1953. He was resplendent in top hat and wearing his medals. The Guard of Honour and band was formed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment.

There was much celebration which included full peals of bells at St Mary's Parish Church and Christ Church Wanstead, a booking for Arthur Askey in the Memorial Hall and during the evening celebratory dances in halls around the Borough.



Well known entertainer, Arthur Askey

In addition, a reception and a ball were held at the Council Offices. On the following Sunday a Civic Service was held at St Mary's Parish Church.

The Duke of Gloucester also opened Ashton Playing Fields during his visit and the Saturday saw sporting events and fireworks at the venue.

The Civic Mace presented to the newly created Borough by Winston Churchill is now held at Redbridge Town Hall following the merging of Ilford and Wanstead and Woodford into the London Borough of Redbridge in 1965. Members may remember that the Wanstead and Woodford Civic Regalia was on display at the meeting of the Society to celebrate our own 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012.

In 1987, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford, the local Guardian and Gazette newspaper printed a four-page supplement, written, researched and edited by Ken Burley, which included fascinating information:

*"You could buy a new house in the new borough for £700, on mortgage for 75p a week and a suite of furniture for £25.*

*The average working man only earned about 30 shillings a week (£1.50) but he could buy 20 cigarettes for 11½ d (just over 5p), go to the dogs at Walthamstow Stadium for 1s 3d (around 6p), or for three "old pennies" more, take an evening trip to Southend illuminations on an LMS train."*

..... those were the days!

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### **Traditional shopping** - by Don Wright

We moved from Ilford to Woodford in 1948 and moved in to a fruiterers and greengrocers at 141 Salway Hill. There were two butchers in the parade and all the shops were thriving.

Opposite the shop was Wells Garage, new and second-hand cars. Where Tesco is now was another greengrocers called Simmonds; very old fashioned with gas lights in the shop. Up Derby Road was a grocers where you could buy loose biscuits and broken biscuits.

## 141 Salway Hill

*(Mr Wright tells me that the shops along the parade from 141 Salway Hill included a Singer Sewing Machine shop, a drapers, a butchers and a sweets and tobacconist which used a three wheel trike to sell ice creams. JL)*



I used to go in late autumn with my father always on a Sunday to Smarden in Kent to load the lorry up with a hundred bushels of apples, all for the princely sum of five shillings a bushel. We had to open a clamp and put all the apples ourselves into bushel boxes. The farmer, a Mr Corns, rubbed his hands with glee when my father paid him £25.00. We always had a glass of home-made cider.

I used to open the shop and put the front out before I went to school. I remember that I used to serve and customers would come in for sixpenceworth of pot herbs; carrots, onion, parsnip, turnip, swede all for sixpence.

We then bought two shops in George Lane, both greengrocers. There were five greengrocers then, what a change now! George Lane was thriving with three butchers and Mac Fisheries wet fish shop. This was in 1958.

When I was 21, we bought a butcher's shop in Jubilee Parade. I can give you a few prices – 2/6 lb mince, 2/10 lb steak and kidney, 7/6 a shoulder of lamb, 10/- leg of lamb and breast of lamb three for 1/-.

We stayed there a couple of years, then moved to Jayes Greengrocers, two shops away from the butchers. A few prices now – bananas 1/4 lb, apples 1/4 lb, oranges and grapefruit five for a shilling, large melons 2/- each. We had soft fruit from this country only when in 'season' – much better!

Don Wright with his parents in their butcher's shop



In those couple of parades, there were four greengrocers and four butchers. This was 1963. These were happy days when the public shopped with cash, there was no credit and no debt.



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**Sir Stuart Mallinson (1888 – 1981) and The White House, Woodford Green -**  
by Georgina Green, with assistance from Terence Mallinson, CBE, DL, MA

Sir Stuart Mallinson has long been associated with Woodford as the entrance to his home, 'The White House', is right by the roundabout junction of the High Road and Salway Hill although the house itself is in Walthamstow. It was in that parish that he spent his early years.

His father, Sir William Mallinson (1854-1936), moved to The Limes, Shernhall Street, Walthamstow c.1892. William Mallinson had started work in a North London veneer mill and in the course of his long life built up the firm of timber merchants which eventually became Mallinson–Denny Ltd with branches across the globe. In 1922 William Mallinson founded and became Chairman of Shernhall (Methodist) Building Society, which by 1933 had assets of over £670,000 and upwards of 5,000 members. Sir Stuart Mallinson succeeded him as chairman and Shernhall Building Society later merged with another building society to become Town & Country Building Society, of which Stuart's son, Terence, was a director and one-time chairman.

Sir William became a J.P. and later Chairman of the Becontree Bench of Magistrates and he took a keen interest in the welfare of his fellow men. His philanthropy included being the founder of a Scholarship Trust, endowed with the sum of £10,000, so that ten students at English universities received £40 each for three years. This still exists today giving grants to young people of Waltham Forest at the start of their careers.

William Mallinson was created Sir William Mallinson, Baronet of Walthamstow on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1935. William had married Amelia Tucker on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1878 and they had ten children: six girls followed by four boys. William James Mallinson (1879-1944) became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet when his father died on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1936, and he was followed by his son, Paul Mallinson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet, then a leading psychiatrist and, on his death, by James Mallinson, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet, a highly regarded Sanskrit scholar.

Stuart Sidney Mallinson was born on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1888, the ninth of the ten children, and was educated at Ashville College, Harrogate, and The Leys School, Cambridge. He started to work in his father's timber business in 1907 at the age of 19 and joined the Honourable Artillery Company at the start of the Great War in August 1914. He was soon sent to France and was commissioned in April 1915. He progressed through the ranks as Captain, Major and, in March 1917, he gained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, by this time with the Royal Engineers. Stuart was awarded the Military Cross (MC) in 1915 and with the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1918, having been mentioned in despatches three times.



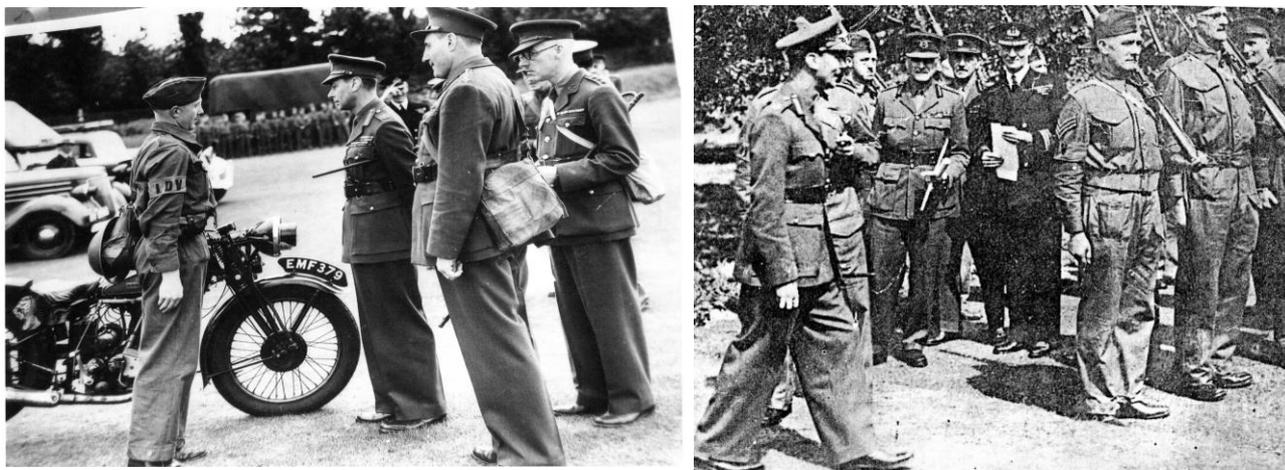
Stuart met his future wife, Marjorie Gray Soothill, in 1913. She was the daughter of Revd. Alfred Soothill who was the headmaster of Ashville College and they married on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1916 when Stuart had four days' leave from Flanders. Marjorie worked as a voluntary medical aid worker (VAD) at this time, having been given training in first aid and nursing. They had four children: Sheila born in 1917, Michael in 1919, Justin in 1923 and Terence in 1929. All four children had Stuart as their middle name.

Back home in peace-time Stuart returned to work for William Mallinson & Sons Ltd and his life began to follow a similar course to that of his father, becoming a Governor of both the schools he had attended and President of The National Sunday School Union 1923-24. Around this time Stuart and Marjorie negotiated the purchase of The White House at Woodford Green. This had been planned by Lady Henry Somerset as a rest and holiday centre for East End workers, on 11 acres of the Highams Estate which had been leased in 1905. (Highams is now Woodford County High School.)

This land was purchased in 1906 for £3,440 but the original plans were modified to be a private house. The White House was designed in the Voysey style by architects Tyler & Co. of Holborn Viaduct. It was conveyed to Stuart Mallinson by Lord Somers in 1926. Additional land was purchased so that by 1933 The White House grounds covered about 26 acres. In 1928, 4½ acres of land to the north-east of The White House was sold to Woodford Rugby Ground Ltd for use as the sports ground of the Woodford Rugby Football Club.

Soon Stuart began to take on more influential roles as Vice President of The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth and President of the Commonwealth Forestry Society. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex in 1937. (When The White House ceased to be in Essex, due to the 1965 boundary changes, he reluctantly became a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London.) In 1938 Stuart was invested as a Commander of The Order of the British Empire (CBE) and he also became a JP for Essex. In 1939 he was High Sheriff of Essex. He was invested in 1952 as an Officer of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (OStJ)

When war was declared in 1939 Stuart was in his 50s and he was appointed War Welfare Officer for Essex. He also commanded the Home Guard (then called Local Defence Volunteers) for the Eastern approaches to London. When King George VI visited The White House in July 1940 to inspect the Home Guard, family tradition says that an over-zealous sergeant in the long drive to The White House halted the royal cars and demanded an identity card to prove that he actually was the King!



King George VI inspecting the Home Guard at The White House in July 1940

When the American Air Force, 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Command, came to Essex in 1942 and started to build the infrastructure for their new airfields Stuart used his influence to provide what help he could. He was very persuasive in getting people to make the American airmen feel welcome, obtaining easy chairs, table tennis sets, radios, books and magazines for their mess rooms. He also produced several booklets with information about Essex for the troops and about the Americans for the locals. It was his idea to form The Essex Anglo-American Goodwill Association (EAAGA) and he invited the great and the good of Essex to join. The Association flourished. The annual Anglo-American garden parties at The White House, bringing together 500 or more airmen of all ranks and Essex citizens, continued until the 20<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber units withdrew from the UK.

After the war, Stuart was instrumental in ensuring that the American airmen who served in Essex were commemorated in Chelmsford Cathedral. The south porch was enhanced and a stained-glass window added with the wording "To the Glory of God and in gratitude for tasks and friendships shared by the people of Essex and the United States Air Force between 1942 and 1945 this porch was enriched and beautified by Essex Friends of the American People in 1953." There were also funded and constructed small monuments commemorating the fine contribution the American airmen had made to shorten the war and to the people of Essex. During his time in office, US President Lyndon Johnson presented Sir Stuart with a Congressional Award for promoting Anglo-American goodwill at The White House in Washington.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Marjorie undertook war work at a Red Cross Medical Post at Silvertown, helping the injured and encouraging the homeless around docklands. At the height of the blitz the whole area became a blazing inferno with the First Aid Post one of very few places of safety.

Stuart and Marjorie's eldest son, Michael, was born on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1919 so was not yet 20 when war was declared. Nevertheless he joined the Essex Regiment, becoming a Major and Company Commander. Michael was awarded the Military Cross in the terrible fighting around Monte Cassino in Italy. He volunteered to pass through enemy lines from "Castle Hill to Hangman's Hill" immediately below Montecassino Monastery, to save the lives of 380 Gurkhas cut off from the allied forces. Michael died at Orsogna from enemy action on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1944, aged 24, and was buried in the Sangro River Military Cemetery. Stuart and Marjorie had already lost their only daughter, Sheila, in Paris on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1934 at the age of 17 from diphtheria.

After the war Marjorie devoted herself to raising funds for the Red Cross and she became President of the Essex Red Cross in 1946, a position which she held for 15 years. She was made an honorary Vice-President of the British Red Cross in 1962 and received their top award. In 1960 the Queen recognised her work for the Red Cross by awarding her the CBE. Marjorie was one of those wise people who could work with all ages and all abilities, managing situations in a calm and gentle way which endeared her to all who knew her.



A garden party at The White House

After the war The White House was used for many garden parties, sporting celebrations and other events for the community. An article in the *Essex Countryside* in September 1964 described The White House – "Of brick and stucco construction, it comprises eight bedrooms, five bathrooms, a dining room, a lounge, a library and a study. There are also four bedrooms, a small sitting room and one bathroom for the staff. Off the entrance hall is a room built originally by Lady Somerset as a chapel, the essential characteristics of which remain today. It is panelled with timber from the Ypres area <sup>1</sup> which matches a fine old Flemish mantelpiece. Included in the grounds are a small swimming pool which Sir Stuart and Lady Mallinson had built in 1936, two tennis courts, a putting green, and facilities for cricket. Once a year Sir Stuart sponsors a week of cricket tuition for local schoolboys."

Stuart was knighted by the Queen in the 1954 New Year Honours List: "Colonel Stuart Sydney Mallinson, CBE DSO MC JP DL. for public services in Essex". Sir John Ruggles Brise, the Lord

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<sup>1</sup> Sir Stuart was involved in the battles of The Somme and Ypres.

Lieutenant of Essex, arranged a family evening at his home, Spains Hall, Finchingfield, to celebrate this recognition of Stuart's significant contribution to the County.

Stuart had already become acquainted with the Duke of Edinburgh as the Duke had attended a luncheon at The White House on behalf of the National Playing Fields Association on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1949. The Duke played cricket in the nets in the garden, being bowled first ball by Sir Stuart with a wicket off spinner, despite being given for his innings a bat twice the standard width.

Sir Stuart's interest in sport led to him becoming Chairman of the Essex Playing Fields Association after the war and President of the Essex County Football Association in 1954. Closer to home he was Chairman of the Wadham Lodge Sports Ground Trust from 1920-1955 and it is thanks to the Mallinson family that this facility is going from strength to strength today. Sir Stuart was also President of Woodford Rugby Football Club and Woodford Green Cricket Club. His love of fishing developed in later life and was not catered for on his own property in Woodford. This was enjoyed with his son, Justin, at Burton Bradstock, Dorset, on the river Bride which runs through his family farm.

Many people from all walks of life visited The White House and, on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1953, Sir Stuart invited Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein to plant a tree in the garden. This was the start of what has become "a history of an era in trees", – the arboretum with over 100 trees, marked with plaques to relate them to the choice of species of their distinguished tree planters. Sir Winston Churchill planted a Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1953 which did not flourish and a replacement tree was planted by his daughter, Lady Mary Soames, 20 years later.



Sir Stuart with Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein



Sir Winston and Lady Churchill with Sir Stuart and Lady Mallinson

The Churchills were frequent visitors to The White House, especially after Sir Winston's constituency meetings in The Hawkey Hall, and it was his base for election campaigns as M.P. for Wanstead and Woodford. From The White House, Churchill conducted the final days of the two elections in 1951, the first lost to Labour, but it was from there that he left for an audience with the King following the Conservative victory at the second General Election in October 1951.

The association between Sir Winston and Sir Stuart was based on friendship rather than political allegiance, as Stuart came from an old Liberal family. However, they both enjoyed good food, fine wine and the best cigars and Sir Winston and Lady Clementine had much in common with their host and hostess. Stuart was the leading member of the committee which organised the statue by David McFall of Sir Winston Churchill, unveiled on Woodford Green on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1959. The event was recorded at The White House when a Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, was planted by Lady Churchill that day.

Stuart Mallinson's connections with the Scout Movement can be traced back to 1923 when he spoke on the same platform with the founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell. Stuart funded the

Mallinson Hut at the Scouting Headquarters at Gilwell Park, Chingford, in memory of his son Michael. Walthamstow scouts had always been made welcome at The White House and have a permanent camp site and activity centre, also named in honour of Michael. Surrounded by the estate woodland and across the road from Highams Park lake, this is an ideal situation to learn about living with nature.

Given his connections with the timber trade it is a little surprising that Sir Stuart did not take an active involvement with the management of Epping Forest. However, he was instrumental in the erection of the memorial in the Forest commemorating evangelist Gipsy Rodney Smith, MBE (1860-1947) who had attended the Methodist Sunday School where he was taught by Stuart's father, Sir William Mallinson. The memorial is off Mill Plain (near the Napier Arms) where it is said Rodney was born in a gipsy caravan, under a hornbeam tree. The memorial is a large block of Cornish granite which was unveiled by his widow at a special service in 1949. The Conservators of Epping Forest have permitted only two stone memorials to be erected on the Forest. The other was the statue to Sir Winston Churchill for which Sir Stuart was the initiator and chairman of the fund-raising committee.

Sir Stuart continued as a driving force with William Mallinson & Denny Mott Ltd until he retired at the age of 75 in 1963. He had served for 50 years as a director, 18 as chairman and then 14 as honorary president. In 1966 he was required to relinquish the role of Deputy Lieutenant of Essex at the age of 78, following the revision of the boundaries between the County and Greater London which took place in 1965. This greatly displeased him even though he then became a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London, a post he held for ten years. It was in 1966 that Stuart and Marjorie celebrated their Golden Wedding but, sadly, Marjorie died after a long illness, in November 1969 aged 77.

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 1964 Sir Stuart and Lady Mallinson conveyed The White House and all the property to the Alderman and Burgesses of Waltham Forest with covenants to ensure it would be used for the benefit of the community and that the Michael Mallinson Scout Centre would be safeguarded for the future. They continued to live in The White House and care for the grounds and woodland with a life interest granted under the transfer of the property to the community. From that date, a rent of one shilling p.a. should have been paid by the Mallinsons, but it was never requested. However, Terence Mallinson, Sir Stuart's youngest son, paid this outstanding debt in 1986 by ceremonially presenting the Mayor of Waltham Forest with a £1 coin. In June 1978 a reception had been held to mark the renaming of The White House as Mallinson Park. The event in 1986 was to launch a Friends group for the Mallinson Park Trust which had been set up to provide better facilities for those who used the house and to maintain the gardens and arboretum.

Planting in the arboretum continued with trees planted by famous statesmen, representatives of the Armed Forces and civic leaders including Lord Atlee, Margaret Thatcher, Shirley Williams and Colonel Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Battle of Britain Pilot Group Captain Douglas Bader and astronaut Colonel Frank Borman, Captain of the Apollo 8 mission. There is a grove commemorating Presidents of the United States and trees have been planted by representatives from other foreign countries including Australia (Sir Robert Menzies), China, Germany, New Zealand, Northern Ireland and Russia. Every tree was planted by a person who had distinguished him or herself in some way, such as Sir Basil Spence, the architect of Coventry Cathedral, celebrated violinist Yehudi Menuhin, sportsman Sir Roger Bannister and actor Sir John Gielgud. The last person to plant a tree, shortly before Sir Stuart died in 1981, was Martin Gilbert who was the official biographer of Winston Churchill and a leading historian on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Over 128 trees were planted and although not all survive now, it is a testament to the respect which Sir Stuart Mallinson commanded that so many people came along to plant a tree at his home.

Sir Stuart had a great interest in sport and attended the Olympic Games whenever possible. He enjoyed foreign travel and visited the company offices abroad many times. In 1976, at the age of 88, he made a trip around the world travelling 33,000 miles in 11 weeks, using 19 different aeroplanes. During this time he spent five weeks in America attending various functions held to celebrate the Bicentenary of US Independence 1776 – 1976. That year General Alexander Haig,

Supreme Commander of NATO, arrived by helicopter (on the Rugby Ground) to commemorate the Bicentenary by planting a tree in The White House arboretum.

Sir Stuart Mallinson died on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1981 after a long life devoted to the support and encouragement of people and associations in the armed services, sport, the community and business.

Three years after his death The White House became a short stay home for the elderly. In 1999 the Council, for economic reasons, closed this home, although it was much valued by those who came there. In 2000 The White House was leased from the Council by Haven House Foundation to be turned into a hospice providing short-break respite care for children with life-limiting

conditions. That work continues and it would undoubtedly have pleased Sir Stuart and Lady Mallinson had they known their home and garden would become a sanctuary for these young people and their families. To this day it is recognised widely as an outstanding contribution to Woodford and neighbouring boroughs by bringing together volunteers and supporting groups who work with the management of the hospice and raise the very substantial funds needed annually for its upkeep. It is the legacy of an extraordinary life – of Colonel Sir Stuart Mallinson, CBE DSO MC DL JP and also of Lady Mallinson CBE, British Red Cross medal.



Sir Stuart Mallinson with Martin Gilbert

*With grateful thanks to Terence Mallinson, CBE, DL, MA, for his help with the article and for permission to use most of the illustrations here. Thanks also to staff at Haven House Children's Hospice for allowing me to use their archive of newspaper cuttings.*

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*A Brief History of The White House & Mallinson Family* by Dr Thomas Crusz, produced by Haven House Children's Hospice in association with LBR Museum Service

The White House/ Haven House at snowdrop time, February 2017

## Sir James Hawkey Hall architects celebrate 125 years – by Janet Lovell

The architectural practice Tooley and Foster Partnership has been based in Buckhurst Hill since 1892. Herbert Tooley opened the first office in Queens Road, on the site opposite present-day Waitrose. In 1894, the practice moved to Midland Bank Chambers, but since 1962 has been based in the imposing white Victorian building, Warwick House at 116 Palmerston Road. The name Tooley and Foster Partnership was adopted when Rex Foster became a partner in 1910.

To mark the Partnership's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, an Anniversary Memories Exhibition was mounted in their offices on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June of this year as part of the London Festival of Architecture. Fascinating examples of equipment, documents, photographs, drawings, ledgers etc. were displayed in chronological order, moving from handwritten documents to computer design. Whilst the portfolio is large and varied, covering many varied designs and areas, I concentrated on displays relating to a selection of buildings for which the practice has been responsible in the general Woodford area.

2014	Highbeam House, Woodford Green for Galliard Homes – on the site of Sylvia Pankhurst's first home in Woodford Green
2009	Highams Park School, Chingford for which the Partnership was awarded an International Green Apple Award for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage 2010
2007	Woodford County High School sports facilities for which the Partnership was awarded an International Green Apple Award for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage 2008
1968	St Barnabas Boys' School (now Woodbridge High School)
Opened on 26 March 1955	The Sir James Hawkey Hall The amount was restricted by the Minister of Housing and Local Government to £30,000 exclusive of fees and fittings and car park.
1940s	Flats for Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council
1920s	Operating theatre for the Jubilee Hospital (now rebuilt as sheltered housing)

I must admit that although my intention was to concentrate on the Woodford area, I was also particularly fascinated to see Bills of Quantities for the nurses' and infants' quarters at the Epping Workhouse for the Epping Board of Guardians in April 1906 and to learn that in 1910, Herbert Tooley had invented a machine for measuring the flow of sewage.

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Many members have enjoyed our trips during the summer. My thanks to those who organised them and to Felicity Banks for writing articles highlighting two of the tours.

**Editor**

## A Visit to All Hallows by the Tower on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – by Felicity Banks

We met at All Hallows by the Tower and were welcomed by Kate, our guide.

The first Church was founded by Erkenwald, Bishop of London, as a chapel of the Abbey of Barking in 675 AD. A Saxon arch still remains and the top of the arch is made of Roman floor tiles. It existed 400 years before the Tower of London was built.

The church was enlarged and rebuilt several times during the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Henry VIII broke from the Church of Rome and set himself up as Head of the Church of England. The Bishop of Rochester, John Fisher, refused to recognise Henry in this position and was executed on Tower Hill. His body was buried in the churchyard, but people came to the church and the grave became a scene of pilgrimage. Henry had the body removed. The head of Bishop Fisher was displayed on a pole on Tower Hill and it was said to glow. Henry's soldiers removed the head during the night and threw it into the Thames to stop the people treating it as a shrine. Similarly, Sir Thomas More's body was taken to All Hallows after his execution.

In 1645 the Archbishop of Canterbury was beheaded on Tower Hill for his opposition to the Puritan style of worship and his support of the monarchy. He was buried in All Hallows. His nephew had been made vicar of All Hallows in 1634. He was arrested and put in prison until the monarchy was restored.

In 1650 disaster struck All Hallows when seven barrels of gunpowder exploded in a house nearby. The blast and the fire caused extensive damage to the church and much of it had to be rebuilt. This was very unusual in the Cromwell era.

When the Great Fire of London occurred in 1666, Samuel Pepys watched the fire from the top of the Barkeing Steeple. Fortunately, the fire did not reach All Hallows as Admiral Sir William Penn ordered some houses to be blown up to form a fire-break.

The church has several connections to America. The son of the Admiral was baptised in All Hallows and later went to America where he founded Pennsylvania. The son of John Adams, the second president of the US married a London girl in All Hallows. He became the sixth president.

One of the best-known vicars of All Hallows was Revd "Tubby" Clayton. During the First World War he was an army chaplain. He opened a house Called Talbot House where soldiers of all ranks could spend their leave. It was very popular. After the war he became vicar of All Hallows and he started an organisation called Toc H which continued the work he had done during the war.

In World War II, bombs hit All Hallows during the Blitz. Only the walls and the tower remained. Tubby Clayton resolved that the church should be rebuilt. In 1948 Queen Elizabeth, wife of George VI, laid the foundation stone. Tubby Clayton's ashes are buried in the crypt. The crypt contains many items from the history of the church.



The organ – Albert Schweitzer recorded organ music at All Hallows

## Visit to the Bank of England Museum on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – by Felicity Banks

The Bank of England is the central bank of the United Kingdom. It is sometimes known as 'the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street'. The famous nickname comes from a cartoon in 1797 by James Gillray during the Napoleonic Wars.

The Bank was founded in 1694 during a period of economic turbulence to raise money for the war against France. Money raised from private investors was lent to the Government at a low interest rate of 8%. It was established by Royal Charter on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1694 during the reign of William III and Mary II (who died 28<sup>th</sup> December 1694 of smallpox).

The first Governor of the Bank of England was Sir John Houblon.

For the first 40 years the bank rented premises but moved to its own building in Threadneedle Street in 1734 on the site of the house of Sir John Houblon. It gradually grew in size and importance.

By 1788 it occupied the area of the present Bank of England and was surrounded by a huge curtain wall. It didn't change very much until the 1920s. The walls were retained but the interior was demolished. Two rooms were rebuilt in the new building – the Court Room and the Committee Room. It was completed in 1939. The building has two bronze doors at the main entrance. Inside there is a cantilever staircase, 165 feet long. There is a Garden Court which is on the site of St Christopher-le-Stocks Church. It has four mulberry trees which are a reminder of the origins of paper money which was made from beaten mulberry bark. In the Court Room there are plaster cameos of the monarchs from William and Mary to Victoria. The large Wilton carpet reflects the design on the ceiling.

The earliest paper money was a type of receipt for deposits left with goldsmiths for safekeeping. It wasn't till the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the designs used today began to take shape. The image of Britannia has been associated with British notes and coins for many years. The portrait of the monarch first appeared on banknotes in 1960. The first historical figure to appear in 1970 was William Shakespeare. Jane Austen will appear on the new £10 note and JMW Turner on the new £20 note.

The Bank of England Museum displays the history of the building, the development of the paper money and the importance of the gold stored in the vaults. There has been no successful theft of the gold ingots, although one man did find a way into the vaults from the sewers. Because he was honest and revealed the way in, he was rewarded the equivalent of £85,000.



Picture of a display case at the Bank of England Museum

After the interesting talk members were able to explore the museum and try to lift one of the gold ingots. It was secured in an exhibit case. There were no free samples!

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### **Professor Richard Pankhurst OBE – 1927- 2017 – by Janet Lovell**

Professor Richard Pankhurst passed away on 16 February 2017 in Addis Ababa in his beloved Ethiopia. The son of Sylvia Pankhurst, he was born on 3 December 1927 in Woodford and attended Bancroft's school and The London School of Economics. In 1956 Sylvia emigrated to Ethiopia and Richard accompanied her, securing a role as a lecturer at the University of Addis Ababa (previously the Haile Selassie 1 University). Rita Eldon, whom Richard had met two years previously, accepted his invitation to join him and they were married in 1957.

Sylvia's concern for Ethiopia had been sparked by the preparations for the Italian invasion of the Country, which became a reality in 1936. When in Ethiopia she was responsible for the introduction of a monthly publication the 'Ethiopia Observer'. Her son, Richard, wrote articles on the history of the Country for publication, but on Sylvia's death in 1960 he took over the role of editor of the publication. In 1962, he founded the Institute for Ethiopian Studies in the grounds of the University, of which he was Director until 1972, although, after this time, he continued teaching and undertaking research.

1974 saw the overthrow of Haile Selassie and the introduction of a socialist dictatorship. Although continuing contact and support for detained and imprisoned friends in the Country, the Pankhursts left Ethiopia in 1976 for London. They returned in 1986 with Richard again at the Institute for Ethiopian Studies and he was also appointed Professor of Ethiopian Studies at the University.

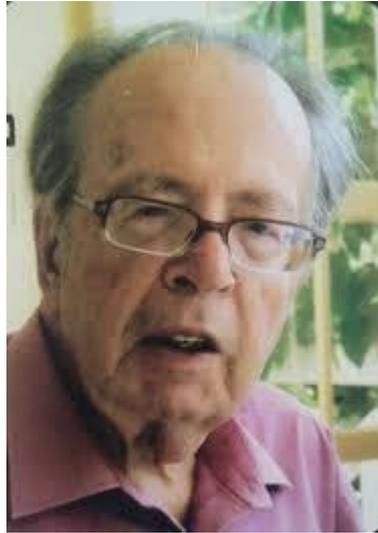
Professor Pankhurst wrote, co-authored and compiled many books on Ethiopia and wrote many articles in academic journals, whilst also writing about his mother. His OBE, awarded in 2004, was for services to Ethiopian studies. He campaigned for the return of artefacts looted from Ethiopia and a notable success occurred in 2005 when the 1700 year old, 180 ton, 79ft carved Obelisk of Axum was returned by the Italians. (It had been taken during Mussolini's occupation of the Country.) It was re-erected in Axum in 2008 amid considerable celebration.

On his death, the devastated Nation called for a state funeral, as had been held for his mother Sylvia who was the only Westerner to be buried outside Holy Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa. The Daily Telegraph of 18 February 2017 quoted Twitter messages which had been posted: "He was our history archive", "Ethiopia's foremost chronicler", "A patriot of Ethiopia", "A son of Ethiopia", "a hero". The Ethiopian Satellite, Television and Radio (ESAT) in its news on 16 February 2017 stated that he was "considered by many the ultimate expert on Ethiopian history". The Nation's wish was granted. Dr Richard Pankhurst was laid to rest at the Holy Trinity Cathedral on 21 February 2017. The on-line video of the event shows a large gathering with marching band.



*Source – Ethiopian Headline News*

I am very grateful to Helen Pankhurst, Richard Pankhurst's daughter, for forwarding to me the following photograph of Professor Pankhurst for the Society's newsletter: Helen refers to the joint autobiography written by her parents entitled '*Ethiopian Reminiscences, Early Days*' which she suggests would be the best place to find a few anecdotes about her father's memories of Woodford.



Professor Pankhurst is survived by his wife, his daughter Helen and his son Alula. The Ethiopian Headline news also refers to his four grandchildren.

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### **Richard Warner's Gardenia** by Georgina Green

Those of you who have been members of the society for a long time may remember Sharon Eames, a lively young lady who had a passion for Harts House. She obtained 1,350 signatures on a petition to the council asking for it to become a museum in 1988, while the fate of the building was still uncertain. It is now the Harts House Care Home (BUPA). Sharon's book *Harts and Flowers* was published privately in 1989 and is a delightful account of the house and its various occupants. (Available for £14.95 + £2.95 postage from AbeBooks.co.uk, 27 March 2017). Sharon moved to Suffolk in the early 1990s, but I'm pleased to say she is well and happy there.

I think her favourite owner was Richard Warner (1713-1775) and I well remember her excitement when she located a portrait of him at the home of a member of his family. A copy of this now hangs in the Harts House Care Home. Warner was qualified as a barrister but his family wealth meant that he could enjoy life as a bachelor, indulging his various interests. He had an extensive library with many rare books which were bequeathed to Wadham College, Oxford, well over 4,000 books, along with his botanical drawings and prints.

He was passionately interested in botany and studied the various plants growing in the locality. He published a list of these for his friends under the title of *Plantae Woodfordienses*. The Society has a copy of this valuable book in its collection. He also cultivated rare plants in his garden at Harts where he had a hothouse. Among many learned friends, he was on good terms with Philip Miller (1691-1771) who, for close on fifty years, was the head gardener of what is now called the Chelsea Physic Garden where he cultivated many new plants from abroad. Warner also knew James Gordon who had some form of heated glasshouses or 'stoves' in his nursery at Mile End. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For more information about Richard Warner see the Woodford Historical Society newsletter 'Woodford Times' Autumn 2015, p.8-12. The illustrations referred to later are shown there.

The middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of mounting interest in plants brought back from all corners of the world. In 1759 Princess Augusta and Lord Bute established the original botanic garden at Kew, making use of a 'Great stove' or hothouse that continued to function for exactly a century, until it was finally superseded by the Temperate House. Soon after he returned from the voyage on the *Endeavour* (1768-71) with Captain Cook, botanist Joseph Banks (1743-1820) became involved with the development of what we know today as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Richard Warner's claim to botanical fame is that it was at Harts that the first Gardenia bloomed in this country. Sharon tells how he received a new plant from the Cape of Good Hope in 1754. He tended it in his hothouse and after four years it produced some flowers. Philip Miller came from Chelsea to see it and after examining it, decided it was a jasmine. Three more of the leading botanists of the day came to see it but they did not agree with Miller's conclusion so Warner wrote to Carl Linnaeus, enclosing a dried specimen. The Swedish expert declared it to be a new species but Richard Warner refused the honour of having it named a 'Warneria'. It was eventually to become known as a Gardenia, after Dr Alexander Garden of South Carolina, who had been in correspondence with the experts about the flower.



Gardenia jasminoides at the Chelsea Physic Garden  
(Photo G Green, 14 Aug 2008)

I had often wondered why Warner had been given this new plant in the first place. At the time Sharon wrote her book little was known about the role played by Warner as a Director of the East India Company. In my own later research, I discovered he served as a Director of the Company 1760-63, sitting on their legal and accounts committees. He also encouraged Captain Charles Foulis, who lived in another large house near Harts, and later Foulis mentored Captain Robert Preston who also came to live nearby, along with Captain Pitt Collet. These East India Company connections could have helped Warner further indulge his passion for botany. Preston also became interested in introducing new plants to this country in his later life.

While engaged in my research into the life of Sir Charles Raymond, a colleague passed on a link to some original information about the plant. The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, 1760, Vol.LI, pages 508-9 refer to "the 'Cape Jasmine' (as it is commonly called, the gardenia florida of Linneus)" describing it as "the most rare and beautiful shrub that has yet been introduced into European gardens, as well for the refreshing aromatic smell of its milk-white flowers, as the perpetual verdure of its leaves, which are like those of the lemon-tree." The article goes on to say "We are indebted to Capt. Hutchinson, of the Godolphin Indiaman, for this curious discovery, who, about 6 years ago, found it growing near the Cape of Good Hope, and, on his arrival here, presented it to Richard Warner, Esq. of Woodford, Essex." Apparently, Warner had great difficulty in propagating this valuable plant, either from cuttings, or by "inarching it on the yellow Indian jasmine, as he had been advised". [inarching is a method of grafting] So he gave two cuttings to James Gordon, gardener at Mile End, who was able to increase their number, eventually selling them for 5 guineas a plant. (£5 25p) He had such success that it was estimated he made £500 from the plant.

I decided to look at the journal of Captain William Hutchinson, Commander of the *Godolphin* (3) for the voyage which left the Channel in February 1752, visited India, Sumatra, Java and then called in at the Cape late in November 1753, before returning home in April 1754. It seemed unlikely he would mention the plant as his journal was an account for the Directors of the Company and he had no reason to mention what was a private matter. However, his journal is not held in the East India Company archives at the British Library, which is most unusual. They do have an account of

the voyage kept by the Chief Mate, John White, but unfortunately this concludes when the ship was in Sumatra.

So I investigated further and discovered that this was the first voyage William Hutchinson had undertaken as a captain. He had previously served on just two voyages, as 5<sup>th</sup> Mate and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mate, so it is highly likely that he was the son of another Captain William Hutchinson who had sailed for the East India Company in the 1720s and 30s and would have had some influence. This still does not explain why Hutchinson obtained the plant, and why he gave it to Richard Warner.

On that first voyage as captain, he had been employed by 'Charles Raymond of Upton in Essex, Esq' and 'John Stevens of London, Mariner' who had signed the documentation for the voyage as Principal Managing Owners. John Stevens had only recently retired from the sea, having captained *Godolphin* on her previous voyage, but Charles Raymond was one of the up-and-coming names in East India Company circles. His family had long been associated with the company and he had retired as a captain in 1747. In 1750/1, the year previous to the voyage of the *Godolphin*, Raymond had been the Principal Managing Owner for four of their seventeen voyages. William Hutchinson would have wanted to please the man who had given him this opportunity as a captain and it seems that Raymond was interested in botany. When Hutchinson left on his voyage Raymond lived at Upton, but by the time he returned Raymond was in the process of purchasing Valentines, so maybe he instructed Hutchinson to present the plant to Richard Warner, knowing he would appreciate and nurture it.

At that time hothouses were brick or stone structures with very large windows, but with small panes of glass. The orangery beside Dyrham House near Bath, built c.1701, is fairly typical of a hothouse in the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The picture of Richard Warner's house which appeared in the 'Woodford Times' for Autumn 2015 could show the hothouse on a mound, built in a similar style. It was another 80-100 years before advances in technology made possible the massive glass structures like the Palm houses at Kew.



The orangery at Dyrham Park, built c.1701 to designs by Talman (Photo G Green, 20 April 2009)



Left is one of the four pictures from c.1760 in the 'Woodford Times' 2015 which are strictly copyright. It shows the house and garden which Warner inherited in 1743. The garden layout could date from the mid-1730 when he matriculated from Oxford University and there is evidence to show he improved the grounds c.1750. The building on the hill, at the side of picture, could be Warner's hothouse. If This shows the back of Harts, it could be facing south to catch the sun.

Painting of the conservatory at Harts  
by Jane Caldicott, 1849  
from an Album presented to Claudine and Isabel  
Gore, 14 Jan 1850 (Ref. D/DU 929/1)  
Reproduced by courtesy of the Essex Record Office



This was 100 years after Warner's time so it is probably a later conservatory, perhaps dating from 1816 when the new house was built.

The Woodford Historical Society has published a great deal in the 85 years since it was founded so it is good to know we can always find new information to add to our knowledge.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Georgina included the remains of Richard Warner's gardens at Harts in her stroll around Woodford Green for the Society on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

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**Redbridge Heritage Centre** – by Gerard Greene,  
Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre Manager



The brand new Redbridge Heritage Centre opened in Redbridge Central Library, Ilford, in June. The Heritage Centre is an attractive and modern space where anyone can explore a rich range of historic archives to discover the people, places and events in over 200,000 years of Ilford, Wanstead and Woodford's history.

The Centre contains archives, books, building plans, maps, newspapers, photographs, film and online resources to help people research the history of their family, their house or the local area. Expert staff are available to support individual customers or groups to find out more. As well as public searchrooms there is also an exhibition area which showcases some collection highlights.

In partnership with Redbridge Museum, a full programme of free taught local history sessions will be available for primary and secondary schools, as well as other groups.

The Heritage Centre will run regular workshops, talks and events to help residents discover Redbridge's diverse history and encourage them to undertake their own research.

The Museum and the Heritage Centre will also help community groups to apply for funding for their own heritage project and offer a range of professional skills training including archiving, exhibitions, film making, oral history and research.

Woodford-related material held includes:

- a large photographic collection of local scenes, including original prints by Woodford Photographic Society from 1901
- building plans of local houses (from 1879) and estate plans and maps, including Woodford Hall up to the modern Orchard high-rise estate
- records of clubs and societies including the Woodford Military Band (1890-1946)
- political records ranging from minutes of the councils of Woodford (1895-1934) and Wanstead & Woodford (1934-1965) to a collection by local historian Sylvia Ayling relating to Sylvia Pankhurst and the Woodford anti-nuclear peace campaigns of the 1980s. By contrast there are records from Woodford Conservative Association (1924-1982)
- church parish magazines, the earliest from 1920, which give fascinating insights into the local area. There are also school admission records, minutes and building plans and an important and sensitive collection related to Claybury Mental Hospital
- the newspaper collection includes the Woodford Times (1869-1969), Woodford District Advertiser (1906-1955) and the Wanstead and Woodford Guardian (from 1960 to the present)
- there is also free access to online resources such as Ancestry and the British Newspaper Archive.

The facilities are free and most are available during normal library opening hours. However, for a specific enquiry or to view historic photographs or archives it is preferable to book in advance at [info.heritage@visionrcl.org.uk](mailto:info.heritage@visionrcl.org.uk)

The Heritage Centre is also looking for volunteers to help catalogue its collection in order to make it more accessible to the public and would be pleased to speak to interested WHS members so please do get in touch.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Woodford Historical Society's archive is also currently held by Redbridge Museum.

The programme/membership form distributed with this newsletter, by the nature of its design, can provide only the titles of the talks arranged for 2017/18. I felt you might therefore be interested to learn of little more about the topics/speakers. I hope you will enjoy the programme. Please remember that suggestions for speakers are always welcome. Please forward names and contact details to me, with an indication of the topic(s).

**Editor**

18 September 2017	Ladies' and Gentlemen's St James's – <i>Rachel Kolsky</i>	The historic shops and gentlemen's clubs of aristocratic St James's serving Nelson, Wellington, Wilde and Churchill
16 October	Real People, Real Lives – <i>Mark Smith</i>	A return of Mark, who is well known as an Arms and Militaria expert on 'Antiques Roadshow'. A specialist on military medals.
20 November	Thames Sailing Barge Trust - History and the Future – <i>John Rayment</i>	John is a very active member of the Trust who will present a history with details of the barges' work as cargo carriers in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries and the work of the trust to maintain and sail two of these vessels

11 December (note – second Monday in the month)	Behind the Blue Lamp – <i>David Swinden</i>	David is a retired Police Superintendent (formerly New Scotland Yard) speaking on the history of the Police
15 January 2018	Highams – <i>Georgina Green</i>	Georgina returns to us this year speaking on the manorial history of Walthamstow, the architecture of the house, the owners, reference to Repton and moving forward to the girls' school
19 February	The Work and Collections of Epping Forest District Museum – <i>Cath Hammond</i>	Cath is the Education and Outreach Worker for Epping Forest District and Lowewood Museums
19 March	AGM followed by: 'Homes Under The Hammer' – The Demise of Woodford's Country Houses – <i>Peter Lawrence</i>	A very welcome return of our President
16 April	My Year in the Non-Political Role of Mayor of the Borough 2017-2018 – <i>Cllr Linda Huggett, Mayor of Redbridge</i>	The Mayor will speak to us as she comes to the end of her year as First Citizen of the Borough

Other local groups welcome visitors to their meetings including The Woodford and District Centre of the National Trust which meets at two locations (alternate months), All Saints Church Hall, Inmans Row at 2.30pm and in the hall at Trinity Catholic High School (*where the Historical Society meets*) at 8.00pm and The West Essex Archaeological Group which meets in the Sixth Form Block at Woodford County High School at 7.45pm.

Set out below are the first two meetings of these groups for the 2017/18 season. If you would like any further information, please either contact the groups or contact me and I will forward your query (John Lovell – tel: 020 8505 3640).

#### National Trust – Woodford and District Centre

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at Trinity Catholic High School – *'The History of Easton Lodge Gardens and Daisy, Countess of Warwick'* by Jill Goldsmith

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at All Saints Church Hall – *'The RAF Museum, Hendon'* by David Keen

#### West Essex Archaeological Group

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September – *'In the Land of Gods and Monsters: Shrines and Sacrifice in Iron Age Gaul and Britain'* by Jon Cotton

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – *'St Giles: Medieval Hospital, Tudor Mansion and Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century Rookery'* by Sam Pfizenmaler

**Editor**